

1. Prime Minister has announced ₹ 20 Lakh Crore economic stimulus package, which is estimated at 10% of GDP. According to the PM this will help the country be self reliant (ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT). This includes the earlier package announced by RBI and the package under PM GARIB KALYAN YOJANA.
2. AAROGYA SETU APP has been made mandatory for NRIS and migrants. States have been asked to step up surveillance for SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS (SARI) / INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)
3. INDIA May find itself in a dilemma in the US - China spat over Taiwan's status in World Health Assembly . US is pushing for the observer status of Taiwan in the WHA whereas China is opposed to the same.
4. INS Magar arrives from Male with 202 evacuees.
5. Wuhan to test entire population after new virus cluster emerges.
6. **Mark Mekong River in the Atlas.**
7. **Read Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from Indian Polity.**
8. GI tag for SOHRAI KHOVAR painting, TELIA RUMAL.

China

4 states viz., Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and a Union Territories of Ladakh (erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir) share a border with China.

The Sino-Indian border is generally divided into three sectors namely: Western sector, Middle sector, and Eastern sector.

Western Sector

In the western sector, India shares about 2152 km long border with China.

It is between Union Territory of Ladakh (erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir) and Xinjiang Province of China.

In this sector, there is a territorial dispute over Aksai Chin. India claims it as part of erstwhile Kashmir, while China claims it is part of Xinjiang.

The dispute over Aksai Chin can be traced back to the failure of the British Empire to clearly demarcate a legal border between China and its Indian colony.

During the time of British rule in India, two borders between India and China were proposed- Johnson's Line and McDonald Line.

The Johnson's line (proposed in 1865) shows Aksai Chin in erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir (now Ladakh) i.e. under India's control whereas McDonald Line (proposed in 1893) places it under China's control.

India considers Johnson Line as a correct, rightful national border with China, while on the other hand, China considers the McDonald Line as the correct border with India.

At present, Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the line separating Indian areas of Ladakh from Aksai Chin. It is concurrent with the Chinese Aksai Chin claim line.

Middle Sector

In this sector, India shares about 625 km long boundary with China which runs along the watershed from Ladakh to Nepal.

Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand touch this border with Tibet (China) in this sector. Both sides do not have much disagreement over the border in this area.

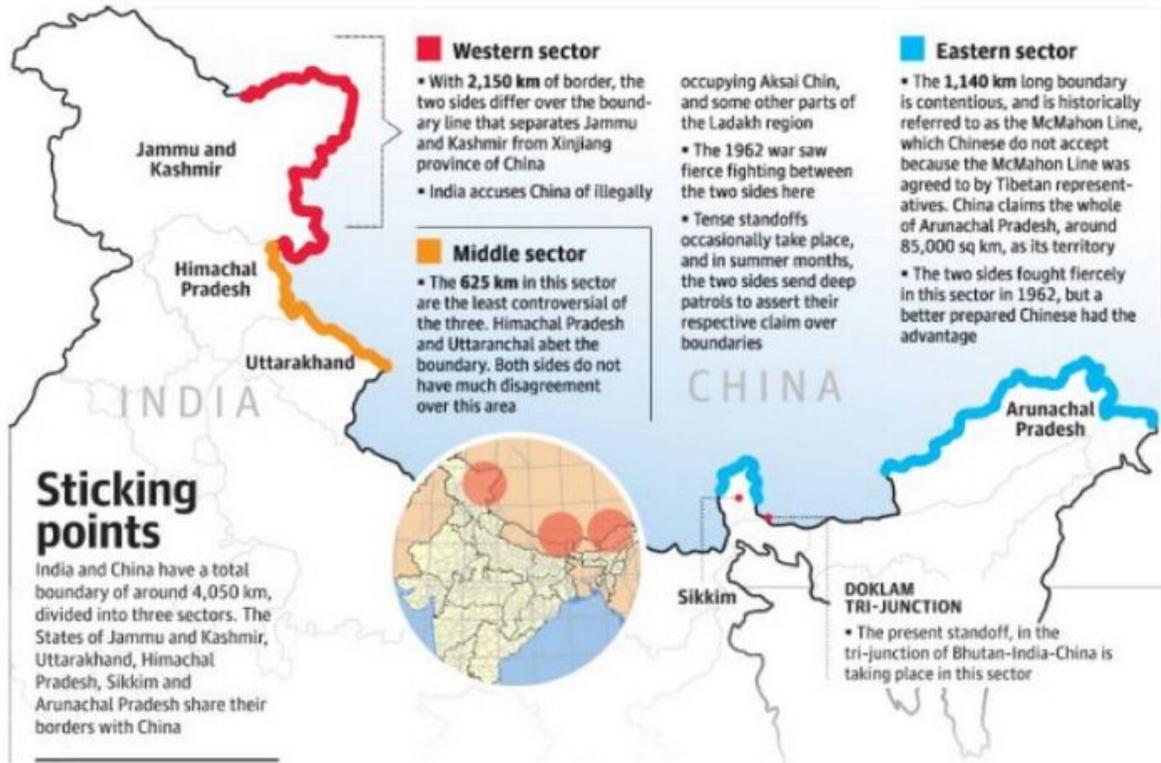
Eastern Sector

In this sector, India shares a 1,140 km long boundary with China.

