G11 Grouping

Why in news?

United States President Donald Trump has proposed for a “G11” Summit.

What is G11?

- G11 will be the expansion of the G7 grouping.
- [G7 or Group of Seven is an intergovernmental economic organization.
- It consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.]
- G11 will include G7 countries, India, Australia, South Korea, and Russia.
- It is being widely perceived as an “anti-Chinese” platform.

Why was G11 initiated?

- **Outdated** - Mr Trump cancelled the G7 summit, originally scheduled for June at Camp David, on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- He has declared this 45-year-old organisation “outdated” because he didn’t feel it “properly represents the world”.
- This is a valid assertion, given the realignments of global economic power over the past half-century.
- **Global realignments** - The United Kingdom’s position after Brexit will weaken its already declining global heft.
- Italy has slipped behind India in terms of gross domestic product (GDP).
- But the exclusion of China, the world’s second-largest economy, has raised questions about Trump’s intentions.

What is the question for India?

- The big question for India is whether, if this invitation is issued, should be accepted, given its own current strained relations with China.
- On balance, the answer should be yes, both in terms of serving,
    1. India’s own geo-strategic interests and
    2. Within the dynamics of the immediate and long-term India-China relationship.
- China’s exclusion, however, should not stop India’s acceptance.

How will India benefit?

- A forum like G11 offering an opportunity for an exchange of views on issues that are important to India can be of considerable value.
- In particular, it may offer an occasion to discuss with some of the world's most important leaders the impact of Covid-19 on the global economy.
- It will help lay down the contours of a coordinated response.

How will China view India's acceptance?

- The question of India's acceptance of any such invitation may be perceived as provoking China at a time when it is making aggressive inroads into Indian Territory.
- This move, in turn, is seen as partial retaliation for the Indian government's closer embrace of a US establishment, which has been increasingly hostile to China.
- On the contrary, it is precisely because of these developments that the India should be receptive to G11 invitation.

What should India do?

- India would have the virtue of transmitting the message that no other country can dictate India's foreign policy.
- Being seen to be intimidated by China's military muscle-flexing in Sikkim and Ladakh leaves India open to pressure from China to exclude deeper partnerships with Japan or Australia.
- Both Japan and Australia, together with the US, are part of the 13-year-old Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.
- In addition, India is involved in groupings that exclude China, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORA).
- So accepting potential G11 membership should not be seen as a precedent-setting move.

Source: Business Standard

Quick Facts

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

- QSD is a closed group consisting of India, Australia, Japan & USA.
- It was initiated by Japan in 2007.
- It perceives this forum as a coalition of maritime democracies.
- Securing a rules-based global order, liberal trading system and freedom of navigation are believed to the guiding principles.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- IORA is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.
- It is formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).
- It is a regional forum bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.
- It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.
- The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering