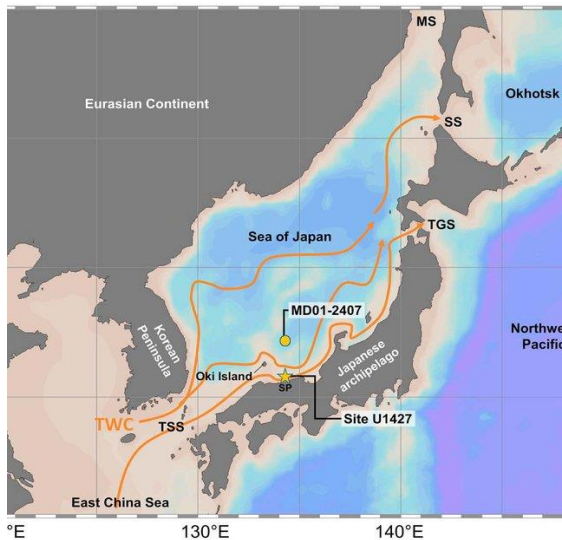


## Heatwaves in china and its impact

- China has logged its hottest August since records began, state media reported on Tuesday, following an unusually intense summer heat wave that parched rivers, scorched crops and triggered isolated blackouts.
- As a result of the drought and the increasing power consumption due to the heat, there was a resulting energy crisis of which several factories had to be shut down. The heat wave also caused far-reaching effects on the country's economy.
- Because of the drought and persistent heat, there were more forest fires in China, particularly in the Chongqing region.
- Also because of the lack of rain and the persistent heat, the level of the Yangtze dropped sharply, and the Three Gorges Dam was opened as a result to direct water into that river. It has been reported that silver iodide was used to form clouds in Anhui and other provinces.
- Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, in Nanchang, East China's Jiangxi Province has been reduced to just 25% of its usual size due to extreme weather conditions, causing a major drought.

## Sea of Japan

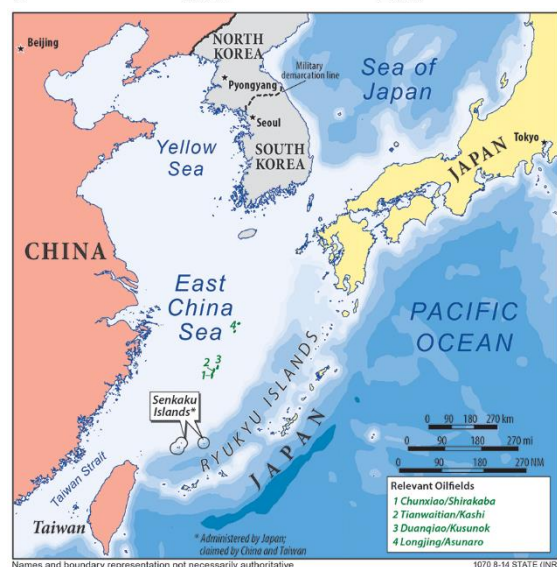
- The Sea of Japan is the marginal sea between the Japanese archipelago, Sakhalin, the Korean Peninsula, and the mainland of the Russian Far East.
- The Japanese archipelago separates the sea from the Pacific Ocean. Like the Mediterranean Sea, it has almost no tides due to its nearly complete enclosure from the Pacific Ocean.
- This isolation also affects faunal diversity and salinity, both of which are lower than in the open ocean.
- The sea has no large islands, bays, or capes. Its water balance is mostly determined by the inflow and outflow through the straits connecting it to the neighbouring seas and the Pacific Ocean. Few rivers discharge into the sea and their total contribution to the water exchange is within 1%.
- The seawater has an elevated concentration of dissolved oxygen that results in high biological productivity. Therefore, fishing is the dominant economic activity in the region.



