



Guiding Dreams, Empowering Future
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US Military Operation in Venezuela



Revival of Monroe Doctrine



Why in News...?

- The US conducted Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela, capturing President Nicolas Maduro and senior officials, marking a major escalation in Latin American interventionism.
- The action was justified under a "Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine (1823), signalling its revival in contemporary geopolitics.
- It reflects renewed US interventionism to counter rival powers and secure strategic interests, particularly energy resources, in the Western Hemisphere.
- For India, economic impact is limited due to low trade and oil imports, but it raises concerns over strategic autonomy, sovereignty norms, and the stability of a multipolar world order.



What is the Monroe Doctrine?

About:

- Articulated by US President James Monroe in 1823.
- Core principles: **Non-colonisation:** European powers should not establish new colonies in the Americas. **Non-interference:** External interference in Western Hemisphere nations would be viewed as hostile to the US. **US restraint in Europe:** The US would not interfere in European wars or internal affairs.

Evolution:

- **Roosevelt Corollary (1904):** President Theodore Roosevelt asserted the US right to act as an 'international police power' in Latin America to address instability or governance failures, justifying direct intervention.
- **Cold War Era:** Doctrine invoked to counter Soviet influence in Cuba, Central America, and South America.
- **Post-Cold War:** Largely de-emphasised in favour of multilateralism.
- **Contemporary Phase:** Revived selectively to assert US strategic dominance in the Western Hemisphere.
- The "Trump Corollary" projects a restoration of US power to safeguard American security interests in the region.

Why Did the US Intervene in Venezuela?

- ▶ **Narco-terrorism and Security Narrative:** The US charged Nicolás Maduro and senior officials with narco-terrorism and drug trafficking. The regime was

portrayed as a direct security threat, linked to the US fentanyl crisis.

- ▶ **Oil and Resource Geopolitics:** Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven crude oil reserves (over 300 billion barrels). Despite this, it accounts for less than 1% of global oil production. US sanctions, economic crisis, and infrastructure decay severely reduced output. The US views control over Venezuelan oil infrastructure as critical for energy security and global price stability.
- ▶ **Countering Extra-Regional Powers:** Venezuela's growing ties with China, Russia, and Iran challenged US dominance. Prompted Washington to reassert primacy under a Monroe-style framework.
- ▶ The intervention raised concerns in Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba over sovereignty erosion through military pressure and sanctions.

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legislature, Capital: Caracas.

- ▶ Natural Resources & Economy: Rich in petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, and diamonds, Holds the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, Founding member of OPEC.
- ▶ Physical Geography: Andes Mountains, Lake Maracaibo, Llanos plains, Guiana Highlands, Orinoco River system, Highest peak: Pico Bolívar, World's highest waterfall: Angel Falls.
- ▶ Cultural & Ecological Importance: UNESCO sites include Canaima National Park and Angel Falls.
- ▶ Islands & Disputes: Administers islands like Margarita and Los Roques, Territorial dispute with Guyana over the Essequibo region; maritime disputes with Colombia.

Conclusion

The US intervention marks a bold revival of the Monroe Doctrine, reasserting American hegemony to counter external influence particularly from China, Russia, and Iran in the Western Hemisphere. While aiming to secure strategic interests like Venezuela's oil reserves, this unilateral action risks destabilizing Latin America and raising sovereignty concerns across the Global South.

UPSC PYQ (2024):

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing/emigrating to other countries.
Statement-II: Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I

2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I

3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Ans: D

▶ From P1

Use of Military Force Under International Law

▶ General Prohibition: Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits use or threat of force against another state's territorial integrity or political independence.

▶ Self-defence: Article 51 allows force only in response to an armed attack, subject to necessity and proportionality, and must be reported to the UN Security Council.

▶ Former Enemy States: Article 107 once allowed force against WWII enemy states, now considered obsolete.

▶ Collective Security: Articles 24 and 25 empower the UN Security Council to authorise collective action.

▶ Humanitarian Operations: Limited use of force may be authorised for peacekeeping or humanitarian missions.

India's UN Venezuela Stance:

No direct vote; MEA expressed "deep concern," urged dialogue without naming US. Balances Global South solidarity vs strategic partnership.

Impact on India :

▶ Minimal Trade Impact: According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the conflict will have negligible impact on India's trade. India's exports to Venezuela were USD 95.3 million in FY2025, mainly pharmaceuticals.

▶ Limited Energy Exposure: India's crude oil imports from Venezuela fell by 81.3% in FY2025 to USD 255.3 million, from USD 1.4 billion in FY2024. Short-term energy security impact is minimal. If sanctions ease, discounted Venezuelan crude could aid India's long-term supply diversification and bargaining power.

