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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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LIVEMINT

Page 2

OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Centre to cancel OCI cards over pro-Khalistan activity

Over 12 OCI cards to be scrapped; move follows India suspending visa services in Canada

Utpal Bhaskar
utpal.b@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India is in the process of cancelling the registration of more than a dozen Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card holders for carrying out pro-Khalistan activities and anti-India propaganda, said two people aware of the development.

The move comes in the backdrop of India suspending visa services in its Canadian missions, and directing Canada to cut its diplomatic staff in India.

New Delhi also expelled a senior Canadian diplomat, after an Indian diplomat was expelled by Ottawa, as ties nosedived over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that India had a role in the killing of Canada-based Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

To be sure, the process of cancelling these OCI cards has been on for some time now. While OCI doesn't confer political rights, it is in effect a multiple entry, multi-purpose, life-long visa for Indian-origin people living abroad.

OCI holders are exempt from having to register with the Foreign Regional Registration Office. They cannot hold public office, vote in Indian elections or buy agricultural land.

Cancellation is rare. Out of the estimated 4.5 million OCI cards issued till date, only around 150 have been cancelled after being found in violation of rules on the basis of inputs by intelligence and security agencies.



A protest in Karachi against the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has alleged India's role in the killing. AFP/AMAS

~150 OCI registrations have been cancelled till date

According to information available on the ministry of external affairs website, a total of 4.06 million OCI registration cards were issued till 31 January, 2022. The central government can cancel the OCI registration if "the overseas citizen of India has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India as by law established," and if "it is necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public".

A spokesperson for India's ministry of external affairs in response to *Mint*'s queries about Indian government in the process of cancelling the registration of more than a dozen OCI card holders in a text message said, "not an area we deal with."

Queries emailed to the spokesperson of ministry of home affairs on Friday morning weren't answered till press time.

All Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were Indian citizens or were eligible to become one on 26 January 1950 and thereafter are eligible to register as an OCI.

However, citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh and any other country as notified by the union government are not eligible.

The external affairs ministry on 20 September also issued an advisory for Indian nationals and students in Canada, cautioning, "In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution."

"Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda," the advisory said. "Indian nationals are therefore advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents."

"Given the deteriorating security environment in Canada, Indian students in particular are advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant," the advisory added

ndia and Canada have recently halted their talks for a trade deal amid political friction. The Canadian government paused a trade mission to India indefinitely and Indian officials have said that the negotiations have paused. *Mint* earlier reported that the diplomatic row will not affect the flow of Canadian investments into India.

4.06 mn OCI cards issued till 31 Jan, 2022

PIO VS OCI

A PERSON OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO)	OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)
➤ Means a **foreign citizen** (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal)	A **foreign national**, who was **eligible** to **become citizen of India** on **26.01.1950** or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after **26.01.1950** or belonged to a territory that became part of India after **15.08.1947** is **eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India** (OCI). Minor children of such person are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.
➤ **A foreign citizen whose one of the parents/ grandparents/ great grandparents** was **born** and a **permanent resident** of India	
➤ Who is a **spouse** of a citizen of India or a PIO	
BENEFITS	**BENEFITS**
1. PIO card holders **do not require a visa to visit India** for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.	OCIs are **entitled to a multipurpose, multiple entry, lifelong visa** allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose
2. They are **exempted from registration at FRRO/ FRO** if their **stay does not exceeds 180 days**, In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days	➤ **Exempted from police reporting** for any length of stay in the country
3. They **enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial** and **educational benefits**	➤ **Have also been granted all rights in the economic, financial and education fields in parity with NRIs** except, the right to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties
4. All **future benefits** that **would be exempted to NRIs** would also be available to the **PIO card holders**	

Context: India has recently initiated the cancellation of registration for over a dozen **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** cardholders due to their involvement in **pro-Khalistan activities** and anti-India propaganda.

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

- **About**: OCI citizens are of Indian origin but they are foreign passport holders and are not citizens of India.
- **Section 7A of the OCI**: An applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents, or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.
- **Category was introduced by**: Government of India in 2005.
- The Government of India via **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, of 2015 merged** the Person of Indian Origin **(PIO) category with the OCI** category in 2015.
- **MHA Define Eligibility of OCI**: A person who: Was a citizen of India on or after 26th January 1950; Was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January 1950; or Is a child or grandchild of such a person, among other eligibility criteria.

