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APPSC GROUP 1 PRELIMS

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

PRELIMS VISUAL EDGE

November 2025 - September 2026 | English

FACTS • DATA • CONCEPTS



Dr Ravi Kumar Reddy

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1,000-TOPIC PROGRAMME

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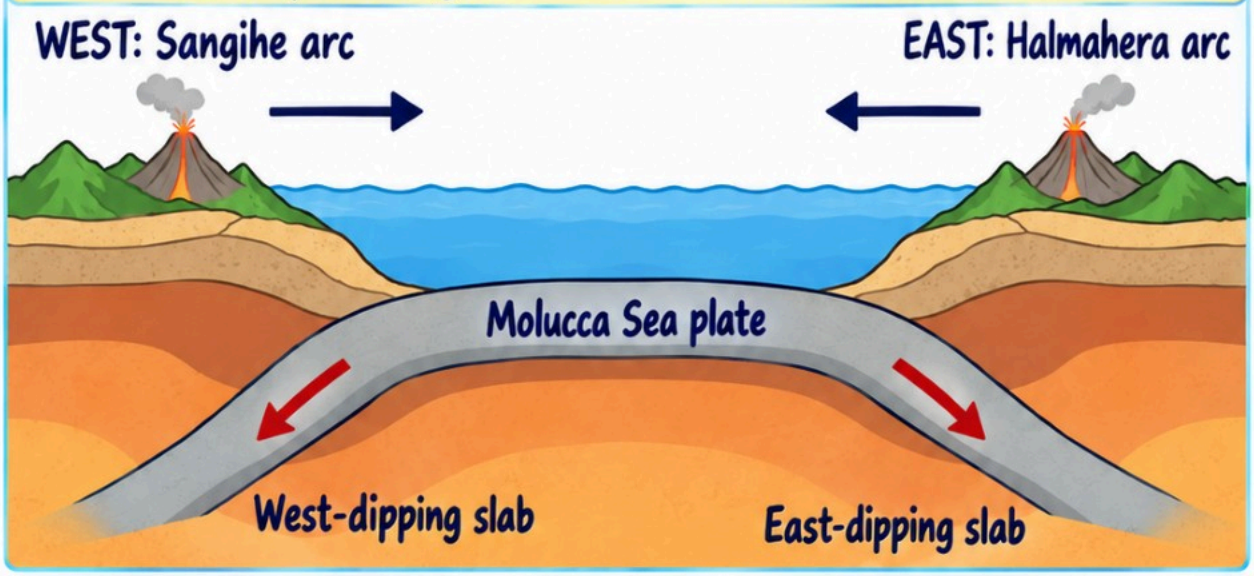
Scan to learn and revise

Molucca Sea: two slabs, opposite dips

C3.001 | Earthquake + tectonic concept

BGS event record: magnitude 7.4 | depth 35 km
1 April 2026, 22:48:13.0 UTC
2 April locally in Indonesia

Conceptual regional cross-section — not to scale



Convergence → Opposite slab dips → Arc-arc collision

What divergent means here

The two subducting slabs dip in opposite directions.

What it does NOT mean

Not a divergent surface boundary.
Not sea-floor spreading at a mid-ocean ridge.

Regional tectonic setting ≠ proof of this earthquake's specific fault mechanism.
Revision pair: Sangihe — west; Halmahera — east.

Molucca Sea: locate the collision zone



Base: Natural Earth 1:10m (public domain). Locator map; no maritime claim lines.

Molucca Sea lies between Sulawesi and Halmahera in eastern Indonesia.

BGS: 1 April 2026 (UTC), 1.117° N, 126.297° E.

The Sangihe arc is west of the Halmahera arc.

Pair this locator with the opposite-dipping slab cross-section.

C3.021 Countries in world news

Indonesia: islands, oceans and land neighbours

In the news

11 September 2026:
Super Garuda Shield 26 closing ceremony at Baturaja Combat Training Center.
Indian Armed Forces participated.

Basic facts

- Archipelago between the Indian and Pacific oceans, and between Asia and Australia.
- Language: Bahasa Indonesia.
- Currency: rupiah (IDR).

