



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LAST ONE YEAR

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DARIEN GAP

- **Darien Gap** has emerged as one of the world's most dangerous and fastest-growing **border crossings for illegal immigration**.
- This route is taken when people migrate from **South America to North America**.

About Darien Gap

- Connects **northern Colombia and southern Panama**.
- Part of the **Isthmus of Panama**.
- Isthmus is a narrow piece of land, with water on each side, that joins two larger pieces of land.
- It is a hot, humid area marked by tropical rainforests, mangrove swamps, and low mountain ranges with cloud forest vegetation (tropical mountainous regions).



OPERATION INDRAVATI

- India launched **Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.**
- As part of the ongoing operation, 12 Indians were evacuated.
- Haiti has been under a **state of emergency** after some armed groups attacked the country's largest prison in Port-au-Prince earlier this month.



EVACUATION OPS CARRIED OUT BY INDIA

YEAR	MISSION	EVACUATED FROM
2023	Operation Ajay	Israel
2023	Operation Kaveri	Sudan
2022	Operation Ganga	Ukraine
2021	Operation Devi Shakti	Afghanistan
2020	Operation Samudra Setu	Other Countries (Covid-19)
2016	Operation Sankat Mochan	South Sudan
2015	Operation Raahat	Yemen
2011	Operation Safe Homecoming	Libya

- **Operation Ganga:** In February 2022, India launched an evacuation mission to bring back all its stranded citizens in Ukraine. In less than 4 weeks, around 16,000 Indians were flown to India in 76 flights.
- **Operation Devi Shakti:** India evacuated hundreds of Indians from Afghanistan in August 2021 following the takeover of the Taliban and collapse of the country.
- **Operation Vande Bharat:** India launched an operation on May 7, 2020, to bring back its citizens stranded in various countries due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Over 2 lakh flights brought home 1.83 crore citizens in just around 5 months.
- **Operation Samudra Setu:** This was a naval operation in 2020 to bring back over 3,000 Indians stranded in various countries due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Operation Raahat:** India evacuated nearly 5,600 people from conflict-hit Yemen in 2015. It involved evacuation via sea and air.
- **Operation Maitri:** The op was launched in 2015 as a joint relief and rescue operation in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake. Over 5,000 Indians and 170 foreign nationals were brought back from Nepal.

INDIA AND BRAZIL HOLD FIRST '2+2' MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

- **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** is a meeting of Foreign and Defense Ministers from two countries to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- India has **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with US, Australia, Japan etc.**

India-Brazil Bilateral Relations

- Political Relations: Strategic Partners since 2006.
- Cooperation in Multilateral Forums: It includes **UN, G20, BRICS, IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) etc.**
- **G4 (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan)**, support each other for permanent seats in UNSC.
- Part of India led alliance such as **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- Also enabling India close cooperation with **MERCOSUR (regional trading bloc in South America)**.

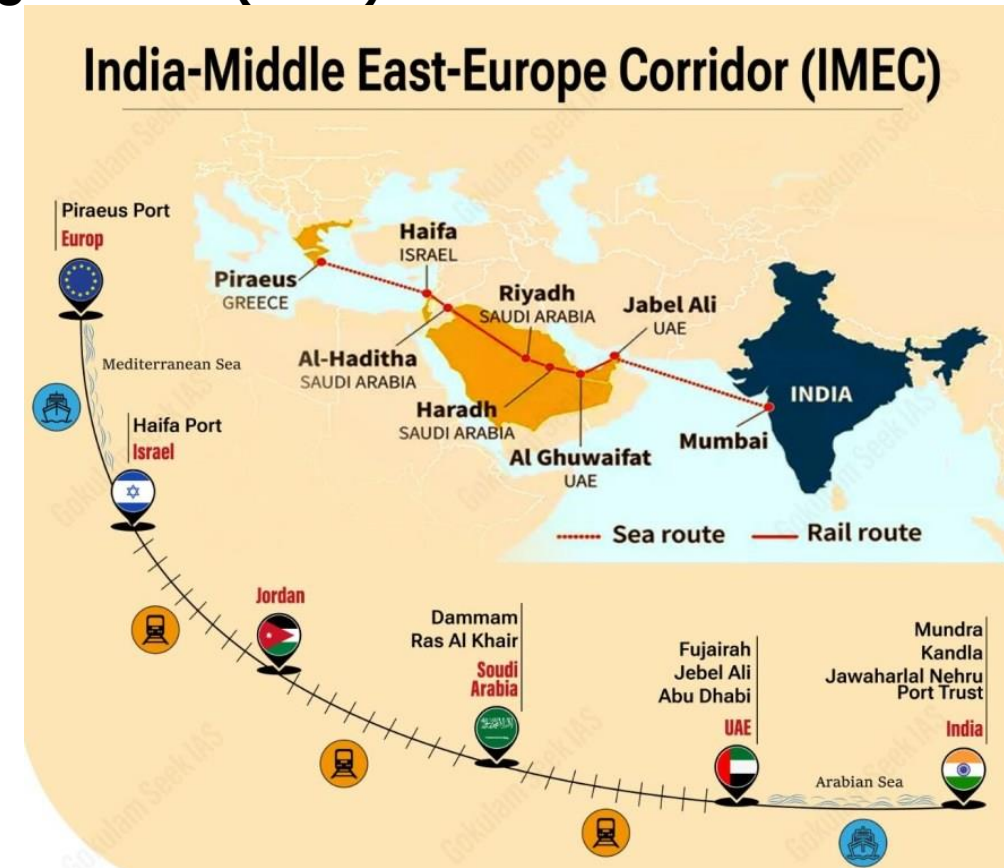
- 
- Trade: India is **5th largest trading partner of Brazil (2021)**.
 - Space: ISRO launched Brazil's satellite **Amazonia-1 (2021)**.
 - Security: Joint statement and action plan for enhancing defense and security cooperation were signed (2020).
 - **Cooperation in Bio-fuels:** Brazil is the world's second-largest producer of biofuels. It is also part of **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, an India-led Initiative.