THE HINDU

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NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Refugees leave as Azerbaijan takes control of Karabakh

Ethnic residents of the breakaway territory depart following an offensive launched by Baku; Armenia publicly distances itself from traditional ally Russia due to lack of support offered

Agence France-Presse
KORNIDZOR

Ethnic Armenian refugees began to leave Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday for the first time since Azerbaijan launched an offensive designed to seize control of the breakaway territory and perhaps end a three-decade-old conflict.

This week's lightning operation could mark a historic geopolitical shift, with Azerbaijan victorious over the separatists and Armenia now publicly distancing itself from its traditional ally Russia.

"Yesterday, we had to put down our rifles. So we left," a man in his thirties from the village of Mets Shen told AFP as a first group of a few dozen people crossed the border and registered with Armenian officials in Kornidzor.

The Armenian Health Ministry said 23 ambulances were carrying seriously wounded citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh to the border, accompanied by medics and Red Cross workers. Crowds of angry relatives gathered on the Armenian side awaiting news.



Crossing over: Refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh arrive at a checkpoint in Kornidzor in Armenia on Sunday. REUTERS

As drama unfolded on the border, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – himself a target of protests over Karabakh's defeat – sought to deflect the blame onto long-standing ally Russia, signalling a breakdown in the countries' security pact.

CSTO pact

In nationally televised comments, the Armenian leader said the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) and Moscow-Yerevan military-political cooperation were "insufficient" to protect the country, suggesting that he would seek new alliances. The CSTO members pledge to defend one another from outside attack.

But, bogged down in its own war in Ukraine, Russia refused to come to Armenia's assistance in the latest Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, arguing that Yerevan itself had recognised the disputed region as part of Azerbaijan.

Leaders to meet

Mr. Pashinyan said Armenia should ratify the treaty which established the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war.

Armenia also announced that Mr. Pashinyan would meet his Azerbaijani counterpart President Ilham Aliyev at the summit of the European Political Community in the Spanish city of Granada on October 5.



Context: Recently, **Ethnic Armenian refugees** have started departing from **Nagorno-Karabakh**, marking the first exodus since **Azerbaijan initiated** an offensive aimed at capturing the breakaway territory and potentially resolving a long-standing three-decade conflict.

Nagorno-Karabakh Region

- **About**: It is a disputed territory between Azerbaijan and Armenia, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.
- **Governed by**: The unrecognized Republic of Artsakh (also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]) since the first Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-94).
- It is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh, lying between Lower Karabakh and Syunik, and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus mountains.

Azerbaijan

- **About**: It is a transcontinental country located at the boundary of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It is a part of the South Caucasus region.
- **Bordered by**: Caspian Sea to the east, Russia (Republic of Dagestan) to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia and Turkey to the west, and Iran to the south.
- **Capital**: Baku and is the largest city.

Armenia

- **About**: It is a landlocked country located in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia. It is a part of the Caucasus region.
- **Bordered by**: Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the Lachin corridor (under a Russian peacekeeping force) and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south.
- **Capital**: Yerevan, and is the largest city and the financial centre.

PIB Sept 24

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION GRAMEEN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Government Scheme)

India Achieves Major Sanitation Milestone As 75% Villages Are Now ODF Plus under Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen

Open Defecation Free (ODF)

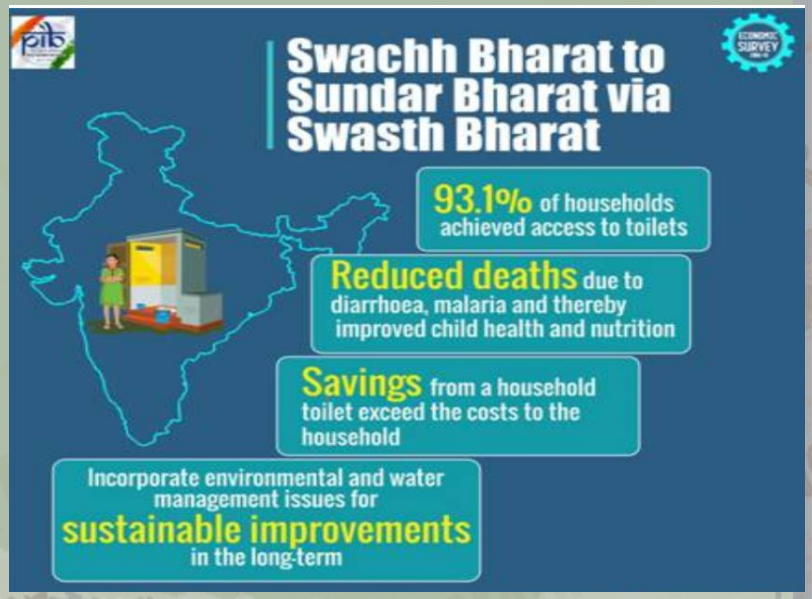
- The **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** has adopted a uniform definition of ODF (open defecation-free) :
  - No visible feces was found in the environment/village; and
  - Every house as well as public/community institutions uses safe technology options for the disposal of feces.
- **ODF +:** ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance, and hygiene
- **ODF plus village:** It is defined as "a village which sustains its ODF status, ensures solid and liquid waste management, and is visually clean."
- **ODF ++**: Focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)

