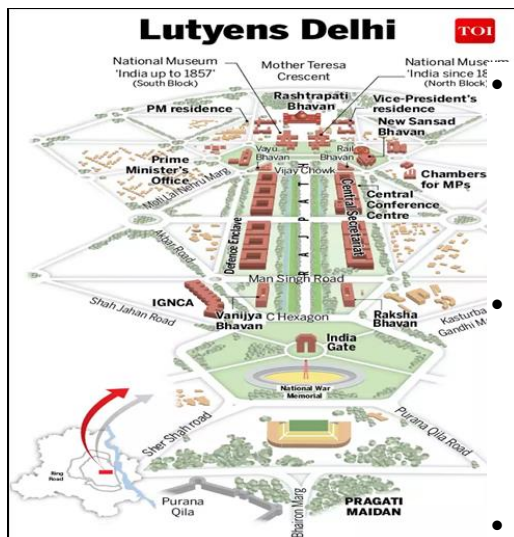


INDIA'S 75-YR JOURNEY FROM RAJPATH TO KARTAVYA PATH

In News:

- Recently, PM Modi celebrated the renaming of Rajpath as 'Kartavya Path' and installation of the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at the India Gate canopy in New Delhi.

Central Vista Redevelopment Project:



Central Vista Redevelopment Project refers to the ongoing redevelopment to revamp the Central Vista, India's central administrative area located near Raisina Hill, New Delhi.

The area was originally designed by **Sir Edwin Lutyens** and **Sir Herbert Baker** during British colonial rule and was retained by Government of India after independence.

- In 2019, the Central government announced the redevelopment project to give a new identity to the 'power corridor' of India.
- The project aims to –**
 - Revamp a 3 km long Rajpath (now renamed as **Kartavya Path**) between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate,
 - Convert **North** and **South Blocks** to publicly accessible museums by creating a new common Central Secretariat to house all ministries,
 - A new **Parliament building** near the present one with increased seating capacity for future expansion,
 - New residence and office for the **Vice-President** and the **Prime Minister** near the North Block and South Block and
 - Convert some of the older structures into **museums**.

Implementation:

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- The whole project is estimated to cost **Rs 20,000 crores**.
- Out of this, around Rs 1,000 crores will be used for the construction of a new Parliament.
- The project is estimated to be completed by 2024.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

About Kartavya Path:

- In 1911, British government in India decided to move their capital from Calcutta (now Kolkata) to Delhi.



- On 15 December in 1911, **King George V** and his consort Queen Mary laid the foundation stone of the 'new capital' of the British Raj.
- The plan of a central axis called **Kingsway** was chalked out by Sir Edwin Lutyens with a view of building a modern imperial city.
- The grand axis was laid from the **Great Place** (later renamed

to **Vijay Chowk**) to **India Gate** by the architects.

- Post-independence –
- Soon after India's independence, Kingsway was renamed to **Rajpath** and Queensway running perpendicular to it was rechristened as **Janpath**.
- India then became a Republic on 26th January, 1950, and Rajpath became the venue of all Republic Day celebrations since then.
- Recently, the Rajpath has been renamed to **Kartavya Path** by the Central government to signify public ownership and empowerment.
- Also, workers involved in the development of the Kartavya Path would be invited as a guest at the next Republic Day Parade.

JAPAN SEEKS STRONGER SECURITY TIES WITH INDIA AT 2+2 MEET, SAYS GLOBAL ORDER IS UNDER STRAIN

In News:

- The second India-Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue took place recently in Tokyo, Japan.

2+2 Ministerial dialogue

- The 2+2 dialogue is a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.
- A 2+2 ministerial dialogue enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities taking into account political factors on both sides.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four **key strategic partners**: US, Australia, Japan, and Russia.

2+2 with Japan

- India and Japan held their inaugural 2+2 **minister level** dialogue in November 2019.
- The idea of such a 2+2 meeting was initiated during the summit meeting between Modi and Abe in Tokyo in October 2018.
- India and Japan have had a 2+2 foreign and defense dialogue led by secretary level officers from 2010.

