

Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Integrating NavIC with Aadhaar Enrolment Systems

- The <u>Department of Space (DoS)</u> is coordinating the integration of <u>NavIC (Navigation in</u> <u>Indian Constellation)</u>, India's indigenous satellite navigation system, with <u>Aadhaar</u> enrolment devices.
 - NavIC, comprising seven satellites, is India's equivalent of the American GPS, providing positioning and navigation services.
 - NavIC offers Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian use and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic applications.
 - The NavIC coverage area includes India and a region up to 1,500 km beyond the Indian boundary.
 - NavIC has found utility in disaster management, aiding agencies like the <u>National</u> <u>Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)</u> and the <u>Indian National Centre for Ocean</u> <u>Information System (INCOIS)</u> in alert dissemination for natural calamities.
- The move involves adapting Aadhaar enrolment kits to work with NavIC, enhancing accuracy and functionality.

Read more: NavIC

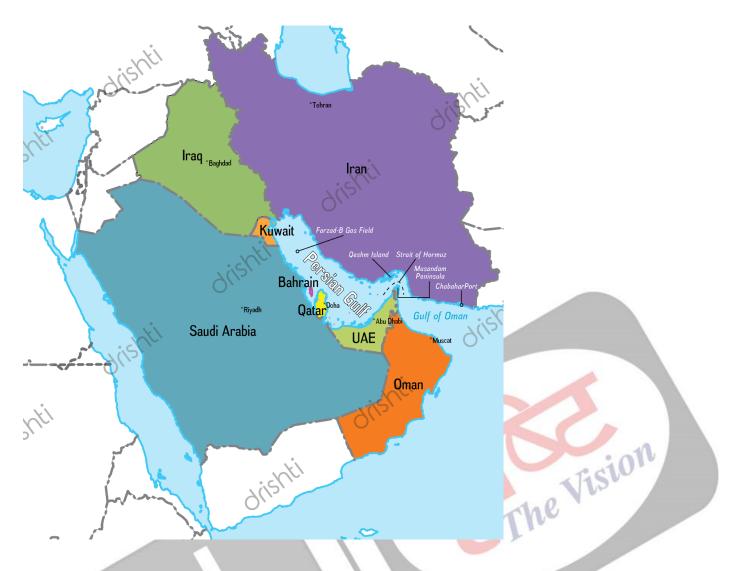
Reviving Trilateral Cooperation: India, Japan, and Sri Lanka

- India, Japan and Sri Lanka are working towards restarting trilateral cooperation after the cancellation of a joint India-Japan MoU for the <u>East Container Terminal (ECT)</u> project in Colombo.
 - However, with India and Japan coming to Sri Lanka's rescue during last year's <u>economic crisis</u>, and offering assistance with Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process, the three countries are exploring new avenues of cooperation.
- India and Japan share a vision of a Free Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific (FOIIP).
 - India and Japan can work together on renewable energy and grid connectivity projects, the development of <u>Trincomalee</u>, <u>Sri Lanka</u> as an oil pipeline hub, connectivity and people-centric projects like tourism and education.
- The Joint Economic Vision Statement between President Wickremesinghe (Sri Lanka) and the Prime Minister of India outlines catalysing projects with private sector-led investment and execution.

Read more: West Container Terminal Offer to India-Japan: Sri Lanka

Exercise 'Zayed Talwar'

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- Recently, two ships of the Indian Navy INS Visakhapatnam, and INS Trikand visited Port Rashid, Dubai, UAE to conduct bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar'.
 - The exercise envisages to **boost the maritime partnership between the two navies** and foster a common understanding of the security challenges in the region.
- Other bilateral exercises between the two countries include: In-UAE BILAT (bilateral naval exercise), Desert Eagle-II (bilateral air force exercise) and Exercise Desert Flag-VI.
 - India and the UAE established diplomatic relations in 1972.
 - In the year 2022-23, UAE was India's 3rd largest trading partner and 2nd largest export destination.

Read More: India-UAE Relations

Havana Syndrome

- Recently, the Central govt has told the Karnataka HC that it will look into the matter of the **'Havana Syndrome'** in India. This was in response to a petition by a Bengaluru resident who had approached the HC requesting a <u>writ of Mandamus</u> for an enquiry on Havana Syndrome in India.
 - $\,\circ\,$ A Writ of Mandamus is issued to direct a public authority to do its duty.
- Havana Syndrome refers to a set of mental health symptoms including hearing certain sounds without any outside noise, nausea, vertigo and headaches, memory loss and balance issues.
- Its roots trace back to Havana (Cuba) in late 2016.
 - The causes behind Havana Syndrome were not entirely certain but **speculated to be "sonic attacks".**
 - Some US based studies suggest the victims may have been subjected to high-

powered microwaves that damaged/interfered with the nervous system.

• Beams of high-powered microwaves may have been sent through a special gadget a "microwave weapon", however there is no conclusive evidence of their existence.

Read More: Havana Syndrome, Directed Energy Weapons, Writs

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The Vision