

FIPIC SUMMIT, 2023

Recently, Prime minister of India meets with Pacific Island nation leaders on sidelines of FIPIC Summit in Papua New Guinea.



Why in News?

- The third forum for India-Pacific islands co-operation (FIPIC Summit), which was held today at **Port Moresby** was **jointly hosted with Papua New Guinea**.
- Prime minister of **India co- chaired** the summit with PM of Papua New Guinea.
- The discussions encompassed various areas of cooperation, including **commerce, technology, healthcare, and climate change**.

About FIPIC:

- Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC) is a **multinational grouping** for cooperation between **India and 14 Pacific Islands nations**.
- It include **14 islands named-** Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- All Head of state/head of government of the above countries **met in Suva, Fiji in November 2014** for the **first time** where the annual summit was conceptualised.
- The FIPIC initiative marks a serious effort to **expand India's engagement in the Pacific region**.
- A major part of India's engagement with these countries is through development assistance under **South-South Cooperation**, mainly in **capacity building (training, scholarships, grant-in-aid and loan assistance) and community development** projects.
- In 2015, **FIPIC Trade Office** at Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) to promote Trade & Investment opportunities between India & Pacific Island Countries.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

The Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency is underway in Mumbai.



About:

- The meeting is a critical step in fostering the efforts of the G20 countries, invitee countries, and international organizations towards a sustainable and resilient future.
- On the first day of the meeting, a beach clean-up campaign was organised at the Juhu Beach in Mumbai followed by the Ocean 20 Dialogue aimed at promoting a sustainable and climate-resilient Blue Economy.
- The Ocean 20 platform, launched during the Indonesia Presidency Dialogue is aimed to advance ideation and action for ocean solutions.
- It aims to facilitate sustainability in the maritime domain, ocean governance, building capacities to facilitate sustainable ocean practices and equitable distribution of benefits from traditional and new blue economy sectors.

WORLD HEALTH MEET: PM MODI FOR EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- While congratulating the organisation for “serving the world for 75 years”, PM Modi said the Covid-19 pandemic showed that there was a need for greater collaboration and health equity.

About World Health Assembly:

- The World Health Assembly is the **decision-making body** of World Health Organization (WHO).
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to –
 - Determine the policies of the Organization,
 - Appoint the Director-General,

- Supervise financial policies, and
- Review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- The Health Assembly is held annually in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

- Founded in **1948**, WHO is a **United Nations agency** that connects nations, partners and people to **promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable**.
- It provides technical assistance to countries, sets international health standards, and collects data on global health issues.
- The WHO has played a leading role in several public health achievements, most notably the –
 - Eradication of **smallpox**, the near-eradication of **polio**, and the development of an **Ebola**
- Its **World Health Assembly**, the agency's decision-making body, elects and advises an executive board made up of **34 health specialists**.
- The WHO **relies on contributions from member states** (both assessed and voluntary) and private donors for funding.
- Its publication, **World Health Report**, provides assessments of worldwide health topics.

News Summary:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, virtually.
- While congratulating the organisation for “serving the world for 75 years”, he said the pandemic showed there was a need for greater collaboration and health equity.
- He mentioned that **India showed its commitment towards international cooperation during the pandemic by shipping 300 million vaccine doses to over 100 countries**.
- PM highlighted the gaps in the global health architecture which were exposed during the covid-19 pandemic and emphasized the need for a collective effort in building resilient global systems and boosting global health equity.
- He said that the role of WHO is more important for the challenges that lie ahead in the future.
- He said that supporting equal access to resources should be the top priority for the WHO in the coming years.

- Last year, India established WHO's first Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

About WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine:

- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is established to support WHO's efforts to implement the **WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023**.
- The WHO strategy aims to support Member States in developing proactive policies and implementing action plans that will strengthen the role traditional medicine plays in keeping populations healthy.
- The first WHO GCTM in the world has been established in **Jamnagar, Gujarat** under the Ministry of AYUSH.

WHAT IS THE OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC)?

