

JAPAN EX-PM ABE, A FRIEND OF INDIA, KILLED WHILE CAMPAIGNING

In News:

- Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated in Nara while campaigning for the upcoming election.

News Summary

- Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader, died after being shot while campaigning for a parliamentary election.

Achievements

- **Country's longest-serving leader**
 - Became Japan's youngest PM in 2006 at age 52, but stint abruptly ended a year later.
 - Returned as PM in 2012 to become country's longest-serving leader before resigning in 2020.
- **Laid ground for Indo-Pacific region**
 - Long before others, Abe laid the ground for the emergence of the Indo-Pacific region as a contemporary political, strategic and economic reality — a region that will also shape the world in this century.
 - He did this in his seminal speech to the Indian Parliament in 2007.
 - He led in building a framework and architecture for its stable and secure, peaceful and prosperous future.
 - He was the chief architect of Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific policy that aligned closely with India's own 'Act East' policy.
- **Global leader ahead of his time**
 - As far as global leadership is concerned, Abe was ahead of his times.
 - He designed and formulated the Quad.
 - In 2007, he had said that with Japan and India coming together, this broader Asia will evolve into an immense network spanning the entirety of the Pacific Ocean, incorporating the US and Australia.

- He was a staunch supporter of multilateralism and he contributed in designing and helping lot of such forums which include:
 - the ASEAN-led forums, the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- **Abenomics**
 - When he came to office for second time in 2012, Abe launched an effort to revive Japan's stagnant economy.
 - Known as 'Abenomics' which combined fiscal stimulus, monetary easing and structural reforms.

India & Abe

- **First stint in 2006-07, Abe visited India and addressed Parliament**
 - Abe is still remembered for his "Confluence of Two Seas" speech in the Indian Parliament in 2007.
 - In this speech, he as PM declared that India-Japan ties is blessed with "the largest potential for development of bilateral relationship anywhere in the world.
 - While quoting Vivekananda, Abe had then argued that among many contributions that India can make to the world history, there is first of all its spirit of tolerance.
 - In another speech in 2011, Abe said a strong India is in the best interest of Japan and a strong Japan is in the best interest of India.
- **Visit during second stint as PM**
 - During his second stint, he visited India thrice — in January 2014, December 2015 and September 2017.
 - No other Prime Minister of Japan has made so many visits to India.
 - Abe was the first Japanese PM to be chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014.
- **India – Japan Nuclear Deal**
 - Abe's government convinced the anti-nuclear hawks in Japan to sign the agreement in 2016.
 - The pact was key to India's deals with the US and French nuclear firms, which were either owned by or had stakes in Japanese firms.

- **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**

- Abe made an immense contribution to elevating India-Japan relations to the level of a Special Strategic and Global Partnership.
- This relationship encompassed issues from civilian nuclear energy to maritime security, bullet trains to quality infrastructure, Act East policy to Indo-Pacific strategy.
- A large number of milestone projects between India and Japan were initiated during his tenure as the PM of Japan.
- In 2014 he went to Kyoto to receive the Indian PM and together announced the Kyoto-Varanasi partner city pact.
- During Abe's visit in 2015, India decided to introduce the Shinkansen system (bullet train).

- **Enhanced security & defence cooperation**

- Under Abe, India and Japan decided:
 - To have a foreign and defence ministers 'meeting (2+2), and
 - To start negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement — a military logistics support pact.
- In November 2019, the first foreign and defence ministers' meeting (2+2) was held in New Delhi.
- A pact for transfer of defence equipment and technology was also signed in 2015, an uncommon agreement for post-War Japan.

- **India and Japan in the Indo-Pacific architecture**

- During Abe's tenure, India and Japan came closer in the Indo-Pacific architecture.
- Abe promoted the use of Indo-Pacific over the earlier Asia-Pacific signalling the primacy Japan attached to India's role in the region.
- In October 2017, as Chinese aggression grew in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and India's borders in Doklam, it was Abe's Japan that mooted the idea of reviving the Quad.
- In November 2017, the grouping was revived.