▶ Strategic Autonomy: India supports non-interventionism and democratic processes, US action complicates India's balancing between Global South solidarity and its strategic partnership with the US.

About Venezuela :

▶ Location & Boundaries: Northern South America; coastlines along the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, Borders: Guyana (east), Brazil (south), Colombia (southwest and west).

▶ Political System & Capital: Federal multiparty republic with a unicameral



Why in the News...?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the AI Impact Summit 2026.
- The Summit will be held from 15 to 20 February 2026.
- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, India.
- Participation from over 100 countries is expected.
- Information released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

About the AI Impact Summit

- A global high-level platform on Artificial Intelligence.
- Focuses on shaping responsible, inclusive, and outcome-driven AI solutions.
- Emphasis on applying AI to productive sectors of the economy.
- Host Country: India.

Highlights...

- Participation from over 100 countries.
- 15–20 Heads of Government expected to attend, including France.
- More than 15,500 registrations from 136 countries.
- Representation from 76 countries of the Global South.
- Over 100 global AI leaders participating, including CXOs, CSOs, academics, and policy thinkers.

Notable Global Leaders Confirmed :

- Bill Gates
- Demis Hassabis
- Dario Amodei
- Shantanu Narayen
- Marc Benioff
- Cristiano Amon
- Raj Subramaniam

Objective of the Summit :

- Develop AI solutions for productive sectors of the economy.
- Promote responsible and inclusive AI adoption globally.

Focus Areas :

- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Governance
- Education
- Manufacturing

Conclusion

AI Impact Summit 2026 positions India as a key hub for responsible AI governance, uniting 100+ countries and top global leaders to apply AI in critical sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, manufacturing, and governance, especially for the Global South.

UPSC PYQ 2025

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the AI Action Summit held at Grand Palais, Paris, in February 2025:

1. Co-chaired with India, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley Park Summit held in 2023 and the Seoul Summit held in 2024.
2. Along with other countries, the US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Barcelona Convention COP24 Mediterranean Environmental Commitments

Why in the News...?

- COP24 of the Barcelona Convention was held in Cairo.
 - European Union countries and Mediterranean partner nations adopted strengthened commitments.
 - Aim: Protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution and ecological degradation.
 - Highlights enhanced regional cooperation for marine environmental protection.
- About the Barcelona Convention :
- A legally binding regional environmental agreement.
 - Led by the United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP).

- Focuses on protection of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Emphasises sustainable coastal and marine management.

Signatories of COP24 :

The 22 Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) comprise Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy,

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Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye, and the European Union.

Milestones :

- Adopted on 16 February 1976 as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution.
- Entered into force in 1978.
- Amended and renamed in 1995 as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.

About the Mediterranean Sea :

- A semi-enclosed intercontinental sea.
- Located between Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Covers approximately 2.5 million square kilometres.
- Accounts for about 0.7% of the global ocean area.
- Recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot.

Barcelona

Convention – Protocol Agreements :

The Barcelona Convention is supported by 7 Protocols addressing marine pollution control, biodiversity protection, and coastal management in the Mediterranean Sea. All major Protocols are legally binding and in force unless stated otherwise.

Protocols :

Dumping Protocol (1976; amended 1995): Prevents marine pollution from dumping of wastes by ships and aircraft.
Emergency Protocol (1976; amended 1991 & 2002):

Ensures regional cooperation to prevent and combat pollution emergencies from ships and offshore installations.

Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol (1980; amended 1996):

Controls pollution from land discharges, agricultural run-off, and atmospheric sources.

SPA/BD Protocol (1995):

Protects specially protected areas, endangered species, and marine biodiversity.

Hazardous Wastes Protocol (1996):

Prevents illegal dumping and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean.

Connectivity of the Mediterranean Sea :

- Connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar.
- Connected to the Black Sea through the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, and Bosphorus.
- Connected to the Red Sea through the Suez Canal.

UPSC PYQ 2017

Q. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

India Hosts 20th Session of UNESCO ICH Committee

News in Brief :

- India is hosting the 20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).
- Venue: Red Fort, New Delhi.
- Highlights India's expanding role in global cultural diplomacy.
- Reinforces UNESCO's focus on safeguarding living cultural traditions.



Committee for ICH :

- A statutory body constituted under UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Oversees implementation, monitoring, and promotion of ICH safeguarding globally.
- Comprises 24 Member States.
- Members are not eligible for consecutive terms.

India and Intangible

Cultural Heritage :

- India has 15 elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Hosting the session demonstrates India's commitment to cultural preservation.
- Enhances India's soft power and international cultural engagement.

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)...?

