

**GS Paper 3
Security – Oct'18**

12th ADMM and the 5th ADMM-Plus Meeting

In News

- The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 in Singapore.
- This was second time Singapore has chaired ADMM since its establishment in 2006 and first time to chair ADMM-Plus since its establishment in 2010.
- ADMM and ADMM-Plus serves as key Ministerial-level platforms in regional security architecture for promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.

Key Highlights

- The participating leaders expressed satisfaction regarding significant progress on deliverables. These deliverables include three focus areas. These are:
 1. the "Our Eyes" Initiative for strategic information sharing and the "3Rs" – Resilience, Response and Recovery – concept of counter-terrorism;
 2. a new network of ASEAN chemical, biological, and radiological defence experts to share best practices and make quick contact during crises; and
 3. the adoption of the Guidelines for Air Military Encounters (GAME) by the ADMM, to which the Plus countries are in-principle supportive.
- Leaders welcomed Joint Statements on Preventing and Countering the Threat of Terrorism and Practical Confidence-Building Measures by the 5th ADMM-Plus.
- The Joint Statements mark the first time since 2013 that the ADMM-Plus has issued joint outcome documents.

About ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM-Plus)

- The ADMM-Plus is a platform for **ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- Ten ASEAN Member States include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- Eight Dialogue Partners of ASEAN which are members of ADMM plus include - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russian Federation, and the United States.
- The **Inaugural ADMM-Plus** was convened in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 12 **October 2010**.
- The objectives of the ADMM-Plus are as follows:
 - To benefit ASEAN member countries in building capacity to address shared security challenges, while cognisant of the differing capacities of various ASEAN countries;
 - To promote mutual trust and confidence between defence establishments through greater dialogue and transparency;
 - To enhance regional peace and stability through cooperation in defence and security, in view of the transnational security challenges the region faces;

- To contribute to the realisation of an ASEAN Security Community which, as stipulated in the Bali Concord II, embodies ASEAN's aspiration to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region where ASEAN member countries live at peace with one another and with the world at large;
- To facilitate the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, which calls for ASEAN to build a peaceful, secure and prosperous ASEAN, and to adopt greater outward-looking external relation strategies with our friends and Dialogue Partners.

Citizenship Status of Gorkhas Living in Assam

Syllabus: Security challenges and their management in border areas

In News

The central government has clarified that members of the Gorkha community living in Assam can neither be sent to detention centres nor can cases on their citizenship status be referred to the Foreigners Tribunals.

Key Highlights

- Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a letter to the Assam government clarifying the status of Gorkhas living in Assam.
- According to letter, the Gorkhas who were Indian citizens at the time of commencement of the Constitution, or those who are Indian citizens by birth, or those who have acquired Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation according to the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, cannot be termed "foreigners".
- It has asked the state government not to refer such cases to the foreigners' tribunals.
- It further confirmed that Gorkha members holding Nepalese nationality and who arrived in India by land or air even without a passport or visa, and who have been staying in India for any length of time, will not be treated as illegal migrants if they can produce any Nepalese identity documents.
- For children below the age of 10, the letter said that, no identification documents are required under provisions of the India-Nepal Treaty signed in 1950.
- For children between age group of 10-18 years, a photo ID issued by the principal of the school, if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents, would be adequate for them not to be deemed as foreigners.
- The ministry also clarified that only those individuals, who have come from specified territories i.e. territories included in Bangladesh immediately before commencement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, to the State of Assam, and are not Indian citizens, can be referred to the Foreigners tribunals.

Background

- Assam has a Gorkha population of nearly 2.5 million. After the National Register of Citizens was published in June, more than 1 lakh Gorkhas found their names missing in the final draft.
- Some of these cases were referred to the Foreigners Tribunal as the citizens' names were included in the voters' list in contravention to the India-Nepal Treaty signed in 1950.

- Last month, the All Assam Gorkha Students' Union informed Union Home Minister of a few cases of Gorkhas being referred to the Foreigners Tribunals.

The Foreigners Act, 1946

- The Foreigners Act has been enacted on 23rd November 1946. This Act has been established to enforce a law relating to the legal status and protection of immigrants.
- This Act conferred several powers to the Central Government in pursuance to the entry of foreigners or immigrants, their presence in our Country and in regard to their departure.
- The main objective of this Act is to endow with recommending, regulating and restricting a foreigner amongst other things their presence and their continuous presence in India.
- This Act clearly conditioned that the foreigner should come to India only at the specified period, specified routes to a specified place, etc. by following such other conditions made by the Central Government vis-à-vis a foreigner should not depart without following the above conditions forced by the Central Government for their arrival.

NRC for Tripura

Syllabus: Security challenges and their management in border areas

In News

- The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the centre and the Election Commission of India on a plea seeking that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) be updated to include Tripura.
- The plea was filed by the Tripura People's Front emphasizing the need for updating the NRC for Tripura.

Background

- The NRC demand gained traction in Tripura's political landscape following the publication of the final draft in Assam.
- However, at that time, it was dismissed by the government stating that the process in Assam originated in the Assam Accord and the situation in Tripura does not warrant updating the NRC.
- Later, the descendent of the **erstwhile kingdom's former royals**, Pradyot Bikram Maikya Debbarma, has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in favour of the NRC.

Analysis

- According to the petition filed in SC, there is a huge influx of illegal immigrants through Tripura-Bangladesh border. It is necessary to identify and deport illegal immigrants living in the state.
- Not only that, according to the supporter of NRC, fencing of the Tripura-Bangladesh border to prevent influx of illegal immigrants is also necessary.
- However, many analysts believe that the petition is only an additional indicator of the existing fault-lines in the state as there is little to no consensus regarding this.
- Many tribal groups, championing an ethnocentric cause, are fearing that if the number of tribal people left out of the final draft of Assam's NRC is an indicator, the same could happen in Tripura.

- There are many tribal groups who are campaigning to attain statehood for the Tripura Tribal Autonomous Areas District (TTAAD) areas in the form of Twipraland.
- Also, there has been reports that the current Tripura CM, Biplab Deb, was born in Bangladesh. However, when he assumed office, on March 4, the Dhaka Tribune had reported that his parents migrated to Tripura during the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- This indicates that they had come after the cut-off date mandated for Assam. This, in itself, is immaterial, as the petition filed by Tripura People's Front has demanded 1949 to be the cut-off year in line with Article 6 of the Constitution.

As a result, many critics believe that the NRC in Tripura will likely witness old wounds reopening after a tenuous peace since AFSPA was withdrawn in 2015.