



# MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. PANAMA CANAL  PRELIMS
2. GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL GOOD, GENDER AND EQUALITY  
*The Assam Tribune* GS-2, PRELIMS
3. IRAN-PAKISTAN CONFLICT  GS-2, PRELIMS
4. CHINA-TAIWAN  GS-2

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# PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION<sup>®</sup>

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina are collectively referred to as the Lithium Triangle.
2. The US currently controls 77% of the global lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity.
3. Lithium is also referred to White Gold.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

# PANAMA CANAL



## CONTEXT

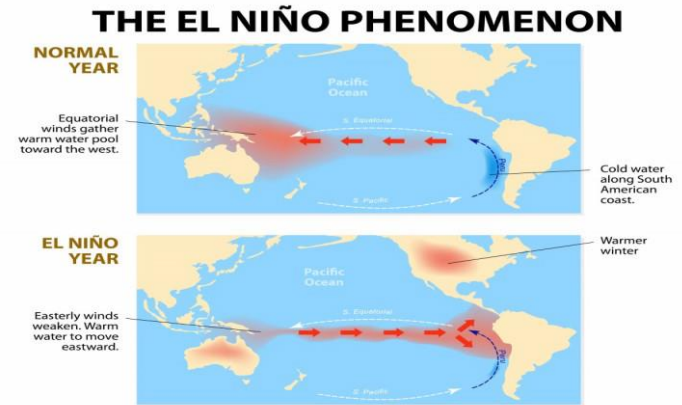
- A **severe drought** that began last year has forced authorities to slash ship crossings in the **Panama Canal** by 36%.
- The drought is attributed to the **El Niño weather phenomenon** and climate change.





# EL NINO

- El Niño is a **climate pattern** that describes the **unusual warming** of **surface waters** in the **eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**.
- It is a **natural climate phenomenon** marked by **warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures** in the **central and eastern Pacific Ocean** near the **equator**, which can affect weather worldwide.





- El Niño is the “warm phase” of a larger phenomenon called the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- La Niña, the “cool phase” of ENSO, is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the region’s surface waters.
- El Niño and La Niña are considered the ocean part of ENSO, while the Southern Oscillation is its atmospheric changes.
- El Niño has an impact on ocean temperatures, the speed and strength of ocean currents, the health of coastal fisheries and local weather from Australia to South America and beyond.
- El Niño events occur irregularly at two- to seven-year intervals, and their consequences vary from region to region.

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL GOOD, GENDER AND EQUALITY

## India sets up global alliance

Global good, gender equity and equality



A view of the city after the end of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. — PTI

DAVOS, Jan 19: India on Thursday announced here a new alliance for global good, gender equity and equality on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, with the WEF Founder and Chairman Klaus Schwab offering to partner this initiative with full support.

The announcement was made at an India Reception on the sidelines of the WEF Annual Meeting, hosted by apex industry chamber CII and attended by Union ministers Smriti Irani and Hardeep Singh Puri as well as WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab, among others.

The idea of this alliance emerged from the G20 Leaders' Declaration and India's shining commitment to the cause of women-led development as propound-

ed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said.

As a follow-up to the activities of the Engagement Group and initiatives under the G20 framework, the Business 20, Women 20 and G20 EMPPOWER, this alliance aims to take forward the commitments of the G20 leaders for the benefit of the larger global community.

Irani also congratulated WEF for being a very strong support to India.

"Prime Minister Modi has not only given a high growth rate and contained inflation but has also ensured food security to 800 million Indian citizens and also supported people overseas. This alliance is about the global good, as the name suggests," she said. Minister Puri said India has

always had a special relationship with the WEF.

India has moved from women-centric development to women-led development, he said. Schwab said India is one of the main topics of discussions at Davos in addition to climate, conflicts and AI.

"We will not only support this alliance but will be a strong partner," he added.

He also thanked India for sending such a strong delegation in an election year.

The alliance has garnered support from industry leaders such as Mastercard, Uber, Tata, TVS, Bayer, Godrej, Serum Institute of India, Novartis, IIM Lucknow, and over 10,000 partners from industry through CII.

Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the alliance will be based and anchored by the CII Centre

for Women Leadership. The World Economic Forum has come on board as a 'Network Partner' and Invest India as an 'Institutional Partner'.

