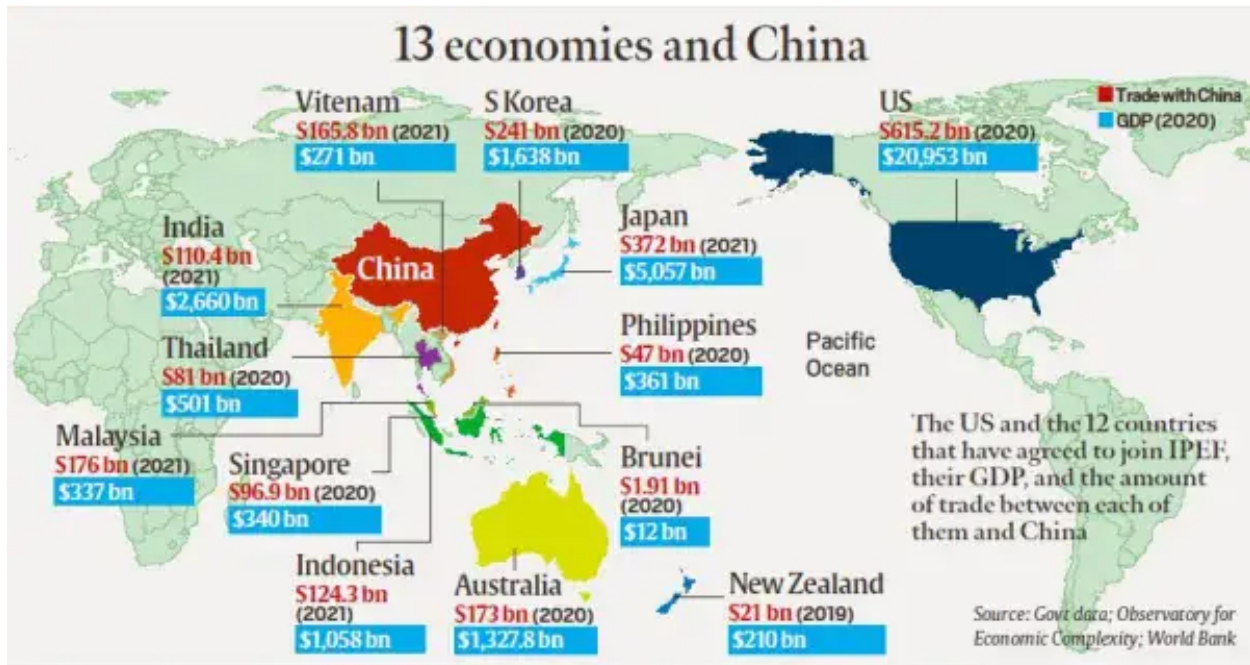


1. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Topic: International Relations



In News: The second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting was held in Detroit, USA recently.

More on the Topic

- IPEF was launched jointly by the USA and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region in May 2022 at Tokyo.
- IPEF has 14 partner countries including Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam & USA.
- It seeks to strengthen economic engagement among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, peace and prosperity in the region.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade:

- (Pillar I); Supply Chains
- (Pillar II); Clean Economy
- (Pillar III); and Fair Economy
- (Pillar IV).
- India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.
- At this Ministerial Meeting, **negotiations under the Supply Chains (Pillar-II) were substantially concluded.**

About Different Pillars:

- **Under the Supply Chains (Pillar-II)**, IPEF partner countries are seeking to: make supply chains more resilient, robust, and well-integrated through crisis response measures; cooperation for mitigation of disruptions to better ensure business continuity, and improve logistics and connectivity; promoting investments particularly in critical sectors and production of key goods; and worker role enhancement through requisite upskilling and reskilling, and increasing comparability of skills credentials frameworks across IPEF.
- **Under the Clean Economy (Pillar-III)**, IPEF partners are aiming to advance cooperation on research, development, commercialization, availability, accessibility, and deployment of clean energy and climate friendly technologies, and facilitate investment towards climate-related projects in the region.
- Further, interested IPEF partners are introducing a **regional hydrogen initiative** to encourage widespread deployment of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen and its derivatives in the region.
- **Under the Fair Economy (Pillar-IV)**, IPEF partners are working toward development of the text of an agreement that will strengthen implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures to boost commerce, trade, and investment among IPEF economies.

Source: Indian Express

2. Nato Plus

Topic: International Relations



In News: The US Congressional Committee on the Strategic Competition between the US and the Chinese Communist Party has recommended including India in Nato Plus.



More on the Topic:

- The Nato Plus, currently **Nato Plus 5**, is a security arrangement that brings together **Nato and five aligned nations — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea — to boost global defence cooperation.**

Significance of Bringing India in to Nato plus:

- Bringing India on board would facilitate seamless intelligence sharing between these countries and India would access the latest military technology without much of a time lag.
- Taking New Delhi aboard the wider Nato-Plus platform given the increasing clout that the South Asian giant wields in a **multipolar world beset with geopolitical tensions that have come to a boil with the Russia-Ukraine war.**

Advantages for India by becoming a member of NATO Plus:

- India would gain access to seamless intelligence sharing between these countries.
- India would get access to the latest military technology without much of a time lag.
- It would further strengthen India's defence partnership with the United States.

About NATO:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- It is a transatlantic alliance of 31 **like-minded North American and European countries.**
- It aims **to protect peace and to guarantee the territorial integrity, political independence and security** of the member states.


