



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



20th February, 2024

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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	GREECE'S GATEWAY TO ASIA, INDIA'S GATEWAY TO EUROPE
2.	PRELIMS POINTERS

GREECE'S GATEWAY TO ASIA, INDIA'S GATEWAY TO EUROPE

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper III- *Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests, Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.*

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Mains

Q. Discuss how the recent developments between India and Greece contributed to the advancement of their strategic partnership. Examine the implications this partnership holds for regional geopolitics and economic corridors?

(150 words)

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' state visit to New Delhi (February 21-22) underscores the **growing importance of building a strategic relationship between India and Greece**, following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Greece in August 2023.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

- ❖ **Historical Ties:**
 - ☛ India's connections with Greece date back over 2500 years, evidenced by trade between Mauryan Kings and Greece.
 - ☛ Alexander the Great's expedition to India in 326 BC furthered interactions, leading to the spread of Greek influence.
- ❖ **Diplomatic Relations:**
 - ☛ Diplomatic ties established in May 1950, with embassies opened in Delhi in 1950 and in Athens in 1978.
 - ☛ Both countries have supported each other on international platforms and issues of core national interest, such as UNSC seat expansion and nuclear arrangements.
 - ☛ Previous visits by Indian dignitaries, including President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in 2007 and Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1983, underscored the historical and strategic importance of India-Greece relations.
 - ☛ Bilateral visits and agreements have bolstered ties, including the unveiling of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Athens during the visit of India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) in June 2021.
 - ☛ Collaborations extend to various sectors, including defense, commerce, culture, and education.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

- ❖ **Strategic Relationship Building:**
 - ☛ Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited New Delhi on February 21-22, 2024, following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Greece in August 2023.



- The visit aims to deepen bilateral ties and cooperation across various fields, with Greece positioning itself as India's gateway to Europe and vice versa.
- ❖ **Geopolitical Importance:**
 - Both countries recognize their strategic importance in volatile geopolitical regions.
 - The security and stability of the East Mediterranean region (where Greece is situated) are closely linked to that of the Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ **Cooperation Across Sectors:**
 - Bilateral cooperation spans strategic, military, and business domains.
 - Joint exercises involving the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and Greek armed forces have been ongoing.
 - Business collaborations include infrastructure projects like the construction of a new airport in Crete and investments in various sectors such as food, shipping, and finance.
- ❖ **Potential for Economic Corridor:**
 - With Greece's economic reforms and positioning as the eastern flank of the EU and NATO in the Eastern Mediterranean, the idea of constructing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) gains traction.
 - Both countries aim to strengthen economic ties through initiatives like the EU-India bilateral trade and investment agreement.
- ❖ **Enhancing People-to-People Ties:**
 - Emphasis on preserving ancient linkages through closer people-to-people ties, including university student exchange programs, cultural exchanges, media cooperation, and collaboration among think tanks.
 - Calls for increased travel links between Greece and India to foster greater familiarity.
- ❖ **Urgency and Determination:**
 - The exchange of visits by political leaders underscores the determination and urgency to advance the Greece-India strategic partnership.
 - Policymakers and businesses are urged to follow the lead of political leaders in strengthening bilateral relations.
- ❖ **Critical Year for Partnership:**
 - The year 2024 is deemed critical for both the world and Europe, marking a significant milestone in the development of the Greece-India strategic partnership.

DEFENCE COOPERATION:

- ❖ Bilateral defence cooperation has evolved over the years with **high-level visits, joint exercises, and engagements**.
- ❖ Notable interactions include visits by Indian Chiefs of Army and Navy and participation in exercises like 'Blue Flag' and 'INIOCHOS-23'.

DEFENCE COOPERATION:

- ❖ The trade between **India and Greece** in 2022-23 amounted to USD 2 billion.
- ❖ India's exports to Greece encompass **aluminum, organic chemicals, fish, crustaceans, and iron and steel, among other goods**.
- ❖ Greece, on the other hand, predominantly exports **mineral fuels, mineral oils and derivatives, sulphur, and aluminum foil to India**.
- ❖ India was recognized as the "**Honoured Country**" during the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in 2019, which is Greece's most significant yearly commercial exhibition.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION:

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❖ **Agreements and Meetings:**

- An Agreement on Science & Technology was signed during the visit of the Indian President to Greece in April 2007.
- Joint Committee Meetings and Executive Programmes have facilitated cooperation in various fields such as **ICT, Nanotechnology, and Renewable Energy.**

❖ **ISRO Participation:**

- A team of scientists from ISRO participated in the **COSPAR assembly in Athens** in July 2022, exploring opportunities for **space cooperation.**

CULTURAL EXCHANGE:

❖ **Indologist Contributions:**

- Dimitrios Galanos, a Greek Indologist, made significant contributions to translating Sanskrit texts into Greek.
- Institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University have established chairs in his honor.