- **Launched**: In 2014
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Aim**: To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to focus on sanitation.
- **Implementation**: As a nationwide campaign/Janandolan which aimed at eliminating open defecation in rural areas.
- **SBM-G Phase-I**: The rural sanitation coverage in the country at the time of the launch of SBM (G) on 2nd October 2014 was reported as 38.7%.
  - **More than 10 crore individual toilets** have been constructed since the launch of the mission, as a result, rural areas in all the States have declared themselves **ODF as of 2nd October 2019.**
- **SBM(G) Phase-II**: It emphasizes the sustainability of achievements under Phase I and provides adequate facilities for Solid/Liquid & Plastic Waste Management (SLWM) in rural India.

Context: Recently, the country reached another significant milestone in Phase II of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** as 75% of its villages achieved the **ODF Plus status**.

- **Top Performing States/UTs** are Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D&N Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana & Tripura



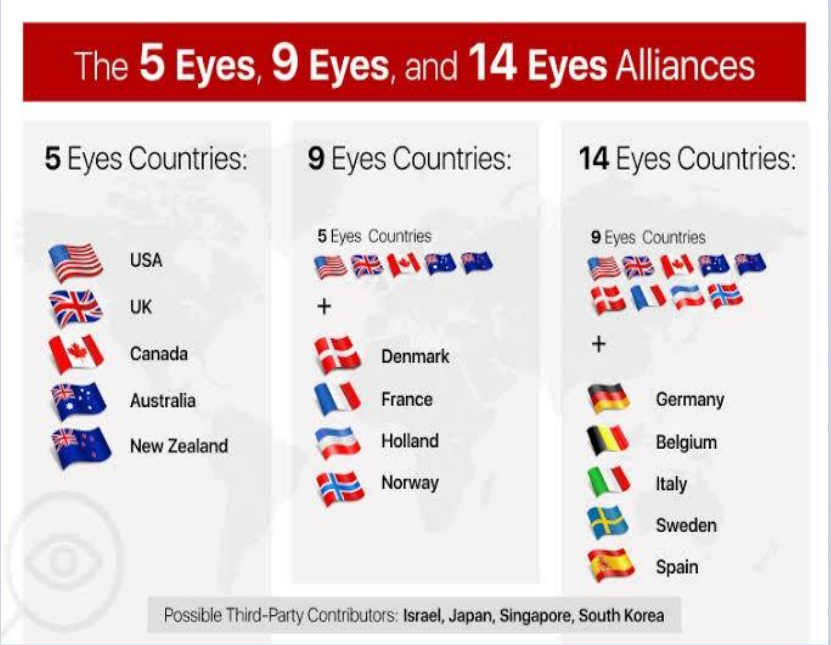
HIDUSTAN TIMES

Sept 24

FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Security)

What is 'Five Eyes'- the global alliance which provided intelligence on Hardeep Nijjar killing?



Context: Recently, amid an escalating diplomatic **dispute between India and Canada**, a top US diplomat in Canada confirmed that the Canadian Prime Minister's allegations against India in the murder of Khalistani militant Hardeep Singh Nijjar were based on shared intelligence among **'Five Eyes' partners**.

