

1. **Amphan kills 72 in West Bengal; Brings life to a halt.**
2. **On an average more than 5000 cases have been recorded daily in the last seven days, more than the previous week's average.**
3. **TN government decides not to conduct exams in containment zones.**
4. **Pidawa: Rajasthan town. Known for its "black gold". Extracted from a plant, Papav-er somniferum, and is then processed to make opium and its many derivatives. Infact these 'badlands' hosted a part of the production facilities that provided the fuel which ignited the Anglo Chinese Opium Wars of 1839-42 and 1856-60.**
5. **Night curfew should be imposed strictly for non essential activities, Centre tell States.**

Rekindling tensions over boundary claims, Indian and Chinese troops have clashed at two points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) recently, leaving personnel injured on both sides.

What's the issue?

The incidents took place in the Naku La sector and in a contested area near Pangong Tso, a lake in Ladakh.

But the Army played down the two incidents as "temporary and short-duration face-offs" that were resolved by "local commanders as per mutually-accepted protocols" through dialogue and flag meetings. These kinds of incidents do occur as boundaries are not resolved.

Where is Naku La?

Naku La sector is a pass at a height of more than 5,000 metres above Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the state of Sikkim.

It is located ahead of Muguthang or Cho Lhamu (source of River Teesta).

The other passes located in the state of Sikkim are Nathu La Pass and Jelep La Pass.

Pangong Tso lake:

It is a 135-km long lake, located in the Himalayas at the height of approximately 4,350 m, stretches out from India to China.

One-third of water body, its 45 km stretch, is in Indian control while the rest of the 90 km is under Chinese control.

It is formed from Tethys geosyncline.

It is a salt water lake.

Strategic significance: By itself, the lake does not have major tactical significance. But it lies in the path of the Chushul approach, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory.



India- China Border:

India and China share a 3488 km long boundary. Unfortunately, the entire boundary is disputed. The line, which delineates the boundary between the two countries, is popularly called the McMahon line, after its author Sir Henry McMahon.

In 1913, the British-India government had called a tripartite conference, in which the boundary between India and Tibet was formalized after a discussion between the Indian and the Tibetans. A Convention was adopted, which resulted in the delimitation of the Indo-Tibetan boundary. This boundary is, however, disputed by China which terms it as illegal.

In 1957, China occupied Aksai Chin and built a road through it. This episode was followed by intermittent clashes along the border, which finally culminated in the border war of 1962. The boundary, which came into existence after the war, came to be known as Line of Actual Control (LAC). It is a military held line.

Attempts to resolve the issue:

The rapprochement between the two countries in 1976 enabled India and China to initiate High Level border talks in 1981 to find a solution to the vexed problem. After eight rounds, the talks broke down in 1987

In 1988, following Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China, the Joint Working Group (JWG) was set up to look into the border problem.

In 1993, the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was signed and the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officers was set up to assist the JWG.

In 1996, the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the Military Field along the LAC was signed.

In 2003, two special representatives (one each from India and China) were appointed to find a political solution to the border dispute.

Till 2009, these two special representatives had held 17 rounds of talks, but it seems they have not made much headway.

Recently, NSA Ajit Doval was appointed as Special Envoy for talks.



The three days G7 summit was concluded on August 26, 2019, at Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.

Although no joint communique was issued at the end of the summit, the French President released a statement stating that the seven industrialized nations were committed to open and fair world trade, and global economic stability.

Key Takeaways

Discussion on forest fires in the Amazon rainforests. G7 countries pledged \$20 million help to fight fires in the Amazon rainforests.

US trade conflicts with France over GAFA tax & other related issues, Iran over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), US-China trade wars.

G7 leaders backed the existence and importance of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 on Hong Kong and called for violence to be avoided.

The United States of America offered a better deal after UK's Brexit.

There was a call for reinstating Russia back into the group. Russia was removed from the group after it annexed Crimea in 2014. But the consensus for the same was not achieved.

As a reflection of strong bilateral relations between India & France, a special invitation was sent to India to become a part of this summit.

On the sidelines of this summit, India highlighted its large-scale efforts to address various environmental issues like, reducing biodiversity, climate change, water stress & ocean pollution. India highlighted the steps taken in this regard which include, vow to eliminate single-use plastic, harnessing solar energy, saving water, and protecting flora and fauna.

On a session on Digital transformation at G7 Summit, Indian PM remarked, "India's usage of technology for enhanced & innovative digital payment initiatives." India is putting enormous efforts in leveraging digital technology to fight social inequalities through empowerment and inclusion.

Indian Prime Minister also had a brief discussion with the US President over the Kashmir issue, reiterating that, 'it is an internal matter of India & any related issues on it will be resolved bilaterally with Pakistan.'

The need for a dedicated multilateral Green Bank was demanded. The purpose of this bank would solely be to finance the projects supporting renewable energies and mitigating environmental challenges.

This bank will complement and collaborate with other existing multilateral- regional & national institutions in co-financing the projects.

G7

The Group of Seven (G7) is a forum of the world's seven largest developed economies whose government leaders meet annually to discuss international economic and monetary issues. The G-7 has its roots in an informal meeting of the finance ministers of France, West Germany, the U.S, Great Britain, and Japan (the Group of Five) in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. That, in turn, inspired the French President to invite the leaders of those countries, and Italy, to Rambouillet in 1975 for further discussions on global oil.

The next year, Canada was also invited to join the group and the first meeting with all G-7 nations was hosted by the United States which was held in Puerto Rico in 1976.

Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members.

The 2018 summit was hosted by Canada in Quebec from June 8-9.

The 45th G7 summit was hosted by France from August 24-26, 2019, in Biarritz in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.

Members

The G7 members are recognized as the seven wealthiest and most advanced nations in the world. The members are:

France,

Germany,

The United Kingdom,

Italy,

The United States of America,

Canada,

Japan

The European Union is sometimes considered an eighth member of the G-7, since it holds all the rights and responsibilities of full members except to chair or host the meeting.

Expansion to G-8 (the Group of Eight)

The G-7 responded as the global economy evolved. In 1991, the Soviet Union pledged to create an economy with freer markets and held its first direct presidential election.

Following the 1994 G7 meeting in Naples, Russian President held meetings with G-7 member countries, in what became known as the P-8 (Political 8).

In 1998, after urging from leaders including U.S. President, Russia was added to the G-7 group as a full-time member, creating a formal G-8.

However, in 2014, Russia was suspended from the group after the annexation of Crimea and tensions in Ukraine.

Purpose
The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss and deliberate on international economic issues. It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.

G7 fills out numerous global top lists:

Leading export countries,

Largest gold reserves,

Largest nuclear energy producers,

Top contributors to the UN budget.

