



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



11 SEPTEMBER, 2023

S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	INDIA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS
2.	GLOBAL PUSH TO CRIMINALIZE ECOCIDE
3.	G20 LEADERS SUMMIT ADOPT NEW DELHI DECLARATION

INDIA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The recent **Camp David summit** in August, which brought together the leaders of the **United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK)**, signifies the start of a fresh era in the strategic partnership between these long-standing allies.
- In parallel, as **India and ROK celebrate the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic ties**, the Camp David summit and the **innovative strategic approach** coming from Seoul present a distinctive chance for New Delhi to **redefine its relationship** with South Korea, particularly within the context of the **Indo-Pacific region**.

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT:

- The summit takes place involving the **heads of state from the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK)**.
- This gathering represents a significant move towards the **improvement of relations** between **Seoul and Tokyo**.
- This showcases their shared acknowledgment of the **evolving regional security** landscape among these three nations.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT:

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- The summit illustrates the desire for a multipolar international system in East Asia, in conjunction with various groupings and alliances.
- AUKUS: USA, UK, AUSTRALIA
- QUAD: INDIA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, USA
- CHIP 4 Alliance: US, JAPAN, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA

ENSURING REGIONAL SECURITY

- It suggests a necessary improvement in the relationship between South Korea and Japan.
- It represents a significant change in Seoul's conventional strategy of avoiding any actions that might upset China under all circumstances.

QUAD MEMBERSHIP:

- South Korea's aspiration to join the Quad alliance could become more attainable, with the possibility of future inclusion in Quad Plus.

HOW WILL THE SUMMIT BENEFIT THE INDIA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS?

➤ **INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY:**

Given South Korea's geographic closeness to China and its alliance with the United States, it has become an important and beneficial partner for India within the Indo-Pacific region.

➤ **GLOBAL SOUTH:**

President Yoon Suk Yeol's ambition is to position South Korea as a significant global player in the south by enhancing its involvement in the Indo-Pacific region.

HISTORY OF INDIA SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS:

NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP	DETAILS
1. HISTORICAL RELATIONS	As per the 13th-century Korean historical document titled "SamgukYusa" or "Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms," Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya in India arrived in Korea in the year 48 AD.
2. CULTURAL RELATIONS	Buddhism was introduced to Korea through a maritime route when Princess Suriratna and her brother Monk Jangyu arrived in the region. In 2011, the establishment of the Indian Cultural Centre in Seoul was undertaken to display India's diverse cultural heritage.
3. POLITICAL RELATIONS	Shri K P S Menon, a former Indian diplomat, served as the Chairman of the 9-member UN Commission established in 1947 to oversee elections in Korea. In 2018, both nations released a joint statement delineating their "Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace, and Our Future."
4. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS	Consular relations were initiated in 1962, and both countries formally established diplomatic relations in 1973. New Southern Partnership in 2017 between Seoul and New Delhi 5 th Policy and Security Dialogue in 2023.
5. DEFENCE RELATIONS	In the year 2020, India and South Korea entered into an agreement known as a "Roadmap for defence Industries Collaboration."
6. TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS	In FY 2021-22, India's main exports to Korea were mineral fuels, oils, bituminous substances, and mineral waxes, followed by aluminium. South Korea is India's 13th largest FDI source (April 2000-September 2022). Metallurgy, automotive, electronics, machinery, and healthcare being the top sectors.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS:

➤ **TRADE IMBALANCES:**

A source of potential disagreement arises from the trade imbalance where **South Korea exports more to India** than it imports from India.

➤ **ROLE OF NORTH KOREA:**

The manner in which South Korea engages with North Korea and its interactions with nations such as the United States and China can have repercussions on **India's regional concerns and interests.**

➤ **GEOPOLITICAL COMPLEXITIES:**

The intricate **geopolitical dynamics within the Indo-Pacific region** can pose challenges to the relationship between India and South Korea, particularly concerning **matters of security and trade**.

WAY FORWARD:

➤ **ENHANCE DEFENCE RELATIONS:**

- India should take advantage of South Korea's readiness and capability to meet its defence requirements under the framework of **India's 'Make in India' initiative**.
- Example: **The K9 Vajra**, a self-propelled 155 mm howitzer manufactured by L&T with **technology licensed from South Korea's Hanwha Defence**, serves as an illustration of this collaboration.
- Similarly, there is potential for **co-production in India of South Korean-made K2 Black Panther tanks** for use by the **Indian Army** or for export to other nations.