Major islands

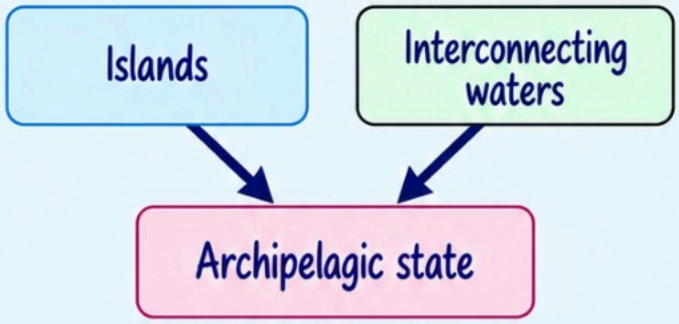
1. Sumatra
2. Java
3. Sulawesi
4. Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo)
5. Indonesian New Guinea

Three land-border neighbours

Malaysia ↔	Kalimantan / Borneo
Papua New Guinea ↔	New Guinea
Timor-Leste ↔	Timor

Singapore is not a land neighbour.

Archipelagic state



Concept relationship — not a map.

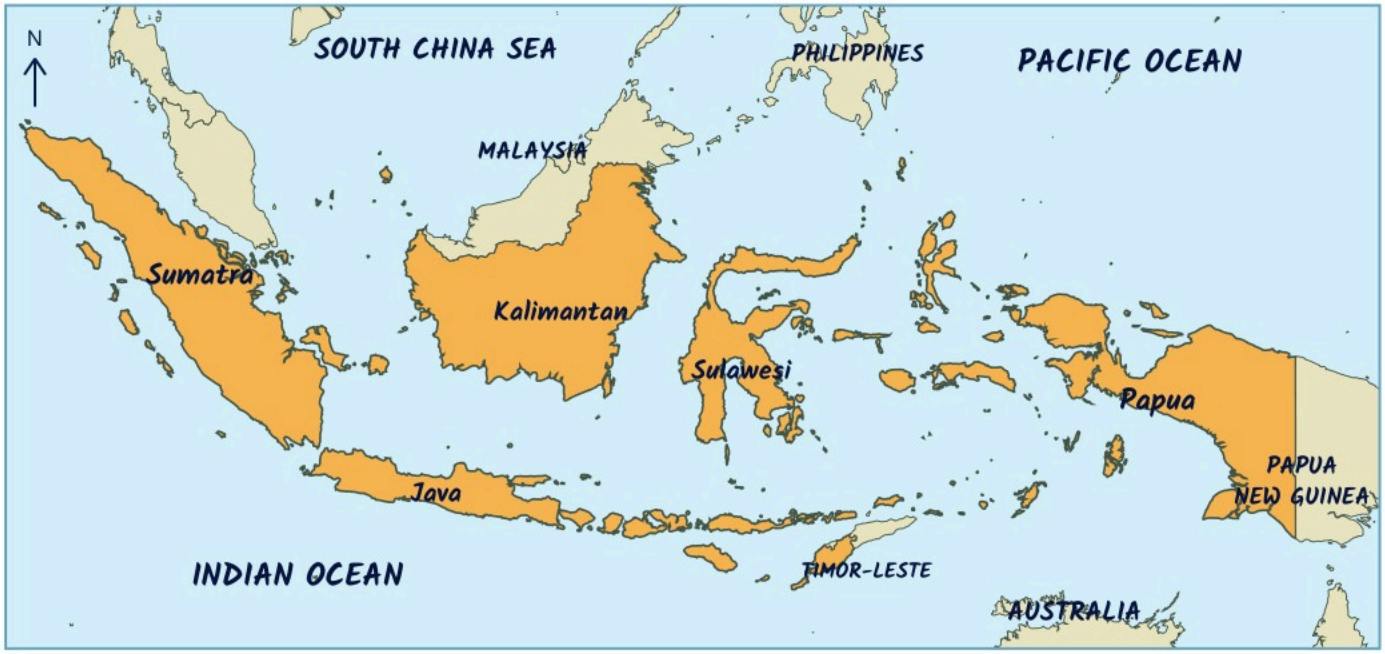
Islands and interconnecting waters form a geographical entity.

