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Daily News Analysis

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1. Indo-Pacific Region, Its Significance and Challenges

- Prelims - Indo - Indo-Pacific Region, Its Significance and Challenges
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Indian Defence Minister calls for a rule-based, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific free from any type of coercion in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' conclave.

Indo - Pacific Region, Its Significance and Challenges

- **What is it?:** The Indo-Pacific region is a vast and strategically vital geographic area encompassing the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including key countries such as India, China, Japan, Australia, and the United States.
- **Significance of Indo-Pacific Region:**
 - **Economic Significance:**
 - ★ Accounts for over 60% of global GDP and 65% of global trade.
 - ★ Home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies (India, China, ASEAN, Australia).
 - ★ Maritime trade routes through Strait of Malacca, Hormuz, Lombok, and Sunda carry vital energy and goods.
 - **Strategic and Security Significance:**
 - ★ Maritime chokepoints are crucial for global energy security.
 - ★ The region is witnessing great-power competition mainly between the U.S. and China.
 - ★ Naval presence of multiple powers makes it the epicentre of strategic balance.
 - ★ Contains key military bases and maritime partnerships (QUAD, AUKUS, IORA).
 - **Political and Diplomatic Importance:**
 - ★ Home to ASEAN, SAARC, and Pacific Islands Forum, the major regional groupings shaping diplomacy.
 - ★ Serves as a platform for multilateralism and regional cooperation.
 - ★ India advocates for an open, inclusive, rules-based order ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight.



→ **Environmental and Humanitarian Importance:**

- ★ Region highly vulnerable to climate change, sea-level rise, and natural disasters.
- ★ Cooperation is vital for disaster resilience, blue economy, and sustainable fisheries.

● **Challenges in Indo-Pacific Region:**

→ **Geopolitical Rivalries:**

- ★ China's assertiveness in the South China Sea (militarisation, artificial islands).
- ★ U.S.–China competition shaping alliances and counter-strategies.
- ★ Territorial disputes among ASEAN states and East Asian powers.

→ **Maritime Security threats:**

- ★ Piracy, illegal fishing, trafficking, terrorism, and cyber threats.
- ★ Inadequate maritime domain awareness (MDA) among littoral states.

→ **Economic Fragmentation:**

- ★ Rival connectivity frameworks create divides. e.g.: BRI vs. IMEC/AAGC.
- ★ Dependence on China-centric supply chains raises vulnerability.

→ **Environmental Challenges:**

- ★ Frequent cyclones, coral bleaching, and sea-level rise threaten small island nations.
- ★ Need for sustainable exploitation of blue-economy resources.

→ **Institutional Weakness:**

- ★ Lack of a unified regional architecture; overlapping institutions cause policy incoherence.
- ★ Disparity in capacities among regional states.

● **Way Forward:**

- Strengthen rules-based maritime order through UNCLOS compliance.
- Promote ASEAN centrality and multilateral dialogue mechanisms.
- Deepen QUAD and IPOI cooperation for technology, health, and disaster management.
- Invest in Blue Economy, green shipping, and climate resilience.



- Expand regional connectivity and supply chain diversification through IMEC and AAGC.
- Enhance India's naval presence and capacity-building partnerships in the Indian Ocean and Pacific.



2. Digital Marine Fisheries Census 2025

- **Prelims** - Digital Marine Fisheries Census 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The launch of Marine Fisheries Census 2025 signifies a landmark step in achieving a fully digital and transformative shift in the nation's fisheries enumeration process.

Digital Marine Fisheries Census 2025

- **What is it?:** The National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 is India's first fully digitized fisheries census, marking a historic shift from traditional paper-based methods to a comprehensive digital data collection system.
- **Implementation:** The census is conducted by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, with **CMFRI as the nodal agency** and the Fishery Survey of India as the operational partner.
- **Coverage:**
 - The census covers approximately 1.2 million fisher households across around 5,000 marine fishing villages in 13 coastal states and Union Territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
 - It enumerates fishers, fishing crafts, gear, livelihood patterns, infrastructure like landing centers, harbors, markets, and processing plants.
- **Technological Intervention:**
 - Two mobile applications namely **VyAS Bharat** and **VyAS Sutra** developed by CMFRI facilitate real-time, geo-referenced data collection.
 - The digital platform ensures accurate, transparent, and efficient data gathering with instant verification during the enumeration.
 - The entire process is paperless, enhancing speed and minimizing errors.



3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- **Prelims** - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Leaders from 21 Asia-Pacific Rim nations concluded their annual summit with a joint declaration emphasizing the importance of regional economic cooperation and integration.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- **Establishment:** Established in 1989, in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies.
- **Founding Aim:** To promote **free and open trade and investment** across the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Nature:** A **regional economic forum**, not a treaty-based organization — decisions are **non-binding** and reached by **consensus**.
- **Membership:**
 - 21 economies, including the USA, China, Japan, Russia, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Mexico, Chile, New Zealand, and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).
 - India is not a member of the APEC.
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote regional economic integration through trade and investment liberalisation and encourage sustainable and inclusive growth.
 - Facilitate technological and economic cooperation.
 - Enhance supply-chain connectivity and digital trade and build resilient and secure regional economies.
- **India and APEC:**
 - **Application for Membership:** Filed in **1991**, but deferred due to membership freeze and concerns over geographic definition and economic integration readiness.
 - **Present Status:** India is an observer in the grouping.



- **Significance of APEC:**

- Represents **nearly 60% of world GDP** and **48% of global trade**.
- Acts as a bridge between developed and developing economies of the Pacific Rim.
- Platform for soft regionalism promoting voluntary cooperation instead of binding commitments.
- Encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient growth in the Asia-Pacific.