➤ **ENHANCE POLITICAL RELATIONS:**

- Enhanced political and diplomatic relations could be fostered through yearly summits, **2+2 dialogues**, and **reciprocal visits** between leaders.

➤ **TECHNOLOGICAL COLLABORATION:**

- Considering Seoul's impressive history of providing more **cost-effective and efficient nuclear reactors**, India might contemplate acquiring reactors constructed in South Korea.
- Discuss on a **collaborative effort** encompassing **South Korea, Japan, India, and the United States** in the field of **Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**, similar in nature to the recently finalized **India-U.S. iCET**.



GLOBAL PUSH TO CRIMINALIZE ECOCID

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#), [DOWN TO EARTH](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The contentious **Maya train initiative in Mexico** has the objective of connecting tourists to historical Maya sites, prompting worries about its possible adverse effects on the environment and culture.
- This project's controversy highlights the notion of "ecocide" and the increasing worldwide effort to make environmental harm a criminal offense.

WHAT IS ECOCID?

- Ecocide, a term rooted in Greek and Latin, translates to 'the killing of one's habitat' or 'environmental destruction.'



Figure 1: ECOCID

- Though there's no worldwide recognized ecocide definition, legal experts convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation in June 2021 proposed defining it as unlawful or reckless acts knowingly causing severe and extensive or enduring environmental harm, akin to crimes against humanity.

HISTORY OF ECOCID:

- In **1970**, biologist **Arthur Galston** was the first to establish a **link between environmental destruction and genocide, a recognized international crime.**
- He established this connection while discussing **the U.S. military's use of Agent Orange**, an herbicide, in the **Vietnam War.**
- In **1972**, during the **UN Conference on the Human Environment**, **Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme** addressed the severe damage caused to the environment.
- It was caused due to **indiscriminate bombing, extensive bulldozing, and herbicide use**, describing it as an ecocide requiring immediate global concern.
- In **2010**, a British lawyer played a significant role in advocating for the **United Nations' International Criminal Court (ICC)** to formally **recognize ecocide as an international crime.**
- Presently, the **ICC's Rome Statute covers four main offenses**, with war crimes being the only provision that can hold individuals responsible for **environmental harm, but solely when it's intentionally inflicted during armed conflicts.**

ECOCIDE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

Loss of
biodiversity

By the year 2050, it is possible that more than 33% of the world's animal and plant species may face extinction.

Rising global
temperatures

Unprecedented heatwaves on a global scale.

Use of fossil
fuels

According to a 2019 report, 20 fossil fuel companies, despite being aware of the industry's harmful consequences, were accountable for one-third of carbon emissions.

Submergence
of small island
nations.

Smaller nation-states such as Vanuatu and Barbuda are advocating for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to classify offenses against the environment as breaches of global legal standards.

STATUS OF ECOCIDE IN INDIA:

- India has **not endorsed or formally accepted** the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court.
- India has not communicated an official stance regarding the proposal to make ecocide an international crime.
- However, India has signed many **treaties and enacted several laws** for the conservation of the environment.
- **International treaties:**
 - **United Nations Framework convention on climate change.**
 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
 - **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
 - **Ramsar Convention**
- **Legislations:**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
 - **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**
 - **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
 - **National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, 2010**
 - **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAMPA)**
- **Important Judgements:**
 - **Chandra CFS and Terminal Operators Pvt. Ltd. v. The Commissioner of Customs and Ors case, 2015:** The Madras High Court observed ongoing and unrestrained actions of environmental destruction connected to the extraction of valuable timber.
 - **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India & Ors case 1995:** The TN Godavarman case has profoundly **influenced India's environmental laws**, with **numerous court directives** regulating development in forests.