Archipelagic baselines differ from ordinary coastlines; archipelagic waters differ from internal waters.

Sovereignty is subject to UNCLOS passage regimes.

An archipelago can still have land borders on shared islands.

Indonesia: an archipelagic state



ORANGE = focus country | Blue lines = sourced river geometry, where shown

Natural Earth 1:10m, public domain. Generalized locator; not a survey or current-control map.

Between the Indian and Pacific oceans; island geography matters.

Land neighbors: Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

Kalimantan is Indonesian Borneo; Java and Sumatra are separate islands.

No capital dot or archipelagic/maritime claim lines are inferred.

Geography reference: official / intergovernmental source (click).

C3.033 International organisations and reports

India–UN Fund: pledge, contribution and allocation differ

In the news

20 August 2026: UNOSSC reported completed rehabilitation and handover of Macomia District Health Centre, Mozambique; implementation by UNDP.

Framework

- India–UN Development Partnership Fund, established 2017.
- Supported and led by Government of India; implemented with the UN system.
- Demand-driven, Southern-owned cooperation, with priority including least developed countries and small island developing States.

Dashboard as of June 2026

Pledged	Contributed	Allocated
US$150 million	US$90 million including accrued interest	US$76.70 million

Allocation headline includes proposed projects; it is not a measure of cash disbursed or completed works.

- 95 projects
- 65 UN Member States
- 15 implementing entities

Project flow

Country development need → India–UN partnership → UN implementing entity → Project delivery

Case example: Macomia

Macomia: health-service recovery + resilient reconstruction + solar-powered water system.



Key takeaway

Pledged ≠ contributed ≠ allocated ≠ spent.
Always retain the reporting date.

C3.034 International organisations and reports

WSIS Prizes: winners and champions are different

In the news

9 July 2026: ITU announced the 15th annual WSIS Prize winners during WSIS Forum 2026.

Context

- Forum: 6–10 July 2026, Geneva, Switzerland.
- WSIS = World Summit on the Information Society.
- Digital development, not a military or trade grouping.

Winners and champions – two different designations

18 winners

One winning project in each of 18 Action Line categories.

72 champions

Winners and champions are distinct award designations.

Selection sequence

1. **Submission** – Projects are submitted.
2. **Nomination** – Eligible projects are nominated.
3. **Public voting** – Global online voting by the public.
4. **Expert selection** – Expert evaluation and final selection.
5. **Award ceremony** – Winners announced during WSIS Forum 2026.

Purpose and concept

Recognises ICT projects that contribute to development goals, organised under WSIS Action Lines, and linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



ICT projects



WSIS Action Lines



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2026 platform also links Global Digital Compact objectives.

Timeline

2012: prize contest began.

2026: 15th edition.

Key takeaway

Do not infer an Indian winner merely because Indian entries are mentioned.

C3.072
Global science & environment

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and 30x30 target

In the news

April 2026 IUCN-UNEP-WCMC update: protected and conserved ocean coverage reached 10.01%.

Framework in context

CBD COP15 • December 2022

23 action targets for 2030

Target 3 = 30x30

What is the 30x30 target?

At least 30% of terrestrial & inland-water areas

At least 30% of marine & coastal areas

Globally by 2030

Protected areas and OECMs

Protected areas

Legally or effectively designated areas managed primarily for long-term biodiversity conservation.

OECMs: other effective area-based conservation measures

Outside protected areas; governance and management deliver sustained, long-term in-situ biodiversity conservation.

Not every community area or sacred grove automatically qualifies.

Progress for ocean coverage

Year/target	Coverage of oceans
2024	8.6%
April 2026	10.01%
2030 target	at least 30%

About 5 million km² added in two years.

