

**21 MARCH 2019**

## POMPEO URGES RESOLUTION TO GULF CRISIS

### Why In News:

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday renewed calls for a resolution to a festering dispute between Qatar and four other Arab nations, all of them America's partners.

The dispute that has roiled the Gulf Cooperation Council for almost two years is hindering efforts to combat regional threats posed by Iran, the Islamic State and other terrorist groups.

### In Brief:

- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, along with Egypt, issued a synchronized series of announcements in June to cut ties with Qatar, followed by a land, sea and air blockade.
- The GCC is a political and economic alliance of six countries, including Qatar, Saudi, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Kuwait.



### WHY

- The Saudi-led coalition cited Qatar's alleged support for terrorism as the main reason for their actions, insisting Qatar has violated a 2014 agreement with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- Qatar's relations with Iran, with which it shares the world's largest gas field. The Shia Muslim power is Sunni Muslim-ruled Saudi Arabia's main regional rival.

### RELATION CONDITION

- Two states in the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) did not cut ties with Qatar – Kuwait and Oman.
- The dispute, which is being mediated by Kuwait, has put this month's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in jeopardy.

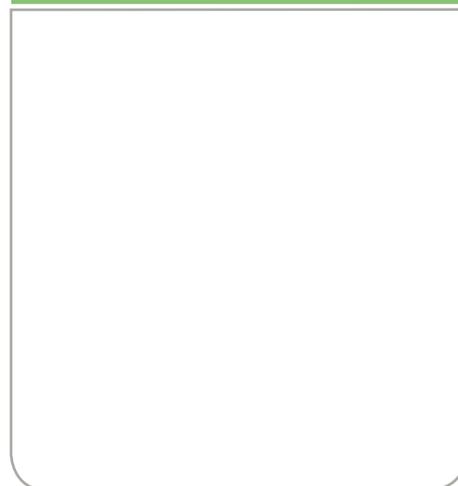
### IMPACTS

- Qatar is dependent on imports by land and sea for the basic needs of its population of 2.7 million, and about 40% of its food came in through the land border with Saudi Arabia.

### 13 DEMANDS

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Bahrain issued Qatar a list of 13 demands through Kuwait, which is acting as a mediator, that Qatar should agree in full within 10 days, which expired on 2 July 2017.
- Close Al-Jazeera and its affiliate stations
- Close other news outlets that Qatar funds, directly and indirectly, including Arabi21, Rassd, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed and Middle East Eye.

### Note



- Close the Turkish military base in Qatar, and terminate the Turkish military presence and any joint military cooperation with Turkey inside Qatar.
- Reduce diplomatic relations with Iran. Only trade and commerce with Iran that complies with US and international sanctions will be permitted.
- Expel any members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and cut off military and intelligence cooperation with Iran.
- “Qatar must announce it is severing ties with terrorist, ideological and sectarian organizations including the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, and Jabhat Fateh al Sham, formerly al Qaeda’s branch in Syria” according to one Arab official
- Surrender all designated terrorists in Qatar, and stop all means of funding for individuals, groups or organisations that have been designated as terrorists
- End interference in the four countries’ domestic and foreign affairs and having contact with their political opposition
- Stop granting citizenship to wanted nationals from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain.
- Revoke Qatari citizenship for existing nationals where such citizenship violates those countries’ laws.
- Payment of reparations for years of alleged wrongs
- Monitoring for 10 years
- Align itself with the other Gulf and Arab countries militarily, politically, socially and economically, as well as on economic matters, in line with an agreement reached with Saudi Arabia in 2014.

## QATAR STAND

- That its neighbours were “demanding that we have to surrender our sovereignty”. That was something it would “never do”.

## Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- It is a regional intergovernmental group
- It deals with political and economic issues
- It includes all Arab states of Persian Gulf except Iraq
- Members:
  - Bahrain
  - Kuwait
  - Oman
  - Qatar
  - Saudi Arabia
  - UAE
- Established : **1981**
- **HQ : Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**
- All members are **monarchies**, including three constitutional monarchies (Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain), two absolute monarchies (Oman and Saudi Arabia) and one federal monarchy (UAE which is composed of seven member states, each of which is absolute monarchy).

### Note



## 2. INTEGRATE TB SERVICES WITH PRIMARY HEALTH SYSTEM; LANCET

### Why In News:

Of the 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases reported globally in 2017 by the World Health Organisation, 2.74 million were from India, showing a marginal reduction from 2.79 million in 2016. Despite TB incidence in the country being 204 cases per 1,00,000 in 2017, the government has set a highly ambitious target of “eliminating TB by 2025”, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target.

### In Brief:

#### The Lacent Data:

- According to The Lancet Global Health article based on modelling for three high-burden countries, including India, compared with 2015 data, 57% reduction in incidence and 72% reduction in mortality will be seen only by 2035.
- Strengthening the care cascade could reduce cumulative TB incidence by 38% in the case of India, it notes.
- India has to adopt measures to prevent TB on a population level to eliminate the disease in the coming decades.

