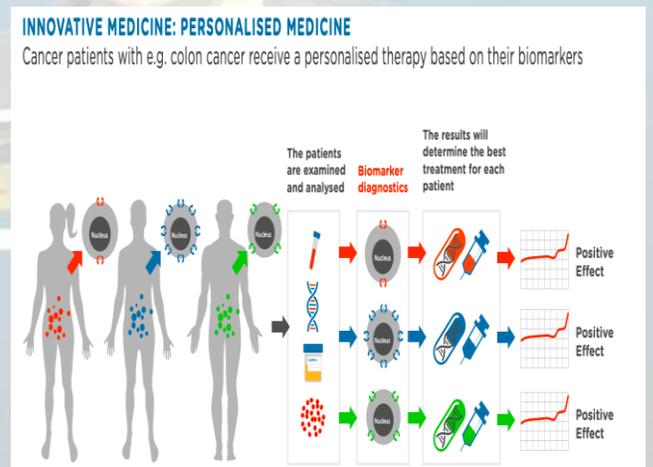
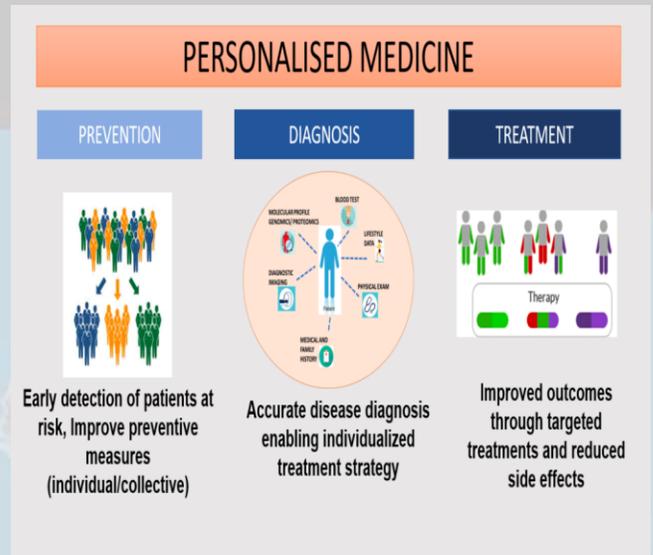


Personalised medicine

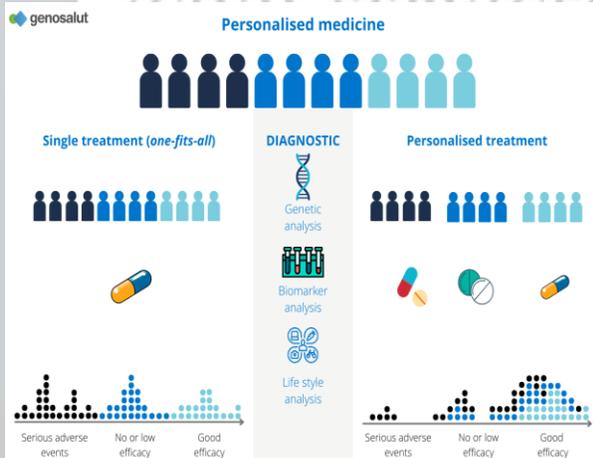
- Warfarin is a powerful blood thinner and a leading drug for cardiovascular disease worldwide.
- But in South Africa, it is among the top four drug varieties leading to hospitalization from adverse drug reactions.

Understudied populations

- It's astonishing how powerful our genetics can be in mediating medicines.
- Take the gene CYP2D6, which is known to play a vital role in how fast humans metabolise 25% of all the pharmaceuticals on the market.
- If you have a genetic variant of CYP2D6 that makes you metabolise drugs more quickly, or less quickly, it can have a huge impact on how well those drugs work and the dangers you face from taking them.



The Hindu



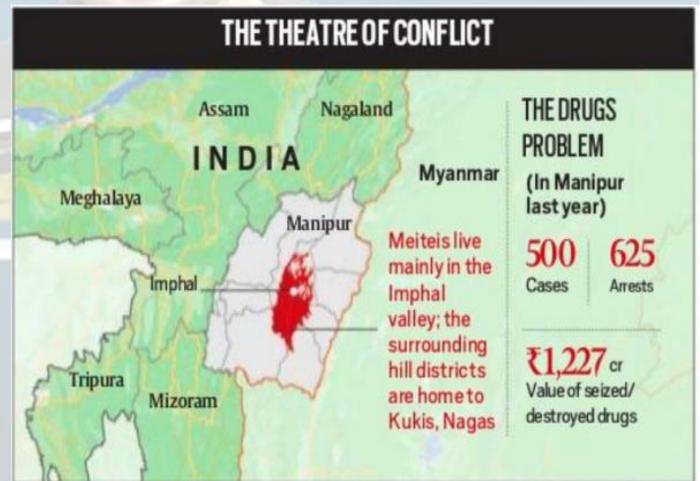
Quiet diplomacy

What is quiet diplomacy?

It is a discreet, behind-the-scenes approach to international relations. It involves confidential negotiations to resolve conflicts or address sensitive issues.

- “Quiet diplomacy” refers to one state’s efforts to influence the behavior of another state through discreet negotiations or actions.
- This means operating behind the scenes and may rely on back channeling rather than on public talks.
- It may also involve deal making and strategic partnerships, involving more carrots than sticks. Quiet diplomacy can also bring indirect influence sometimes called soft power to bear on a nation’s leaders through meetings with members of civil society.
- Small nations often rely on quiet diplomacy, because they don’t have the military or economic clout to intimidate other nations.
- But large, powerful countries like the United States also use quiet diplomacy.
- The Hindu

Free movement regime to end



- The Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar would be reconsidered to stop border residents from moving into each other’s country without any paperwork.