Key elements of a high-quality 30x30 outcome

1. Ecological representation
2. Connectivity
3. Effective management
4. Equitable governance
5. Indigenous & community rights

Common traps and important points

- Designation ≠ effective protection.
- Target 2: restoration ≠ Target 3: conservation.
- The Indian-Ocean-sized shortfall refers to marine conservation.
- 2024 remained the latest comprehensive Protected Planet Report cited in this update.

C3.073
Global science & environment

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

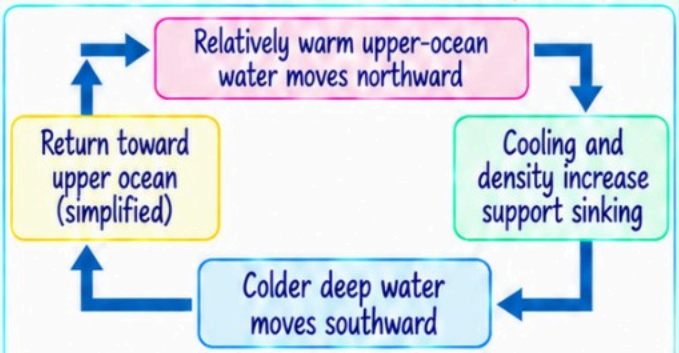
In the news

15 April 2026 • Science Advances
Observationally constrained projections.

What is the AMOC?

A large-scale system of ocean currents that moves relatively warm surface water northward, where it cools, becomes denser and sinks, with a return flow of colder deep water southward.

CONCEPTUAL circulation — NOT a geographic map



Temperature + salinity influence density

Arrows are schematic, not traced water-parcel routes.

Projections from the study

51 ± 8%
projected weakening

90% probability range
Scenario: SSP2-4.5
2091–2100 relative to 1850–1900

NOT an observed 51% loss • NOT a collapse probability.

Comparison with other estimates

Scenario: SSP2-4.5
2091–2100 relative to 1850–1900

Estimate	Projected weakening
Unconstrained multimodel estimate	32 ± 37%
Observationally constrained estimate	51 ± 8%

How the study constrained projections

- Four constraint methods compared.
- Best-performing ridge regression used AMOC, sea-surface temperature & salinity observations.
- South Atlantic surface-salinity bias mattered.

How AMOC strength is measured

- AMOC strength: maximum depth-integrated overturning transport at 26°N.
- 1 sverdrup (Sv) = 10^6 m^3/s.

Key takeaways

Weaker overturning alters heat distribution.

Scenario-dependent projection ≠ definite collapse date.

AMOC ≠ Gulf Stream alone.

C3.088 Bilateral relations & exercises

Exercise DUSTLIK-VII (India-Uzbekistan)

In the news

12–25 April 2026
Seventh edition
Completion reported 26 April.

Venue

Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangan, Uzbekistan.

Indian contingent

India: 60 personnel

- 45 Army — mainly MAHAR Regiment
- 15 Air Force

45 + 15 = 60

Uzbek contingent

Uzbekistan: approximately 60 Army / Air Force personnel.

Training progression

Joint planning & procedures → Coordinated drills → Integrated joint-mission validation

Announcement planned a 48-hour validation phase.

Key focus areas

- Semi-mountainous terrain
- Interoperability
- Command-and-control coordination

What is interoperability?

Interoperability = coordinating procedures, communications and planning. Not a permanent combined command.

Host pattern

Annual exercise • alternating hosts.

Previous edition: Aundh, Pune, April 2025.

Comparison with a similar exercise

Exercise	Partners	Main terrain emphasis
DUSTLIK	India-Uzbekistan	Semi-mountainous emphasis
Cyclone	India-Egypt	Desert / semi-desert emphasis

Key takeaways

- Not infantry-only.
- Exercise ≠ mutual-defence treaty.
- No UN-mandate claim imported from another edition.

C3.089 Bilateral relations & exercises

Balikatan exercise (Philippines-USA)

In the news

41st edition • 20 April–8 May 2026.

Closing ceremony confirmed: 8 May.

What it means

Balikatan = shoulder-to-shoulder (Tagalog).

