

G4 COUNTRIES HIGHLIGHT 'URGENT NEED' FOR REFORM IN U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

In News:

- Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar met his German, Brazil and Japanese counterparts for a meeting between the foreign ministers of the Group of Four (G4) countries.
- They met on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss issues related to reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

G4 Countries

- It was formed in 2004 with India, Brazil, Germany and Japan as its members.
- The group is primarily focused on UNSC reforms, and permanent membership of the body for G4 members, among others.

Why G4 nations' demand for UNSC reform matter?

- UNSC reforms are imperative to ensure equitable representation and reflect the geopolitical and economic realities of the present world order.
- G4 countries represent the changing world and must be represented in UNSC.
- USA is now in favour of permanent seat without veto power. UK shares similar view. France has been closest with intention to provide both seat and veto.
 - Recently, U.S. President Biden emphasized U.S. support for expanding permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council, during his UNGA address.
- Expanded members would have the same responsibilities and obligations, as current permanent members, thus making the council reflective of current order.

Challenges faced by G4 countries:

- **Resistance from P-5 countries** as these countries are reluctant to share the exclusive power with new entrants.

- **Absence of consensus on complex issues** such as the size of the expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories, regional distribution, the working methods of the Security Council, its relationship with the UNGA, and veto powers.
- **Opposition from other countries** – Pakistan along with the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) countries have been leading the opposition to India's inclusion.
 - UFC comprises of countries like Pakistan, Italy, Mexico, Egypt, South Korea etc.
- **China Factor** - Rise of India threatens China by creating its own rival power structure. Hence, it does not want India to be a member of Security Council.

URBAN NAXALS AND SOME GLOBAL BODIES BLOCKING INFRA: MODI

In News:

- PM Modi blamed Urban Naxals' and some global institutions and foundations' for stopping modern infrastructure projects that can raise the standard of living of people in the country.
- He was addressing the national conference of environment ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, via video conference.
- The conference was hosted by Union Environment Ministry for the state environment ministers and officials on the topic: Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

In Focus: Maoism

- Maoism is a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung.
- It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
- The Maoists also use propaganda and disinformation against State institutions as other components of their insurgency doctrine.
 - Mao called this process, the 'Protracted Peoples War', where the emphasis is on 'military line' to capture power.

What is the central theme of Maoist ideology?

- The central theme of Maoist ideology is the use of violence and armed insurrection as a means to capture State power.
- ‘Bearing of arms is non-negotiable’ as per the Maoist insurgency doctrine.
- The Maoist ideology glorifies violence and the ‘Peoples Liberation Guerrilla Army’ (PLGA) cadres are trained specifically in the worst forms of violence to evoke terror among the population under their domination.

Who are the Indian Maoists?

- The largest and the most violent Maoist formation in India is the Communist Party of India (Maoist).
- The CPI (Maoist) is an amalgamation of many splinter groups, which culminated in the merger of two largest Maoist groups in 2004;
 - the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist),
 - People War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India.
- The CPI (Maoist) and all its front organizations formations have been included in the list of banned terrorist organizations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Maoism and Naxalism

- Maoism’ and ‘Naxalism’ are one and same. Naxalism does not have a separate ideology.
- The Maoists’ three Magic weapons are
 - Party (leadership),
 - Armed cadre (operating from jungles) and
 - United front (a network of mass organisations in Urban areas).

Urban Maoism/Naxalism

- The presence of, and activities carried out, by Naxalites or the CPI (Maoist), in urban areas are together termed as Urban Maoism/Naxalism.
- As per Maoist Document ‘Strategy and Tactics of Indian Revolution’,
 - Urban movement is one of the main sources, which provides cadres and leadership having various types of capabilities essential for the people’s war and for the establishment of liberated areas.

- Also, the responsibility for the provision of supplies, technology – expertise, information and other such things, to the people’s war, too lies on the shoulders of the urban revolutionary movement itself.

Three objectives of Maoist Urban work

- Mobilising and organising masses
- Build United Front (Network of Mass Organisations)
- Military Tasks

Activities

- The activities of the Maoists in urban areas include:
 - maintaining safe houses for leaders and cadres while in transit,
 - place for recuperation(recovery) and for holding meetings;
 - providing logistics support to under-ground squads;
 - mobilising and recruiting youth, students and workers from industry and other bodies.

