

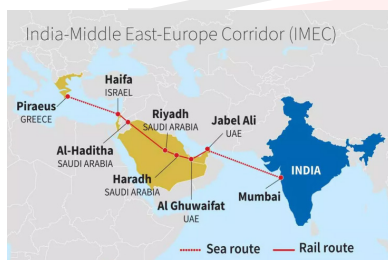
Current Affairs (2023): International Relations At a Glance

* G 20 Summit

- * The Ministers Meeting of the G20 Summit 2023 was held in New Delhi at the **Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC)**. The G20 Summit's first day featured the **Issuance of the New Delhi Declaration**, which set the stage for discussions on crucial Economic themes.



- * The **African Union (AU)** has been granted Permanent Membership in the G20 during the 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit at New Delhi.
- * On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, several countries, including India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany, and Italy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the **India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.



- * **India, EU Sign Semiconductor Pact:** India and the European Union signed an MoU on semiconductors that will help in building a "Robust supply chain" and Support Innovation.
- * **India-Japan Chip Supply Chain Partnership:** The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on developing a semiconductor supply chain partnership. The MoC was signed in July 2023. This partnership will focus on R&D, Manufacturing, Design, and Talent Development for the industry.
- * India hosted the **Voice of Global South Summit 2023** virtually under the leadership of PM Modi, under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose".
- * EAM Jaishankar virtually inaugurated the **Buzi Bridge**, which is a part of the 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project. The bridge has been constructed by India and is a symbol of the solidarity and friendship between India and Mozambique.



- * India chaired the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** virtual Summit, leaders called for the formation of a "More Representative" and Multi Polar World order in the global interest.
- * The **Indian Prime Minister** joined **French President** as the **Guest of Honor** at the **Bastille Day Parade**, where an **Indian tri-services** marching contingent participated.
- * PM Modi participated in the **20th ASEAN-India Summit**, proposing a 12-point cooperation plan.

- * Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the **15th BRICS Summit held under** South Africa's chairmanship, in Johannesburg on 23 August 2023. The leaders held productive discussions including on Global Economic Recovery, Partnership with Africa and the Global South and reviewed the progress made on the BRICS agenda so far.
- * Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unprecedented visit to Greece, the first by an Indian PM in 40 years, signals a significant step toward fortifying bilateral relations.
- * The **I2U2 Group** of India, Israel, United Arab Emirates and the US have announced a new joint space venture. It aims to develop a unique space-based tool for policy makers, institutions and entrepreneurs.
- * India has launched **Operation Ajay**, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its **citizens from Israel** amidst the ongoing developments in the region. Special charter flights and other arrangements are being organized to bring back Indian citizens from Israel.
- * The UNSC adopted a resolution for **"Extended Humanitarian Pauses"** in the Gaza Strip, marking the first formal response by the UNSC since the recent Israel-Hamas conflict began.
- * India and the United States have reaffirmed their **commitment to collaborating on addressing Global Illicit Finance Risks**. The joint statement follows the **India-US Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Dialogue**, co-chaired by India's revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra and US Treasury under-secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson.
- * India and Australia held the **second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**. The focus is on elevating Defence cooperation and expanding the strategic relationship in critical sectors such as Trade, Investment, and Critical Minerals.
- * The **Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)**, a voluntary export control regime that monitors the transfer of conventional weapons and dual-use goods, has announced that **India will assume the chairmanship** of its plenary for the next year.
- * As the Russia Ukraine war enters its **676th day on December 31, 2023**, Russia drew sharp criticism at the UNSC for its huge air assault on Ukraine that damaged a maternity hospital, apartment blocks and schools and killed at least 41 people.
- * **The Diplomatic dispute between India & Canada**
- * Canada has **stopped visa and consular services** at its Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Bengaluru consulates. These services will now be **available only at the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi**.
- * This has happened after Canada withdrew 41 diplomats from India after New Delhi said it would revoke their Diplomatic Immunity.
- * The diplomatic dispute was triggered by **PM Trudeau's allegation** that India may have had a hand in the **killing of a Khalistani separatist in Canada** this June.
- * **Italy To Walk Out of China's Belt and Road Initiative-** In a private meeting during the G20 summit 2023, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni reportedly conveyed Italy's plans to withdraw from the Belt and Road Initiative to Chinese Premier.
- * **Stapled Visa Row – Asian Games 2023**
- * Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur called off his trip to China on the eve of the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games.
- * This was after three athletes – all Wushu Martial Arts players – from Arunachal Pradesh were denied accreditation cards and instead offered stapled visas by China.
- * **India-Nepal Power Pact-** India and Nepal signed a long-term agreement for the **export of power** during the 7th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission.
- * **3rd South Summit-** Summit was held in Kampala, Uganda, bringing together the members of the Group of 77 (G77) and China, to boost South-South cooperation. The theme of the summit was **"Leaving No One Behind."**