❖ **Honors and Awards:**

- Notable figures like Amartya Sen and Ambassador Dimitris Velissaropoulos have been honored by Greek institutions for their contributions.
- Prof. Nicholas Kazanas was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021 for his work in Indology.

❖ **Population and Demographics:**

- The Indian community in Greece numbered around 11,333 in 2011 and is estimated to be between 13,000 - 14,000 currently.
- Predominantly from Punjab, many are employed in farming, factories, or construction.
- Many Indian workers acquired stay permits during amnesties offered by the Greek government, with the last one in 2005.

CONCLUSION:

- ❖ *Although India and Greece have established a strong basis for their diplomatic relations, there exists an opportunity for expanding cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, and other sectors. By capitalizing on their historical and cultural affinities, both nations can strengthen collaboration across diverse domains.*



PRELIMS POINTERS:

20th February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>CRPC REMEDY NOT BARRED BY 1986 LAW: SC</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supreme Court debates precedence between Muslim Women Act and CRPC Section 125, impacting maintenance rights for divorced Muslim women. <p>ABOUT MUSLIM WOMEN ACT AND CRPC SECTION 125</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Supreme Court deliberates on the precedence between the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, and CRPC Section 125. ❖ Maintenance Provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Ensures maintenance for dependent family members, including wives, children, and parents unable to sustain themselves. ❖ Gender-Neutral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Applies universally, not specific to any religion, providing relief to women, including Muslim women, post-divorce. ❖ Interpretation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Court questions if the 1986 Act overrides Section 125, as it doesn't explicitly bar women from seeking maintenance under CRPC. ❖ Legal Arguments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Petitioner contends that 1986 Act supersedes CRPC Section 125, but SC debates if the Act restricts women's rights. ❖ Constitutional Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Discussion includes the Act's compliance with constitutional rights, particularly Articles 14, 15, and 21. ❖ Pending Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ SC reserves judgment, with implications for the rights of divorced Muslim women seeking maintenance under CRPC.
<p>MIMAS: THE DEATH STAR</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A study published in the <i>Nature journal</i>, analysed Mimas's orbital motion. <p>MIMAS' POTENTIAL LIQUID OCEAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Speculation by Astronomers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Astronomers speculate that Mimas, the smallest of Saturn's major moons, may possess a liquid ocean around 20-30 km beneath its heavily cratered ice shell. ❖ "Death Star" Nickname: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Mimas earned the nickname due to its heavily cratered surface resembling the Death Star from Star Wars. ❖ Data from Cassini Spacecraft:





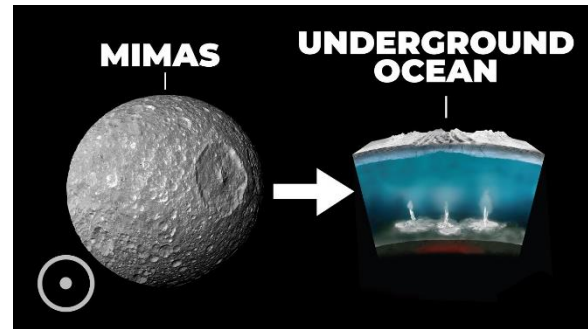
- ☛ Study used data from **NASA's Cassini spacecraft** to analyse **Mimas's orbital behaviour**.

❖ **Implications of Analysis:**

- ☛ Mimas's librations suggest an elongated **silicate core** or a **global ocean**, affecting its **gravitational interactions with Saturn**.

MIMAS'S CHARACTERISTICS:

- ❖ **Outer layer: Viscoelastic** (both viscous and elastic).
- ❖ **Interior interfaces: Hydrostatic** (at rest).
- ❖ **Ice shell thickness:**
Estimated at **20-30 km**, consistent with **2022 studies**.
- ❖ **Surface heat release:**
Approx. **25 milliwatts per sq. m**.
- ❖ **Effect on orbit:** Expected to halve **eccentricity** over **4-5 million years**.
- ❖ **Ocean formation:** Simulations suggest it could have formed **2-25 million years ago**.



ENCELADUS:

- ❖ Enceladus is **one of Saturn's moons** and **harbours a global ocean** beneath its icy crust.
- ❖ It exhibits **geysers** erupting from its **southern polar region**, ejecting **water vapor, ice particles, and organic compounds** into space.