The Union government is looking to formally launch the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) this year to “democratise e-commerce” and “to provide alternatives to proprietary e-commerce sites”



About Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

- It is an **open-source network** set up to enable buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform on which either of them are registered.
- It will **enable local commerce across segments**, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, **to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application**.
- It is an **initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It **comprises of buyer-side apps** where consumers can place orders, **seller-side apps** that onboard merchants and display their listings, **and logistics platforms** that handle deliveries.
- **Aim:**

- To **promote open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.**
- To create new opportunities, **curb digital monopolies and by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises** and small traders and help them **get on online platforms.**
- It seeks to **democratise digital or electronic commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.**

Benefits:

- **It offers small retailers an opportunity to provide their services, and goods to buyers across the country** through an e-commerce system.
- **ONDC enables merchants to save their data to build credit history** and reach consumers.
- It is expected to **digitise the entire value chain**, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and **enhance value for consumers.**
- ONDC protocols **would standardize operations** like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment.

INDIA AS A QUAD-LED MANUFACTURING HUB

Context

- To facilitate cooperation related to developments in critical and emerging technologies **including biotechnology**, The Quad set up a **critical and emerging technology working group in 2021.**
- The establishment of a **Quad-led biomanufacturing hub in India will enhance this cooperation.**

The Quadrilateral security dialogue/Quad

- It is an informal grouping of four democracies - **India, Australia, the US, and Japan** - first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in **2007.**
- It was upgraded to the **ministerial level in 2019.**
- **In March 2021, the first-ever summit of QUAD leaders took place virtually.**
- **1st in-person Quad Summit** took place in **September 2021 in the US.**

- **Its core objective** is to secure a rules-based global order, freedom of navigation and a liberal trading system. It is also seen as **an attempt to check the growing might of China.**

What is Bio-Manufacturing?

- Biomufacturing **uses living systems**, particularly microorganisms and cell cultures, to produce molecules and materials on a commercial scale.
- It has the **potential to transform the global industrial system**, with up to 60% of physical inputs to the global economy expected to be producible using this technology.
- Many countries, including the **US and China**, recognise the need to optimise this ecosystem and have designed specific policies to shape their bio-economies.
- **India's National Biotechnology Development Strategy** envisions the country as a “Global Biomufacturing Hub” by 2025. As the strategy sets the target of \$100 billion for the hub, this cannot be achieved without external support.

Why is India an Ideal choice to become the Biomufacturing Hub?

- **Existing infrastructure:** India already has **existing infrastructure** in place which can be utilised for the purpose of biomufacturing.
- **A major player in the global pharmaceutical industry:** India has **established expertise in manufacturing and quality control processes**, which can be leveraged for biomufacturing.
- **Competitive advantage in terms of cost-effectiveness:** According to an analysis, **the cost of manufacturing in India is 33% lower than the US.**
 - With the potential to provide affordable scalability in biomufacturing processes, **India can meet the demand for bio manufactured products on a large scale.**
- **Skilled workforce:** India has a **large pool of skilled professionals** in the life sciences and biotechnology sectors.
- **Research capabilities:** India has **demonstrated its research capabilities in biomufacturing**, ranking high in terms of the quality of research output and the share of research publications.
- The country's **strong research base provides a solid foundation for innovation** and advancements in biomufacturing processes and technologies.

Quad's Complementary Strength

- **Funding and advanced technology:** The U.S. has significant funding capability, while all three (Japan, Australia, and the U.S.) also possess advanced biotechnology innovation ecosystems and intellectual property.
- **Facilitate cross-Quad collaboration:** The biomanufacturing hub can house all current bilateral government efforts and establish a research collaboration office for this purpose.
 - **The hub can harmonise language, regulations,** and data-sharing regarding biomanufacturing to secure supply chains for Quad nations and facilitate international collaboration.
 - **Such streamlining will boost collaboration** efforts within the Quad and create opportunities for collaboration with nations outside the Quad as well.

Why the Biomanufacturing Hub is Important for Quad and the World At Large?

- **China** has also expressed its intention to capture this market, like how it dominated small-molecule active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).
- **Such dependence** in the biomanufacturing sector will be detrimental to both India and the Quad.
- The proposed hub can help **facilitate technology transfer, connect investors, and establish a biomanufacturing fund** that is administered through the Quad, to support India's efforts to reduce dependency on China.