BENEFITS OF CRIMINALIZING ECOCIDE:

- **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:**
 - Activities like extensive **deforestation** and **unregulated extraction of fossil fuels** are recognized as **ecocidal practices**.
 - The criminalization of ecocide introduces a **robust legal aspect** to environmental safeguarding, ensuring that individuals and organizations can be held responsible.
- **ADVOCATING CLIMATE JUSTICE:**
 - Laws against ecocide can also act **as compelling appeals for justice**, particularly on behalf of **lower- and middle-income nations** enduring the severe consequences of extreme weather occurrences.
 - Smaller countries such as **Vanuatu and Barbuda** are advocating for the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** to **designate crimes against the environment**.
- **ETHICAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY:**
 - Ethically, we have a **global responsibility** to address environmental challenges collectively.
 - Criminalizing ecocide demonstrates a **commitment to international cooperation** in addressing issues that transcend national boundaries.
- **EFFECTIVE REMEDIATION THROUGH LEGALISATION:**
 - The criminalization of ecocide introduces a robust legal aspect to environmental safeguarding, ensuring that **individuals and organizations** can be **held responsible for actions that detrimentally impact the climate**.

CHALLENGES IN CRIMINALISING ECOCIDE?

- **Global consensus:**

Gaining worldwide agreement on ecocide legislation can be difficult due **to differing environmental agendas and priorities**.
- **Enforcement:**

Persuading governments to place ecocide laws as a top priority and allocate the necessary resources for their enforcement can be a challenging endeavour.
- **Impact on developmental activities:**

The debate against criminalizing ecocide often centers on the conflict between development and safeguarding the environment.

WAY FORWARD

- **Review existing legislation:**

Before the development of international ecocide laws, India should align its existing environmental legislation with the concept of ecocide.
- **Public awareness:**

The implementation of ecocide laws should be a component of a larger effort to shift public awareness, acknowledging our interconnectedness with the environment and our reliance on its health for our own well-being.
- **Political and diplomatic engagement:**

To ensure environmental protection, a combination of political, diplomatic, and legal tools should be employed.

G20 LEADERS SUMMIT ADOPT NEW DELHI DECLARATION

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#), [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The **G20 summit**, held under **India's presidency** and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has officially embraced the **Delhi Declaration**.
- PM Modi commended the Sherpas and ministers for their efforts in establishing a consensus among member nations during the two-day summit in New Delhi, where leaders from the world's major economies gathered.

G20 SUMMIT 2023 INDIA'S PRESIDENCY

- **India's G20 Presidency** marks a crucial phase in its pursuit of **sustainability and inclusivity**.
- Under the theme "**One Earth-One Family-One Future**," India aims to encourage **global cooperation** and **environmentally responsible decision-making** for a greener and fairer future.
- It is striving to **launch transformative initiatives** for a cleaner, more sustainable future during the "**Amrit Kaal**" period, spanning India's **75th to 100th independence anniversary**, for a **modern, inclusive, and prosperous society**.

AGENDA OF THE SUMMIT:

- The **G20's primary aim** is to coordinate efforts for **global financial stability, economic growth, and development in developed and developing nations**.
- It involves finance ministers and central bank governors from major economies, focusing on assessing global macroeconomic policies.
- Recent agreements tackle issues such as **methane emissions reduction, COVID-19 vaccine distribution, debt relief for the poorest nations, and international corporate tax evaluation**.
- The G20's agenda has also expanded to encompass **just and sustainable development, climate change, and the Paris Agreement**, with 140 nations agreeing on these matters at the **16th G20 summit in Rome in 2021**.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT

EVENT	OUTCOME
1. Permanent membership status to African Union in G20	In a historic move, the G20 grants African Union permanent membership, promoting inclusivity.
2. G20 Delhi leaders' declaration	Prime Minister Modi proudly declares G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, highlighting unity and commitment.
3. Ukraine-Russia conflict was addressed.	The declaration emphasized the Russia-Ukraine conflict's impact on global stability.
4. Global Biofuel Alliance launch	PM Modi initiated the Global Biofuel Alliance, urging G20 nations to adopt a global 20% ethanol-petrol blending standard.
5. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor	Leaders launched the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a substantial rail and shipping connectivity initiative, promoting economic integration among different regions.
6. Commitment to WTO Reforms	G20 leaders affirmed their dedication to overhaul the WTO dispute resolution system by 2024.
7. Commitment to Cross-Border Payments	Promoting faster, transparent, and inclusive cross-border payments

8. India-UK FTA discussions

India and the UK talked about their strengthening relationship and advancements in achieving a UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

NEW DELHI DECLARATION:

- Amidst difficulties in **achieving consensus on the Ukraine conflict**, India distributed a draft Summit Declaration to member countries.
- The declaration underscores the importance of robust, sustainable, equitable, and comprehensive growth. The mention of **geopolitics** is significant, particularly in light of the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**.

