

## INDIA-VIETNAM BILATERAL RELATIONS

### SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

**CONTEXT:** India and Vietnam inked a "joint vision" document to significantly enhance the scope and scale of their bilateral defence ties by 2030.

#### RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA & VIETNAM

1. **HISTORICAL RELATIONS:** Both the nations share not only a long history of cultural and civilizational links but also have a common root in the struggle against colonialism.
  - The International Commission for Supervision and Control formed pursuant to Geneva Accord of 1954 so as to facilitate peace process in Vietnam was chaired by India.
2. **RELATIONSHIP ELEVATED TO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:** India initially maintained Consulate-level relations with the then North and South Vietnam.
  - In January 1972, India established full diplomatic relations with unified Vietnam. Both the countries are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.
  - The relation between the two countries was elevated to the level of 'Strategic Partnership' in July 2007.
  - The bilateral relations were further enhanced to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the year 2016.
3. **JOINT VISION FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY AND PEOPLE:** It was adopted during the first ever India-Vietnam Virtual Summit held in December 2020.
4. **TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION:** For the FY 2021-22, the bilateral trade between India and Vietnam stood at \$14.14 billion. India's export to Vietnam stood at \$ 6.70 billion while its import from Vietnam amounted to \$7.44 billion.
  - For the FY 2021-22, Vietnam happened to be India's 23rd largest trading partner globally and 4th largest within ASEAN.
  - Vietnamese investment in India is estimated to be \$28.55 million and is primarily in the field of pharmaceuticals, information technology, chemicals and building materials.
5. **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP:**
  - **QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS (QIPs):** Under the **Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** framework, India has been taking QIPs, each valued at \$50,000 in different provinces of Vietnam for the development of community infrastructure. Since 2017, 27 QIPs have been completed in 23 provinces of Vietnam whereas other 10 projects are under implementation in 10 provinces.
  - **CAPACITY BUILDING COOPERATION, TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND SCHOLARSHIPS:** Under the **Indian Technicaal and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme**, India has offered short-term courses to 3000 Vietnamese participants in Indian institutions over the years.
  - **CULTURAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN VIETNAM:** India is providing technical assistance worth \$2.25 million for the conservation and restoration of ancient **Cham monuments**, a world heritage site in the Quang Nam province of Vietnam.
6. **DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP:** MoU on Defence Cooperation signed in 2009 alongwith the Joint Vision on Defence Cooperation signed in 2015 provide the broad institutional framework.
  - This relationship has been further strengthened with the Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030 and the MoU on Mutual Logistics Support.
  - UN Peacekeeping Operations is another key rea of cooperation.

# INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

## SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-I (ART AND CULTURE)

**CONTEXT:** As the world gears up to mark the International Yoga Day, India is also looking forward to celebrate it in physical mode after a gap of two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a mass yoga event at the Mysuru Palace grounds in Karnataka.

### FACTS

- International Yoga Day was declared by the UN General Assembly on 11th December 2014. Yoga is a mental, physical and spiritual discipline or practice that has its origins in India.
- The day of 21st June was suggested by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the UN because it is the longest day of the year.
- The theme of this year's Yoga Day celebrations is '**Yoga for Humanity**' and around 25 crore people across the world are expected to take part in various events, doing yoga in unison towards better health and wellness for all. A flagship programme in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs has also been organised for a mass Yoga Protocol world over on the day following the movement of the sun.
- Starting in Fiji, Brisbane, Australia and New Zealand, it will end in San Francisco, USA and Toronto, Canada. Seventy-nine countries and United Nations' organisations are onboard for the programme.

### ABOUT YOGA

- The word 'yoga' is derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- Yoga includes Asanas, Mudras, Kriyas, Shaktakarmas and Meditation.
- Its origins can be traced back to almost 5000 years.
- A number of seals and fossil remains of the Indus Saraswati Valley civilization having Yogic motives and figures performing Yoga Sadhana suggest the presence of Yoga in ancient India.
- While Yoga finds a mention in the Rig-Veda, it became more prominent as hatha yoga texts emerged around the 11th century.
- UNESCO declared Yoga as an intangible cultural heritage from India.

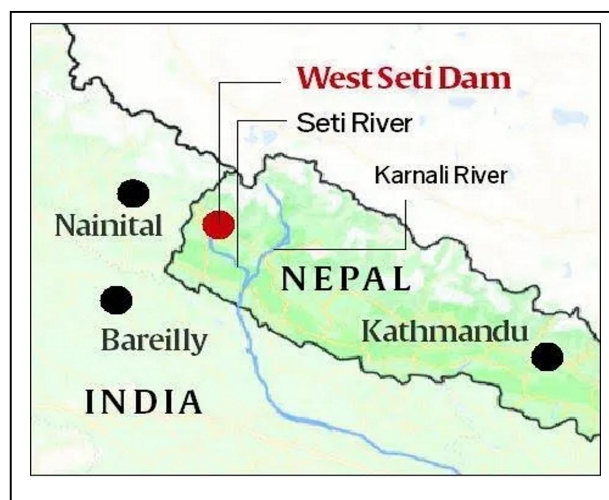
## WEST SETI HYDROPOWER PROJECT

### SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (INDIA AND IT'S NEIGHBOURHOOD)

**CONTEXT:** India will be taking over West Seti Hydropower Project in Nepal nearly four years after China withdrew from it.

### ABOUT THE WEST SETI HYDROPOWER PROJECT

- The proposed 750-megawatt Hydropower Project is to be built on the Seti river in far-western Nepal, primarily as a storage scheme to generate and export large amounts of electrical energy to India



- West Seti and Seti river, a joint project, has the capacity to generate 1200 MW of electricity.
- The project is expected to provide Nepal with 31.9 percent free electricity.

#### INDIA–NEPAL POWER RELATIONS

- Nepal is rich in power sources with around 6,000 rivers with an estimated potential for 83,000MW.
- **Mahakali treaty** which was signed back in 1996 between both the nations to produce 6,480 MW has still not been implemented as India has failed to produce a detailed project report.
- Similarly, the **Upper Karnali project**, for which the multinational GMR signed the contract, has not made any headway for years.
- The **900 MW Arun Three projects** in eastern **Nepal's Sankhuwa Sabha** is set for completion by 2023.
- Nepal has a massive power shortfall as it generates only around 900 MW against an installed capacity of nearly 2,000 MW. Although it is currently selling 364 MW power to India, it has been over the years importing from India.

#### INDIA–NEPAL TIES

- Nepal is an important neighbour of India and occupies special significance in its foreign policy because of the geographic, historical, cultural and economic linkages/ties that span centuries.
- India and Nepal share similar ties in terms of Hinduism and Buddhism with Buddha's birthplace Lumbini located in present day Nepal.
- The two countries not only share an open border and unhindered movement of people, but they also have close bonds through marriages and familial ties, popularly known as Roti–Beti ka Rishta.
- The India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- However, the border issue erupted in November 2019 when Nepal had released a new political map that claims Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of Nepal's territory. The area of Susta (West Champaran district, Bihar) can also be noted in the new map.

## DUTCH DISEASE

- Dutch Disease in economics refers to a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses uneven growth across sectors due to the discovery of natural resources, especially large oil reserves.
- According to the concept, when a country discovers natural resources and starts exporting them to the rest of the world, it causes the exchange rate of the currency to appreciate significantly and this, in turn, discourages the exports from other sectors while encouraging the import of cheaper alternatives.
- The term was coined by **The Economist** in 1977 to describe the decline of the manufacturing industry in the Netherlands.
- The idea, however, was first proposed by economists **Peter Neary** and **Max Corden** in a paper published in 1982.