



Lucknow Declaration

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Why in News

India and 50 African countries adopted the ‘**Lucknow Declaration**’ at **first India – Africa Defence Minister’s Conclave**.

The Conclave was held **on the sidelines of the ongoing DefExpo 2020** (5th to 9th February, 2020) in **Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.

Highlights of the Declaration

- **Peace and Security**

- All the signatories committed to continue their collaboration in the fields of peace and security including conflict prevention, resolution, management and peacebuilding.
- It also aims to enhance the role of women in peacekeeping.

- **Maritime Security**

To exchange expertise and trainers, strengthening regional and continental early warning capacities and mechanisms.

- **Terrorism**

- Terrorism is a major threat in the region and thus aims to take resolute action in rooting out terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, eliminating financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists.
- It also urges the international community to envisage the adoption of the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** in the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.

- **Importance of Indo-Pacific:**

To encourage enhanced cooperation between India and Africa on the evolving **concept of Indo-Pacific**.

- **India's SAGAR:**

It also welcomes the African Unions' vision for peace and security in Africa that coincides with India's vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region)**.

- SAGAR is an articulation of **India's vision for the Indian Ocean**.
- SAGAR has elements such as enhancement of capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories & interests; deepening economic and security cooperation in the littoral; action to deal with natural disasters and maritime threats like piracy, terrorism.

- **Compliance at UNSC:**

To strengthen the UN Counter-Terrorism mechanisms and to ensure strict compliance with the the **UN Security Council** sanctions regime on terrorism.

Origin and Status of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)

- India has pushed for an intergovernmental convention to **enhance prosecution and extradition of terrorists since 1996**.
- Although consensus eludes towards the adoption of the terrorism convention, discussions have yielded three separate protocols that aim to tackle terrorism:
 - International Convention for the Suppression of **Terrorist Bombings**, adopted on 15 December 1997;
 - International Convention for the Suppression of the **Financing of Terrorism**, adopted on 9 December 1999;
 - International Convention for the Suppression of **Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**, adopted on 13 April 2005.

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