



BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

For Prelims: Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Asian Development Bank, South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation programme, World Bank

For Mains: Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)

Why in News?

Recently, India, Bangladesh and Nepal finalised an enabling memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing the long-gestating [Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal \(BBIN\) Motor Vehicles Agreement \(MVA\)](#).



What is the BBIN connectivity Project?

- **Background:** The project was conceived after the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#) failed to agree on a regional motor vehicles agreement at a **summit in Nepal in 2014**, mainly because of opposition from Pakistan.
- **Origin:** The **BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic** between the 4 countries was signed during a transport ministers' meeting in **Thimpu on 15th June 2015**.
- **Objective:** Operationalising the MVA by concluding the **Passenger and the Cargo Protocol** will help realise the full potential of trade and **people to people connectivity** between the BBIN countries by **fostering greater sub-regional cooperation**.
- **Bhutan's Reluctance:** The BBIN project suffered a setback in **2017 when Bhutan temporarily** opted out of it after being unable to get parliamentary approval for the MVA.
 - The **3 other countries** decided at the time to press ahead with the agreement.

- **Foreign Funding:** The [Asian Development Bank](#) has supported the project as part of its [South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation programme](#), and has been requested to prioritise about 30 road projects worth billions of dollars.
 - The [World Bank](#), which has estimated that the implementation of the MVA will potentially see an [increase in traffic-regional trade within South Asia by nearly 60%](#), has also announced its interest in supporting infrastructure.
- **Persisting Issues:** There are still some agreements holding up the **final protocols, including issues like insurance and bank guarantees, and the size and frequency of freight carriers into each country**, which they hope to finalise this year before operationalizing bus and truck movements between them.

What are the concerns of Bhutan?

- The objections of Bhutan pertains to **sustainability and environmental concerns**.
- In 2020, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering held that given **Bhutan's "current infrastructure" and top priority to remaining a "carbon-negative" country**, it would not be possible to consider joining the MVA.
 - Thus, the Bhutanese parliament decided not to endorse the plan.

What are the Similar Connectivity Initiatives which India is a part of?

- [Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar \(BCIM\) Corridor](#)
- [India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway](#)
- [Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport \(KMMTT\)](#)

Way Forward

- Bhutan's concerns may be eased if India considers the inclusion of waterways and riverine channels as a **less environmentally damaging substitute**.

PYQ

Q. In the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/ participants? (2015)

1. Bangladesh
2. Cambodia
3. China
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 5

Ans: (c)

[Source: TH](#)

Women In Peacekeeping

For Prelims: United Nations Peacekeeping mission, United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Global Effort Initiative, UN Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)

For Mains: Important International Institutions, Women In Peacekeeping

Why in News?

Recently, many women soldiers were training to be a part of a [United Nations Peacekeeping mission](#).

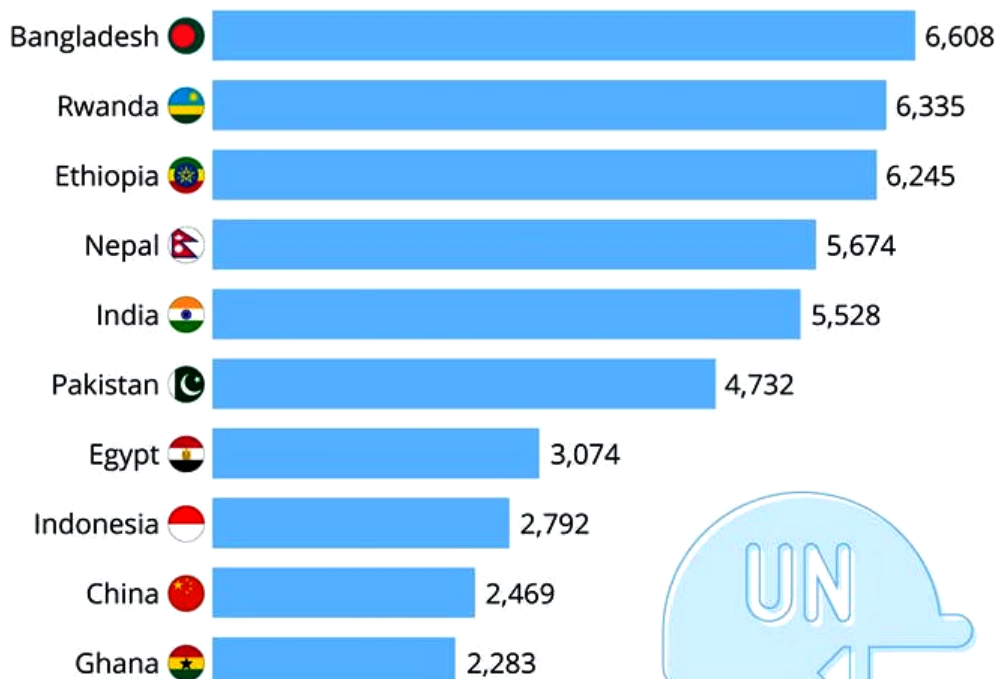
- For more than a decade, the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) has called for more participation from women in **conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and peacekeeping**.

