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29 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

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1. IBSA Dialogue Forum

- **Prelims** - IBSA Dialogue Forum
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

IBSA Dialogue Forum



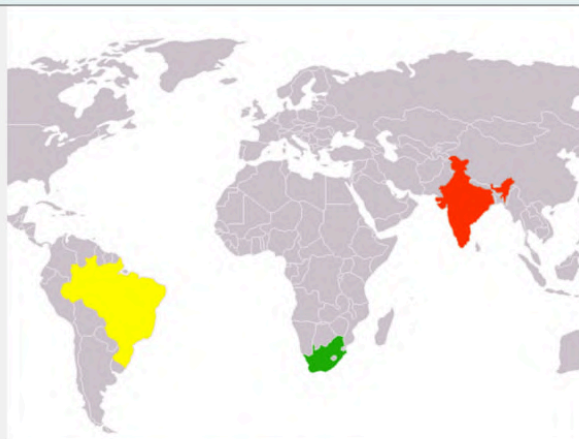
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Why in the news?

- Foreign Ministers of IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) strongly criticised Israel's attacks against Gaza.

IBSA Dialogue Forum

- **What is it?:** The IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil, South Africa) is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among these countries.
- **Formation**
 - Created in 2003.
 - The grouping was formalised under the name of the IBSA Dialogue Forum under the **Brasilia Declaration**.
- **Significance**
 - It represents three important poles for galvanizing **South-South cooperation**.
 - The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others.
- **IBSA Fund:**
 - It was established in 2004 which facilitates the execution of **human development projects** to advance the fight against poverty and hunger in **developing countries**.
 - It is managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (**UNOSSC**).
- **Defence Grouping:** IBSAMAR is a joint multinational maritime exercise, among the Indian, Brazilian and South African navies which is an important part of defence cooperation among these countries.



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2. BRICS Grouping

- **Prelims** - BRICS Grouping
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- BRICS nations criticise protectionism, condemn Israeli strikes against Qatar during 80th session of UN General Assembly.

BRICS Grouping

- **Formation**

- In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers' in 2006.
- Founded in 2009.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.

- **BRICS**: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **New Members**: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, Indonesia.
- **Partner Countries**: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- **Facts**:
 - The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade.
 - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.
- **Objectives**:
 - Promote peace, security, and development in member countries and globally.
 - Reform international financial and governance institutions (e.g., IMF, World Bank) to reflect emerging economies' interests.
 - Enhance multilateral trade and investment, cooperation in various sectors (technology, finance, health).



→ Encourage people-to-people exchanges and cultural ties.

- **Key Initiatives:**

→ **New Development Bank (NDB)** : Established in 2014 at the BRICS summit in Fortaleza, Brazil. Provides funding for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies.

→ **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)**: A framework to support members in case of short-term balance of payment pressures.

→ **BRICS Business Council & Think Tank Council**: Strengthens economic ties and policy coordination.

- **Significance:**

→ Provides a platform for non-Western countries to voice their perspectives in global governance.

→ Promotes South-South cooperation.

→ Acts as a counterbalance to Western-dominated institutions like G7 and NATO.

→ Encourages a multipolar world order.

- **Challenges:**

→ Divergent national interests (e.g., India-China border disputes).

→ Economic and political differences may hinder deeper integration.

→ Criticism of lacking a clear institutional structure or binding charter.



3. Denmark and Norway

- **Prelims** - Location of Denmark and Norway
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Denmark



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Why in the news?

- Denmark, Norway report new drone sightings at military installations.

Denmark

- **Location:** Nordic country in Northern Europe.
- **Capital:** Copenhagen
- **Borders**
 - **Land Borders:** Germany
 - **Maritime Borders:** Sweden, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada (In Greenland Region).
- **Climate:** Temperate climate
- **Vegetation:** Boreal Forest

DENMARK



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Norway



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Why in the news?

- Denmark, Norway report new drone sightings at military installations.