CII Director General Chandragiri Banerjee said the launch of the alliance in Davos is a purposeful initiative with the participation of key stakeholders.

"It represents a very good moment for India and India Inc. And comes with a sense of great responsibility. The Confederation of Indian Industry is committed to bringing in industry from India and across the globe to work towards Gender Equity and Women Leadership," he said.

CII President R Dhanoh said the leadership of India for women empowerment during its Presidency of G20 was well recognised. — PTI

## CONTEXT

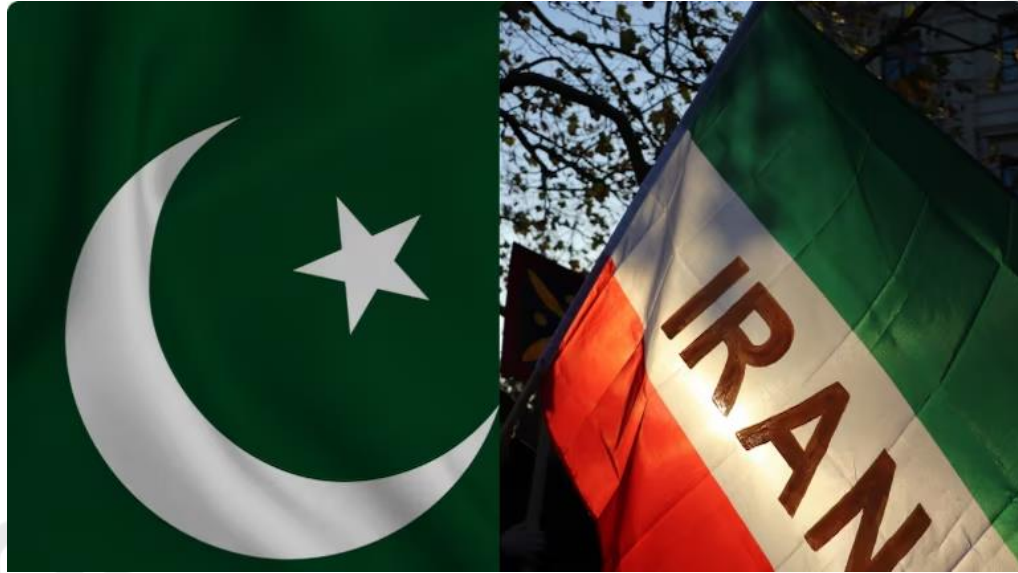
- India on Thursday announced here a **new alliance** for **global good, gender equity** and **equality** on the sidelines of the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting** with the **WEF Founder** and **Chairman Klaus Schwab** offering to partner this initiative with full support.



- The idea of this alliance emerged from the **G20 Leaders' Declaration** and India's abiding commitment to the cause of **women-led development** as propounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.
- As a follow-up to the activities of the Engagement Group and initiatives under the G20 framework, the Business 20, Women 20 and G20 EMPOWER, this **alliance** aims to take forward the commitments of the **G20 leaders** for the benefit of the **larger global community**.

- India has moved from **women-centric development** to **women-led development**, he said.
- Schwab said India is one of the main topics of discussion at **Davos** in addition to **climate**, **conflicts** and **AI**.

# IRAN-PAKISTAN CONFLICT



## CONTEXT

- **Pakistan** has initiated missile attacks on **Iran** as part of **Operation Marg Bar Sarmachar** (which translates to "**Death to Insurgents**"), in response to Iran's earlier missile strikes in Pakistan.



## WHERE IS BALOCHISTAN?

- The border between Iran and Pakistan stretches about 900 kilometers (560 miles), with Pakistan's **Balochistan province** on one side and Iran's **Sistan** and **Baluchistan** province on the other
- Both nations have long fought militants in the restive Baloch region along the border, and deadly clashes along the turbulent border have happened regularly over the years



# ISSUES OF BALOCHISTAN

- **Economic Neglect:** Resentment in Balochistan due to underdevelopment and political exclusion.
- **Minority Challenges:** Baloch face ethnic and religious discrimination in Pakistan and Iran.
- **Separatism:** Marginalization drives movements for an independent "Greater Balochistan"

# MILITANT GROUPS INVOLVED

- **Jaish Al-Adl (JAA):** A Sunni separatist group in Balochistan, active in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province, seeking independence.
- **Baloch Liberation Front & Army:** Militant groups with bases in Iran, labeled as "terrorist organizations" by Pakistan.

# RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND PAKISTAN

- **Pre-1979 Alliance:** Prior to Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, both Iran and Pakistan were closely allied with the United States.
- **CENTO Membership:** In 1955, Iran and Pakistan joined the Baghdad Pact, later renamed the Central Treaty Organization, a NATO-like military alliance.
- **Iran's Shiite Regime:** Post-revolution, Iran established an ultra-conservative Shiite regime.

- **Pakistan's Islamisation:** Concurrently, Sunni-majority Pakistan underwent Islamisation under General Zia-ul-Haq.
- **Sectarian Divide:** These developments positioned Iran and Pakistan at opposite ends of a sectarian spectrum.
- **Baloch Insurgency:** The persistent Baloch militant insurgency has strained relations, with both nations accusing each other of supporting separatist terrorists.

## INDIA'S STAKES IN THE REGION

- Historically, India has maintained a **neutral stance** in Middle Eastern conflicts.
- India is worried about the **instability** in **Balochistan** and **China's strategic involvement** in the region.
- India's investment in Iran's **Chabahar port**, located on the **Makran coast** of Sistan and Baluchistan, raises additional concerns.

## PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

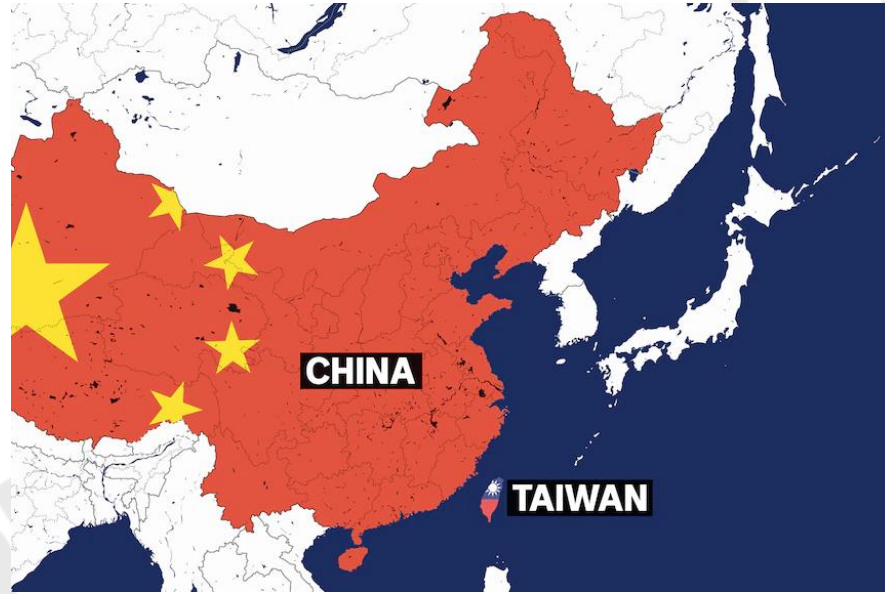
Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Chabahar Port:

1. It is the only port of Iran with the direct access to ocean.
2. The port is strategically important for India as it will help to boost ties with the Central Asian Countries.
3. It is located in the Gulf of Aden.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

# CHINA-TAIWAN



## CONTEXT

- On January 13, Taiwan concluded its **democratic elections**.





## RESULT

- **Lai Ching-te** of the **Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)**, who was the Vice President under Tsai Ing-wen, whom China has called the “troublemaker”, is the newly elected President of Taiwan. This is a third term for the DPP, with the win being perceived as a major blow to China.

## AFTERMATH

- Within days of the results, **Nauru**, a small island nation, has announced that it is shifting its relations from Taipei to Beijing because Taiwan is unable to match China's deep pockets.

## 1992 CONSENSUS

- The **1992 consensus** acknowledges that there is '**one China**'.
- It was agreed upon between the Kuomintang (KMT, pro status-quo party) and the Communist Party of China (CPC).
- One of the main reasons for China's assertiveness is the refusal of Ms. Tsai to accept the '1992 consensus'.

# TAIWANISATION

- The younger generation of Taiwan do not feel any historical affinity with China.
- This generation recognises itself as Taiwanese and have grown up in a democratic political environment and do not feel any bond with the historical narratives of a united China.
- Taiwan conducted its first democratic elections in 1996

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