CHALLENGES IN RELATIONS WITH G20 COUNTRIES

- **Diverse membership:**
The varied composition of the G20 requires India to skilfully navigate a **multitude of interests and alliances to promote its own objectives**.
- **Trade relations:**
India's trade relations and economic growth can be influenced by **trade conflicts and protectionist measures** among G20 countries.
- **Economic disparities:**
G20 includes **both developed and developing nations** with **varying economic interests**. India must navigate these disparities while advocating for its economic priorities.

WAY FORWARD

- **Climate change leadership:**
Leadership role in **climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts**, aligning with the priorities of environmentally conscious G20 members.
- **Security partnership:**
Strengthen security partnerships to address **regional and global security challenges**.
- **Promoting multilateralism:**
Support and promote multilateral institutions and agreements that align with India's interests and values.
- **Cultural diplomacy:**
Leverage **cultural exchanges** and **people-to-people ties** to enhance understanding and cooperation.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC:

MEMBERSHIP: The G20 comprises 19 nations and the European Union, along with representatives from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

EVOLUTION OF G20:

- **ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS 1999:**
A ministerial-level forum was formed after G7 invited developed and developing nations.
- **2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS:**
In response to the 2008 Financial Crisis, it was decided that G20 leaders would meet annually, with finance ministers and central bank governors meeting twice yearly alongside the IMF and World Bank.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE G20:

- The G20 Presidency rotates yearly to maintain regional balance.

- It divides the 19 countries into five groups, each with a maximum of four countries. The presidency moves between these groups annually.
- There's no permanent secretariat; the president coordinates the agenda.
- Additionally, a TROIKA system ensures cooperation between the current, past, and future presidencies for agenda continuity.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

G20 members receive policy advice from various international organizations, including:

1. The Financial Stability Board (FSB), was formed by G20 leaders during the global financial crisis.
2. The International Labour Organization (ILO).
3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF).
4. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
5. The United Nations (UN).
6. The World Bank.
7. The World Trade Organization (WTO).

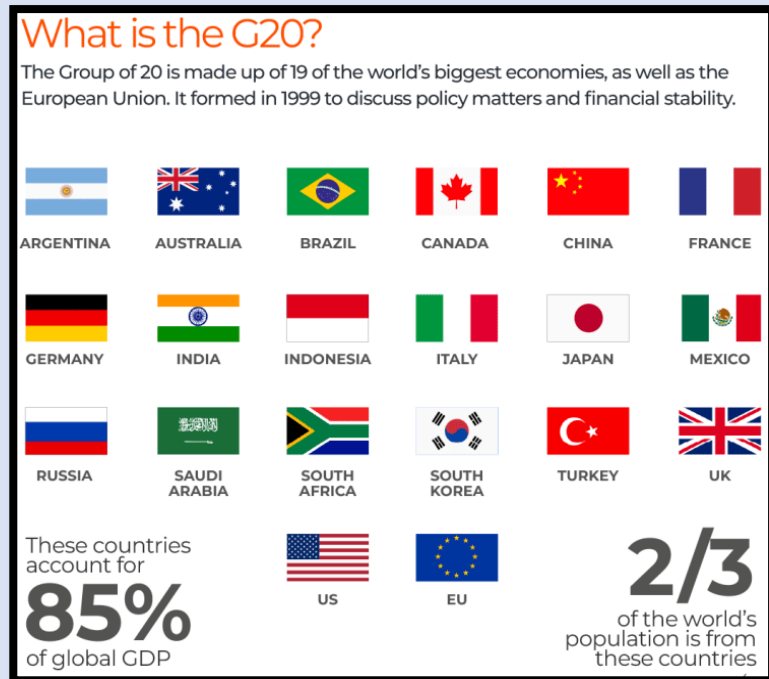


Figure 2: G20 MEMBER NATIONS