Five Eyes Alliance

- **About:** Five Eyes is a secret agreement between **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the USA**. This secret agreement allows the intelligence agencies of these five nations to spy on the world.
- **Founded**: In 1941
- **Origin**: The Atlantic Charter, which was issued in August 1941 to lay out the Allied goals for the post-war world.
- **Member Countries**: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the US.
  - These countries are parties to the **multilateral UK-USA Agreement**, a treaty for cooperation in signals intelligence.
  - These partner nations exchange a wide spectrum of intelligence within **one of the world's most tightly-knit multilateral agreements** as part of the collaboration.
- **Nine Eyes Group:** 5 Eyes Group + Netherlands, Denmark, France and Norway.
- **14 Eyes Group:** 9 Eyes Group + Belgium, Italy, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

THE HINDU

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INS VIKRANT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Security/Sci & Tech)

Defence Board discusses plan for second *Vikrant*-like carrier

The estimated cost of the project is ₹40,000 crore; it could see some modifications and upgrades to the design of *Vikrant*; the proposal is yet to be cleared by DPB; once okayed, it will be sent for final approval by Defence Acquisition Council

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Defence Procurement Board (DPB) last week discussed the Navy's proposal for acquiring a second *Vikrant*-like aircraft carrier, according to defence sources. However, the DPB is yet to clear the proposal. Only after that will the proposal be put for final approval by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by the Defence Minister, a source said.

The DPB, which met last Friday, discussed the issue. The discussions are expected to continue in the next meeting, the source said.

The project, estimated to cost around ₹40,000 crore, will see some modifications and upgrades to the design of the country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) *INS Vikrant*, commissioned in September 2022, and will also be manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL), another source stated.

The 262-metre-long, 62-metre-wide *INS Vikrant*, displacing 44,800 tonnes



Huge vessel: The INS Vikrant is powered by four General Electric LM2500 engines which give it a maximum speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 7,500 nautical miles. PTI

is powered by four General Electric LM2500 engines, which give it a maximum speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 7,500 nautical miles. The ship uses an aircraft-operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) for which it is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of three "arrester wires" for their recovery onboard.

In addition, the Naval also operates the 44,500-tonne carrier *INS Vikramaditya*, which also employs the STOBAR mechanism, procured from Russia under a $2.3-billion deal and inducted in November 2013.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Aero India airshow in Bengaluru in February, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar had said that the Navy was finalising plans for a repeat order of a *Vikrant*-sized carrier. Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-2 (IAC-2), with some modifications. Given the long timelines, it may be inducted "close to the time *INS Vikramaditya* leaves service effectively becoming its replacement", he said, adding that the Navy would continue to study the need for a larger and more capable carrier.

The Navy, which has for long based its force structure centred on three carriers, had envisaged an IAC-2 with a displacement of 65,000 tonnes and a Catapult Assisted Take Off But Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR) system for launching aircraft as well as full-electric propulsion.

Higher cost

However, a much bigger carrier with newer technologies would mean much higher cost and build time due to which the Navy has settled for a repeat of a *Vikrant*-sized carrier. The keel of *Vikrant* was laid in 2009. It was launched into water in 2013 and commissioned in 2022. With the experience gained from that, CSL officials had stated that a repeat order can be executed in seven to eight years.

In the past, the Standing Committee on Defence had noted that three aircraft carriers were an "unavoidable requirement" to meet any eventualities and stated that taking into account the long coastline and hostile adversities on both sides of Indian peninsula, an aircraft carrier on both sides of coast was "quintessential" to uphold operational requirements

Context: The **Defence Procurement Board (DPB)** recently deliberated on the Indian Navy's proposal for acquiring a **second Vikrant-like aircraft carrier**, with a displacement of 45,000 tonnes and an estimated cost of approximately ₹40,000 crore.

Features

- **Length**: 262 metres in length, exceeding that of two football fields and is 62 metres wide. Around 20 aircraft can be parked in the hangar.
- **Speed**: 28 knots (more than 50 mph) and a cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles.
- **Built by**: Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
  - The IAC was commissioned in 2022 making it the most potent sea-based asset.

INS Vikrant

- The INS Vikrant, the **44,000-tonne indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC)**, is the first to be designed and constructed in India.
- After its induction, the warship will be a key component of the Indian Navy's push to establish itself as a "blue water" force, one with the ability to project its power on distant seas.