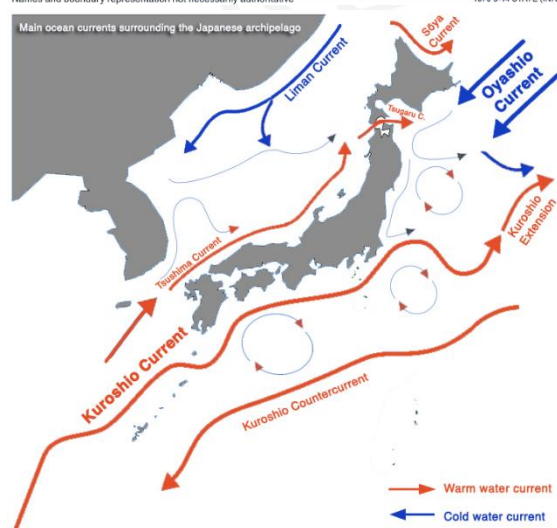
- There they merge into the Tsugaru Current and flow into the Pacific Ocean through the Tsugaru Strait.
- They also feed the Soya Current and exit through the La Perouse Strait to the Sea of Okhotsk.
- The returning branch is composed of the Liman, North Korea and Central (or mid-) Japan Sea currents which bring fresh and cold water along the Asian coast to the south.

## THE HINDU

### Origin of indo pacific



- The Origins of 'Indo-Pacific' Nomenclature
- The origin of the term 'Indo-Pacific' is traced to German geopolitical scholar Karl Haushofer who used it in the 1920s in his work, 'Indopazifischen Raum,' while Indian historian Kalidas Nag referenced it in the 1940s.
- In more contemporary history, the term gained prominence after then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's speech in the Indian parliament in August 2007, where he remarked, "We are now at a point at which the Confluence of the Two Seas is coming into being. The Pacific and the Indian Oceans are now bringing about a dynamic coupling as seas of freedom and of prosperity."



- The Kuroshio (Japan Current), the Tsushima Current and the East Korea Warm Current bring warmer and more saline water to the north.

- Japan was among the first countries to use the phrase 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' in its official discourse. In 2017, the United States (US) adopted the concept and translated it into the three pillars of security, economics, and governance.
- For India, its Indo-Pacific policy was enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018 where he outlined the seven elements of the country's vision for the region.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **India: Linchpin of the Indo-Pacific**

- India is poised to play a significant role in the future of the Indo-Pacific, and it perhaps begins with the country's cultural connections with the other countries in the region. For instance, while the Angkor Wat in Cambodia is well-known, the Cham civilisation in Vietnam also shared a common culture with India.
- The name "Indonesia" is derived from the Greek words Indos and nesos, meaning "Indian islands".
- Some analysts have noted that India's wide presence is such that "the influence of Indian culture and language has permeated Southeast Asia organically and without state sponsorship, political imposition or concrete effort."
- Some observers are of the view that the concept of the Indo-Pacific is simply an attempt to be a counterweight to the rise of China.
- However, this brief argues, the growing salience of the Indo-Pacific is a consequence of the changing dynamics of economic interactions in the region, overall, and in particular, the rise of India. Indeed, there cannot be an Asia-wide concept without the inclusion of India as an economic and military power.
- Economically, India is figuring prominently in the trade profile of countries in the region. Australia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the US, and China, are among the top 15 of India's trade partners.
- India's trade with ASEAN has also registered a steady improvement. In terms of investments, Japan and Singapore are leading investors in India after Mauritius.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Raman Magsaysay award**

- The CPI (M) cited the 'anti-communist' credentials of the

former Philippines President as the reason for declining the offer.

- Ramon Magsaysay was the seventh President of the Philippines. He came into prominence with his appointment as the Secretary of National Defence to deal with the communist-led Huks movement.
- President Ramon Magsaysay led a massive anti-Huks campaign in 1954 with a reorganised military and intelligence.
- Through the operation, his government forces captured 88 Huks, killed 43 and burned more than 500 enemy huts.

### **What is the Ramon Magsaysay Award?**

- Following the death of President Ramon Magsaysay in 1957, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) established the Ramon Magsaysay Awards in the President's honour in agreement with the Philippines government.
- Later, the Fund set up the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, a non-profit organisation to manage Asia's biggest honour that recognises selfless work transforming lives.
- Regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, the award was initially given for contributions to

government service, public service, community leadership, journalism, literature and creative communication arts, and peace and international understanding.