Core Philippines–US exercise; expanded multinational participation in 2026.

Seven named participating contingents

- Philippines
- United States
- Australia
- Japan
- Canada
- France
- New Zealand

Venue

- Opening and closing: Camp Aguinaldo, Manila.
- Training activities across the Philippine archipelago.

Training themes

- Conventional operations.
- Disaster response.
- Readiness.
- Interoperability.

Concept: from information to coordination

Shared information → Common operating picture → Better coordination

A common operating picture is a shared information view.

Important count distinction

7
named participating contingents

8
nations reported with common-operating-picture access.

Different scopes — NOT contradictory counts of the same thing.

Key takeaways

- Not a Quad exercise.
- No Indian participating contingent asserted.
- Exercise scenario ≠ actual war or territorial settlement.
- No unverified aggregate troop count.

C3.098
Global summits and groupings

Mecca agreement: collective defence, defined carefully.

In the news



7 August 2026:
Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye signed the Makkah (Mecca) Joint Defence Agreement at Al-Safa Palace, Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan's foreign ministry dated its statement 7 August.

Türkiye's communications published on 8 August.

The three parties



Stated collective defence clause:

'An armed attack on one is treated as an attack on all.'

(As stated by the parties in official statements)

What the agreement includes (stated aims)

- Collective deterrence
- Defence cooperation
- Defence-industry projects
- Counter-terrorism

Stated purposes do not prove achieved outcomes.

How collective defence relates to the UN Charter



Article 51 of the UN Charter recognises the right to individual or collective self-defence after an armed attack.

- Measures taken in self-defence should be reported to the UN Security Council.
- This is not the same as NATO's Article 5.
- It is not an unrestricted licence to use force.

Important distinctions

- A collective defence clause alone does not prove a common command.
- ✗ It does not by itself establish an automatic nuclear guaraatee.
- ✗ It does not by itself establish a NATO-equivalent institution.
- This August trilateral agreement is distinct from any earlier Saudi-Pakistan bilateral arrangement.

Türkiye's statement

Türkiye stated that the agreement has no target country and is open to other regional partners seeking peace and stability.

This is a stated position by Türkiye. It does not, by itself, establish an anti-Iran alliance as a formal provision.

Key takeaways

- A new trilateral defence agreement signed on 7 August 2026 in Makkah.
- Includes a stated collective defence clause and aims on deterrence, cooperation, defence-industry and counter-terrorism.
- Operates within the framework of Article 51 of the UN Charter.
- Signature verified; full ratification and entry-into-force status are not established here.

C3.099
Global summits and groupings

SAFE: defence loans, not grants

Security Action for Europe

In the news

10 April 2026:
The EU Council approved SAFE assistance for Czechia and France, and approved national plans reached 18.
Up to €150 billion in loans, not grants.

Main mechanism



The EU borrows on financial markets.

Proceeds finance long-maturity loans under SAFE.

Beneficiary member states repay the loans.

Who can receive loans?

- Only EU member states can receive SAFE loans.
- Eligible partners can participate in procurement, but do not receive SAFE loans.

Common procurement

- Common procurement normally involves at least two participating countries.
- A temporary single-member-state exception exists.

Exact loan ceilings (10 April 2026)

Country	Maximum loan ceiling
Czechia	€2.06 billion
France	approximately €15.09 billion

Authorised loan ceilings are not the same as money already paid.

Separate process (not all completed)

1. **National plan approval** — Member state submits and plan is approved.
2. **Loan agreement** — EU and member state agree loan terms.
3. **Disbursement** — Funds are paid in tranches after conditions are met.

What capabilities can SAFE support?



SAFE is not a single weapons programme. It supports a range of defence capabilities.

Key distinctions

EU instrument ≠ NATO fund
SAFE is an EU instrument, not a NATO fund.

Loan ≠ grant
SAFE provides loans, not grants.

Funding ceiling ≠ expenditure
An authorised loan ceiling does not mean the money has already been spent.

Procurement participant ≠ loan recipient
Eligible partners can join procurement, but only EU member states receive loans.

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