- Refers to living cultural expressions inherited from ancestors and passed to future generations.
- Includes performing arts, rituals, festivals, crafts, oral traditions, and social practices.
- Focuses on community involvement and intergenerational transmission.
- Does not include physical monuments or tangible heritage.

Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 :

Overview :

- Exercise Name: Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025
- Edition: 5th edition
- Nature: Bilateral Army-level military exercise
- Participating Countries: India and Malaysia

Participating Forces :

- Indian Army
- Royal Malaysian Army

Venue :

- Location: Mahajan Field Firing Range
- State: Rajasthan
- Host Nation (2025): India

Areas :

- Counter-insurgency operations
- Sub-conventional warfare
- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) scenarios
- Operations in complex and diverse terrain

Objectives :

- Improve coordination in counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations
- Enhance interoperability

between participating armies

- Strengthen bilateral defence cooperation
- Improve preparedness for UN peacekeeping missions in complex ground environments

Strategic Significance :

- Strengthens India–Malaysia bilateral defence relations
- Enhances operational understanding of joint military doctrines
- Contributes to regional security and stability
- Supports India’s role in UN peacekeeping operations.



RBI ANNOUNCES ₹1 TRILLION

Open Market Operation (OMO) Purchase :

Why in News...?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a ₹1 trillion Open Market Operation (OMO) purchase.
- This was accompanied by a \$5 billion dollar–rupee swap operation.
- The announcement comes amid the rupee crossing 90/USD and rising foreign capital outflows.
- The measures aim to inject du-



table liquidity into the banking system facing stress due to Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) exits.

- RBI Governor Sanjay Malho-

tra highlighted the need to strengthen monetary transmission and ensure market stability.

OMO Purchase : overview

- In an OMO purchase, RBI buys government securities from banks and financial institutions.
- RBI credits banks’ accounts, thereby increasing their reserves.

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- This results in an injection of long-term (durable) liquidity into the banking system.
- Unlike repo operations, OMO purchases are not temporary in nature.
- OMO directly expands money supply, providing sustained liquidity support.

Purposes of the OMO Purchase :

- Inject durable liquidity to counter liquidity drain caused by foreign capital outflows.
- Improve monetary policy transmission by aligning lending rates with repo rate changes.
- Stabilise money market rates such as the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR).
- Support financial system stability during periods of currency volatility and capital stress.

Significance :

- Offsets liquidity shortages arising from foreign portfolio outflows.
- Prevents sharp spikes in government bond yields.
- Enhances banks' capacity to lend to businesses and households during external shocks.
- Strengthens monetary transmission amid rupee weakness beyond 90/USD.
- Complements the \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap for foreign exchange market support.

OMO vs Repo Operations :

- OMO provides durable liquidity, while repo/reverse repo operations are short-term in nature.
- RBI may combine OMO injections with Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRR) operations to manage excess liquidity.
- OMO affects long-term liquidity conditions, whereas repo tools manage day-to-day liquidity.

Amazonian Stingless Bees Granted Legal Rights – Peru :

Why in the News...?

- Municipalities in Peru passed a landmark ordinance granting legal rights to Amazonian stingless bees.
- This makes them the first insects in the world to receive legal rights.
- The move is significant for global biodiversity conservation and environmental governance.



About Amazon's Stingless Bees:

- Stingless bees belong to the Meliponini group.
- They either lack stingers or possess non-functional stingers, making them harmless to humans.
- They are critical pollinators in tropical ecosystems.

Origin and Evolution :

- Among the oldest bee lineages in the world.
- Have existed for nearly 80 million years.
- Emerged during the age of dinosaurs.
- Around 500 species exist globally, nearly half of them in the Amazon region.

Habitat

- Found in tropical forests worldwide.
- Highly abundant in the Amazon rainforest.
- Peru alone hosts more than 170 species of stingless bees.

Ecological and Cultural Features

- Primary pollinators of rainforest ecosystems.
- Pollinate over 80 percent of Amazonian plant species.
- Support major global crops such as coffee, cacao, avocado, and blueberry.
- Deeply embedded in Indigenous knowledge systems.

- Culturally significant to Indigenous communities such as the Asháninka and Kukama-Kukamiria.

Legal Rights Granted to Stingless Bees

The ordinance recognises the following inherent rights:

- Right to exist and flourish.
- Right to maintain healthy populations.
- Right to regenerate natural ecological cycles.
- Right to live in pollution-free habitats.
- Right to legal representation when threatened.

Conclusion

Peru's pioneering legal rights for Amazonian stingless bees protect vital pollinators of 80% rainforest plants, combat habitat loss, advance Rights of Nature doctrine, and model ecosystem-centered justice globally.

UPSC PYQ 2023

Q. Which of the following organisms perform a waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and distance to a food source?

- Butterflies
- Dragonflies
- Honeybees
- Wasps