

## The Geneva Talks: The US-Russia Conflict

### Why in news?

The Geneva talks that was held recently between the United States and Russia were inconclusive.

### What is the issue?

- **Ukraine crisis**- Russia has mounted troops near Ukraine's border.
- It has demanded the U.S.-led NATO alliance rule out admitting the former Soviet state or expanding further into what Moscow sees as its back yard.
- The U.S. accuses that Russia could be preparing a new invasion, eight years after it seized the Crimean peninsula from its neighbour.
- Russia denies any such plans and says it is responding to the aggressive behaviour from the NATO and Ukraine which has tilted toward the West.
- **Expansion of NATO**- Russia repeated a set of demands including a ban on further NATO expansion and an end to its activity in the central and eastern European countries that joined after 1997.
- Russia responded militarily in 2008 when Georgia was considering joining NATO.
- **INF treaty**-Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) is a nuclear arms-control accord reached by the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1987.
- The two countries agreed to eliminate their stocks of intermediate and shorter-range (between 500 and 5,500 km) land based missiles which could carry nuclear warheads.
- The United States formally withdrew from the INF pact in August 2019 after determining that Moscow was violating the treaty.
- The U.S. is now open to discuss a possible deal on INF missiles along the lines of the now-defunct INF treaty and Russia's proposal to set limits on the size and scope of military exercises.

*The NATO was created in 1949 by the U.S, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.*

*It is a political and military alliance comprising of 30 member countries.*

*Under the treaty, collective defense was promulgated in which an attack against one is considered as an attack against all.*

To know more about the first Biden-Putin Summit in Geneva, click [here](#)

### **What is the status of the recent Geneva talks?**

- The U.S. has publicly said that it will not shut NATO's door on potential future members against the Russia's demand of banning the NATO.
- Any aggression against Ukraine might serve Russia's tactical interests but could deal a deadly blow to any plan to bring the Russia-Europe ties back on track.
- Finding a solution to the crisis depends on whether both sides are able to get out of their Cold War mentality and build mutual confidence in bilateral relations.

### **References**

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