

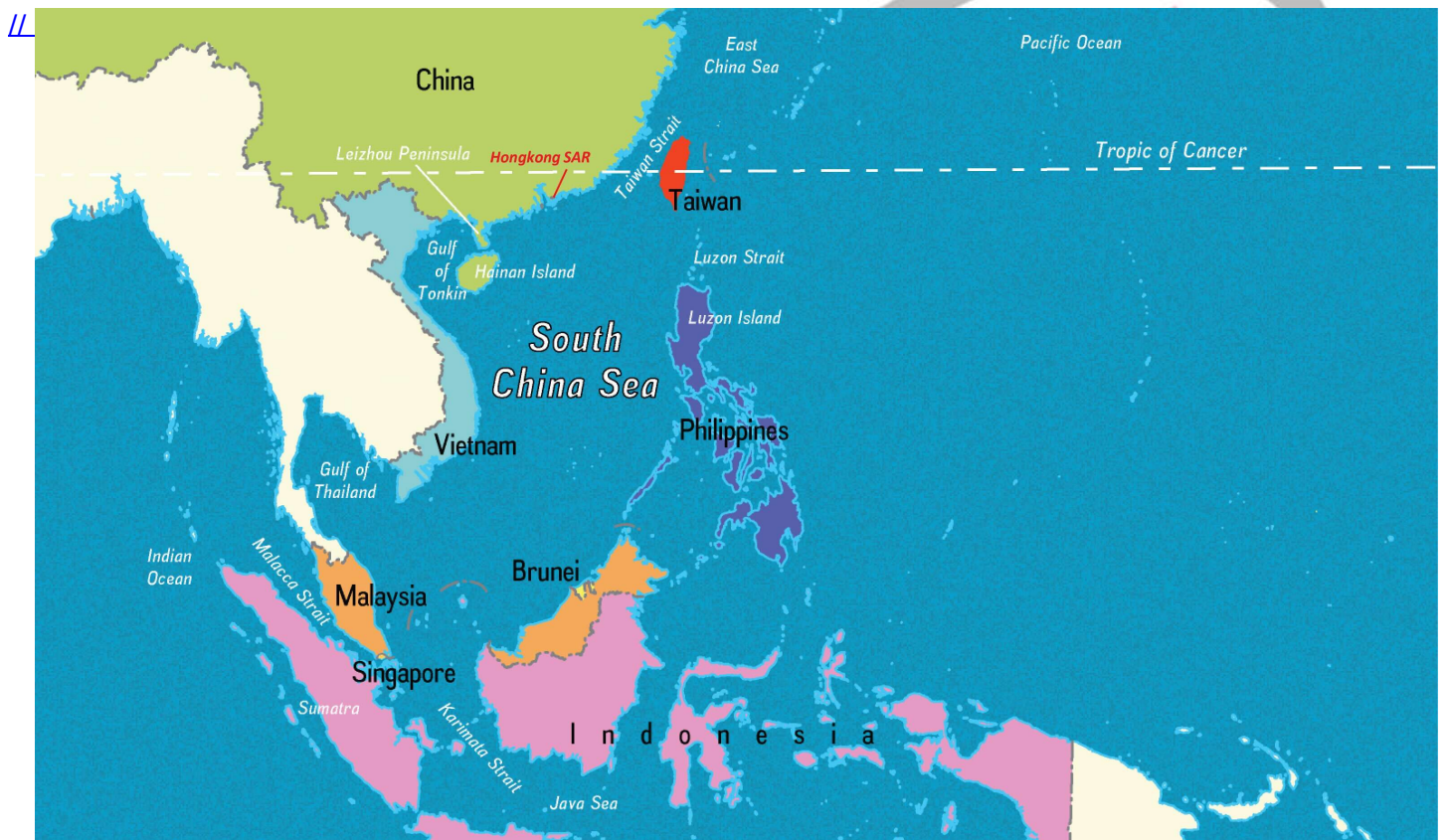


Global Response to China's Security Law on Hong Kong

Why in News

Recently, several countries have proposed measures to protect Hong Kong residents fleeing potential political persecution from China's new [National Security Law](#).

- China's new security law criminalizes what it deems secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with a foreign country.



Key Points

▪ United Kingdom's Response:

- It has described the security law as a clear and serious violation of the **1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration** under which it handed back its colony to China in 1997.
 - Under the Joint Declaration, China had promised to maintain Hong Kong's capitalist and more open political system for 50 years under "**one country, two systems**".
 - Since the handover, Hong Kong residents have accused China of **overstepping its authority**.

- The **Umbrella Movement** was a series of protests in 2014 that called for more transparent elections for the city's chief executive.
- In 2019 protests erupted in Hong Kong over a proposed bill to allow **extradition** to mainland China.
- It has **decided to offer British citizenship** to around three million **residents of Hong Kong**.
- It is also **rethinking its provisional decision to allow Huawei (China's Company)** to be involved in the development of Britain's 5G infrastructure.
- **Taiwan's Response:**
 - It has opened the **Taiwan-Hong Kong Services and Exchange Office** in order to help facilitate asylum for people fleeing Hong Kong.
 - Taiwan **was the first state which pledged to support Hong Kong** residents seeking asylum, in May 2020.
 - China also **claims Taiwan to be part of China** and threatens to use force to take over the island.
 - China has proposed to Taiwan that it follow the **"one country, two systems"** model to unite with China. But the Taiwanese reject any idea of uniting with mainland China.
- **Other Country's Response:**
 - **The USA** has passed a **Bipartisan Bill** to sanction Chinese officials who violate Hong Kong's freedoms.
 - It is also planning to bring the **Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act**, which would open up a route for asylum for Hong Kong's frontline activists in immediate danger.
 - **Australia** is considering offering Hong Kong residents **temporary protection visas** that will allow refugees to live in the country for up to three years.
 - **Japan** said that it is **seriously concerned** about China's decision toward Hong Kong.
 - **India** has been keeping a close watch on recent developments in Hong Kong.
- **Chinese Reaction to Global Response:**
 - It has said that the **security law issue is purely China's internal affairs**, and no foreign country has the right to interfere.
 - It has condemned the UK's citizenship offer to Hong Kongers and **warned the UK for serious consequences**.
 - It considers all residents living in Hong Kong, including those with British National Overseas passports, as Chinese nationals.
 - It has said that the UK's U-turn on its **Huawei decision would damage the UK's image as an open, business-friendly environment**.
 - It has **accused Taiwan administration** of nurturing a separatist plot in Hong Kong and warned for a **military response**.

Source: TH