#### Fight Against Tuberculosis(TB)

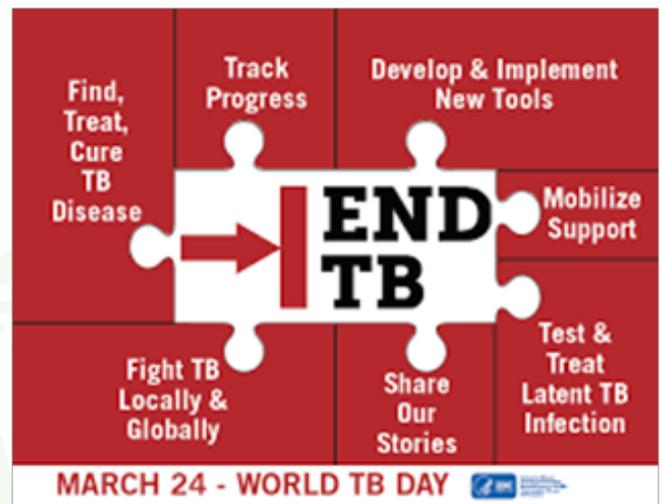
- TB is second only to HIV/AIDS as the greatest infectious killer disease worldwide
- India has the highest TB burden in the world, accounting for almost 25 per cent of global TB cases.
- According to the Global TB Report 2017 released by World Health Organisation (WHO), India has topped list of seven countries, accounting for 64% of the over 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in year 2016.
- India’s domestic budget for fighting tuberculosis showed a dramatic jump from about 700 crore in 2015 to 2,500 crore last year.
- According to World Health Statistics 2018 released by World Health Organisation (WHO), India saw estimated 211 cases of tuberculosis (TB) per 1,00,000 people in 2016.
- India has pledged to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of global target set by WHO.

#### Basics about TB:

- Tuberculosis is an infectious, airborne disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It mainly affects the lungs. It can be transmitted from person to person through the air when people with TB cough, sneeze, laugh or speak, spit, propelling the germs into the atmosphere

#### Why TB is an issue?

- With proper diagnosis and treatment, TB can be cured.
- However, too many people with TB don’t seek care for early symptoms and get properly diagnosed. Of those in whom the disease is detected, many do not complete their treatment.
- Despite global efforts to combat TB, which saved an estimated 53 million



**Note**



lives since 2000 and reduced TB mortality rate by 37%, the disease is still top infectious killer in 2016. The disease also has been reported to be main cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance and the leading killer of people with HIV.

- The biggest challenge was underreporting and underdiagnosis of TB cases, especially in countries with weak health systems and large unregulated private sectors.

**‘90-90-90 target’ by 2035:**

- The government has committed to achieve a **‘90-90-90 target’ by 2035** (90% reductions in incidence, mortality and catastrophic health expenditures due to TB).
- This is premised on improved diagnostics, shorter treatment courses, a better vaccine and comprehensive preventive strategies.

**Moscow Declaration:**

- The declaration calls for eliminating additional deaths from HIV co-infection by 2020 and achieving synergy in coordinated action against Tuberculosis
- and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). India is among signatories to the declaration. Moscow declaration emphasis need for fixing multi sectoral responsibility towards ending TB by 2035, the global target.

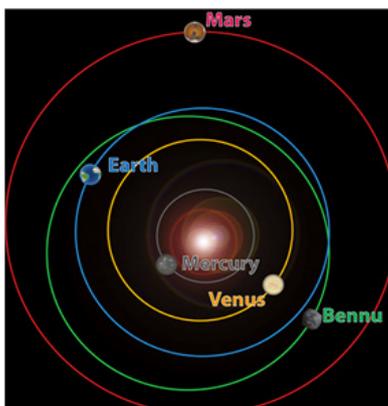
**Steps Taken by Govt.:**

- Indo-US partnership to free India of TB (see Indo-US relation).
- India has signed WTO’s call to end TB by 2030.
- USAID-India End TB Alliance

**3. OSIRIS-REX**

**In news:**

- NASA’s spacecraft OSIRIS-REx has discovered plumes erupting from the cosmic body’s surface, including evidence of water-bearing minerals.



