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PLACES IN NEWS

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Places in News - World

1. Turkey

Why in the news?

- Turkey hosted second round of ceasefire talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Turkey

- **Location:** Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly on the Anatolian Peninsula in Western Asia, with a small portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Europe which is separated Bosphorus strait, Sea of Marmara and Dardanelles strait.
- **Capital:** Ankara
- **Bordering Countries:** Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq , Syria , Greece, Bulgaria and maritime border with Cyprus.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea.
- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate
- **International Relation:** Turkey is a founding member of grouping like the OECD , OIC , G - 20. Turkey is also member of NATO.



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2. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia

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Why in the news?

- Saudi Arabia has officially scrapped the decades-old Kafala (sponsorship) system.

Saudi Arabia

- Location:** Saudi Arabia is a west Asian country located in Arabian Peninsula.
- Capital:** Riyadh
- Border Countries:** Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen.
- Bordering Waterbodies:** Red Sea, Persian Gulf.
- Maritime Border**
 - Bahrain is an island country off its east coast.
 - The Gulf of Aqaba in the northwest separates Saudi Arabia from Egypt and Israel.
- Fact:** Saudi Arabia is the only country with a coastline along both the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- International Relations** - Saudi Arabia joined the UN in 1945 and is a founding member of the Arab League, Gulf Cooperation Council, Muslim World League, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation ,



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3. Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago



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Why in the news?

- U.S. warship arrived in Trinidad and Tobago for joint exercises near the coast of Venezuela raised concern in the region.

Trinidad and Tobago

- Location:** Southernmost island country in the Caribbean.
- Capital:** Port of Spain
- Largest Island in the Group:** Chaguanas
- Maritime Border**
 - Northeast off the coast of Venezuela.
 - South of Grenada, and 288 kilometres.
 - Southwest of Barbados.
- Climate:** Maritime tropical climate.
- International Grouping:** CARICOM



A map of Trinidad and Tobago showing the two main islands. The islands are labeled 'Trinidad' and 'Tobago'. The map includes labels for 'PORT-OF-SPAIN' (capital), 'Arima', 'Tunapuna', 'Point Lisas', 'Sangre Grande', 'Toco', 'Rio Claro', 'Guayaguayare', 'Point Fortin', 'Siparia', 'Pointe-à-Pierre', and 'San Fernando'. The map also shows the 'Caribbean Sea' to the north, the 'Gulf of Paria' to the west, and the 'North Atlantic Ocean' to the east. A scale bar at the top indicates 0, 15, 30 km and 0, 15, 30 mi.



A globe showing the location of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean Sea, with a green box highlighting the region.

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4. East Timor

Why in the news?

- East Timor become 11th member of ASEAN grouping

East Timor

- Location:** East Timor, officially known as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, is a small island nation in Southeast Asia.
- Capital:** Dili
- Geography:**
 - Lies in the **Lesser Sunda Islands** at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago.

- **Terrain:** Mountainous and tropical, prone to monsoon rainfall and drought cycles.
- Rich in **oil and natural gas reserves** under the Timor Sea.
- **Bordering Countries:** Bordered by **Indonesia** to the west and the **Timor Sea** to the south (across from Australia).
- **Membership in International Bodies:** ASEAN (member 2025), UN and CPLP

5. Philippines

Philippines

Why in the news?

- Malaysia handed over the chairmanship of ASEAN to the Philippines, with territorial disputes in the South China Sea set to dominate its agenda when Manila takes charge in 2026.

Philippines

- Location:** It is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia which is situated in the western Pacific Ocean
- Capital:** Manila
- Bordering Waterbodies:** South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Celebes Sea.
- Maritime Border Countries:** Taiwan, Japan, Palau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and China.
- Highest mountain:** Mount Apo
- Geographical Significance:** Situated on the western fringes of the **Pacific Ring of Fire** and it is a seismically active zone
- Climate:** **Tropical maritime climate** that is usually hot and humid.
- International Cooperation**
 - Philippines is a **founding member of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)**, and is a member of the East Asia Summit, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Group of 24, and the Non-Aligned Movement.
 - The Philippines has claims in the Spratly Islands which overlap with claims by China, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam

PHILIPPINES

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6. Sudan

Sudan



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Why in the news?

- Reports emerged detailing ethnically driven atrocities in the western Sudanese city of El-Fasher following its capture by paramilitary forces.

Sudan

- Location:** Sudan is an East African country.
- Capital:** Khartoum
- Border Countries:** Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Red Sea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan.
- Bordering Waterbodies:** Red Sea, Lake Nubia on the Sudanese-Egyptian border.
- Rivers:** The **Blue Nile** and **White Nile** rivers meet in Khartoum to form the **Nile**, which flows northwards through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Climate:** Savannah Climate



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7. Cyprus

Why in the news?

- Cyprus Foreign Minister visited India, to advance the India–Cyprus strategic partnership.

Cyprus

- **Location:** It is an island country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.
- **Capital:** Nicosia
- **Share Maritime Border with Countries:** Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, Egypt.
- **Climate**
 - Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, after the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia
 - The region has Mediterranean climate



Cyprus

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8. Tajikistan

Tajikistan


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Why in the news?

- India has concluded its operations at Tajikistan's Ayni airbase following the expiration of a bilateral arrangement nearly four years ago and withdraws its forces.




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9. Jamaica

Jamaica


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Why in the news?

- Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica and caused massive destructions.




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