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News: Arab League

- Recently, the Arab League has re-admitted Syria into the organization, after a suspension over a decade.
- Syria was **suspended from the Arab League in 2011 after it violently cracked down on anti-government protests.**
- The **Arab League accused Syria of not complying with a peace plan that called for a withdrawal of military forces,** the release of political prisoners, and the start of a dialogue with opposition groups.
- Despite **attempts at peace negotiations and ceasefire agreements, the violence continued, leading to Syria's suspension.**
- This had economic and diplomatic consequences for Syria.

Readmission of Syria to the Arab League

- The **move signifies softness in relations between Syria and other Arab governments** and is seen as the start of a gradual process to resolve the crisis in Syria.
- The **Crisis in Syria has resulted in the displacement of roughly half of the pre-war population of 21 million and the deaths of over 300,000 civilians.**

- A committee involving Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq will be established to help Syria achieve these goals.
- But the decision does not mean a resumption of relationships between Arab states and Syria as it is up to each country to decide this individually.
- It calls for a resolution of the crisis resulting from Syria's civil war, including the flight of refugees to neighboring countries and drug smuggling across the region.

Arab League

- Arab League is a regional organisation of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Arabia.
- It was formed in Cairo on 22nd March 1945 with 6 members.
- Currently, Arab league has 22 members and 5 observer states, India being one along with Armenia, Brazil, Eritrea and Venezuela.
- Members of the grouping include Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- Main goal of Arab league is to “draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their

independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and the interests of the Arab countries”.

- Trade between India and the Arab world is valued at \$30 billion in 2007.
- India’s major exports to Arab league countries are chemicals, automobiles, machinery, foodstuff and other fast-moving products, while being a large importer of Arab oil and Gas.