PIB

Sept 24

INS VIKRAMADITYA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Security/Sci & Tech)

Chief of Defence Staff visits Karwar Naval Base & aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya

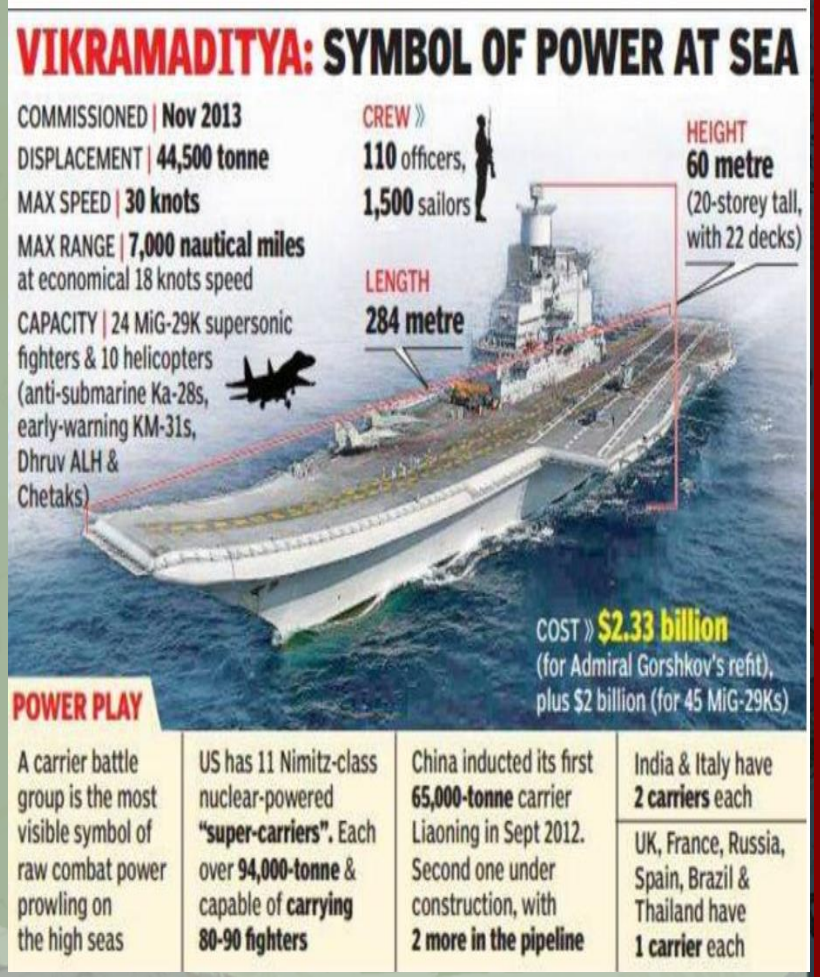
Context: Recently, **the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** paid a visit to the Naval Base at Karwar as well as the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

INS Vikramaditya

- **Acquired from**: Russia
- **Built**: In 1987
- It is a modified **Kiev-class aircraft carrier** that entered into service with the **Indian Navy in 2013**.
- It has been **renamed in honor of Vikramaditya**, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.

Features

- It has an **overall length of about 284 meters** and a maximum beam of about 60 meters.
- The ship has a total of 22 decks. It can carry more than 1,600 personnel, including crew.
- **Displacement**: 44,500 Tonnes
- **Speed**: More than 30 knots and can achieve a maximum range of 7,000nmi.
- It can endure up to 45 days at sea.
- **Powered by**: 08 new-generation steam boilers.