It runs from the eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near the Talu Pass at the trijunction of Tibet, India and Myanmar.

This boundary line is called McMahon Line.

China considers the McMahon Line illegal and unacceptable claiming that Tibetan representatives who had signed the 1914 Convention held in Shimla which delineated the McMahon line on the map were not having rights to do so.



Taiwan has rejected the Chinese formula of one country two systems.

In her New Year speech Taiwanese President vowed to defend the island nation's sovereignty saying the Hong Kong model would not work for Taiwan as democracy and authoritarianism cannot co-exist in the same country.

China claims Taiwan as its territory and wants to bring it under Beijing's control even if it requires the use of force.

The anti-Infiltration bill passed by Taiwanese Parliament recently has further sent the relations between the two to a new low.

Background

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), is an island off the southern coast of China that has been governed independently from mainland China since 1949. The People's Republic of China (PRC) views the island as a province, while in Taiwan—a territory with its own democratically elected government that is home to twenty-three million people—political leaders have differing views on the island's status and relations with the mainland.

The PRC asserts that there is only "one China" and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of it. Beijing says Taiwan is bound by an understanding reached in 1992 between representatives of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Kuomintang (KMT) political party then ruling Taiwan. Referred to as the 1992 Consensus, it states that there is only "one China" but allows for differing interpretations, by which both Beijing and Taipei agree that Taiwan belongs to China, while the two still disagree on which entity is China's legitimate governing body. The tacit agreement underlying the 1992 Consensus is that Taiwan will not seek independence.

In Taiwan, the Chinese government's objective has long been what it calls "peaceful reunification" – "reunification" even though Taiwan has never been under the jurisdiction or control of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party. To achieve that goal, Beijing has for years tried to simultaneously coax and coerce Taiwan's adhesion with both the promise of economic benefits and military threats.

A historic task:

Early this year, President Xi Jinping of China reiterated that "complete reunification" was a "historic task." "We make no promise to renounce the use of force and reserve the option of taking all necessary means," he added.

Taiwan is gearing up for a presidential election in January. On Nov. 17, Ms. Tsai announced that the pro-independence William Lai Ching-te, a former prime minister, would be her running mate. On the same day, China sent an aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait. (In July, China had released its defense white paper, and it stated, "By sailing ships and flying aircraft around Taiwan, the armed forces send a stern warning to the 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces.")

A political task:

It is also trying to undermine Taiwan's democratic process itself and sow social divisions on the island.

Plus, only about one in 10 Taiwanese people support unification with China. The Sunflower Movement of 2014, a series of protests led by a coalition of students and civil-society activists, marked the rejection of close relations with China by Taiwan's younger generations.

An economic task:

The Chinese authorities also seemed to think that increasing economic interdependence across the Taiwan Strait would be a pathway to unification. At some point, the theory went, it would be too costly for Taiwan to unravel economic links.

Trade between China and Taiwan exceeded \$181 billion in 2017, up from about \$35.5 billion in 1999. But even as the two economies grew closer, the number of people who identified as Taiwanese increased: from more than 48 percent to about 60 percent between 2008 and late 2015.

