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National and International News

<p>India-Uzbekistan Relations</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Uzbekistan share timeless ties rooted in history and heritage. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Uzbekistan share a long history of cooperation, with India being one of the first countries to recognize Uzbekistan's state sovereignty after its independence. Defense Cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first-ever joint military exercise held between India and Uzbekistan was named Dustlik. Security Cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Uzbekistan share common perspectives on a number of security issues, including terrorism, trans-national organized crime, illegal trafficking, smuggling, etc. Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has increased from USD 247 million in 2019-20 to USD 342 million in 2021-22, a growth of 38.5%. Uzbekistan has expressed interest in joining the International Solar Alliance. Bilateral Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Coordination Committees: India and Uzbekistan have set up National Coordination Committees to oversee the implementation of mutually agreed projects and initiatives. Multilateral Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-Central Asia Business Council: A platform for advancing trade and investment, focusing on sectors like energy, pharmaceuticals, automotive, agro-processing, education, infrastructure, transport, aviation, IT, and tourism. India-Central Asia Dialogue: A forum to strengthen political, economic, digital, and cultural ties between India and Central Asia.
<p>Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana completes its 10th anniversary today. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched by the government in 2015 for providing loans up to Rs. 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro-enterprises.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUDRA, which stands for Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd., is a financial institution set up by the Government. • It provides funding to the non-corporate small business sector through various last-mile financial institutions like Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). • MUDRA does not lend directly to micro-entrepreneurs/individuals. • MUDRA has created three products i.e. 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' as per the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shishu: Covering loans up to Rs. 50,000. ○ Kishore: Covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh. ○ Tarun: Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh. • Loans under this scheme are collateral-free loans.
ASEAN	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, India has expressed no interest in participating in the ASEAN countries' efforts to formulate a joint strategy on U.S. President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs, citing the competitive nature of the relationship. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states. • The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community". • ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta. Member Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. • Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations. ○ To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter. ○ To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields. ○ To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of agriculture and industries, the



	<p>expansion of their trade, the improvement of transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of peoples.</p>
<p>Israel Palestine Conflict</p> <p>Israel's boundaries today Palestinian territories</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel now controls 50% of the Gaza Strip after demolishing land to enlarge its buffer zone. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Israel-Palestine conflict arises from interconnected historical assertions, nationalist aspirations, and religious significance in the Middle East, centered on territory and identity struggles. Started with the rise of Zionism in the late 19th century and mirrored by the rise of Arab nationalism, the conflict escalated in the 20th century, especially after Israel's establishment in 1948. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zionism is the national endeavor of the Jewish people, supporting and advocating for the restoration of a Jewish homeland, traditionally identified with the area of Palestine or the Biblical land of Israel. Conflict Regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Gaza Strip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location: The Gaza Strip is a coastal Palestinian region along the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Israel and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Together with the West Bank, it forms the State of Palestine, with Israel situated between the two territories. - Governance: Hamas, a politico-military entity, has administered the Gaza Strip since its electoral victory in 2006. - Control: While Israel maintains authority over Gaza's airspace and coastline, it has also implemented limitations on goods entering the territory. Additionally, Egypt manages its border with Gaza. West Bank: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location: This territory is landlocked and is bordered by Israel and Jordan, with the Dead Sea marking part of its boundary. - Administration: A section of Jerusalem is within the West Bank. The region is governed by Fatah, previously recognised as the Palestinian National Liberation Movement. Jerusalem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location: Located on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the



	<p>Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. It's roughly in the center of Israel and is bordered by several Palestinian territories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ - Administration: Jerusalem is divided into several districts: Jewish-majority West Jerusalem and the predominantly Palestinian East Jerusalem, which includes the Old City.
<p>Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The government is working to bring online gaming companies under the purview of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PMLA defines money laundering as an act of directly or indirectly attempting to indulge or knowingly assisting or knowingly being a party or actually involved in concealing, possessing, acquiring, using, projecting as untainted property, or claiming as untainted property, in any manner whatsoever, the proceeds of crime. ● It is defined as the process through which an illegal fund, such as black money, is obtained from illegal activities and disguised as legal money, eventually portrayed as white money. ● About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is an act to prevent money laundering and to provide for the confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering. ○ The Act was formulated for the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prevent money-laundering. ■ Combat/prevent the channelising of money into illegal activities and economic crimes. ■ Provide for the confiscation of property derived from, or involved/used in, money laundering. ■ Penalize the offenders of money laundering offenses. ■ Appointing an adjudicating authority and appellate tribunal for taking charge of money laundering matters. ■ Provide for matters connected and incidental to the acts of money laundering. ● The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is responsible for investigating the offenses of money laundering under the



<p>Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)</p>	<p>PMLA.</p> <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BIMSTEC summit presents an opportunity for India to reinforce its Act East Policy. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIMSTEC It is an economic bloc that came into being in June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997. Nepal became an observer state in 1998 and became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004. Members - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. Permanent Secretariat - Dhaka, Bangladesh Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its aim is to counter the onslaught of globalisation by accelerating regional growth through mutual cooperation by utilising regional resources and geographical advantages. Importance of BIMSTEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 22% of the world's population live in the seven countries around the Bay of Bengal, with a combined GDP close to \$2.7 trillion. All seven countries have sustained average annual rates of growth between 3.4% and 7.5% from 2012 to 2016. A fourth of the world's traded goods cross the bay every year. About Act East Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Act East Policy' announced in November, 2014 is the upgrade of the "Look East Policy". It is a diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels. It involves intensive and continuous engagement with Southeast Asian countries in the field of connectivity, trade, culture, defence and people-to-people-contact at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Key advancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater emphasis on action-oriented outcomes. Integration of Northeast India as a critical fulcrum in policy implementation. Recognition of the Indo-Pacific as a strategic and economic priority.
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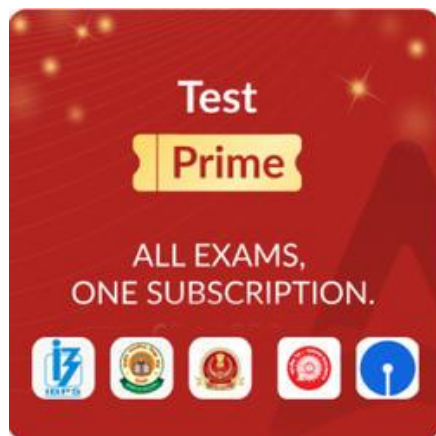


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