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Daily News Juice



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World Bank report on Financing infrastructure in India's cities

Relevance: Prelims & GS Mains II; International Issues

Why in news?	Need for investment	Present status
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- According to the World Bank, India would need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years, that is, an average of \$55 billion each year, to meet the demands of its fast-growing urban population.- Its latest report, titled 'Financing India's Urban Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action', puts forth the urgent requirement to leverage greater private and commercial investments to meet the emerging financial gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- By 2036, 600 million people will be living in urban cities in India, representing 40 percent of the population.- This is likely to put additional pressure on the already stretched urban infrastructure and services of Indian cities – with more demand for clean drinking water, reliable power supply, efficient and safe road transport amongst others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Currently, the central and state governments finance over 75 percent of city infrastructure, while urban local bodies (ULB) finance 15 percent through their own surplus revenues.- Only 5 percent of the infrastructure needs of Indian cities are currently being financed through private sources. With government's current (2018) annual urban infrastructure investments topping at \$16 billion, much of the gap will require private financing.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

Relevance: Prelims & GS Mains II; Governance

Recent Government Push

- The Narendra Modi-led government is pushing to set up 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students — one each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population, which must be 50% of the total population in that area.
- The EMRS model was first introduced in 1997-98 to provide quality education to tribal students with residential facilities in remote corners. The aim was to build schools at par with the Jawahar Navoday Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Position before

- Until 2018-19, the scheme was overseen by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with maximum control of identifying new schools, recruiting, management and admissions lying with State governments.
- The funds for these schools were provided by the Union government.
- Apart from the infrastructural requirements of 20-acre plots for each EMRS by Union government, the guidelines did not have any criteria of where the EMRS could be set up, leaving it to the discretion of State governments.

Revamp of scheme

- In **2018-19**, at the bidding of Mr. Modi, the **Cabinet approved the revamping** of the EMRS scheme.
- The **new guidelines gave the Union government more power to sanction schools and manage them.**
- A **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** was set up and **entrusted with the management of the State Education Society for Tribal Students (SESTS)**, which would **run the EMRS on the ground.**
- The new **guidelines set a target of setting up an EMRS in every tribal sub-district and introduced a “population criteria” for setting them up.** The new guidelines also reduced the minimum land requirement from **20 acres to 15 acres.**

Present status of EMRS Scheme

- Ministry officials said that as of November, a total of **688 schools** have been sanctioned, of which **392 are functional.**

Poland row: What invoking NATO's Article 4 means

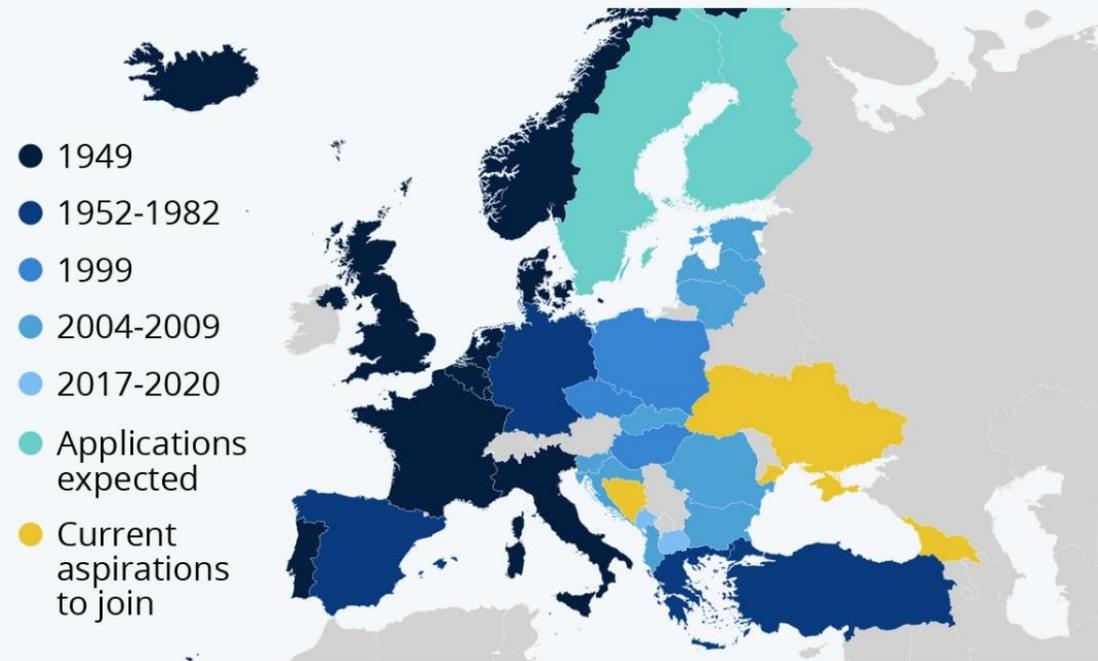
Relevance: Prelims & GS Mains II; International Issues

Why in news?

- Russian missile killed two citizens in Poland. Poland initially claimed that the missile was Russian-made, but later back-tracked, saying that the incident appears to be an “unfortunate accident” and not an “intentional attack.”
- In the initial reactions, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki had said that the country was considering whether it should launch NATO's Article 4 procedure.
- Any attack on Poland, a NATO member, could drag the 30-nation strong alliance into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, risking a full-fledged nuclear war.

Will NATO Expand North?

European countries by year they joined NATO



Map excludes NATO members the United States and Canada
Source: NATO



NATO

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** came into being **after World War II** as a counter to the Soviet Union's possible expansion attempts in Europe.
- **Then-US President Harry S Truman** signed the **12-member treaty** on **April 4, 1949**.
- After the **collapse of USSR in 1991**, **several eastern European nations** previously members of the Soviet Union **joined NATO**.

NATO's expansion

- As of now, NATO **comprise 30 members** — Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.
- Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, **Finland and Sweden applied** for NATO membership and were invited to join the collective by 28 of the 30 members, with Turkey and Hungary being notable exceptions.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine** have expressed interest in joining the collective as well.

NATO's core duties

- The NATO works on a collective defense principle and routinely undertakes exercises to strengthen their territorial, naval, and air forces.
- NATO members also arm themselves to face evolving methods of attacks like cybercrimes, and have participated in military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosova, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria, among others.
- Article 4 of the treaty mandates that the member nations consult each other when faced with threat. “The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened.”
- Meanwhile, Article 5 spells out the ‘one-for-all, all-for-one’ nature of the treaty. It reads: “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”