ODYSSEUS SPACECRAFT

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **Odyssey spacecraft by Intuitive Mission**, *second private Moon landing attempt after Peregrine's failure*, **captures attention en route to Moon**, testing **innovative technologies for NASA**.

ABOUT THE ODYSSEUS SPACECRAFT:

- ❖ **Developed by Intuitive Mission**, it's the **second private attempt to land on the Moon** after Peregrine's failure.
- ❖ **Aboard Falcon-9 rocket**, it aims to be the **first American spacecraft to land on the Moon in over 50 years**.
- ❖ Captured cruising through space en route to the Moon, **following the path of Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong**.
- ❖ **Equipped with six Nasa payloads** under CLPS initiative for scientific measurements and testing new technologies.
- ❖ Scheduled to land on the Moon on February 22, with all **systems performing normally after a successful engine checkout**.



2001 MARS ODYSSEY SPACECRAFT:

- ❖ **Dimensions:**
 - ☛ Measures **2.2 meters (7.2 feet) long, 1.7 meters (5.6 feet) tall, and 2.6 meters (8.5 feet) wide** when visualized in a box.
- ❖ **Weight at Launch:**
 - ☛ **Weighed 725.0 kilograms (1598.4 pounds) at launch**, including spacecraft, fuel, and instruments.
- ❖ **Composition:**



- ☛ Framework primarily made of Aluminum with **some titanium for mass conservation and strength.**
- ❖ **Similarity to Aircraft Construction:**
 - ☛ Metal structure resembles of **high-performance and fighter aircraft.**
- ❖ **Redundancy in Systems:**
 - ☛ Most systems are fully redundant, **ensuring backup in case of device failure.**
- ❖ **Exception:**
 - ☛ **Imaging data collection** memory card lacks redundancy.



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AI in AIIMS

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *AIIMS Delhi's groundbreaking AI system, **iOncology AI**, promises to revolutionize cancer therapy by leveraging advanced technology to analyse genetic data, aiding in precise treatment selection and potentially transforming patient care worldwide.*

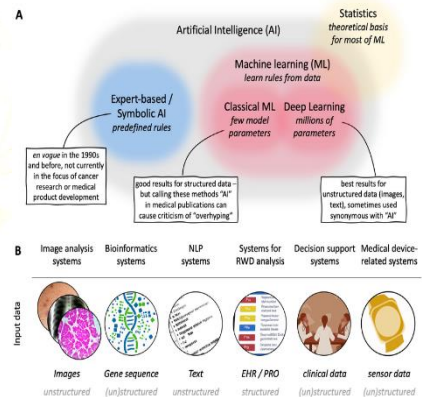
ABOUT AI IN AIIMS

AI in Cancer Therapy:

- ❖ **Introduction:**
 - ☛ **AI developed by AIIMS aims to aid oncologists in selecting optimal cancer therapies based on patients' genetic mutations.**
- ❖ **iOncology AI System:**
 - ☛ Utilizes a supercomputer in Pune and a **high-capacity server called Charak I at the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar.**

Genomic Sequencing:

- ❖ **Research Focus:**
 - ☛ **iOncology AI plans to sequence genomes of 3,000 cancer patients to explore correlations between genetic makeup and therapy effectiveness.**
- ❖ **Accuracy:**
 - ☛ Trained on data from **1,500 breast and ovarian cancer patients**, the **AI model demonstrates over 75% accuracy** compared to clinician diagnoses.
- ❖ **Significance of Genomic Data:**
 - ☛ Genomic sequencing reveals **DNA variations impacting health**, aiding in understanding **disease development, including cancer.**



HOW DOES THE AI TOOL WORK?

- ❖ **Platform Development:**
 - ☛ AIIMS collaborates with **Pune's Centre for Development of Advanced Computing** to create a system storing patient data.
- ❖ **Data Analysis:**
 - ☛ AI reads various datasets, helping doctors **identify abnormalities and select treatments.**
- ❖ **Guidance and Early Detection:**
 - ☛ Flags abnormalities in scans, **aiding early cancer detection and guiding treatment.**



ADDRESSING DIFFERENT CANCER TYPES

- ❖ **Focus on Common Cancers:**
 - ☛ Initially targets breast and ovarian cancers, with plans to expand.
- ❖ **Tailored Models:**
 - ☛ Includes predictive models for various scans, aiding personalized treatment.
- ❖ **Confidentiality Measures:**
 - ☛ Ensures patient data privacy with separate logins for medical professionals.



