

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina will jointly inaugurate a key cross-border railway project (i.e. Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link Project) on Wednesday.

Significance of Bangladesh

- Historical relations
- Geopolitical significance (String of Pearls)
- Strategic importance (Act East Policy)
- Cultural
- Environmental Concerns (Joint River commission)

Areas of Cooperation

- **Economic :**
 - 2021-22 USD 18.2 Billion
 - Exports of Bangladesh tripled over last decade USD 1 Billion in 2018-19.
 - July 2023 - trade transactions in rupees
- **Connectivity:**
 - Maitree express, Bandhan Express
 - Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade
- **Cultural:** (Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka)
- **Defence:** (Exercise Sampriti & CORPAT Bangosagar)
- **Countering China's Influence** (3 Line of Credits - USD 8 Billion since 2010)
- **Multilateral cooperation** (SAARC, BIMSTEC & IORA)

Issues

- **Border Disputes** (Assam & Tripura)
- **Rohingya refugees**
- **River Water sharing** (54 cross-border rivers, Ganga & Koshiyara, Teesta & Farakka Barrage Dispute)
- **Insurgency:**
 - United Liberation Front of Assam
 - National Democratic Front of Bodoland
 - National Liberation Front of Tripura
- **Chinese influence** (Chittagong port)
- **Drug Smuggling & Trafficking**

Way Forward

- **Comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement, 2018**
- **Counter China**
- **Smart Border management**
- **Joint task Force**
- **Resolve Teesta river disputes**



Context: A non-local worker was shot dead by militants in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Monday. The victim, identified as Mukesh Kumar is from Uttar Pradesh. While the attacks on the non-locals laborers started in the valley in 2019 after the abrogation of jammu & kashmir's special status, the attacks saw a sharp increase in 2022.

Factors

- Geographical
- Historical
- Linguistic:
 - 22 official languages
 - 2001 Census - 1635 mother tongues
- Religious & Caste:
 - Khalistan Movement, 1980
 - Vanniyars of North Tamil Nadu
- Political
- Economic (Son of Soil)

Manifestation

- Creation of new States
- Demand for Dravida Nadu, 1960
- Sub-regional movements: (Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Saurashtra in Gujarat, Bundelkhand in U.P, Darjeeling in West Bengal)
- Regionalism in NE:
 - Bodoland in Assam
 - Greater Nagalim
 - Attacks on Bihar Labourers by ULFA, 2003

- Maharashtra Navnirman Sena targeting North-Indians, 2008
- Locals First Policy (Haryana & Andhra Pradesh)
- Inter-State Disputes (Karnataka & Maharashtra - Belgaum & Cauvery dispute)

Measures

- Constitutional Measures:
 - 5th & 6th Schedule
 - Special provisions under Article 371
 - Inter-State Council (Article 263)
- Legal Measures:
 - State Reorganisation act, 1956
 - Zonal Councils
- Policy measures:
 - National Integration Council, 1961
 - Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956
 - State-Specific grants



Drought in Amazon Rainforest



Context: The Negro river, major tributary runs through the Brazilian Amazon, has reached historic lows, revealing millenia old carvings previously hidden underwater.

About Amazon Rainforest

- It is a **moist broadleaf tropical rainforest** in the Amazon biome that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America.
 - This basin encompasses **70 lakh km²** of which 55 lakh km² are covered by the rainforest.
- This region includes territory belonging to **nine countries** and more than 3300 formally acknowledged indigenous territories.
- The majority of the forest, 60%, is in **Brazil**, followed by **Peru** with 13%, **Colombia** with 10%.
- Amazon, called the **planet's lungs** (storing more than **150 billion metric tonnes of carbon**).
- Amazon river **largest river by volume**.

Causes

- El-nino
- High Water temperatures in North Atlantic Ocean

Impact

- **Wildlife** (Boto, Dolphin in Tefe Lake)
- **Hydropower dams**
- **5,00,000 people** may be affected
- **Vulnerable to Wildfires** (witnessed 2,700 blazes)
- **Air quality** (National Institute for Space Research – Air quality in Manaus)



Bail



Context : The SC has dismissed a plea for bail filed by former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who is facing money laundering & corruption charges in the liquor policy case.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bail is a legal concept and process that involves the release of a defendant from custody in exchange for a specified amount of money or other forms of security.● Regular Bail | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anticipatory Bail● Interim● Default:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 90 Days○ 60 Days○ 180 days (Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act) |
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Prisoners Dilemma

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh referred to the concept of "Prisoner's dilemma" at his keynote address at Goa Maritime Conclave, to underscore the need for countries to collaborate with each other instead of working at cross purposes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Two players make choices: The Prisoner's Dilemma involves two individuals who decide whether to cooperate or betray.● Payoff matrix: Different choices result in specific payoffs, such as cooperation leading to moderate rewards, while betrayal can bring higher rewards if the other player cooperates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rational self-interest: Players aim to maximize their individual gains by choosing what benefits them the most.● Nash equilibrium: This is the situation where neither player wants to change their choice based on what the other player did, often leading to both players betraying each other.● Suboptimal outcomes: Despite better collective results through cooperation, the dilemma shows how self-interested decisions can lead to less favorable outcomes, applicable in real-life scenarios like business and international relations. |
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