

26-03-2022

Solomon Islands

Why in Newspapers?

Recently leaked papers have revealed the drafting of China's security agreement with the Solomon Islands. The move has alarmed neighbouring Australia along with its other western allies.

Quick Issue?

- Leaked papers about the deal have highlighted that China could set up a military base on an island north of Australia.
- Australia is the largest aid provider and main defence partner of this small island and has expressed concern about it.
- The Solomon Islands are yet to confirm the details that were highlighted in the leaked draft agreement.
- The Solomon Islands, however, issued a statement saying that it is expanding security arrangements with other countries including China.
- Leaked papers have revealed a framework that could allow China to deploy forces on the island to protect projects being developed by China on the Solomon Islands.
- The Solomon Islands may also request China for armed police, police, military personnel, armed forces and other law enforcement forces. There is also a provision for stopping Chinese ships and carrying out logistic replenishment.





Historical Background?

- The Solomon Islands is a country in the Oceania region and consists of six smaller islands.
- Honiara is the capital of this country and is located on the largest island named Guadalcanal.
- Manasseh Sogavare is the Prime Minister of this country, and Sir David Vunagi is the Governor-General.
- The Solomon Islands are a nation located in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, consisting of more than 990 islands. Its capital is Honiara, which is located on the island of Guadalcanal.
- It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and atolls.
- Melanesia is a sub-region of Oceania in the south-western Pacific Ocean.
- The country comprises most of the Solomon Range with the exception of Buka and Bougainvillea, which form an autonomous region called Papua New Guinea at the northwest end.
- The island is a constitutional monarchy, in which the British monarch is represented by a governor-general, who serves as the ceremonial head of state.
- The natural vegetation of the Solomon Islands includes lowlands and tropical forests. Major plant communities include coastal fringes, mangrove forests, freshwater marsh forests, lowland rain forests and montane rain forests. Seasonal dry forests and grasslands are found on the northern (leeward) slopes of Guadalcanal.

Likely question asked in preliminary exam

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. The Solomon Islands is a nation located in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, consisting of more than 990 islands. Its capital is Honiara, which is located on the island of Guadalcanal.
2. The country comprises most of the Solomon Range with the exception of Buka and Bougainvillea, which form an autonomous region called Papua New Guinea at its north-western end.
3. Honiara is the capital of this country and is located on the largest island named Guadalcanal.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true -?

(A) 01 and 02

(B) 02 and 03

(C) 01 and 03

(D) All of the above

Answer - (D) All of the above



World Air Quality Report-2021

Why in Newspapers?

Recently the 2021 World Air Quality Report was released, the report presented an overview of the state of global air quality in 2021.

Released by IQAir, a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5.

Quick Issue?

- Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021. Bangladesh recorded an average PM 2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic meter in 2021, while the World Health Organization recommended a maximum permissible level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
- Earlier in 2018, 2019 and 2020 also Bangladesh was found to be the most polluted country in the world.
- Data shows that not a single country in the world has managed to meet the WHO's air quality standard in 2021.
- Worldwide, 93 cities reported PM 2.5 levels at 10 times the recommended level.
- Among cities, Dhaka was the second most polluted city in the world, with PM 2.5 levels of 78.1, just below New Delhi, which had a PM 2.5 level of 85.1 in 2021.
- New Delhi has remained the world's most polluted capital for the fourth year in a row.
- According to the report, in 2021, India was ranked 11th among the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia.
- 35 Indian cities have been listed under the worst air quality tag for 2021 by the index.
- Bhiwadi, Rajasthan tops the list followed by Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS?

WHO

- The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' special agency for the health sector, was established in the year 1948.
- It's headquarter is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- At present 194 countries are members of WHO. It has six regional offices in addition to having offices in 150 countries.
- It is an intergovernmental organization and generally works in collaboration with the health ministries of its member states.
- WHO, providing leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda and sets various benchmarks and benchmarks.
- WHO clarifies evidence-based policy options, provides technical assistance to countries, and monitors and evaluates health trends.
- WHO started work on April 7, 1948, so at present, World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April.



Historical Background ?

- Air pollution is now considered the world's biggest environmental health threat, causing 7 million deaths worldwide each year.
- Air pollution causes and exacerbates many diseases ranging from asthma to cancer, lung diseases and heart disease.
- The estimated daily economic cost of air pollution is estimated at \$8 billion (USD), or 3 to 4 percent of gross world product.

Likely question asked in preliminary exam

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. Air pollution is now recognized as the world's greatest environmental health threat, causing 7 million deaths worldwide each year.
2. Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021. Bangladesh recorded an average PM 2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic meter in 2021, while the World Health Organization recommended a maximum permissible level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
3. Earlier in 2018, 2019 and 2020 also Bangladesh was found to be the most polluted country in the world.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true -?

- (A) 01 and 02 (B) 02 and 03
(C) 01 and 03 (D) All of the above

Answer - (D) All of the above

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