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CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

20th January - 25th January



BusinessLine



1. UN Military Observer Groups in India - Pakistan

Why in News?

- Pakistan has demanded that the **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)** be allowed along the Line of Control (LoC).
 - Pakistan also wanted US intervention in the Kashmir issue to help de-escalate tensions with India and prevent the possibility of nuclear conflict.
 - **India has always rejected the third party role** in its bilateral relationship with Pakistan.

UN Military Observer Group in India-Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

- It was established in January 1949.
- After the first war in Kashmir (1947-1948), India approached the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to bring the conflict in Kashmir to the notice of Security Council members.
- In January 1948, the UNSC adopted Resolution 39, establishing the three-member **United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)** to investigate and mediate the dispute.
- In April 1948, by its Resolution 47, the UNCIP was reconstituted as UNMOGIP.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 47

- It is concerned with the **resolution of the Kashmir conflict**.
- According to it, **Pakistan was to withdraw its nationals** who had entered the State for the purpose of fighting and to prevent future intrusions.
- The five member UNMOGIP reconstituted through this resolution **urged India and Pakistan to hold a plebiscite** after the restoration of law and order.
- UNMOGIP was meant to supervise the **Cease Fire Line (CFL)** established in Jammu and Kashmir in July 1949 under the Karachi Agreement.
- UNMOGIP is funded through the UN's regular budget.

Karachi Agreement

- After the 1st Indo-Pak armed conflict in 1948, under the supervision of the UNCIP, military representatives of both Pakistan and India met in Karachi and signed the Karachi Agreement on 27 July 1949.
- It established a **cease-fire line (CFL) in Kashmir**.

India's stand on Resolution 47

- India rejected the **UNSC Resolution 47** and maintained that the resolution ignored the military invasion by Pakistan and placed both

nations on an equal diplomatic ground as a dismissal of Pakistan's aggression.

- The **Instrument of Accession (IoA) signed by the Maharaja of Kashmir** was ignored in the resolution.

Pakistan's stand on Resolution 47

- It objected to even the minimum presence of Indian forces in Kashmir, as mandated by the resolution.
- It wanted equal representation in the state government for the dominant party in Pakistani-held Kashmir i.e the Muslim Conference.

Status on UNMOGIP

- **India's stand on UNMOGIP**
 - The **mandate of UNMOGIP had lapsed** since it related specifically to the **ceasefire line under the Karachi Agreement**.
 - India has maintained that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the **Simla Agreement** and the consequent establishment of the Line of Control (LoC).
- **Pakistan's stand:** Pakistan did not accept India's position.
- **UN's Stand:** Given the disagreement between the two parties over UNMOGIP's mandate and functions, the UNMOGIP could be terminated only by a decision of the Security Council.
- Despite their differences with the provisions of Resolution 47, both India and Pakistan welcomed the UNMOGIP and agreed to work with it.

Simla Agreement

- It followed from the **Bangladesh Liberation War** in 1971 that led to the independence of Bangladesh.
- India and Pakistan **signed it in July 1972**.
- It established a **Line of Control (LoC)** in Kashmir which, with minor deviations, followed the same course as the ceasefire line established by the Karachi Agreement.
- India and Pakistan mutually agreed on certain principles that both sides would adhere to while managing relations with each other.
 - These emphasized respect for each other's **territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference** in each other's internal affairs, respect for each others unity, political independence, sovereign equality, and abjuring hostile propaganda.
 - The two countries resolved to solve their differences by peaceful means, bilateral means or other means mutually agreed upon by them.

2. Integrated Check Post

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India along with the Prime Minister of Nepal jointly inaugurated the **second Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Jogbani (Bihar)-Biratnagar (Nepal)**.

Key Points

- Jogbani-Biratnagar is equipped with modern facilities and is an important trade point between the two countries.
- It was built with Indian assistance to facilitate trade and people's movement across the India-Nepal border.
- This in line with India's Neighbourhood First Policy. Improving cross connectivity projects of Road, Rail and Transmission lines in Nepal, is an important aspect of the policy.
 - India played the role of the first responder in relief and rescue operations in Nepal during the after the earthquake in 2015.

3. Iran to Pull Out of NPT

Why in News?

Iran has warned to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if the European Nations refer the dispute over its atomic programme to the **UN Security Council**.

- Iran has criticised **Britain, France and Germany** for failing to live up to their promises to ease the impacts of U.S sanctions as promised in the **EU-Iran payment vehicle INSTEX**.

Iran Nuclear Deal 2015

Background:

- In 2015, Iran agreed a long-term deal on its nuclear programme with a group of world powers known as the P5+1
 - USA
 - UK
 - France
 - China
 - Russia
 - Germany
- United States announced its withdrawal from the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** also known as Iran Nuclear Deal on May 8, 2018, saying that the **deal is flawed as it gives Iran access to billions of dollars but does not address Iran's support for groups the US considers terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah**.

Aftermath of US withdrawal:

- **Germany, France and Britain** came together and entered into a trade mechanism with Iran known as **INSTEX**.
- The mechanism has been designed to **circumvent U.S. sanctions** against trade with Iran by avoiding the use of the dollar.
- Amid rising tensions Germany, France and Britain declared that Iran was violating the 2015 pact and have launched a dispute mechanism that could eventually see the matter referred back to the Security Council and the reimposition of UN sanctions.

Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT):

- The NPT is an international treaty drafted and negotiated by the **Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament**, a UN-sponsored organisation based in Switzerland.
- **Objectives:**
 - Its main objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
 - To promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
 - The Treaty represents the **only binding commitment** in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
 - **Nuclear-weapon states** parties under the NPT are defined as those that manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device before **January 1, 1967**.

India's concern regarding NPT:

- India is one of the only five countries that either **did not sign the NPT** or signed but withdrew later, thus becoming part of a list that includes **Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan**.
- India argued that treaties like NPT were selectively applicable to only non-nuclear powers and legitimized the monopoly of nuclear power by a few.
- Despite being a non-party, India abides by the principles and objectives of the NPT, including its nuclear disarmament aspirations.