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International Relations

(2-Minute Series)

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1. Terrorist Organisations in West Asia

Hezbollah

- Shia Islamist political party and militant group based in Lebanon
- Jihad Council is its paramilitary wing
- The group along with its military wing is considered a terrorist organisation by the US, Israel, Canada, the Arab League, GCC and few other countries
- Germany and EU outlawed only Hezbollah's military wing
- It was founded by Muslim clerics and funded by Iran primarily to harass Israel

Houthi Movement

- Officially called Ansar Allah, is an Islamic political and armed movement that
- emerged from Sa'dah in northern Yemen, bordering Saudi Arabia, in 1990s
- It is called Houthis because its founder is from the Houthi Tribe
- They are of the Zaidi sect
 - ✓ A branch of Shia Islam
- They are controlling around a third of Yemeni territory including the major population centres
- They have been suspected of drone attacks that targeted oil facilities in Saudi Arabia

Badr Organisation

- It is a Shiite political party and paramilitary force that acts as Iran's oldest proxy in Iraq
- Formed in 1983, it served as the military wing of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), an Iraqi Shiite party aimed at bringing Iran's Islamic Revolution to Iraq
- Its leader Jamal Jaafar Ibrahim also died in the US drone strike in Iraq that killed Qasem Soleimani of Iran

2. Strategic Partnership

- It is a bilateral relationship more important than others, but stops short of an actual alliance
- The terms strategic implies a future convergence of interests in areas that are vital
 - ✓ Security and Defence
 - ✓ Investment and Banking
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Health and Agriculture
- It is an effort to underline commitment to build a longer-term relationship ... by deepening ties and promoting convergence in external policies on issues of mutual interest

Objective

- Given that resort to war is undesirable owing to economic interdependence as well as the presence of nuclear weapons, the aim of major strategic partnerships is to strengthen defences against marginal conflict, convey a determination to stand up to a strategic adversary and, overall, generate a persuasive environment that discourages potential intimidation

Features

- Unlike alliances, they do not demand commitments to a partners disputes with other countries
 - ✓ Both retain the flexibility to continue political engagement and economic cooperation with their common adversary
- They avoid entrapment, or being dragged into a partner's disputes and potentially into conflict
- Regular high-level political and military interactions facilitate a collaborative approach to strategic policies over a range of economic and military activities

India's Strategic Partners

- Strategic partnership model downplays non-alignment in favour of strategic autonomy
- All strategic partners do no entail same level of engagement – rather there is a hierarchy
- India has more than 30 Strategic Partners
 - ✓ Some of the important SPs – Russia, US, France, UK, Germany, Japan, China etc.
- In the last few years, India inked SP pacts with Rwanda and Mexico (talks underway)

3. Reciprocating Territory

Context

- Ministry of Law and Justice declared United Arab Emirates to be a reciprocating territory under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code 1908

What is 'Reciprocating Territory'?

- It means any territory outside India which the Central Government may, by notification, declare to be a reciprocating territory for the purposes of
- Orders passed by certain designated courts from such a place can be implemented in India, by filing a copy of the decree concerned in a District Court here
 - ✓ Courts so designated are called 'superior Courts'
- A decree passed by "a superior Court" in any "reciprocating territory" can be executed in India by filing a certified copy of the decree in a District Court, which will treat the decree as if it has been
- passed by itself
- The scope of the Section is restricted to decrees for payment of money, not being sums payable "in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty". It also cannot be based on an arbitration award, even if such an award is enforceable as a decree or judgment.

Importance

- It will help bring down the time required for executing decrees between the two countries
- Indian expatriates in the UAE would no longer be able to seek safe haven in their home country if they are convicted in a civil case in UAE

Nutshell

- Now, civil judgements of UAE courts are enforceable in India. This means that the decrees passed by the superior courts of UAE can be now enforced in India as if they have been passed by the local courts in India