



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting



- The **12th meeting of the [Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee \(MIDCOM\)](#)** took place in New Delhi on 19th September 2023.
- The meeting reviewed the outcomes of two sub-committee meetings, namely the **Sub-Committee on Military Cooperation (27th July 2023)** and the **Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science Technology and Industry Cooperation (18th September 2023)**.
- The Defence Secretary of India shared an **8-point proposal** with the Malaysian side to expand cooperation between India and Malaysia on a wide range of areas such as **Government to government-level engagement, Tri-Service cooperation, Training, [UN Peacekeeping](#), Bilateral Services Engagement, Defence Industrial Cooperation, Research & Development and Regional/ Sub-Regional Engagements**.
- Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to **fully implement the Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, emphasizing mutual trust, common interests, and shared values of democracy and the [rule of law](#).

Read more: [India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation](#)

Biohacking

- Biohacking has gained more attention and popularity in recent years, it is the practice of **modifying or enhancing one's own body or biology** using various methods, such as diet, supplements, devices, implants, or genetic engineering.
 - Biohacking can have different goals, such as **improving health, performance, well-being, or appearance, or exploring the limits and possibilities of human nature**.
 - The most well-known type of **biohacking is [genetic engineering](#)**, where individuals experiment with new technologies to **enhance their physical appearance or capabilities**.
- However, biohacking also raises ethical and safety concerns, particularly when individuals engage in risky or unproven procedures.

String Technology and its Impact on Lithium Production

A new technology called "**String**" has emerged, with the potential to streamline the extraction of **lithium**, a crucial component in batteries used in smartphones and electric vehicles.

- Lithium production is a **resource intensive and time-consuming process** as most of the Lithium produced in the world is extracted from Brine Reservoirs, located in Salt flats.
- String Technology **involves the use of porous fibres twisted into strings**, which have been meticulously engineered.
- These **strings possess a water-loving (hydrophilic) core** and a water-repelling surface.
- When one end of the string is immersed in a saltwater solution, **capillary action is initiated**, mimicking the way trees transport water from their roots to their leaves.
- As the water evaporates from the string's surface, it leaves behind salt ions, including sodium and lithium. Over time, as the **salts become increasingly concentrated, they form sodium chloride and lithium chloride crystals**, which can be easily harvested.
- Thus, completing the process of Lithium production by String Technology.

Read More:- [Lithium Metal and Its Production](#) and [Battery Electric Vehicles](#)

Azerbaijan's Interference in Nagorno-Karabakh



Azerbaijan launched an anti-terrorist operation in the **Armenia-backed breakaway enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh**.

- The region has long been at the centre of tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia, leading to two wars for its control. The last large-scale conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh lasted for six weeks in 2020 before a Russian-brokered truce. The ceasefire saw Armenia cede swathes of territory it had controlled since the 1990s.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a **mountainous and heavily forested region** that under international law is recognised as part of Azerbaijan.
- However, **ethnic Armenians who constitute the vast majority** of the population there reject Azeri rule (the legal system of Azerbaijan).
- After **Azerbaijan's troops were pushed out of the region** following a war in the 1990s, these ethnic Armenians have been in administrative control of Nagorno-Karabakh, with support from Armenia.
- The self-declaration of independence by Nagorno-Karabakh in September 1991 in the backdrop of an imminent collapse of the USSR resulted in a war between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh — supported by Armenia.

Read More:- [Nagorno-Karabakh region](#)