- **Strategic Relevance for India:**

- Strengthen Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific engagement.
- Expand trade and supply-chain integration with major economies.
- Enhance role in digital economy and sustainable growth frameworks.



4. Arya Samaj

- Prelims - Arya Samaj
- Mains - GS 1 - Modern India

Why in the news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that the Arya Samaj was a community of steadfast and devoted nationalists.

Arya Samaj

- **What was it?:** It emerged as a major socio-religious reform movement in 19th-century India, reacting to orthodoxy, superstition, and social evils.
- **Establishment:** Founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 at Bombay
- **Objectives:**
 - Reaffirm faith in the infallibility of the Vedas as the ultimate source of truth.
 - Promote monotheism and reject idol worship, ritualism, and caste discrimination.
 - Revive Vedic values of simplicity, morality, and truth.
 - Encourage education, especially women's education, and social upliftment.
- **Major Activities:**
 - Established Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) Schools and Colleges to provide modern education blended with Vedic teachings.
 - Advocated Hindi in Devanagari script as the national language.
 - Spread Vedic literature and rational thinking across India.
 - Promoted shuddhi (purification) movement to reconvert those who had left Hinduism.
- **Social and Political Impact:**
 - Helped shape modern Hindu identity and Hindu reform movements.
 - Strengthened nationalist consciousness through social reform.
 - Influenced leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, and Swami Shraddhanand.
 - The Shuddhi movement led to Hindu-Muslim tensions in some areas but also contributed to Hindu consolidation during the colonial period.



5. Georgia

- **Prelims** - Location of Georgia
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Georgia



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Why in the news?

- Georgia has rapidly emerged as a preferred destination for Indian medical aspirants, with education-related remittances rising to \$50.25 million in 2024–25.

Georgia

- **Location:** Georgia is a country located at the boundary of Eastern Europe and West Asia
- **Capital:** Tbilisi
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Black Sea.
- **Bordering Countries:** Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- **Topography:** The country is part of Caucasus mountains.

GEORGIA



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6. Alfvén Waves

- Prelims - Alfvén Waves
- Mains - GS 2 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- Studies confirmed the presence of Alfvén Waves in Solar Corona.

Alfvén Waves

- **What is it?:** Alfvén Waves are magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) waves- the oscillations that occur in a **plasma** (ionised gas) in the presence of a **magnetic field**.
- **Features:**
 - **Wave type:** Transverse waves- Oscillations perpendicular to the direction of propagation.
 - **Medium:** Requires **ionised gas or plasma** with a **magnetic field**.
 - **Energy transport:** Carries energy and momentum through plasma without significant mass transport.
- **Occurrence in Nature:**
 - Detected in the solar corona and solar wind, explaining how the corona remains millions of degrees hotter than the solar surface.
 - Earth's magnetosphere: Observed in auroral regions — they accelerate charged particles that produce northern and southern lights.
 - Found in interstellar and intergalactic mediums, accretion disks, and magnetized jets.
- **Applications:**
 - **Solar Space Research:** Explains solar wind acceleration and space weather phenomena affecting Earth's satellites and communication systems.
 - **Astrophysics:** Helps understand magnetic field dynamics in stars and galaxies.
 - **Plasma Physics and Fusion Research:** Crucial in controlling plasma behaviour in fusion energy experiments.
 - **Geophysics:** Provides insights into magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling processes.



7. Great Nicobar Island Development Project

- **Prelims** - Great Nicobar Island Development Project
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration has prepared a map for the denotification and renotification of tribal reserve land for the Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project, and will soon be finalizing the sites for setting up towers in these lands

Great Nicobar Island Development Project

- **Aim:** To transform the island into a global port-led hub, emphasizing strategic, economic, and eco-tourism development.
- **Vision:**
 - Create a "Global Port-Led City" with high-end tourism and strategic infrastructure.
 - Boost India's presence in the Indo-Pacific region by leveraging the island's geostrategic location.
- **Major Components:**
 - **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP):** Proposed at Galathea Bay to enhance India's maritime trade and reduce reliance on foreign ports.
 - **Greenfield Township:** Spread across 130 sq. km, incorporating eco-tourism facilities.
 - **Airport and Power Plant:** A dual-use military-civil airport under Indian Navy control.
 - **Shipbuilding and Repair Yard:** Proposed at Campbell Bay with 100 acres of land and a 500-meter seafront.
- **Clearances and Implementation:**
 - **Forest Clearance:** Stage I clearance granted in October 2022 for 130 sq. km of forest land.
 - **Environmental Clearances:** Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance granted in November 2022.



- **Executing Agency:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).
- **Impact of the Project on Indigenous Communities:**
 - **Displacement:** Indigenous communities face loss of ancestral lands due to deforestation and construction.
 - **Livelihood Threats:** Traditional fishing, hunting, and farming practices are at risk due to habitat destruction.
 - **Cultural Erosion:** Sacred sites and spiritual traditions are endangered by the development.
 - **Marginalization:** Economic displacement and forced assimilation may lead to further marginalization.
 - **Rights Ignored:** Lack of consultation and exclusion from decision-making undermine indigenous autonomy.
 - **Social Challenges:** Transition to modern systems disrupts traditional lifestyles and governance structures.
- **Common Positive Impacts:**
 - Boosts regional and national economic growth through infrastructure development.
 - Generates employment in construction, tourism, and ancillary sectors.
 - Strengthens India's strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - Enhances eco-tourism potential and attracts international tourists.
- **Common Negative Impacts:**
 - Irreversible ecological damage and loss of biodiversity.
 - Social alienation and marginalization of local communities.
 - Increases vulnerability to natural disasters due to ecological imbalance