Norway

- **Location:** Nordic country located on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe.
- **Capital:** Oslo
- **Border Countries :** Sweden, Finland and Russia
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Barents Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea.
- **Climate:** Subarctic Climate and Tundra Climate.
- **International Grouping:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Council of Europe and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

NORWAY



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4. Astrosat Mission

- **Prelims** - Astrosat Mission
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- Astrosat mission, India's first Space observatory completes 10 years.

Astrosat Mission

- **What is it?:**
 - ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated **multi-wavelength space observatory**, launched by ISRO in 2015 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota) using the PSLV-C30.
 - It marked India's entry into the league of space observatories like NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and ESA's XMM-Newton, but at a much lower cost.
- **Objectives of the Mission:**
 - To **study celestial sources** in multiple wavelengths (X-ray, Ultraviolet, Visible light).
 - To understand **high-energy processes** in binary star systems, star birth regions, supernovae, and active galactic nuclei.
 - To perform a **sky survey** in the ultraviolet region.
 - To monitor **variability of cosmic sources** over a wide range of timescales.
- **Payloads:**
 - **UVIT (Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope):**
 - ★ Operates in far UV, near UV, and visible bands.
 - ★ High-resolution imaging of star-forming regions, galaxies, nebulae.
 - **LAXPC (Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter):**
 - ★ Studies time variability of X-ray sources.
 - ★ Useful for detecting neutron stars, black holes, and X-ray binaries.
 - **SXT (Soft X-ray Telescope):** Provides spectra and images in the soft X-ray region.
 - **CZTI (Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager):**
 - ★ Hard X-ray detection (10–100 keV).
 - ★ Also helps in **Gamma-ray burst studies** and polarization measurements.



→ **SSM (Scanning Sky Monitor):** Monitors and detects transient X-ray sources.

- **Achievements:**

- Detected **ultraviolet light from galaxies** beyond the Milky Way.
- Contributed to the discovery of **highly variable X-ray sources**.
- Helped in the study of **gamma-ray bursts** and **black hole candidates**.
- Produced **multi-wavelength simultaneous data**, rare in global astronomy.
- Its **CZTI instrument** helped detect gravitational wave events (by studying associated gamma-ray bursts).

- **Significance:**

- Boosted India's **space-based astronomy capability**.
- Allowed **Indian scientists access** to a multi-wavelength observatory at affordable cost.
- Helped in **capacity building** for future space telescopes (e.g., ISRO's proposed **XPoSat**, Aditya-L1, etc.).
- Promoted **international collaboration**, with participation from Canadian, UK, and US institutions.



5. National Security Act (NSA) of 1980

- Prelims - National Security Act (NSA) of 1980
- Mains - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- Sonam Wangchuk, prominent climate activist and educationist of Ladakh was detained under the National Security Act of 1980

National Security Act (NSA) of 1980

- What is it?:
 - The **National Security Act (NSA)** was enacted in **1980** by the Parliament of India.
 - NSA empowers the **Central and State governments** to detain individuals to maintain **public order** and **national security**.
 - It replaced earlier preventive detention laws such as the **Preventive Detention Act, 1950** and the **Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), 1971**.
- Key Provisions:
 - **Preventive Detention Powers:** An individual can be detained to prevent them from acting in a manner prejudicial to-
 - ★ Defence of India
 - ★ Security of India
 - ★ Relations of India with foreign powers
 - ★ Security of the State
 - ★ Maintenance of public order
 - ★ Maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.
 - **Duration of Detention:**
 - ★ **Initial detention:** Up to 3 months without obtaining the opinion of an Advisory Board.
 - ★ **With Advisory Board's approval:** can be extended to 12 months (in practice, renewable periodically).
 - **Advisory Board:**
 - ★ Consists of **three High Court judges** (appointed by the President).



★ Reviews detention cases and gives opinion on justification of detention.

→ **Authority to Detain:** Central Government, State Governments, and certain empowered District Magistrates/Commissioners.

→ **No Judicial Proceedings Required Initially:** Detention under NSA is **preventive, not punitive**, hence no trial or charge sheet is necessary at the initial stage.

- **Constitutional Basis:**

→ **Preventive detention** is permitted under **Article 22** of the Indian Constitution.