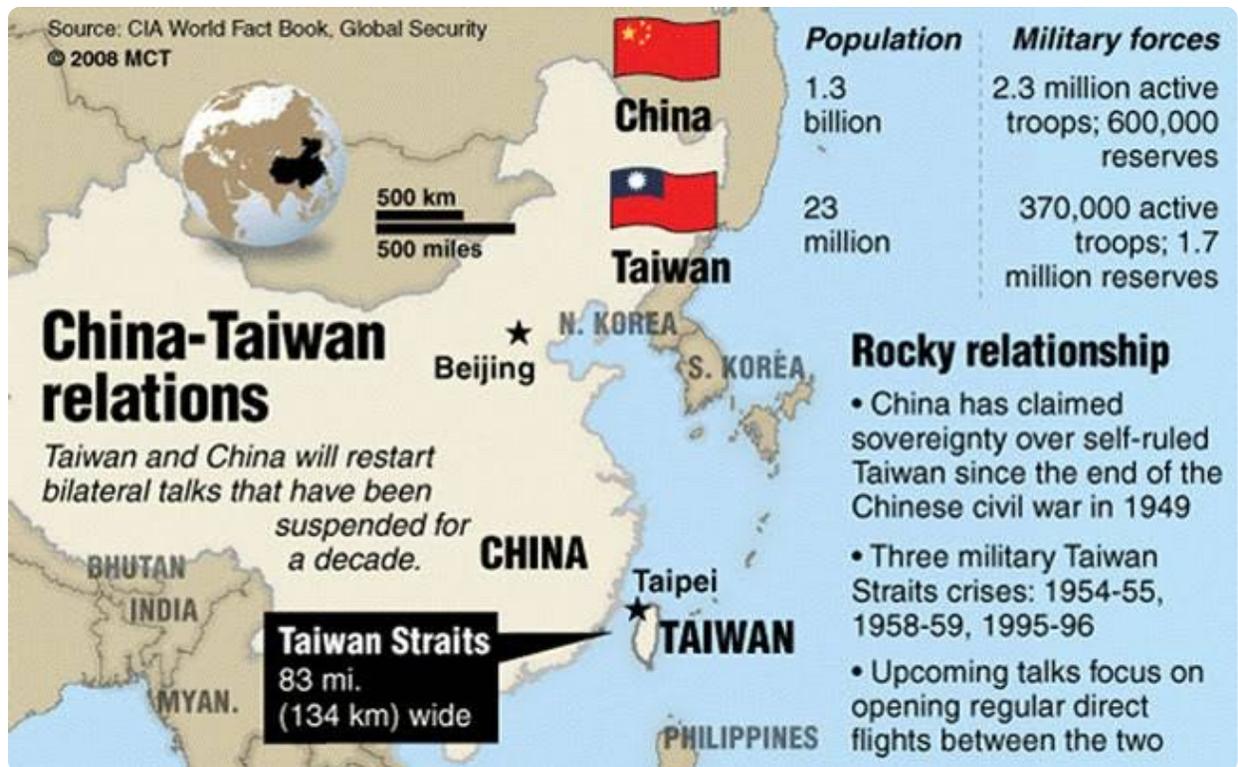
Current moves –

China will persist in pulling its military and economic levers. It will continue to manipulate news coverage to try to buoy Beijing-friendly candidates in the upcoming election. But now it is also launching a disinformation campaign to sap Taiwanese's trust in their institutions and sow discontent among them.

China has also made no secret of its intention to exacerbate social rifts in Taiwan. The Chinese government believes it can pit various ethnic, political and social groups in Taiwan against one another.

China can also be expected to exploit the soft underbelly of Taiwanese politics: patronage networks. Those are less important today than during Taiwan's authoritarian days, but they continue to allow community leaders, farmers' associations and even organized-crime figures to buy votes.

Social media platforms are another key battleground: Nearly 90 percent of Taiwan's population is active on them, and traditional news outlets have been known to republish fake posts without fact-checking. According to Reuters, Chinese government agencies have paid Taiwanese news outlets to publish pro-Beijing content.



Why Favipiravir is in the news?

In order to keep on rapid research examination of promising drugs, officials at the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) said that 'Favipiravir' looks promising as a drug against COVID-19 due to in-vitro results.

About Favipiravir

It is an anti-viral agent that selectively and potently inhibits the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) of RNA viruses.

It was discovered through screening chemical library for anti-viral activity against the influenza virus by Toyama Chemical Co., Ltd.

It undergoes an intracellular phosphoribosylation to be an active form, favipiravir-RTP (favipiravir ribofuranosyl-5'-triphosphate), which is recognized as a substrate by RdRp, and inhibits the RNA polymerase activity.

It is effective against a wide range of types and subtypes of influenza viruses, including strains resistant to existing anti-influenza drugs.

Favipiravir shows anti-viral activities against other RNA viruses such as arenaviruses, bunyaviruses and filoviruses, all of which are known to cause fatal hemorrhagic fever.

The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Telia Rumal cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white,” said Chinnaraj a G.Naidu, Deputy Registrar of Geographical Indications. He added that the GI tag has been given to both these products after due verification. The Sohrai Khovar painting is primarily being practised only in the district of Hazaribagh. However, in recent years, for promotional purposes, it has been seen in other parts of Jharkhand. Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too. The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography. In recent years, the walls of important public places in Jharkhand, such as the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, and the Hazaribagh and Tata Nagar Railway Stations, among others, have been decorated with Sohrai Khovar paintings. Historic weave details provided in the application filed with the Geographical Indications Registry shows that Telia Rumal can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost. During the Nizam’s dynasty, Puttapaka, a small, backward village of the Telanganaregion of Andhra Pradesh had about 20 families engaged in handloom weaving, who were patronised by rich Muslim families and the Nizam rulers. The officers working in the court of the Nizam would wear the Chituki Telia Rumal as a symbolic representation of status. Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmeer Sharif in Rajasthan, with some devotees offering 50 or even 100 cloths. Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad; and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.

Sohrai Khovar Painting



TELIA RUMAL