- The category of 'emergent leadership' was added later. From India, 58 have bagged the international honour.
- What about the campaign against the communist rebellion?
- The Hukbalahap was a communist-led, peasant-based movement with its roots in the pre-colonial era of political, economic and social inequalities.
- It was founded in the 1940s to fight the Japanese Army that had invaded the Philippines.
- A member of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Luis Taruc, was its first commander.
- The Hukbalahap emerged as a popular, well-organised, highly-trained force that aimed to seize power once the war ended.
- However, mistrust grew between the U.S. and the Huks which resulted in serious confrontations between the U.S. Army and the rebels. Backed by U.S. forces, the Philippines government disarmed the rebels and arrested their leader.

### **THE HINDU**

## **Provision of new Chilean constitution**

### **The story so far:**

- The people of Chile resoundingly rejected a new constitution which was set to replace a charter imposed by General Augusto Pinochet 41 years ago.
- Amid heavy turnout for the referendum, 61.9% of the voters rejected the draft document.
- President Gabriel Boric who had lobbied hard for the new document, said the results made it evident that the Chilean people “were not satisfied with the constitutional proposal that the convention presented to Chile.

### **Provisions of new constitution**

#### **The end of the Senate**

- The most visible change to Chile’s constitutional structure is the end of the upper chamber of the legislature, which would be replaced by a “Chamber of Regions.

#### **Decentralization of power**

- Decentralization is a longstanding demand in Chile, where power is unusually concentrated in the capital despite the country’s spanning 2,600 miles from end to end.
- The new constitution draft proposes to deliver on this demand, supplying

new powers to regions, communes and indigenous territories.

- A socially and environmentally conscious state
- The draft document describes Chile as a “social state,” and mentions the state will provide a healthcare service and ensure housing and quality education.
- Nature is also accorded rights, and new state organs are set to take up the task of protecting it.
- Greater weight to indigenous issues
- One aspect of the new constitution that attracted particular attention are provisions dealing with legal and land issues for indigenous people.
- The new constitution defines Chile as a plurinational state and proposes to consider customary law for indigenous people, which has spurred criticism that it provides for a parallel justice system or special treatment.

#### **Changes to water rights**

- Chile at present is the only country to declare water private property in its constitution, and the highly privatized water rights system was a lightning rod of protest in 2019.

#### **Moving beyond gender parity**

- The draft constitution mandates that all public institutions from ministries

to semi-public corporations have at least 50% of their members be women, meaning men can be a minority, but women cannot.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Anti-nasal vaccine**

- India's first nasal COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Bharat Biotech, has been approved for primary immunisation in those 18 and above.

#### **What is a nasal vaccine?**

- In nasal approach, the vaccine dose is given via nose, rather than orally or through the arm.
- As the target is to deliver a dose which goes right into the respiratory pathways, the vaccine is either injected through a specific nasal spray or through aerosol delivery.

#### **How it works?**

- As the virus normally enters your body through the nose, the nasal vaccine causes your immune system to make proteins in your blood and in your nose that help you fight the virus.
- A doctor will spray the vaccine into your nostrils with a small syringe that has no needle.
- It usually takes about two weeks for it to start to work.

- Given the potency and rapid spread of the coronavirus, some say it makes sense to develop vaccines for the airway as well as the more standard jabs.

#### **How is nasal vaccine different?**

- Many microbes, including the coronavirus, enter the body through the mucosa wet, squishy tissues that line the nose, mouth, lungs and digestive tract triggering a unique immune response from cells and molecules there.
- Intramuscular vaccines generally do a poor job of eliciting this mucosal response and must instead rely on immune cells mobilized from elsewhere in the body flocking to the site of infection.

#### **How effective is it?**

- An effective nasal dose not only protects against Covid-19, but it also prevents the spread of the disease by offering another kind of immunity that occurs primarily in the cells that line the nose and throat.
- The nasal vaccine targets immune cells present in the mucosal membrane and tissue- which provides systematic as well as mucosal immunity present in other sites such as lungs and the intestines. Hence, a nasal vaccine may be more

capable of inoculating crowds against the deadly infection and prevent even mild symptoms from developing.

**THE HINDU**

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GES  
REPORTER