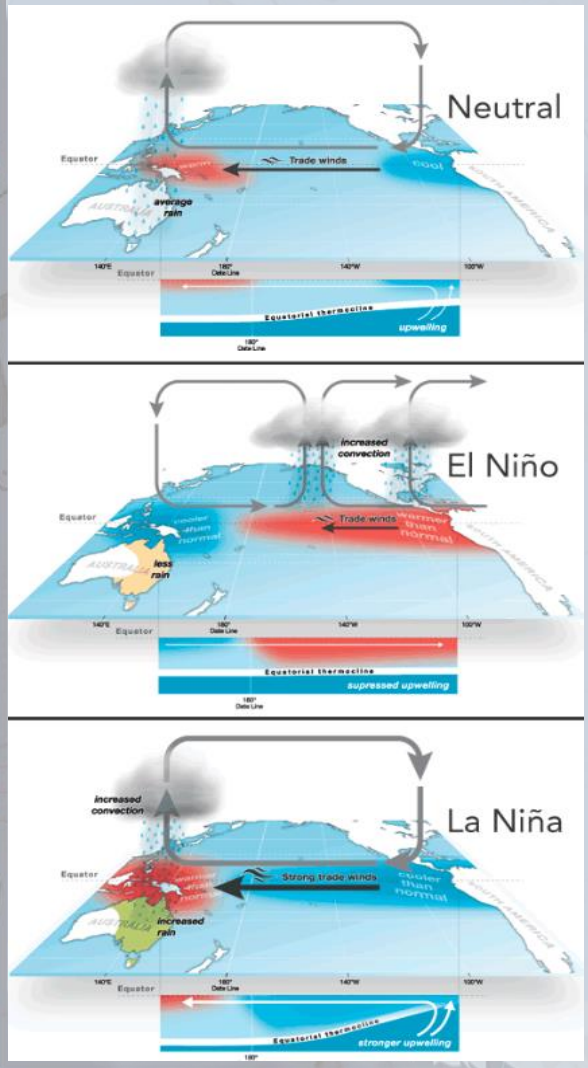
DTE

Sept 23

El Nino & La Nina

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

El Nino to fuel temperature rise



Context: Recently, the **World Meteorological Organization declared** the development **of El Niño** conditions in the **tropical Pacific for the first time** in seven years, potentially leading to a rise in global temperatures and the onset of disruptive weather and climate patterns. El Nino is likely to fuel further global temperature increase. It is **one facet of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO).**

El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

- ENSO refers to the oscillation **between the El Nino and the La Nina**. ENSO shifts irregularly back and forth between El Nino and La Niña **every two to seven years**.
- **IPCC AR6** indicates that "**it is very likely that ENSO rainfall variability**, used for defining extreme El Ninos and La Ninas, will increase significantly.

El Nino

- It was formerly referred to as **"El Niño de Navidad"** as it reaches its peak around December.
- El Niño involves the **warming of sea waters** in the Central-east Equatorial Pacific, occurring irregularly every few years.
- This warm phase is observed off the coast of Peru.
- **During El Niño events,** there is an **increase in surface temperatures** within the equatorial Pacific region.
- This phenomenon leads to a **weakening of the trade winds**, which are the east-west winds that typically blow near the Equator.
- Consequently, **warm water from the western Pacific Ocean** is transported towards the American continent.

La Nino

- La Niña involves **below-average sea surface temperatures** (SST) in the equatorial Pacific area.
- **Stronger trade winds** than usual push warmer water towards the Asian region.
- **It is the opposite of El Niño**, characterized by colder conditions.
- **La Niña occurs when ocean temperatures** in the equatorial Pacific **become lower than normal**

INDIAN EXPRESS Sept 25

HOYSALA TEMPLES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art & Culture)

Three Hoysala temples on UNESCO heritage list: what sets them apart

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24

THREE HOYSALA-ERA temples in Karnataka recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.

Hoysala temples are known for the rare beauty and finesse of their wall sculptures, and have been described as "art which applies to stone the technique of the ivory worker or the goldsmith".

Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, the three temples selected for the UNESCO list are important not just because they demonstrate their builders' superior skill, but also because they narrate the tale of the politics that shaped them.

EXPLAINED HISTORY

Which are the three Hoysala temples selected for the UNESCO list?

The three temples include the Chennakeshava temple in Belur, the Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebidu, and the Keshava Temple in Somanathapura.

The announcement was made by UNESCO on September 18, during the World Heritage Committee's 45th session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. India submitted the nomination dossier for the temples in January 2022.

Who were the Hoysalas?

The Hoysalas held power in Karnataka from the 10th century to the 14th century. The dynasty began as provincial governors under the Western Chalukyas, but as the two dominant empires of the South, the Western Chalukyas and the Cholas, crumbled, the Hoysalas established themselves as rulers.

Two of the temples that made it to the UNESCO list are located in cities that served as the capital of the Hoysalas — earlier Belur, and then Halebidu (or Dwarasamudra).

When were the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas built?

The Chennakeshava temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, was consecrated around 1117 AD by King Vishnuvardhana, to mark his victories against the Cholas. It is thus also called the Vijaya Narayana temple.



The Keshava temple at Somanathapura was consecrated in the mid-1200s. *Monojit Majumdar*

The other Vaishnava shrine, the Keshava temple, was built in Somanathapura in the mid-1200s by Somanatha, a general of Hoysala King Narasimha III.