Source: Hindu

3. India's new Parliament

Topic: Polity and Governance

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE



A four-storey structure
 Total area: **64,500 sq m**
 Seating capacity: **1,224 MPs**
 Cost: **Rs 970cr**
 Estimated completion: **2022**


Part of **Central Vista redevelopment project**

Tata Projects limited has won the bid for its construction

ADDITIONS

- A grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage
- Lounge for MPs
- Library
- Multiple committee rooms
- Dining areas
- Ample parking space

Unlike the present Parliament, the new building will not have a Central Hall



In News: In the 75th year of Independence, India has a new Parliament building, built by Indians, and embodying the culture, pride and spirit of the entire nation.

More on the Topic:



Why does India need a new Parliament building?

- The official website of the Central Vista project makes the point that the existing Parliament House, which was commissioned in 1927, **is almost a century old Heritage Grade-I building.**
- Parliament has seen **a massive increase in parliamentary activities and users over the decades.**
- The building **“is showing signs of distress and over-utilization** and is not able to meet the current requirements in terms of space, amenities and technology”.
- The present building **was never designed to accommodate a bicameral legislature for a full-fledged democracy.**
- The number of Lok Sabha seats is likely to **increase significantly from the current 545 after 2026**, when the freeze on the total number of seats lifts.
- Communications infrastructure and technology is antiquated in the existing Parliament.

What are the main features of the new Parliament building?

- It has a built-up area of about 65,000 sq m, with its triangular shape ensuring the optimum utilisation of space.
- The sandstone for the new Parliament building has been procured from Rajasthan's Sarmathura. Notably, sandstone for Delhi's Humayun's Tomb and Red Fort is also known to be sourced from Sarmathura.
- The new building will house a larger Lok Sabha hall with a capacity of up to 888 seats, and a larger Rajya Sabha hall with a capacity of upto 384 seats. The Lok Sabha may accommodate up to 1,272 seats for joint sessions of Parliament.
- The Lok Sabha hall is based on the peacock theme, India's national bird.
- **The Rajya Sabha is based on the lotus theme**, India's national flower.
- A state of the art Constitutional Hall in the building “symbolically and physically puts the Indian citizens at the heart of our democracy”.
- The building will have ultra-modern office spaces that will be secure, efficient, and equipped with the latest communications technology.
- A “Platinum-rated Green Building”, the new Sansad Bhavan will embody **India's commitment towards environmental sustainability.**
- The new Parliament will be **divyang friendly**, and people with disabilities will be able to move around freely, says the website.
- The courtyard will have **a banyan, the national tree.**

Source: Hindu



4. International Organization for Standardization

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: India has hosted the 44th edition of the annual ISO COPOLCO Plenary recently.

More on the Topic:

- The International Organization for Standardisation is an international standard development organisation composed of representatives from the national standards organisations of member countries.
- It has 168 countries as members.
- It develops standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors.
- India was one of the founding members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- India's Bureau of Indian Standards is a member of ISO.

Source: Indian Express

5. Gharials

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The Forest officials have spotted around 35 hatchlings of the gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), a common crocodile species, at the Satkosia gorge in the Mahanadi river in Odisha's Angul district.

More on the Topic:

- The gharial is listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife protection act, 1972 and also described as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red list of Threatened Species.
- Their habitat is threatened because of human encroachment, river pollution and fishing activities. Gharials caught accidentally in fishing nets are either hacked to death or have their snout chopped off by fisherman.
- They are called as Gharial because they have a distinct boss at the end of snout, resembling an earthenware pot or ghara. They are well adapted to catching fish.

Source: Business Standard

6. Babul (Acacia nilotica)

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: A study by researchers from Thailand and India suggests that babool seed oil could be an environment-friendly alternative to chemicals to control major farm pests.

More on the Topic:

- In fact, almost every part of the babool tree is **packed with medicinal properties**. Traditionally, people chew on its young leaves to improve digestion, and on the woody stems to keep teeth clean and gums healthy.
- The bark is **used to treat burns, skin diseases and clean infected wounds**. Nowadays, the bark extract is a common ingredient in toothpastes. Its resin helps deal with skin diseases, oral inflammation and indigestion.
- Though **native to Africa, the Arabian peninsula and the Indian subcontinent**, babool is **found in almost all tropical and subtropical areas of the world**.

- India is home to at least three of nine subspecies of the tree, with natural babool forests found in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Karnataka.
- **As a nitrogen-fixing legume**, it also helps in reclamation of areas degraded by mining or erosion. As part of the natural vegetation of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the tree has been extensively for the **reclamation of the Chambal ravines**.
- Planting babool trees in this changing climate and the aggravating desertification, is therefore not only beneficial for human health but also for biodiversity.

Source: Business Standard

7. Turkey

Topic: Places in News



In News: Recep Tayyip Erdogan is re-elected as Turkey's president.

More on the Topic:

- Bordered by Black Sea (north), Georgia and Armenia (northeast),
- Azerbaijan and Iran (east), Iraq and Syria (southeast),
- Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea (southwest and west),



RV Educational Institutions®
RV Training Academy
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

- and by Greece and Bulgaria HQ (northwest).
- Shares maritime borders with Cyprus, Egypt, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine.
- **Major Rivers are Euphrates, Tigris and Kizilirmak.**
- Highest Point is **Mount Ararat.**

Source: Business Standard