News Summary

- Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the second India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting, held at Tokyo, Japan.
- After the summit, a joint statement was issued.

Key highlights of the joint statement

- **Commitment to a rules-based global order**
 - Without specifically naming Russia or China, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a rules-based global order that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 - They also emphasised the need for all to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, without resorting to threat.
- **Achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific**
 - The Ministers highlighted their commitment to a common strategic goal of achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific.
 - A region that is inclusive and resilient, based on the rule of law and free from coercion.
- **On options necessary for national defence**

- Japanese side expressed its resolve to examine all options necessary for national defence, including so called counterstrike capabilities.
- The Japanese side expressed its determination to fundamentally reinforce Japan's defence capabilities within the next five years and secure substantial increase of Japan's defence budget
- Indian side acknowledged Japan's determination to reinforce its defence capabilities.
- **Joint Service Staff Talks between the Japan and India**
- The Ministers concurred to launch the **Joint Service Staff Talks** between the Japan Joint Staff and the Indian Integrated Defence Staff.
- **Noted the progress in the military-to-military cooperation**
- The Ministers welcomed:
 - the participation of Japan for the first time in the multilateral exercise MILAN and
 - Operationalization of the Agreement Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Indian Armed Forces in the exercise.
- They also expressed their commitment to continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises including Dharma Guardian, JIMEX and Malabar.

INDIAN, CHINESE TROOPS START DISENGAGEMENT FROM PP-15

In News:

- Indian and Chinese troops kicked off disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in the larger Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh.
- However, there is still no progress in the much bigger face-offs at **Demchok** and the strategically-located **Depsang Plains**.

Background



- In May 2020, Indian and Chinese troops clashed at various points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- These points included:

- Pangong Tso, Galwan Nalah and Demchok in Ladakh and at Naku La (a mountain pass at an altitude of over 5000 metres) in Sikkim.
- Later, a violent clash at Galwan Valley started between Indian troops and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in June, 2020.
- It was the first deadly clash between India and China in at least 45 years. 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives.
- After this incident, both sides deployed a large number of troops in the area along with heavy weaponry.
- The infrastructure build-up has also been very heavy and the standoff between the two forces is continuing.

The Corps Commander level talks

- India and China have been holding the talks on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh area to resolve the standoff.
- So far, the 16 round of Corps Commander-level talks had been held between the two countries.
- The 16th round took place in July 2022.

Outcomes of the previous rounds of talks

- Troops were disengaged on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso and Gogra Post.
- However, at Hot Springs they continued to face each other.
- Earlier, China had **refused** to complete the stalled troop disengagement at the Patrolling Point (PP) – 15 in the Hot Springs-Gogra-Kongka La area.
- Now, as per the consensus achieved during 16th round of talks, both sides announced disengagement in PP-15 region.
- The Chinese have also been preventing Indian troops from accessing five traditional patrolling points on the Depsang Plains(Depsang bulge)
- These five traditional patrolling are —PP10, PP11, PP11A, PP12 and PP13.
- Depsang plains are not far from the strategic Indian outpost at Daulat Beg Oldie near the Karakoram Pass in the north. It is a table-top plateau located at an altitude of 16,000-feet
- The no-patrol buffer zones have been created after disengagement at
- PP-14 in Galwan Valley,

- PP-17A near Gogra
- Pangong Tso
- However, these zones have largely come up in what India claims to be its territory.

News Summary

- India and China announced that their frontline troops have kicked off disengagement from Patrol Point-15 (Gogra-Hot Springs area) in eastern Ladakh.
- This is the fourth round of disengagement between the two armies.