The Hoysaleswara temple in Halebidu is believed to be the largest Shiva temple built by the Hoysalas, and is dated to the 12th century.

What makes Hoysala architecture stand out?

One notable feature of Hoysala architecture is the use of soapstone, a malleable stone that is easy to carve. This is one of the reasons behind the abundance of intricate sculptures one can see on the temple walls. The sculptures include animals, scenes of daily life, as well as depictions from the epics and the Puranas. The jewellery, headgear, clothes, etc. of the detailed sculptures give an idea of the society of the times.

Another special feature of Hoysala architecture is the unique confluence of styles.

Historian Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi, who works at Krea University in Andhra Pradesh's Sri City, said, "Hoysala architecture is an amalgamation of three distinctive styles— the mainstream Dravidian architecture as represented in the Pallava and Chola temples; the variant of the Dravida style that emerged in the southern Deccan in the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta temples, which is called the Vesara style; and then the North Indian Nagara style. The political dimension to this is the various military expeditions that the Hoysalas undertook, which led them to different regions from where they brought back masons, builders, sculptors, architects who could visualise and actualise such temples."

The temples are generally built on stellate (star-shaped) platforms, and have several structures inside the complex. The walls and pillars are covered in beautiful sculptures that, according to Shobhi, have "rich narrative and descriptive dimensions".

An interesting feature of Hoysala temples is that they are 'signed' — the sculptors and masons leave behind their names, and sometimes a few more details about themselves.

Also, these Vaishnava and Shaivya shrines were being built at the time Jainism was prominent in the region, and thus mark a turn towards Hinduism.

What makes the three temples special?

While hundreds of big and small Hoysala-era temples still survive, these three are believed to be among the finest surviving examples of Hoysala art.

About Belur's Chennakeshava temple, K A Nilakanta Sastri writes in his *A History of South India*', "...the total number of pillars is 46. All of them, except the four in the central bay, are of different design so that the variety and complexity of the whole is astonishing."

The Keshava temple in Somanathapura is built in the shape of a 16-point star, and has three shrines, dedicated to Keshava, Janardhana and Venugopala. The Keshava statute, however, is missing now.

The Hoysaleswara temple in Halebidu, Sastri writes, "was perhaps the highest achievement of the school though its present ruined condition... renders it difficult to realise this...The infinite wealth of sculpture over the exterior of this temple makes it one of the most remarkable monuments of the world and an unrivalled "repository of religious thought expressed in plastic forms"."

Halebidu was raided and sacked by Malik Kafur, a general of Delhi Sultan Alauddin Khalji, in the early 1300s.

Context: Three **Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka** were recently added to **UNESCO's World Heritage List** as part of the collective entry called 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.

Chennakeshava Temple – Belur

- **About:** It is also referred to as the Vijayanarayana Temple of Belur.
- It is a 12th-century Hindu temple in Karnataka.
- **Commissioned by**: King Vishnuvardhana in 1117 CE, on the banks of the **Yagachi River** in Belur also **called Velapura**, an early Hoysala Empire capital.
- **Devoted to**: Lord Vishnu.

Hoysaleshwara Temple- Halebid

- **About**: This temple referred to simply as the Halebidu temple is a 12th-century Hindu temple **Dedicated to**: Lord Shiva.
- The **temple was built in 1121 CE** during the reign of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleshwara.
- **Famous for**: More than 240 wall sculptures that run all along the outer wall.

Keshava Temple- Somanathapura

- This is a **Vaishnava temple** on the banks of **River Kaveri** at Somanathapura, Karnataka.
- The temple **was consecrated in 1258** CE by **Somanatha Dandanayaka**, a general of the **Hoysala King Narasimha III**.

UNESCO

- **Formation**: 1945, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.
- **Objective**: It works to achieve peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms.
- **Members**: 195 member states and 10 associate members. India is a founding member of the Organization.
- **Headquarters**: Paris, France.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

SOUTH CHINA SEA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Manila accuses Beijing of placing floating barrier in South China Sea

REUTERS
MANILA, SEPTEMBER 24

THE PHILIPPINES on Sunday accused China's coast guard of installing a "floating barrier" in a disputed area of the South China Sea, saying it prevented Filipinos from entering and fishing in the area.

Manila's coast guard and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources "strongly condemn" China's installation of the barrier in part of the Scarborough Shoal, Commodore Jay Tarriela, a coast guard spokesperson, posted on the X, formerly Twitter.

