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PLACES IN NEWS

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Places in News - World

1. Turkey

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 by the 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 a member of NATO.



A detailed map of Turkey showing its geographical location. The map highlights the Anatolian Peninsula in Western Asia and the small portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Europe. Major cities like Istanbul, Ankara, Samsun, Trabzon, Hopa, Erzurum, Van, Diyarbakir, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, Iskenderun, Antalya, Konya, Karaman, Eskişehir, Bursa, Balıkesir, Izmir, and Manisa are marked. The map also shows the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Bosphorus strait, Sea of Marmara, and Dardanelles strait. Surrounding countries like Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Greece are labeled. A scale bar indicates distances up to 100 km.



A small globe showing the world, with Turkey highlighted in red to indicate its global location.

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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 locate 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



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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




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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

400 Km
400 Miles

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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 a 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

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

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8. Tajikistan


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Tajikistan

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.


Tajikistan

- Location:** Tajikistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia.
- Capital:** Dushanbe
- Borders:** Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China.
- International Groupings** - Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), SCO.



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9. Jamaica


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Jamaica

Why in the news?

- Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica and caused massive destructions.

Jamaica

- Location:** Jamaica is an island country in the Caribbean.
- Capital:** Kingston
- Maritime Borders:** Cuba, Hispaniola (the island containing Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and Cayman Islands (a British Overseas Territory).
- Fact:** It is the third-largest island in the Greater Antilles and the Caribbean, after Cuba and the island of Hispaniola.
- Climate:** Tropical Climate
- Associated Major International Grouping:** G77, Non Alignment Movement, CARICOM.



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