

GS II

SYLLABUS: IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES THEIR STRUCTURE, MANDATE.

BRICS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "The BRICS journey – gaining heft while in transition".

"BRICS as an inclusive, "not a divisive organisation but one that works in the interest of humanity"—**Indian Prime Minister in 2024 Kazan BRICS Summit.**

About BRICS:

- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE.
- BRICS, initially a grouping of emerging economies, is now primarily a platform for Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs).
- Represents a **third of global GDP.**
- **2 of members (China, Russia) are part of UN Security Council.**
- **Fortaleza summit** led to est. of **New Development Bank.**
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement:** Created to support member countries with **Balance of Payment crisis.**

Significance for India:

- **India as bridge between West and East, North and South:**
 - India is the only member of BRICS that is also part of U.S. led arrangements like QUAD, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.
- **Voice for Developing Nations:** against terrorism, Climate Change etc.
- **Platform for reforming global governance** institutions like UNSC, IMF and World Bank.
- **Platform for Dialogue and consensus:** Eg. Doklam standoff and the recent Ladakh disengagement 2024 are engaged through BRICS.
- **Import dependency:** 35% of imports in India are from the other BRICS nations.
- **Achieving SDG goals:** Eg. BRICS Agriculture research platform to address hunger issues.
- **Strengthening people to people ties:** Cooperation involving sports, culture, parliaments, civil society, business.
- BRICS helps India to promote multipolarity in the world.

BRICS role in challenging western-dominated global order:

- **New Development Bank (NDB):**
 - Est. in 2014, It **serves as an alternative to Western-dominated financial institutions** like the World Bank.
 - NDB aims to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):**
 - Reducing reliance on the **IMF.**
 - It provides safety-net for BRICS countries during BOP crises.
- **Consistent advocacy for Global Governance Reform:**
 - **IMF and World Bank Reforms:** Eg. increased voting rights and representation for emerging economies in these institutions.
 - UNSC expansion to India, Brazil, and South Africa to better reflect contemporary global power dynamics.
- **Reducing Dollar Dependence:** eg. BRICS Bill or BRICS banknote introduction at the 2024 Kazan Summit and use of local currency.
- **Induction of Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia,** is a sign that the **counter-balancing arrangement of**

emerging economies where their voice is limited in western institution's.

- Members like **Russia and Iran are facing sanctions** from EU, USA. BRICS provides opportunity for their economic growth and development.

Challenges in BRICS:

- Criticised for being **China centric group.**
- **Disparities among group:** due to mix of democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- **Internal conflicts making group vulnerable:**
 - China favouring Pakistan to join BRICS;
 - India's opposition to BRI.
 - Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered Moscow's confrontation with NATO.
- **Low intra-country trade:** members trade with China more than each other.
- **Strengthening Sino-Russian Axis** a cause of concern for India.
- China, the sole member of the UN Security Council opposing India's permanent seat.

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GOVERNANCE

PRE-CONTEXT

REGULATORY BODIES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Zomato, Swiggy breached antitrust laws: CCI probe".

Competition Commission of India

- **Statutory body** under **Competition Act 2007.**
- It is **responsible to enforce Competition Act 2002.**
- Competition Act 2002 replaced **Monopolies and Restrictive trade Practices Act 1969.**
- **Chairperson and 6 members** are appointed by **Central Govt.**
- **Aim:** to regulate and **prevent anti-competitive practices** in markets.
- **Review and approve mergers and acquisitions** to ensure they don't violate anti-competitive laws.
- Eg. It **fined Rs.1300 crores on Google** for abusing its dominant position in Android mobile device Ecosystem.
- Imposed fine of Rs.50 crore on BCCI for abusing its dominant position.

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UNDERSTAND UPSC

ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

MONTREAL PROTOCOL

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "Staying cool, but with clean tech, global collaborations".