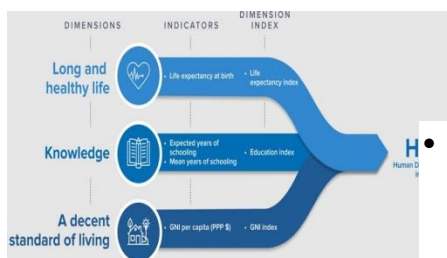
FOURTH 'NO-PATROL BUFFER ZONE'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > With disengagement in the larger Gogra-Hot Springs area, a fourth 'no-patrol buffer zone' has now been created at PP-15, with Indian troops moving back to their permanent post at PP-16 and PLA soldiers withdrawing towards their side of LAC > Earlier buffer zones, varying from 3km to almost 10km, were established at PP-14, PP-17A and the two banks of Pangong Tso after 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> troop disengagements at those face-off sites > Breakthrough at PP-15 could set the stage for a bilateral meet between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of SCO summit. Modi and Xi have not spoken or met since the PLA incursions in April-May 2020 > But still no progress made in the much bigger face-offs at Demchok & strategically-located Depsang Plains

Significance

- The latest development has raised hopes for disengagement of troops from other flashpoints too.
- PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit at Samarkhand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16
- The current breakthrough at PP-15 could well set the stage for a bilateral meeting between these two leaders on the side-lines of the summit.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021, after registering a decline in its score over two consecutive years for the first time in three decades.



About:

The drop is in line with the global trend since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic during which 90% of the countries have fallen backward in human development.

- The Index is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- The HDI measures average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development — a long and healthy life, education and a decent standard of living.
- It is calculated using four indicators — life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
- India's HDI score of 0.633 places it in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in 2018, indicating a reversal in progress.
- Like global trends, in India's case, the drop in HDI from 0.645 in 2018 to 0.633 in 2021 can be attributed to falling life expectancy at birth — 70.7 years to 67.2 years.
- India's expected years of schooling stand at 11.9 years, and the mean years of schooling are at 6.7 years. The GNI per capita level is \$6,590.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated gender inequality, which increased 6.7% globally.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has passed away after reigning for 70 years.



About:

- The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and witnessed enormous social change.
- Queen Elizabeth II's tenure as head of state spanned post-war austerity, the transition from empire to Commonwealth, the end of the Cold War and the UK's entry into - and withdrawal from - the European Union.
- Her reign spanned 15 Prime Ministers starting with Winston Churchill and including Ms Truss. She held weekly audiences with her Prime Minister throughout her reign.
- The Queen was born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, in Mayfair, London, on 21 April 1926.

- Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II and served as the consort of the British monarch from her accession as queen on 6 February 1952 until his death in 2021.
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UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

The expert committee formed by the Uttarakhand government to examine ways for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has launched a website, seeking public opinion on the plan.



About:

- Headed by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (who is also the head of the Delimitation Commission), the committee has sought suggestions and recommendations from residents.
 - The Committee will also prepare a report on implementing a UCC in Uttarakhand.
 - Article 44 of the Constitution, lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the citizens throughout the territory of India. The code would be applicable to all religious communities in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption.
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JOB POLICY FOR TRANSGENDERS

The Supreme Court gave the government three months to take the lead and devise a policy framework to open up avenues of employment for transgender persons, particularly in the civil aviation industry.



About:

- The order was a fallout of a petition filed by Shanavi Ponnusamy, a transgender person from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, whose dream of flying high as an airline cabin crew member never took off.
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- The court said the petitioner’s case raised wider issues about the formulation of government policy to ensure the guarantee of non-discrimination against transgender people.
 - The Supreme Court observed that the government has to comply with the enabling provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019 in “letter and spirit”.
 - The court detailed specific provisions of the Act which mandated that no person or establishment, whether government or private, should discriminate against a transgender person in matters of employment, including recruitment or promotion or in any other related areas.
 - The court ordered the Department of Personnel and Training and the Social Justice Ministry to collaborate with the National Council for Transgender Persons, a body constituted under the Act, to consult stakeholders and prepare a “considered” policy for the community’s welfare and rights in the next three months.
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