IMPACT OF AI IN CANCER CARE:

- ❖ **Global Interest:**
 - ☛ AI aids in therapy development, early diagnosis, and treatment selection, transforming cancer care.
- ❖ **Early Detection:**
 - ☛ Identifies high-risk individuals for cancers like pancreatic, breast, and lung cancers, improving survival rates.
- ❖ **Future Prospects:**
 - ☛ Focus on genetic markers and epigenetic factors for personalized cancer treatment in India.

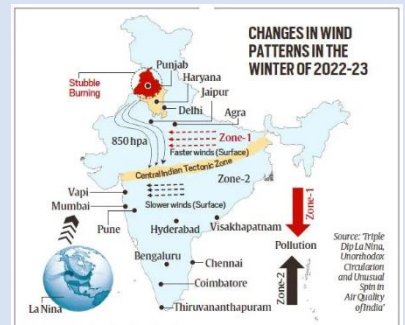
**LA NINA'S
IMPACT ON
INDIAN AIR
QUALITY**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ A recent study connecting La Nina to Indian air quality anomalies in 2022 sparks interest, highlighting climate-change implications on pollution distribution.

LA NINA IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY:

- ❖ **Wind Direction Change:**
 - ☛ Unusual wind patterns during La Nina diverted pollutants from northern states to southern regions, affecting cities like Mumbai.
- ❖ **Extended La Nina:**
 - ☛ Extended La Nina conditions for three years altered wind behaviour, influencing pollutant dispersion and accumulation.
- ❖ **Climate Change Influence:**
 - ☛ Climate change intensifies La Nina effects, impacting air circulation and pollutant transport, leading to atypical air quality patterns.
- ❖ **Unusual Air Quality:**
 - ☛ A study by Indian researchers suggests La Nina, intensified by climate change, affected air quality in India in winter 2022.
- ❖ **First Linkage:**
 - ☛ It's the first time La Nina has been linked to Indian city air quality, impacting the severity of El Nino and La Nina.



LA NINA OVERVIEW:

- ❖ **Definition:** La Nina means "The Little Girl" in Spanish.
- ❖ **Identification:** Below-average sea surface temperatures in the east-central Equatorial Pacific for five consecutive seasons.
- ❖ **Cause:** Cooler-than-normal waters accumulating in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

CONDITIONS OF LA NINA:



THE RECENT REPORT ON LOCAL FINTECH PLAYERS

Atmospheric Pressure: Lower air pressure over the western Pacific, causing increased rainfall.

REGIONAL EFFECTS:

- ❖ Rainier conditions in **parts of Africa and Brazil**.
- ❖ Floods in **northern Australia during strong La Nina events**.
- ❖ Higher pressure in the **central and eastern Pacific, reducing rainfall**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Report highlights concerns over foreign-owned fintech apps in India. Recommends promoting local players, effective regulation, and addressing fraud for a balanced ecosystem.*

FINTECH OVERVIEW

- ❖ *Fintech combines **finance and technology to streamline financial services through digital solutions.***

TYPES OF FINTECH COMPANIES:

- ❖ **Payment:** Offers **digital payment methods** like mobile **wallets and online gateways**.
- ❖ **Lending:** Provides **digital lending solutions** for personal and business loans.
- ❖ **Insurance:** Offers digital insurance services, **including health and life coverage**.
- ❖ **Investment:** Provides **digital investment options** such as **stock trading and mutual funds**.
- ❖ **RegTech:** Offers **regulatory technology solutions** for compliance and risk management.



KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

- ❖ **Parliament's Concerns:**
 - ☛ Stressed **foreign fintech dominance**, promoting local players.

Existing Ecosystem:

- ❖ **Regulation Urgency:**
 - ☛ Calls for **effective regulation** due to rising usage.
- ❖ **Foreign Dominance:**
 - ☛ **PhonePe and Google Pay lead**, BHIM UPI lags.
- ❖ **Regulatory Response:**
 - ☛ **NPCI imposed 30% volume cap**, extended compliance to 2024.

Fraud Concerns:

- ❖ **Money Laundering:**
 - ☛ **Platforms exploited, like Pyppl**, pose law enforcement challenges.
- ❖ **Fraud Statistics:**
 - ☛ **Low fraud-to-sales ratio**, but UPI fraud rates raise concerns.

Ecosystem Impact:

- ❖ **Local Advantage:**
 - ☛ Deloitte India advocates for **balanced ecosystem with local understanding**.
- ❖ **Revenue Projection:**
 - ☛ **McKinsey notes minimal UPI fees**, highlights security and cost benefits.