ALIVA PROGRAMME TO COUNTER CHILD MARRIAGE

With the aim of eradicating child marriage, Nayagarh, a tiny Odisha district, has adopted a unique initiative by scrupulously recording information on all adolescent girls in the district.



About:

- From birth registration date to Aadhaar number, from family details to skill training, information of 48,642 adolescent girls can be found in registers named Aliva.
- Nayagarh, with a population of 9,62,789, has a skewed sex ratio at 855. Child marriages the district are still considered a part of their social life.
- Observing that child marriages are solemnised in the age group of 14-19 and dropouts among girls’ students continued to be high, the district administration launched the Aliva programme in January this year.

- Anganwadi workers had been asked to identify every adolescent girl in their jurisdiction and keep tabs on them. There are 1,584 registers available in 1,584 Anganwadi centres of the district.
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QUAD AGREEMENT FOR DISASTER RELIEF

Foreign Ministers of the Quad group of countries – India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan – met on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to sign a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership into effect.



About:

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), commonly known as the Quad, is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States that is maintained by talks between member countries.
 - In a joint statement in March 2021, "The Spirit of the Quad," the Quad members described "a shared vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific."
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MAHARAJA HARI SINGH

After 75 years, Jammu and Kashmir observed a holiday on the birth anniversary of Dogra monarch Maharaja Hari Singh.



About:

- The Lieutenant-Governor's (L-G) administration earlier this week announced a holiday on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja, who signed the Instrument of Accession with India in 1947, and later shifted outside J&K in 1949.
 - Maharaja Sir Hari Singh (1895 – 1961) was the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
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- He signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947, joining the whole of his princely state to the Dominion of India.
- Pressure from Nehru and Sardar Patel Hari compelled Singh to appoint his son and heir, Yuvraj (Crown Prince) Karan Singh, as Prince Regent of Jammu and Kashmir in 1949, although he remained the titular Maharaja of the state until 1952 when the monarchy was abolished by Nehru's government.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES (IDSL)

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated 'Sign Language Day'.



About:

- International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September. This year's theme was "Sign Language Unite Us."
- Objective of this day is to protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.
- ISLRTC launched the Indian Sign Language Dictionary (ISL Dictionary) in 2021 which is being used by deaf people, special teachers, parents of deaf children, linguists etc.
- To make this ISL dictionary easily accessible, ISLRTC along with Federal Institute of Science and Technology (FISAT), Kerala has developed an Indian Sign Language Dictionary APP known as 'Sign Learn'.

MEHAR BABA COMPETITION - II

The last date for registration in the Mehar Baba Competition -II is 02 October 2022.

About:



- To provide a boost to the growing indigenous drone industry, Raksha Mantri had launched the "MEHAR BABA COMPETITION-II" on 06 April 2022 at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan).
- The competition is aimed at developing technology for a "Swarm Drone Based System to Detect Foreign Objects on Aircraft Operating Surfaces".
- The competition is named after the legendary Air Commodore Mehar Singh, MVC, DSO - affectionately also known as Mehar Baba.
- The first edition of the competition was launched in October 2018 and had culminated in October 2021.

CARBON DATING

A district court in Varanasi allowed a petition seeking carbon dating of the structure inside the Gyanvapi mosque that the Hindu side has claimed is a 'Shivling'.



About:

- Carbon dating is a widely-used method applied to establish the age of organic material, things that were once living. Living things have carbon in them in various forms. The dating method makes use of the fact that a particular isotope of carbon called C-14, with an atomic mass of 14, is radioactive, and decays at a rate that is well known.
- Carbon-14 is radioactive and reduces to one-half of itself in about 5,730 years. This is what is known as its 'half-life'.
- Because plants and animals get their carbon from the atmosphere, they too acquire carbon-12 and carbon-14 isotopes in roughly the same proportion as is available in the atmosphere.
- So, after a plant or animal dies, the ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-14 in the body, or its remains, begins to change. This change can be measured and can be used to deduce the approximate time when the organism died.