



Current Affairs Dated On 10 Sep 2018

## **General Studies-1**

### **Bogibeel Bridge:**

#### **Why in News?**

The Brahmaputra was till 1962 the only river in India that had not been bridged along its entire length either for road or railway.

The river, more than 10 km wide in several stretches, now awaits the completion of its fourth and easternmost span — the country's longest road-rail bridge at 4.94 km — that India's defence forces and residents of the eastern half of the Northeast have been demanding for almost five decades.

#### **Significance of the Bridge:**

- The Bogibeel bridge will usher in a new era of economic development in the region, apart from strengthening national security in the border areas.
- The bridge will facilitate road and rail connectivity between the north and south banks of the Brahmaputra in the eastern part of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- This is very strategic from the defence point of view, and the Army has been demanding it for years
- The bridge classification is on the higher side for movement of heavy military equipment.
- It will drastically cut time for induction of troops and logistics during a war-like situation.

#### **Concerns:**

- The Inland Water Transport (IWT) Department of Assam fears that the Bogibeel bridge will impact ferry services to a large extent.
- At present, one government vessel and 24 private boats ferry 2,500 people, 146 cars and 84 two-wheelers on an average every day



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**General Studies-2**

**4<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Accreditation(WOSA-2018)**

**Context:**

Union Minister for HRD ShriPrakashJavadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi today.

Speaking on this occasion the Minister said that 'Ratings and Rankings' both the quality hallmark for any educational institutions therefore accreditation becomes very important.

**Background**

- The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It is engaged in quality assurance of the programs offered by the professional and technical institutions in India through accreditation.
- NBA has been accorded Permanent Signatory Status of Washington Accord since June, 2014.
- It has adopted internationally implemented outcome based assessment and accreditation, to ensure that the graduates of the NBA accredited programs are globally competent and relevant.

**About WOSA**

World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA) is a biennial Summit organised by NBA, which provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.

**WOSA 2018**

- Continuing this tradition, NBA is organising WOSA 2018 from **07<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.**
- The focus of WOSA 2018 is on **"CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION"**.



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### **Expected Outcomes**

- The participants will gain a greater understanding of prevailing global accreditation practices.
- The educational institutions will have an opportunity to interact with industry, policy makers and accreditation agencies from the globe and learn about their perspectives.
- It will also be a unique chance for the educational institutions to develop and fortify ties with the industry.
- Industry would be able to interact with educational institutions and accrediting agencies for exchanging views on their requirements of quality manpower and accreditation parameters.
- Accreditation agencies from across the world will have a common platform to share best practices, insights and to enhance their understanding of accreditation.
- The policy makers and regulatory bodies will have an in-depth appreciation of education systems operating in different countries and their strengths and weaknesses.

### **BIMSTEC military exercise**

#### **Why in News?**

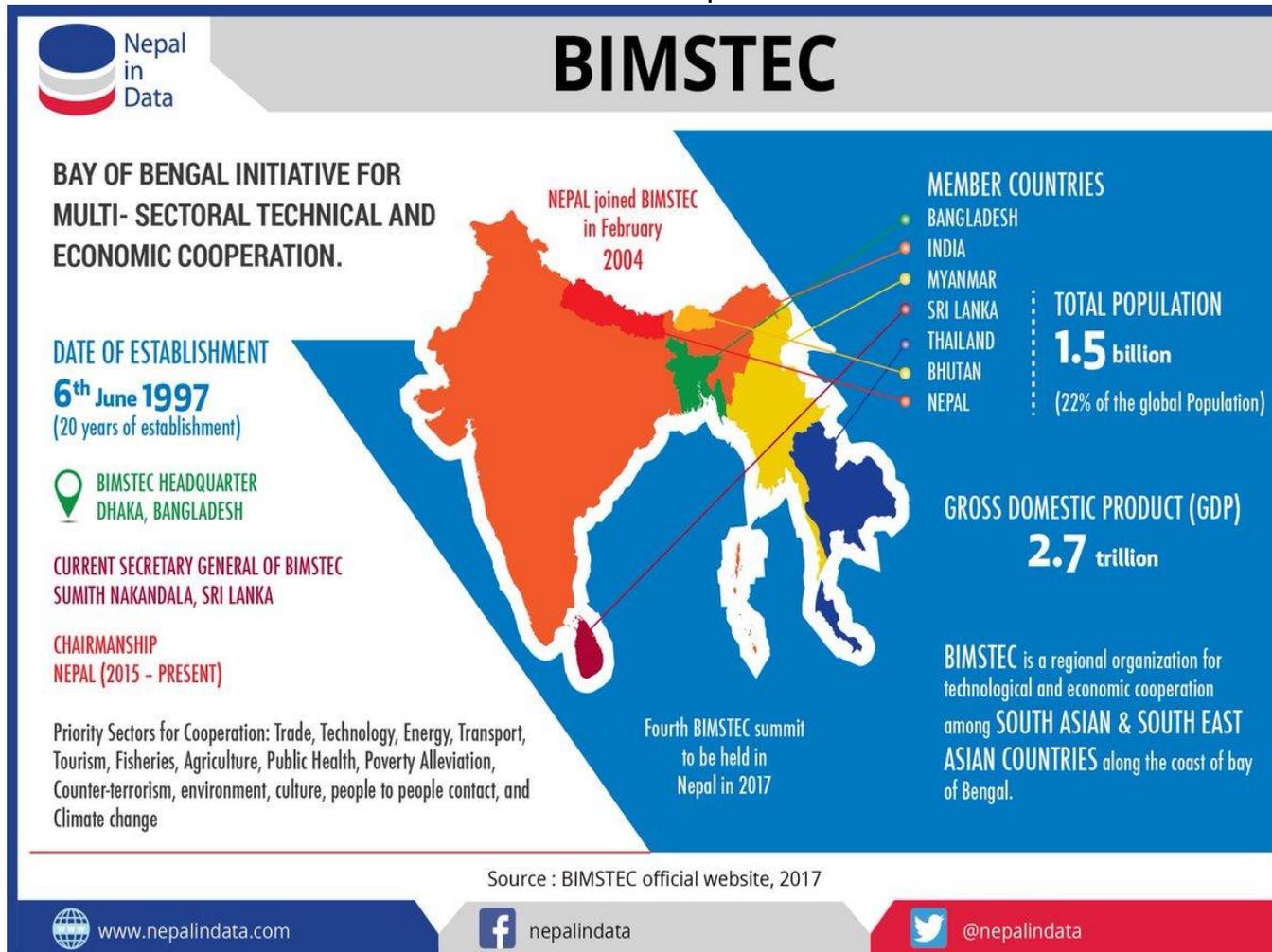
The [Nepal](#) Army has withdrawn from the first BIMSTEC military exercise to be held in India following a political row in the country over the participation in the event, a media report said on Saturday.

