

## **2. India, Mongolia to Explore Space Together**

### **Prelims: India- Bilateral Relations**

**Mains: GS-II- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests**

### **Why in News?**

- ▶▶ The President of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga, is on a visit to India from 19 to 23 September 2019.

### **List of MoUs/Documents signed Between India and Mongolia during the State Visit of President of Mongolia to India:**

#### **On Space Co-operation:**

- ❖ India and Mongolia signed MoUs on space cooperation which would allow India to support Mongolia in resource management and satellite communication.

#### **Cultural Exchange Protocol:**

- ❖ To promote cooperation and cultural exchanges in the field of music, dance, theater, arts, library, museums, etc.

#### **MoU in the field of Disaster Management:**

- ❖ To promote co-operation in the field of space exploration for peaceful and civilian purposes.
- ▶▶ MoU was signed between Dept of Space (India) and Communications and Information Technology Authority (Mongolia).
- ▶▶ Comprehensive Work Plan between Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (India) and Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (Mongolia):
- ▶▶ In 2015, India and Mongolia had signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of Animal Health and Dairy.
- ▶▶ The Work Plan lays out a series of activities to intensify cooperation in this sector.

### **Highlights:**

#### **On UNSC Reforms:**

- ❖ Both the sides reiterated support for the on-going reforms of the United Nations and its principal organs with a view to making the institution more democratic, representative, transparent and efficient.

- ❖ They emphasized the importance of an early reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in permanent and non-permanent membership categories, so that it reflects the current realities and functions in an accountable, representative and effective manner. The Mongolian side reiterated its support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the UNSC.
- ❖ Both sides also reaffirmed their reciprocal support for their respective bids for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the terms 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 respectively.

#### **On cross Border Terrorism:**

- ❖ Recognising that extremism and terrorism posed a grave threat to entire humanity, both sides reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism.
- ❖ They reiterated their commitment to working together in this regard, including the finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

#### **On Cyber Security:**

- ❖ India reaffirmed its support for capacity building and infrastructure development in the field of cyber security in Mongolia.

#### **Line of Credit:**

- ❖ Mongolia appreciated significant progress made in the implementation of the 'Mongol Refinery Project' under a Government of India (GoI) Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 1 billion.
- ❖ India has also approved a request from the Government of Mongolia to extend an additional LOC of US \$236 million for the project, taking the Government of India's total commitment for the project to US\$ 1.236 billion.

#### **Tourism:**

- ❖ The Mongolian side announced a "visa on arrival" scheme arrangement for Indian short-term visitors to encourage mutual tourism.