The barrier blocking fishermen from the shoal was depriving them of their fishing and livelihood activities", he said.

"The (Philippine Coast Guard) will continue to work closely with all concerned government agencies to address these challenges, uphold our maritime rights and protect our maritime domains," Tarriela said.

Philippine coast guard and fisheries bureau discovered the



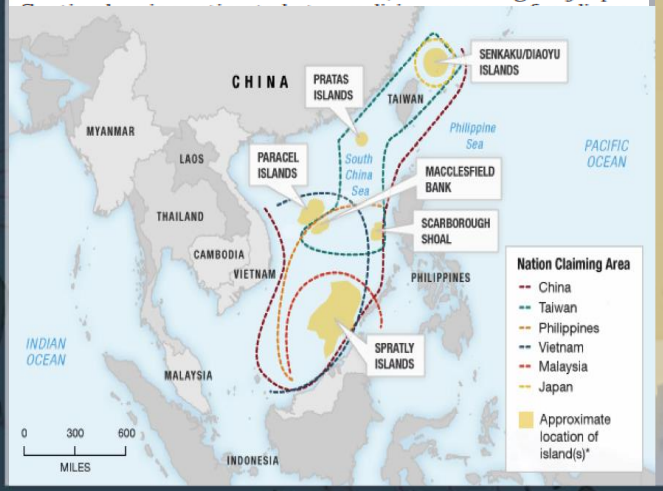
Reuters

Chinese Coast Guard boats close to the 'floating barrier'

on Friday near shoal, locally known as Bajo de Masinloc, Tarriela said.

Three Chinese coast guard rigid-hull inflatable boats and a Chinese maritime militia service boat installed the barrier when Philippine vessel arrived, he said.

The Chinese boats issued 15 radio challenges and accused the Philippine ship, fishermen of violating international and China's laws, before moving away "upon



Context: Context: Recently, the **Philippines accused China's coast guard** of placing a "**floating barrier**" in a contested part of the S**outh China Sea**, alleging it obstructed Filipino access and fishing rights in the region.

- Both the **Philippines and China lay claim** to the **Scarborough Shoal (known as Huangyan Island in China)** – a little more than 100 miles (160km) from the Philippines and 500 miles from China.

South China Sea

- It is one of the **world's busiest waterways** and plays a crucial role in global trade and merchant shipping.
- **Location**: The South China Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean
- **Bordering Countries**: The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.
- **Straits**: Taiwan Strait, connecting to the **East China Sea**; the Luzon Strait, linking to the **Philippine Sea**; straits surrounding Palawan, connecting to the **Sulu Sea**; the Strait of Singapore, providing access to the **Strait of Malacca**; and the Karimata and Bangka Strait, connecting to the Java Sea.
- **Reason for Dispute**: The South China Sea disputes involve claims over maritime territories and islands by various sovereign states in the region.
- **Countries Party dispute**: China, Brunei, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia etc.

Claims Over Islands

- **The Paracel Islands**: Claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- **The Spratly Islands**: Claimed by China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines.
- **The Scarborough Shoal:** Claimed by the Philippines, China and Taiwan.

TRIBUNE

Sept 24

MOUNTAIN SEMERU

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)



Volcano

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust that allows molten rock, gases, and debris to escape to the surface.

Types of Volcanoes: Active, Dormat, and Extinct.

Context: Recently, Mt. Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted.

Mountain Semeru

- **Location**: Active volcano in **East Java, Indonesia.**
  - It is located **in a subduction zone**, where the **Indo-Australian plate subducts** under the **Eurasian plate**.
- It is the **highest mountain** on the island of Java.
- **Origin of Name**: "Semeru" is derived from Meru, the central world mountain in Hinduism, or Sumeru, the abode of gods.
- **Volcano in Indonesia:** Indonesia, with the **maximum number of active volcanoes in the world,** is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the **Pacific's Ring of Fire.**

Pacific's Ring of Fire

- **Also known as**: **Circum-Pacific Belt, is** a path along **the Pacific Ocean** characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- **Length**: Approximately 40,000 kilometers.
- **Boundaries between several tectonic plates**: Pacific, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates.
- **Home of Volcanoes**: More than 450 active and dormant volcanoes **(75% of Earth's total volcanoes)** form a semicircle or **horseshoe around the rim** of the Pacific Ocean.

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