Prime Minister K.P. Oli asked the national defence force not to participate in the drill, compelling the Nepal Army leadership to rollback its earlier decision to take part in the first-ever military exercise of the regional grouping initiated by India.

#### **About BIMSTEC:**



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## G20 Education Ministers and Joint Ministerial Meeting

### Why in News?

The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh lead a high level delegation to the G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting as well as Joint Ministerial Meeting held at Mendoza, Argentina on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.

It was the first ever meeting of Education Ministers in the history of G-20.



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## **About G-20:**

- The **G20** (or **Group of Twenty**) is an [international](#) forum for the [governments](#) and [central bank](#) governors from [Argentina](#), [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [China](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Mexico](#), [Russia](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [South Africa](#), [South Korea](#), [Turkey](#), the [United Kingdom](#), the [United States](#) and the [European Union](#).
- Founded in 1999, the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization.
- The G20 [heads of government](#) or [heads of state](#) have periodically conferred at summits since their initial meeting in 2008, and the group also hosts separate meetings of [finance ministers](#) and [foreign ministers](#) due to the expansion of its agenda in recent years.

## **General Studies-3**

### **Impact of Falling Rupee:**

#### **Context:**

With the rupee recently weakening past ₹70 to a dollar and hovering about that level since, concerns over the impact of the devaluation on economic indicators are intensifying.

Here is what happens when the rupee falls:

#### **What happens to inflation?**

- One of the first visible effects of currency depreciation is the country's imports become more expensive and exports cheaper.
- The reason is simple. It takes more rupees to pay for the same quantum of imports and fewer dollars for a buyer to pay for the same quantity of exports.



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- More expensive imports are likely to drive inflation upward, especially in India where input products constitute a large part of our imports.
- In addition, a depreciating rupee also impacts the oil import bill since it costs more rupees per barrel of oil, which plays its own part in pushing inflation up.

### **What happens to GDP growth?**

- This is a more complex question given the number of factors that affect GDP growth.
- On the one hand, costlier inputs and the subsequent increase in the prices of finished goods should have a positive impact on GDP.
- But the consequent decrease in demand due to higher prices could nullify this.
- A depreciating rupee certainly affects the exports and imports, since exports are likely to receive a boost while imports could flag somewhat.
- It remains to be seen what impact a reduction in household consumption would have on demand, especially when the festive season is nearing.

### **What does this mean for you?**

- A depreciating rupee means higher prices of goods and services, costlier petrol and trips abroad turning more expensive.
- On the flip side, the domestic tourism could grow as more tourists visit India since their currency now buys more here.
- In the medium term, export-oriented industries may also create more jobs.

## **Invasive Species**

### **Why in News?**

Last week, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, hearing a public interest litigation petition seeking the removal of invasive trees from over 22,000 hectares in the Western Ghats here, directed the National Board for Wildlife to look into the issue and pass appropriate orders.



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## **What are they?**

- An **invasive species** is a species that is not native to a specific location (an [introduced species](#)), and that has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.
- Such invasive species may be either plants or animals and may disrupt by dominating a region, [wilderness areas](#), particular habitats, or [wildland–urban interface](#) land from loss of natural controls (such as [predators](#) or [herbivores](#)).
- The European Union defines "Invasive Alien Species" as those that are, firstly, outside their natural distribution area, and secondly, threaten [biological diversity](#).

## **Invasive Species in India:**

While invasive species of flora like eucalyptus, wattle, pine and cypress trees, as well as *Lantana camara* plants, are proliferating across the Nilgiris upper slopes, *Prosopis juliflora*, parthenium and eupatorium have spread on the biosphere's lower slopes.

Weeds like scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and gorse have also begun to spread profusely in habitats like Avalanche, Upper Bhavani and the Mukurthi National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri tahr, the State animal.

## **Threats from Invasive Species:**

- Invasive species do not allow any shrub or local species of grass to grow around them.
- They grow in dense fashion, leaving little space for wildlife to pass through.
- A resin oozes from some species during the monsoon, which turns the soil acidic.
- Invasive species like Lantana spread all over an area and create a mat-like structure.
- They lead to retrogression and a change in the original vegetation in the longer run, degrading and destroying biodiversity.



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- In the process, herbivores such as the Indian gaur, spotted deer and sambar do not get the required grass, shrubs and plants they feed on. If the herbivores are affected, carnivores like tigers and panthers also suffer.
- Some of the invasive trees are not deep rooted and get easily uprooted during storms and fall on roads, creating problems for users.