- **Partnership against China**

- Under Abe's leadership, India and Japan also formed the Act East Forum and are engaged in projects in the Northeast, closely watched by China.

- The two countries also planned joint projects in Maldives and Sri Lanka among others to counter Beijing's influence.
- **Second highest civilian award to Abe**
- The awarding of India's second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, in January 2021, to Mr. Abe is testament to the respect and warmth that he enjoyed in India.
- India has declared a one-day mourning on July 9.

MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with architect of the Indian Constitution Babsaheb Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National importance.



About:

- Culture Ministry said, Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara, where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917 be declared as Monument of National Importance.
- This place is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Dr. Ambedkar.
- The National Monuments Authority has also recommended a place in Satara in Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar received his primary education in Pratap Rao Bhosle High School to be declared as monument of National importance.

G-20 COUNTRIES

The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will happen in November in Bali, Indonesia. After Indonesia, India will assume the presidency of G20 from December 2022.

G20 members



Note: The European Union is also a member

About:

- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in Washington DC, US.

Members

- Its prominent members are: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the EU. Spain is invited as a permanent guest.
- Together, the G20 countries include 60 per cent of the world's population, 80 per cent of global GDP, and 75 per cent of global trade.

Troika

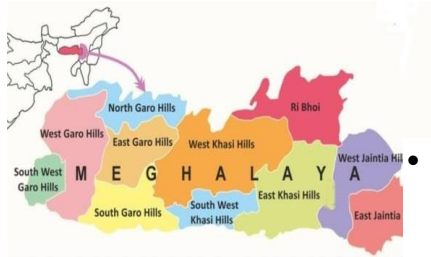
- The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members, and the country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda. Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries right now.

How does the G20 work?

- The G20 has no permanent secretariat. The agenda and work are coordinated by representatives of the G20 countries, known as 'Sherpas', who work together with the finance ministers and governors of the central banks. India recently said ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant would be the G20 Sherpa after Piyush Goyal.

KHASI HILLS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL (KHADC)

A tribal council in Meghalaya has called for a meeting of traditional heads to revisit the Instrument of Accession, that made the Khasi domain a part of the Indian Union seven decades ago.



About:

- Meghalaya is divided into three regions dominated by as many matrilineal communities — the Khasis, Garos and Jaintias. The Khasi hills straddle 25 Himas or States that formed the Federation of Khasi States.
- Titosstarwell Chyne, the chief executive member of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) agreed that the Instrument of Accession and Annexed Agreement signed with the Dominion of India between December 15, 1947 and March 19, 1948, should be studied.
- The treaty was signed by Governor General of India, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, on August 17, 1948.

DEFENCE EXPORTS

India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever, the Defence Ministry said.



About:

- The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.
- The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.
- While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.
- In January, India signed a \$374.96-million deal with the Philippines, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

CAATSA

On July 7, US Democratic Representative Ro Khanna said the US government must not impose sanctions on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for its purchase of S-400 missile weapons system from Russia.



About:

- The Biden administration has not yet issued a clear statement on whether India might be subjected to sanctions under CAATSA, even as India began receiving the weapons from Russia in late 2021.
- CAATSA is a law that came into effect in the US in 2017, meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and Iran using economic sanctions. It said countries having a “significant transaction” with Russian intelligence and military agents will be subject to at least five kinds of sanctions.
- Why did the US enact a law like CAATSA? The US flagged issues of Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 Presidential elections, and its role in the Syrian war as some of the reasons for punishing engagement with it.
- India has purchased the S-400 Triumf missile systems, which have advanced capabilities to judge the distance from a target and launch a surface-to-air missile attack.
- However, the application of CAATSA is not limited to the S-400, and may include other joint ventures for manufacturing or developing weapons in the future, or any other kinds of major deals with Russia.