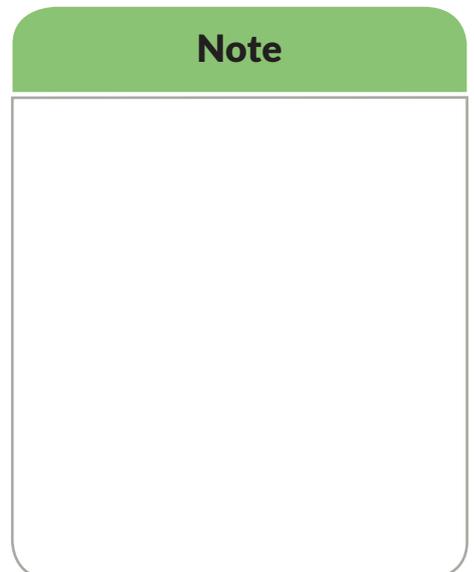
**In brief:**

- The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) travelled to a near-Earth asteroid called Benu and is set to bring a small sample back to Earth for study. The mission was launched in Sept. 8, 2016.
- The orbit of Benu is almost near to earth’s orbit.
- It has reached the asteroid in December 2018, will touch Benu’s surface to collect

a sample from the surface regolith in 2020 and will return with a sample to Earth in 2023.

- It revealed the presence of molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together, known as “hydroxyls.”
- While Benu itself is too small to have ever hosted liquid water, the finding does indicate that liquid water was present at some time on Benu’s parent body, a much larger asteroid.

**Note**

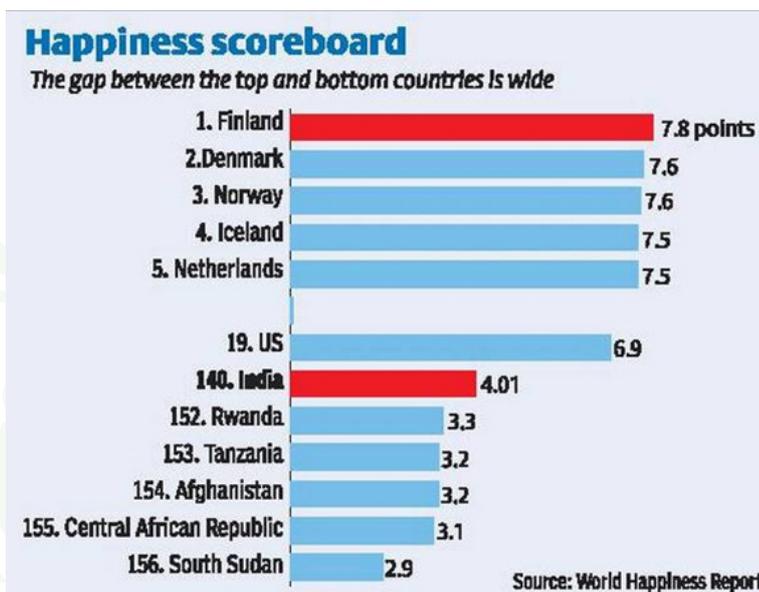


#### 4. FINLAND RANKED HAPPIEST COUNTRY FOR SECOND YEAR

##### Key Highlights:

1. India drops from 133 to 140; South Sudan least happy: UN report
2. Finland has topped a global happiness ranking for the second year in a row.
3. It beat Nordic peers Denmark, Norway and Iceland in a ranking of 156 countries by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
4. The ranking saw the US drop one place, to 19th, while people in South Sudan were the least happy.
5. India dropped seven ranks to the 140th place.
6. 7th annual Global happiness report.
7. The results are based on an average of three years of **surveys taken by Gallup between 2016 and 2018** and include factors such as

- A. Gross domestic product
- B. Social support from friends and family, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices
- C. Generosity, perceived corruption and recent emotions — both happy and sad.



##### What do we infer?

- The data offers the world's governments and individuals the opportunity to rethink public policies and individual life choices, to raise happiness and well-being.

##### Way ahead:

- We are in an era of rising tensions and negative emotions and these findings point to underlying challenges that need to be addressed.

### Note

#### PRELIMS TITBITS: A MUST READ FOR PRELIMS

##### 1. THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK.

1. The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.
2. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.



3. We aim to accelerate joint learning and promote integrated approaches that address the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.
4. The organization and governance of SDSN aims to enable a large number of leaders from all regions and diverse backgrounds to participate in the development of the network.
5. The SDSN Leadership Council brings together global sustainable development leaders from all regions drawn from civil society, public, and private sectors. It acts as the board of SDSN.
6. Much of SDSN's work is led by National or Regional SDSNs, which mobilize knowledge institutions around the SDGs.
7. Several Thematic Networks mobilize experts from around the world on the technical challenges of implementing the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. SDSN has a small secretariat with offices in New York, New Delhi, and Paris.

## 2. INDIA AND PAKISTAN RAIL SERVICE

- India and Pakistan has two trans-border train service.

### SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS:

- Commonly called as Friendship which is a biweekly train runs from Delhi to Lahore.
- The train was started in 1976 following the Shimla agreement.

### THAR LINK EXPRESS:

- It is a weekly train connecting Karachi and Jodhpur.
- Its operation was disrupted during 1965 India and Pakistan war, but after 41 years the service was resumed in 2006.

### Note