What is UN Peacekeeping?

- UN Peacekeeping began in **1948** when the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.
- UN Peacekeeping **helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace**.
- It deploys troops and police from around the world, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to address a range of mandates set by the [UN Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) and the [General Assembly](#).

The Biggest Contributors To UN Peacekeeping Operations

Main contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations as of March 31, 2021*



What is Background of Indian Women in Peacekeeping Forces?

- **Background:** For the first time in the history of UN peacekeeping, India sent an **all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) to be deployed in Liberia in 2007** after a civil war ravaged the African nation.
- **Intent:** Recently, at the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, Indian officials called for **more female participation in public life** and the **elimination of violence against them** as a prerequisite for promoting lasting peace around the world.
- **Significance:** In a profession that continues to be **heavily dominated by men**, and in a nation that is **riddled with gender violence**, these female police officers from India are **breaking stereotypes** to represent their country on the world stage.

What is the current status of Women in UN Peacekeeping forces?

- **Multi-Role:** Women are deployed in all areas – **police, military and civilian** – and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, including in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women's rights.
- **Current Numbers:** According to the UN, in 2020, **out of approximately 95,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 4.8% of military contingents and 10.9% of formed police units and 34% of justice and corrections** government-provided personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions.
- **Global Effort Initiative:** UN Police Division launched '**the Global Effort**' to recruit more female police officers into national police services and into UN police operations around the world.
 - The 2028 target for women serving in **military contingents is 15%, and 25% for military observers and staff officers.**
- **UNSC Resolution:** **UN Security Council resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325)** has called for an expansion of the role and contribution of women in its operations, including uniformed women peacekeepers.
- **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative:** The **UN Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative** views the Women, Peace and Security agenda as critical to enhancing peacekeeping operations' performance.
 - This can be achieved through supporting women's full participation in peace processes and making peacekeeping more **gender-responsive**, including through increasing the number of civilian and **uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions.**

Why is it important to have women peacekeepers?

- **Improved Operations And Performance:** Greater diversity and a broadened skillset means improved decision-making, planning and results, leading to greater operational effectiveness and performance.
- **Better Access:** Women peacekeepers can better access the population, including women and children - **for example**, by interviewing and supporting survivors of gender-based violence and violence against children - thereby generating critical information that would otherwise be difficult to reach.
- **Building Trust and Confidence:** Women peacekeepers are **essential enablers to build trust and confidence with local communities and help improve access and support for local women.**
 - For example, by interacting with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.
- **Inspiring and Creating Role Models:** Women peacekeepers **serve as powerful mentors and role models for women and girls** in post-conflict settings in the host community, setting examples for them to advocate for their own rights and pursue non-traditional careers.

PYQ

Q. Which one of the following is not related to United Nations? (2010)

(a) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

- (b) International Finance Corporation
- (c) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- (d) Bank for International Settlements

Ans: (d)

[Source: IE](#)

Pal-Dadhvav Massacre

Why in News

Recently, the Gujarat government marked **100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings**, calling it a massacre “bigger than the [Jallianwala Bagh](#)”.

- A Gujarat government release on the centenary of the massacre described the incident as “more brutal than the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
- Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister announced that 15th February would be commemorated as “[Shahid Diwas](#)” in memory of the **34 freedom fighters** who were killed by police in Tarapur town (now subdivision) of Bihar’s Munger district 90 years ago.

What was the Pal-Dadhvav Massacre?