"In 2024, parts of India experienced temperatures over 50°C, underscoring the need for cooling to ensure thermal comfort, preserve food, medical supplies, and industrial processes."

Climate change has heightened two critical threats related to cooling:

- **Indirect emissions:** from inefficient air-conditioning and refrigeration systems powered by fossil fuels.
- **Direct emissions:** from harmful refrigerants due to lack of common refrigerant standards.

"By 2050, India may have the world's highest cooling demand, with over 1 billion air conditioners in use."

Vienna Convention of 1985:

- **Aim to protect the ozone layer** by controlling and reducing the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.
- It **laid the legal and institutional framework for Montreal Protocol**.

Montreal Protocol 1987:

- **Binding agreement**, aims to **phase out** the production and consumption of **ozone-depleting substances (ODS)** i.e CFCs, HCFCs.
 - India successfully achieved complete phaseout of **HCFC-141b** (a major pollutant after CFC).

Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol in 2016:

- **Targeted hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**, though not ozone-depleting, are **potent greenhouse gases** that contribute to climate change.
 - **India ratified the Kigali Amendment in 2021**, committing to reduce HFCs by 85% by 2047.

- **Vienna convention 1985 → Montreal protocol 1987 → Kigali Amendment 2016.**

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP):

- Targets a 20%-25% **reduction in cooling demand** by 2037.
- **Reduce refrigerant demand** by 25%-30% by 2037.
- 25-40% **reduction in energy consumption** by 2037.

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ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

NATIONAL PARKS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 7.

News: "Tiger population triples in Manas national park".

About National Parks:

- Est under WLPA. 1972 & **IUCN category II**.
- **Declared by:** both State Govt., Central Govt.
- **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** approves NPs & WLS.
 - **NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.**
- **Boundaries** of NPs are clearly defined.
- NPs cannot be downgraded to WLS.

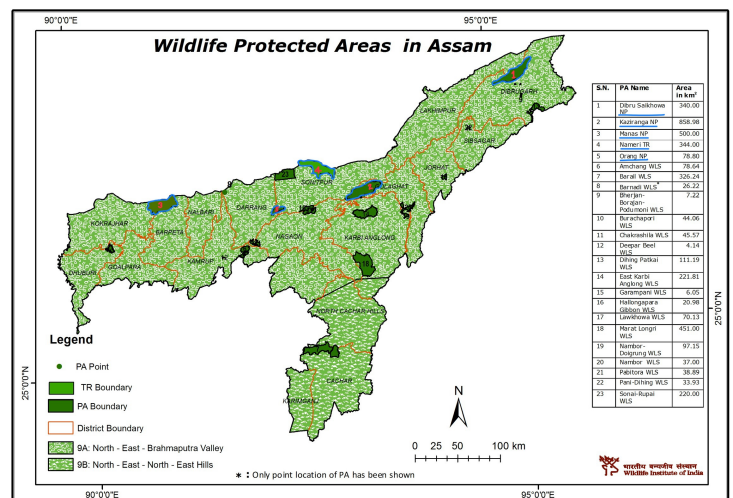
Zones inside National Park:

- Offer **highest level of Protection** than Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Consists of core & buffer Zones.
- **Core zone strictly protected for wildlife:**
 - No human interference.
 - No harvesting of timber.
 - No collecting minor forest products, Grazing, hunting etc.
 - No private ownership rights are allowed.
- In **buffer zones sustainable practices** are allowed.
- NPs Protects both flora and fauna.
- **Chief Wildlife Warden** shall be authority who shall control, manage and maintain all protected areas.
- **NPs are not species centric.**

Facts on National Parks:

- **Hailey National Park (Jim Corbett National Park)**, est in 1936 is India's first National Park.
- **Highest number of NPs:** MP(9), A&N(9).
- **Highest number of WLS:** A&N (96), MH (45).
- **Hemis NP in J&K** is the largest National Park of India.
- **South Button Island NP** in A&N is the smallest.

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Thank you!