

- Government responses to COVID-19 have purportedly violated or manipulated many treaties and **critics doubt that a new treaty will generate the commitment.**

Conclusion

COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest challenge to the global community since the 1940s. There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone.

To that end, nations should work together towards strengthening the existing WHO's mechanisms for handling a pandemic and also a global discussion on the need for a pandemic treaty to reinforce global health security, in particular on preparedness and response to health emergencies, in light of lessons learnt from the pandemic.

2.10. NEWS IN SHORTS

2.10.1. 5TH NSA LEVEL MEETING OF THE COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE (CSC) HELD

- CSC, renamed version of **National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral on Maritime Security** (formed in 2011), helps member nations **to build capacity on common security threats.**
 - **Founding members are Maldives, India and Sri Lanka.** Mauritius is added as the newest member in the recently concluded meeting.
 - Bangladesh and Seychelles have **observer status.**
- 5th meeting also identified following **five broad areas of cooperation to strengthen regional security:**
 - **Maritime safety and security,**
 - **Countering terrorism and radicalisation,**
 - **Combating trafficking and transnational organised crime,**
 - **Cyber security,** protection of critical infrastructure and technology, and
 - **Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief**
- The roadmap will facilitate robust mechanisms for **coordinated responses, capacity building and strengthening information flow** between member states.
- CSC is **seen as other step by India to enhance its maritime security.**
 - Maritime security **broadly classifies issues in maritime domain** comprising national security, marine environment, economic development, and human security.
 - Besides world's oceans, it also deals with **regional seas, territorial waters, rivers and ports.**

Other Steps taken to improve maritime security

- **SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) policy** to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.
- **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region and helps to preserve peaceful relations between nations.

- **India's Neighbourhood First policy** focuses on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity.

2.10.2. ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

- India has hit out at the OIC for inviting the Hurriyat chief to attend its foreign ministerial meeting in Islamabad.
- **About OIC:**
 - It is **2nd largest inter-governmental organisation** after the United Nations.
 - It **endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world** in the spirit of promoting international Peace and harmony among various people of the world..
 - **Membership:** 57 states.
 - **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
 - **India is not its member.**

2.10.3. FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF)

- FATF has **retained Pakistan on its terrorism financing "grey list".**
 - Pakistan has been on the **grey list since June 2018** for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing.
 - Also, **UAE has been added** to the grey list.
- FATF is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 to combat **money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats** to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Members:** 37 (**including India**) and 2 regional organizations-European Commission and Gulf Co-operation Council.
- **FATF issues two lists:**
 - **Black list** (as High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action)
 - **Grey list** (referred to as Jurisdictions Under Increased Monitoring).