What should be India's Strategy?

- **Improvement in workforce quality:** Permanent training facilities with focus on commercialising research and development. **Recent policy changes in India** allow the establishment of foreign universities and can encourage scholar exchange programmes.
- **Scheme to check China's dominance:** India must formulate a scheme like the production-linked incentive scheme that allocated \$2 billion to the pharmaceutical sector to make biopharmaceuticals, APIs, key starting materials, and related products.

Conclusion

- The Quad should establish a biomanufacturing hub in India **to benefit from the country's economic potential and address supply-chain vulnerabilities.**

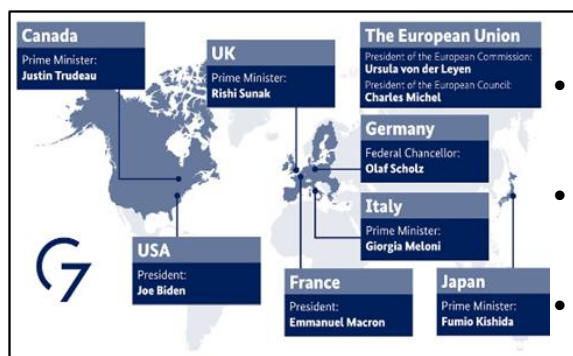
- The proposed hub has the potential to transform India into a leading player in the field of **biomanufacturing** and to help the Quad to compete in this key area.

GROUP OF SEVEN (G7): CLIMATE WISHLIST AND THE REALITIES OF EFFORTS TO CAP WARMING

Why in News?

- The G7 group has repeatedly acknowledged the urgency for effective climate action but offered little in terms of scaled-up action.

The Group of Seven (G7)



- It is an **intergovernmental informal political forum** of 7 wealthy democracies formed in 1975.
- It consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the **European**

Union (non-enumerated member), meet at the **annual G7 Summit**.

- **The 49th annual G7 Summit is hosted by Japan.**
- As of 2020, **G7 accounts for over half of global net wealth** (at over \$200 trillion), 30 to 43% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.

Need for Effective Climate Action:

- A series of recent reports have once again **sounded the red alert on climate change**, saying that the **window of opportunity for effective action was narrowing faster** than ever before.
- **For example**, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold was likely to be breached (at least temporarily) over the next five years.
- According to some other studies, **2023 is on track to become the warmest ever**, surpassing 2016.

- **The recent heat wave** in India and neighbouring countries was almost certainly due to climate change. The probability of its occurrence has **increased at least 30 times by global warming**.
- These reports called for an **immediate scale-up of climate action**. However, the response does not seem to be able to keep pace.

The G7 Climate Ministers Meeting:

- The meeting of the group of rich and developed nations with the economic heft to create the necessary momentum for global change, **presents the latest example of the response gap**.
- In its final communique (in Hiroshima, Japan), **the G7 listed a set of milestones** that need to be achieved for a realistic chance of containing the global rise in temperatures to within 1.5 degree Celsius.

Milestones Listed by the G7 for Effective Climate Action:

- **Seeking a global peak in GHG emissions by 2025:**
 - The G7 claimed that their emissions **had already “peaked”**, and asked **all major economies** to ensure that their individual emissions do not continue to rise beyond 2025.
 - “Major economies” is not defined, but in the context of climate change, it usually includes countries like **India, China, Brazil, South Africa, and Russia**.
- **Net-zero by 2050:**
 - According to scientific claims, the world as a whole must become **net zero by mid-century in order to meet the 1.5C target**.
 - The G7 reiterated its commitment to turn net-zero by 2050, and asked all ‘major economies’ to attain net-zero status by that year and to come up with detailed road maps to reach the target.
- **Accelerating the phase-out of “unabated fossil fuels” in line with 1.5C trajectories:**
 - G7 said that they would **eliminate “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies” by 2025**.
 - **For example**, the G7 claimed they had stopped financing new fossil fuel-based energy projects “except in limited circumstances”. These circumstances include the need to end the dependence on Russian gas.