- **What is the FMR?**
- Much of India’s present-day northeast was temporarily under Burmese occupation until the British pushed them out in the 1800s.

- The victors and the vanquished signed the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826, leading to the current alignment of the boundary between India and Burma, later renamed Myanmar.
 - The border divided people of the same ethnicity and culture specifically the Nagas of Nagaland and Manipur and the Kuki Chin Mizo communities of Manipur and Mizoram without their consent.
 - In some stretches, the border split a village or a house between the two countries.
 - Wary of increasing Chinese influence in Myanmar, New Delhi began working on improving diplomatic ties with the Myanmar government a decade ago.
 - After almost a year's delay, the FMR came about in 2018 as part of the Narendra Modi government's Act East policy.
 - The Rohingya refugee crisis that began in August 2017 caused the delay.
 - The FMR allows people living on either side of the border to travel up to 16 km inside each other's country without a visa.
 - A border resident needs to have a border pass, valid for a year, to stay in the other country for about two weeks per visit.
 - The FMR also envisaged the promotion of localised border trade through customs stations and designated markets apart from helping the people of Myanmar access better education and healthcare facilities on the Indian side of the border.
- Why is the FMR being reconsidered?**
- Apart from a 10 km stretch in Manipur, the India Myanmar border through hills and jungles is unfenced.
 - The security forces have for decades grappled with members of extremist groups carrying out hit-and-run operations from their clandestine bases in the Chin and Sagaing regions of Myanmar.
 - The ease of cross-border movement, even before the FMR was in place, was often flagged for inward trafficking of drugs and outward trafficking of wildlife body parts.
- Why are Mizoram and Nagaland opposed to ending the FMR?**
- Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma said his government does not have the authority to stop the Centre from fencing the India-Myanmar border for perceived security threat and scrapping the FMR, but said he was opposed to the move.

- According to him, the border was imposed by the British to divide the people belonging to the Zo ethnic stock. “We Mizos share ethnic ties with the Chin people across the border.

- **The Hindu**

Sweden in NATO

- More than 70 people have been killed after a tunnel collapsed at a Malian gold mining site last week,
- Mali, which is among the world’s poorest countries, is one of Africa’s leading gold producers.
- Gold mining sites are regularly the scene of deadly landslides and authorities struggle to control artisanal mining of the precious metal.



The Hindu

European Ports Alliance

- Turkiye’s Parliament on ratified Sweden’s NATO membership after more than a year of delays that upset Western efforts to show resolve in the face of Russia’s war on Ukraine.



Year founded:
1949

NATO has **2** official languages
(English and French)

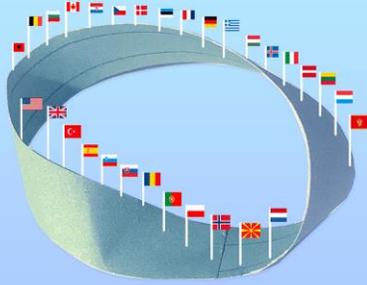
Number of member nations: **29**

Article **5** lays out the principle of collective defense

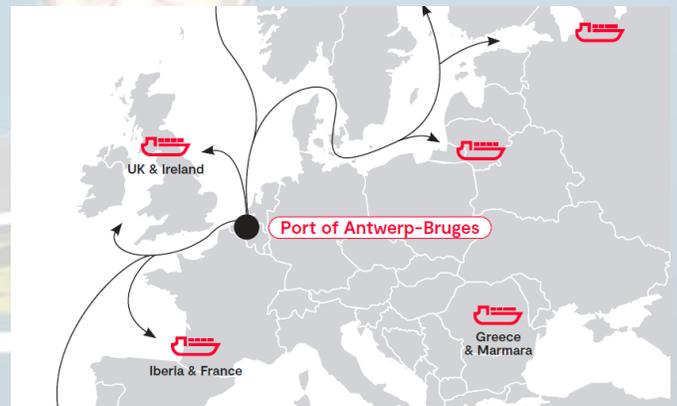
Number of members without an army: **1** (Iceland)

How Does NATO Work?

- it offers protection of freedom and stability for members and their regions
- When one NATO nation is attacked, all NATO nations will retaliate
- NATO is funded by its members, with the U.S. contributing roughly 75% of NATO's budget
- NATO targets include weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyber-attacks
- NATO protection does not extend to civil wars or internal coups



the balance



- **European Ports Alliance**
- **EU on launches a “European Ports Alliance” to harmonize methods in the fight against drug smuggling and to combat the hubs’ infiltration by criminal groups.**
- **The initiative inaugurated at Belgium’s Antwerp port, the main gateway for cocaine into Europe is attended by EU interior ministers and representatives from 16 of the bloc’s ports and from the sea transport organization.**

The Hindu

Hydropower from glacial lake

- **High in the Himalayas, two villages near Nepal’s border with Tibet are getting power from an unusual**

source: a threatening glacial lake. In this high altitude region, climate change is accelerating the melting of mountain ice, with villages located below fast filling glacial lakes facing a risk of catastrophic flooding.

- But efforts to drain some of the excess water building up in the lakes, to lower disaster risk, also present an opportunity to boost clean power production, by installing small hydropower generators in the drainage channel.



- Channeling water out of the lake to hydropower generating equipment could produce 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity year-round, he said, and lower the lake's water level by five to 10 meters. "When the water level is reduced, we don't have to worry about the lake bursting,



The Hindu



The Hindu

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GLACIAL LAKE**

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