→ Provides a legal framework, but is considered an **exception to the fundamental right to personal liberty under Article 21**.

- **Advantages:**

→ **Protection of National Security:**

★ Provides a **legal tool** to detain individuals whose activities threaten the **defence of India, security of the state, or foreign relations**.

★ Useful in countering **espionage, sabotage, and terrorist activities** before they materialize.

→ **Maintenance of Public Order:**

★ Helps prevent **riots, communal violence, and organized crime** by enabling pre-emptive detention of potential troublemakers.

★ Assists district administration in **controlling large-scale law-and-order disturbances** where ordinary criminal laws may be insufficient.

→ **Ensuring Essential Supplies and Services:** Can be invoked to stop black-marketing, hoarding, smuggling, and disruptions of essential commodities/services, thereby safeguarding community welfare.

→ **Prevention Rather than Punishment:** Unlike punitive laws, NSA is preventive in nature, aiming to avert crimes and threats before they occur, reducing chances of damage or loss of life.

→ **Emergency Situations Management:**



- ★ Gives governments a **swift response mechanism** in exceptional circumstances, when gathering evidence and conducting trials may be difficult or time-consuming.
- ★ E.g., during communal flare-ups, mass protests turning violent, or intelligence-based terror threats.
- **Empowers Both Centre and States:** Enables federal and state governments (and even District Magistrates) to act quickly without waiting for lengthy central approvals.
- **Criticism:**
 - **Violation of Fundamental Rights:** Allows deprivation of liberty without trial.
 - **Potential for Misuse:** Used against political opponents, journalists, or peaceful protesters.
 - **Vague Grounds:** Terms like “public order” and “national security” are broad and open to subjective interpretation.
 - **Judicial Scrutiny Limited:** Courts generally intervene only in cases of procedural lapses, not on the merits of detention.
- **Judicial Pronouncements:**
 - **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950):** Preventive detention upheld as constitutional under Article 22.
 - **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978):** Expanded Article 21; preventive detention still allowed but subject to fairness and reasonableness.
 - Justice Krishna Iyer in preventive detention cases Called the law a “necessary evil” in democracy.

6. Kaziranga National Park

- Prelims - Kaziranga National Park
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Kaziranga National Park

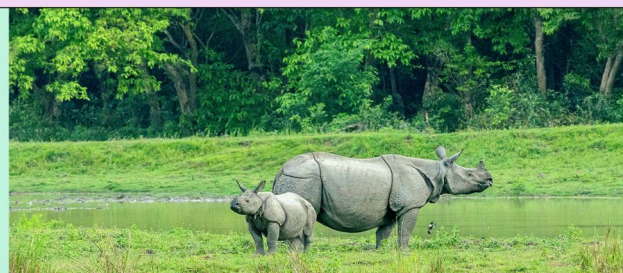


Why in the news?

- A new rapid survey report documented 283 species of insects and spiders in a woodland habitat of the Kaziranga National Park.

Kaziranga National Park

- **Location:** Assam
- **Formation:** It was created in the year of 1904.
- **Protection Status**
 - **1974:** National Park
 - **1985:** UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - **2007:** Tiger Reserve
- **Recognition:** The park has been identified as an Important Bird Area by the Birdlife International Society
- **Associated River:** River Brahmaputra, Diphlu River
- **Big Four Species:** Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger, and Asiatic water buffalo.



National Parks in Assam



- **Vegetation:** It is a mix of eastern wet alluvial grasslands, semi evergreen forests and tropical moist deciduous forests.
- **Fauna:** One Horned Rhino, Fishing Cat, Royal Bengal tiger, Barking deer, Hog deer, western hoolock gibbon.

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7. Moldova

- **Prelims** - Location of Moldova
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Moldova



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Why in the news?

- Moldovans cast ballots in a tense parliamentary election plagued by claims of Russian interference.

Moldova

- **Capital:** Chişinău
- **Location:** Moldova is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, on the northeastern corner of the Balkans.
- **Borders:** Romania, Ukraine and unrecognised breakaway state of Transnistria lies across the Dniester river



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