

G7

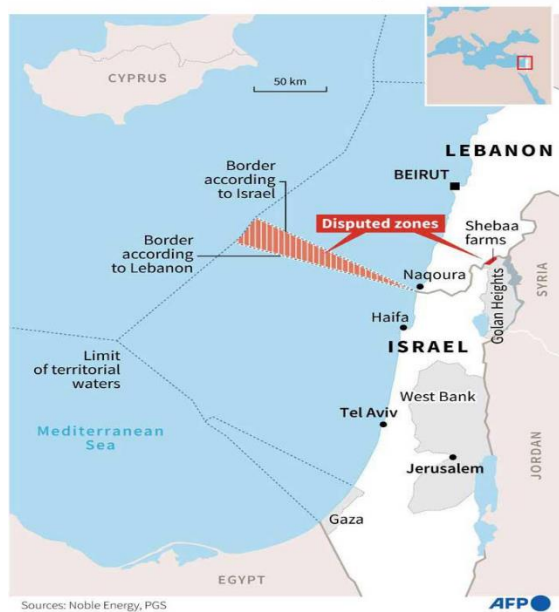
- The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Representatives of the European Union are always present at the annual meeting of the heads of state and government of the G7.
- Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.
- First “World Economic Summit”, which later became the G7, was launched in 1975 by former French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing and then Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.
- The heads of state and government of Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and the US a Group of Six met for a fireside chat at Rambouillet Castle in France.
- The participants exchanged ideas on the economic problems of the 1970s the first oil crisis and the collapse of the system of fixed exchange rates (Bretton Woods) and agreed on international economic policy and initial measures to fight the global downturn.
- In 1976, Canada was added to the group, and the first G7 met in Puerto Rico.
- The first talks between the then European Community and the G7 took place in London in 1977, and since the Ottawa Summit of 1981, the European Community (now European Union) has been part of all working sessions.
- In the 1980s, the interest of the G7 expanded to include foreign and security policy issues.
- Then Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was invited to talks on the sidelines of the London Summit in 1991.
- In 1998, the Group of Eight was constituted as Russia became a member. Russia was thrown out of the group after its violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in 2014.
- As of 2022, G7 countries make up 10% of the world’s population, 31% of global GDP, and 21% of global carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Summit website.
- China and India, the two most populous countries with among the largest GDP figures in the world, are not part of the grouping.
- In all G7 countries, annual public sector expenditure exceeded revenue in 2021. Most G7 countries also had a high level of gross debt, especially Japan (263% of GDP), Italy (151%) and the US (133%).

Dispute between Israel vs Lebanon

Gas in the eastern Mediterranean



Lebanon-Israel: border dispute



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- Israel said on Tuesday it has reached a U.S.-brokered agreement with Lebanon to settle their long disputed maritime border, hailing a “historic achievement” that potentially unlocks significant offshore gas production for both countries.
- A major source of friction was the Karish gas field, which Israel insisted fell entirely within its waters and was not a subject of negotiation.
- Lebanon reportedly claimed part of the field and Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group that holds huge sway in

Lebanon, threatened attacks if Israel began production at Karish.

- Under terms of the agreement leaked to the press. All of the Karish field would fall under Israeli control, while another potential gas field, Qana, would be divided but its exploitation would be under Lebanon’s control.

Geospatial technology and inclusion



Components of Geospatial Technology



- In India, technology is a tool for inclusion and not exclusion
- “Geospatial technology has been driving inclusion and progress.
- Take our SWAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme.
- We are using drones to map properties in villages.
- For the first time in decades, people in rural areas have clear evidence of ownership,”

- India's geospatial economy was expected to cross ₹63,100 crore by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8%.
- Geospatial technology had become one of the key enablers in socioeconomic development by enhancing productivity, ensuring sustainable infrastructure planning, effective administration, and aiding the farm sector.

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Life Initiative

- At the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26), Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi announced Mission LiFE, to bring individual behaviours at the forefront of the global climate action narrative.
- LiFE envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization.
- The Mission intends to nudge individuals to undertake simple acts in their daily lives that can contribute significantly to climate change when embraced across the world.
- Life plans to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.
- The Mission plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.
- Through the P3 community, the Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly behaviours to be self-sustainable.

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Approach of Life Campaign

- Focus on Individual Behaviours
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- Make life a mass movement (Jan Andolan) by focusing on behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities
- Co-create Globally
- Crowdsourcing empirical and scalable ideas from the best minds of the world, through top universities, think tanks and international organisations

Leverage Local Cultures

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- Behaviour-change solutions aimed at individuals, households, and communities to drive climate-friendly behaviours in sectors, including:
 - Water
 - Transport
 - Food
 - Electricity
 - Waste Management
 - Recycle
 - Reuse
- Innovative solutions that promote wider adoption of traditional, climate-friendly practices and/or create livelihood options for communities that may lose their jobs with a shift towards climate-friendly production.
- International, national and/or local best practices that can be feasibly scaled-up for driving behaviour change related to climate action.

Google controversy

- On October 6, the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against search-engine operator Google, alleging that the latter had deprived them of their justifiable

revenue acquired from news dissemination on the tech-giant's platforms.

Why is Google dominant?

- As per the NBDA, Google's search engine commands a 94% market share in the country.
- The number becomes all the more crucial for news publishers with the increased transition toward news consumption online (inclusive of app-based consumption).
- The traditional newspaper industry in India has sustained itself on a business model wherein advertising accounts for two-third of its total revenue.
- Essential to understanding here is that search engines are an important determinant in online news consumption.
- Readers would more often opt for an online web search rather than reaching out to a specific news website by typing its URL in a browser.
- On similar lines, with online proliferation, there is an increased reliance of news publishers on digital ad revenues, and in turn, tech-based companies.
- More than half of the total traffic on news websites is routed through Google.
- The search engine, by way of its algorithms and internal quality vetting, determines which news websites would be prioritised in search queries.
- The central contestation is that the tech-giant has not compensated news publishers for their contribution to Google's platforms and has engaged in practices to bolster its monopoly in the space.
- The European Publishers Council has also filed an anti-trust complaint against Google with the European Commission, challenging its existing "ad tech stranglehold" over press publishers