

**15– 09 – 2022**

**News:** Iran may urge India to restart oil import

- Iran will nudge India towards reviving its procurement of discounted Iranian sweet crude during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi that is likely to take place this Friday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand.
- This will be the first time the two leaders will meet since Mr. Raisi's election last year, as Iran joins the SCO as a member this year.
- The question of India's oil imports from Iran, which were cancelled in 201819, and the next stage of Chabahar port development are expected to be on the agenda for bilateral talks.

## **Chabahar Port**

- The port of Chabahar is located in southeastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman.
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
- It's located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast.

- The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.



## Significance

- No other international port has seen the level of involvement and enthusiasm from Chabahar as India.
- It will make way for India to bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan using a sea-land route.

- At present, Pakistan does not allow India to transport its territory to Afghanistan.
- It would give momentum to the International North-South Transport Corridor of which both are initial signatories along with Russia.
- Iran is the key gateway to this project.
- It would counter the Chinese presence in the Arabian.

## **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**

- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project was originally decided between India, Iran, and Russia in 2000 in St Petersburg, and subsequently included 10 other central Asian and west Asian countries.
- The following are member states in the NSTC project: India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Ukraine, Syria. Bulgaria is an observer.
- Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan are not party to the INSTC agreement but are interested in using the transport corridor.

- It envisions a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for transporting freight, aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30% and bringing down the transit time from 40 days by more than half.
- The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia.



## Objective

- The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Astrakhan, etc.

## Significance

- It would be provided as a viable and fairer alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Further, it will enhance regional connectivity.

## News: India to hold G20 summit in 2023

- India will hold over 200 G20 related meetings across the country during its presidency of the grouping that will begin on December 1, 2022 and continue till November 30, 2023.
- The G20 Leaders' Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 in 2023, and Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE will be the "guest countries".

## Group of 20 (G 20)

- Group of 20 (G-20) is an international forum for Govt. and Central bank governors from 19 countries and European Union.
- Aim of the grouping is to bring together systemically important industrialized and developing economies to discuss key issues in the global economy.
- G 20 was founded in 1999 to discuss policies relating to financial stability.