- The Pal-Dadhvav massacre **took place on 7th March, 1922**, in the **Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district**, then part of Idar state (Now Gujrat).
- The day was **Amalki Ekadashi, which falls just before Holi**, a major festival for tribals.
- Villagers from Pal, Dadhvav, and Chitariya had gathered on the banks of river Heir as part of the ‘**Eki movement**’, led by one Motilal Tejawat.
 - Tejawat, who belonged to Koliyari village in the Mewad region of Rajasthan, had also mobilised **Bhils** from Kotda Chhavni, **Sirohi**, and Danta to participate.
 - The **impact of the protest** was felt in Vijaynagar, Dadhvaav, Poshina and Khedbrahma, which are now talukas of Sabarkantha; the Aravalli districts, Banaskantha and Danta of Banaskantha district; and Kotda Chhavni, Dungarpur, Chittor, Sirohi, Banswada and Udaipur of Rajasthan, all of which were then princely states.
- The movement was **to protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants** by the British and feudal lords.
- The British Paramilitary force was on hunt for Tehawat. It heard of this gathering and reached the spot.
- Nearly **200 bhils under the leadership of Tehawat lifted their bows and arrows**. But, the Britishers opened fire on them. Nearly 1,000 tribals (Bhils) fell to bullets.
 - While the British claimed some 22 people were killed, the Bhils believe **1,200-1,500 of them died**.
- Tejawat, however, escaped and later “returned to the spot to christen it ‘Veer Bhumi’”.

Who was Motilal Tejawat?

- Born into a **merchant (Baniya) family in the adivasi-dominated Koliyari village**, Tejawat was **employed by a landlord, where he worked for eight years**.

- During this period he saw closely how the landlords exploited tribals and would threaten to beat them with shoes if they did not pay the tax.
- Outraged by the atrocities and exploitation of the tribal people, **Tejawat quit the job in 1920 and devoted himself to social work** and reform. To this day, local tribals recount the Pal-Dadhvav massacre in songs sung at weddings and fairs. One such song is '**Hansu dukhi, duniya dukhi**'.

PYQ

In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as (2021)

- (a) leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
- (d) officers of the Indian National Army

Ans: (d)

[Source: IE](#)

SARAS 3 Telescope

Why in News

Recently, the Indian researchers at RRI (Raman Research Institute) in a **study** using the **SARAS 3 radio telescope**, have conclusively **denied a recent claim of the discovery of a radio wave signal from cosmic dawn**.

- In 2018 a team of researchers from **Arizona State University (ASU) and MIT in the US** detected a signal from stars emerging in the early universe using data from the EDGES radio telescope.
- The **Cosmic Dawn** is the period from about 50 million years to one billion years after the Big Bang when the first stars, black holes, and galaxies in the Universe formed.
- The **RRI** is an **autonomous research institute** engaged in research in basic sciences. The institute was founded in 1948 by the Indian physicist and [Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman](#).

What are Radio Waves and Radio Telescopes?

- Radio waves have the **longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum**. They range from the length of a football to larger than our planet. Heinrich Hertz proved the existence of radio waves in the late 1880s.
- Radio telescopes **collect weak radio light waves, bring it to a focus, amplify it and make it available for analysis**.
- They help study **naturally occurring radio light from stars, galaxies, black holes, and other astronomical objects**.
- These **specially-designed telescopes observe the longest wavelengths of light**, ranging from 1 millimetre to over 10 metres long. For comparison, visible light waves are only a few hundred nanometers long, and a nanometer is only 1/10,000th the thickness of a piece of paper! In

fact, we don't usually refer to radio light by its wavelength, but by its frequency.

What is SARAS-3 Radio Telescope?

- SARAS is **a niche high-risk high-gain experimental effort of RRI.**
- SARAS aims to **design, build and deploy in India a precision radio telescope to detect extremely faint radio wave signals** from the depths of time, from our "Cosmic Dawn" when the first stars and galaxies formed in the early Universe.

What are the Findings?

- SARAS 3 **did not find any evidence of the signal claimed by the EDGES experiment.**
- The presence of the signal is **decisively rejected after a careful assessment** of the measurement uncertainties.
- The detection reported by EDGES was likely contamination of their measurement and not a signal from the depths of space and time.
- However, astronomers still do not know what the actual signal looks like.

PYQ

Consider the following phenomena: (2018)

1. Light is affected by gravity.
2. The Universe is constantly expanding.
3. Matter warps its surrounding space-time.

Which of the above is/are the prediction/predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, often discussed in media?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

[Source: PIB](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/10-03-2022/print>