IMEC

- Cabinet approves Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) with UAE on **India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.

About IMEC

- It is a proposed transit network that aims at **integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East**.
- It consists of railroad, ship-to-rail networks (road and sea), and road transport routes (and networks)
- MoU was signed between India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the US at New Delhi G20 summit to establish it.



BIMSTEC CHARTER

- Lower House of Nepal's Federal Parliament endorsed the Charter of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

BIMSTEC Charter

- It is a foundational document that outlines the goals, principles, and structure of BIMSTEC group.
- Signed and adopted in **March 2022 during 5 th BIMSTEC Summit.**
- Charter has provision that it will come into force only after its endorsement by all member countries. **(Except Nepal, respective parliaments of other members endorsed the charter).**
- • **BIMSTEC was formed in 1997** to enhance regional cooperation on issues like economic prosperity, social progress etc.
- **Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.**

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

About International Criminal Court (ICC)

- It is the **first international permanent court to investigate and prosecute individuals accused of serious international crimes.**
- ICC's founding treaty, called the **Rome Statute (adopted in 1998 entered into force in 2002)**, grants the ICC jurisdiction over 4 main crimes.
- **Membership:** 124 countries are States Parties to Rome Statute of ICC.
- **India, Israel, the US, Russia and China** are not parties to the Rome Statute.
- Official languages: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
- Enforcement: ICC's decisions are binding.
- However, it **does not have its own police force and relies on State cooperation**, which is essential to the arrest and surrender of suspects.

4 Categories of crimes under ICC

 Genocide	 Crimes against humanity	 War crimes	 Crime of aggression
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Specific intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group by killing its members or by other means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Serious violations committed through large-scale attack against civilian population● 5 forms listed in the Rome Statute includes offences like murder, rape, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, enslavement, torture, apartheid etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grave breaches of the Geneva conventions in the context of armed conflict● Includes use of child soldiers; killing or torture of civilians/prisoners of war; intentional attacks against hospitals, historic monuments etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, integrity or independence of another State.

INDUS-X INITIATIVE MARKS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- **India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)** was launched in June 2023 to build defence innovation bridge between two countries under **initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)**.
- INDUS-X facilitates partnerships among U.S. and Indian defense companies,

Achievements of INDUS-X

- Commercial collaborations between defence companies of two countries in various defence domains such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and semiconductors.
- Exploration of modalities for joint innovation funding between two countries.
- **Indus-X Gurukul:** A hybrid information series for U.S. and Indian defense start-ups.

GROUP OF 7 (G7)

About Group of 7 (G7)

- **Nature:** The **G7 is an informal grouping of advanced democracies** that meets annually to coordinate global economic policy and address other transnational issues. **E.g., Migration, Climate change, conflicts, etc.**
- **Genesis:** 1975 in response to economic and financial cooperation due to energy crisis.
- **Its working:** The G7 lacks a permanent structure; its rotating Presidency sets the agenda annually.
- **Members: 7.** The US, Germany, Canada, the UK, Japan, Italy, France. Russia joined G7 in 1998, creating the G8, but was excluded in 2014 for its takeover of Crimea.
- The EU is not a member of the G7 but attends the annual summit.

G7 countries in numbers



40% of the global economy and **10% of the world's population** lives in G7 countries.



36% of global power generation capacity.



30% of global energy demand.



25% of global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

FREE MOVEMENT REGIME WITH MYANMAR

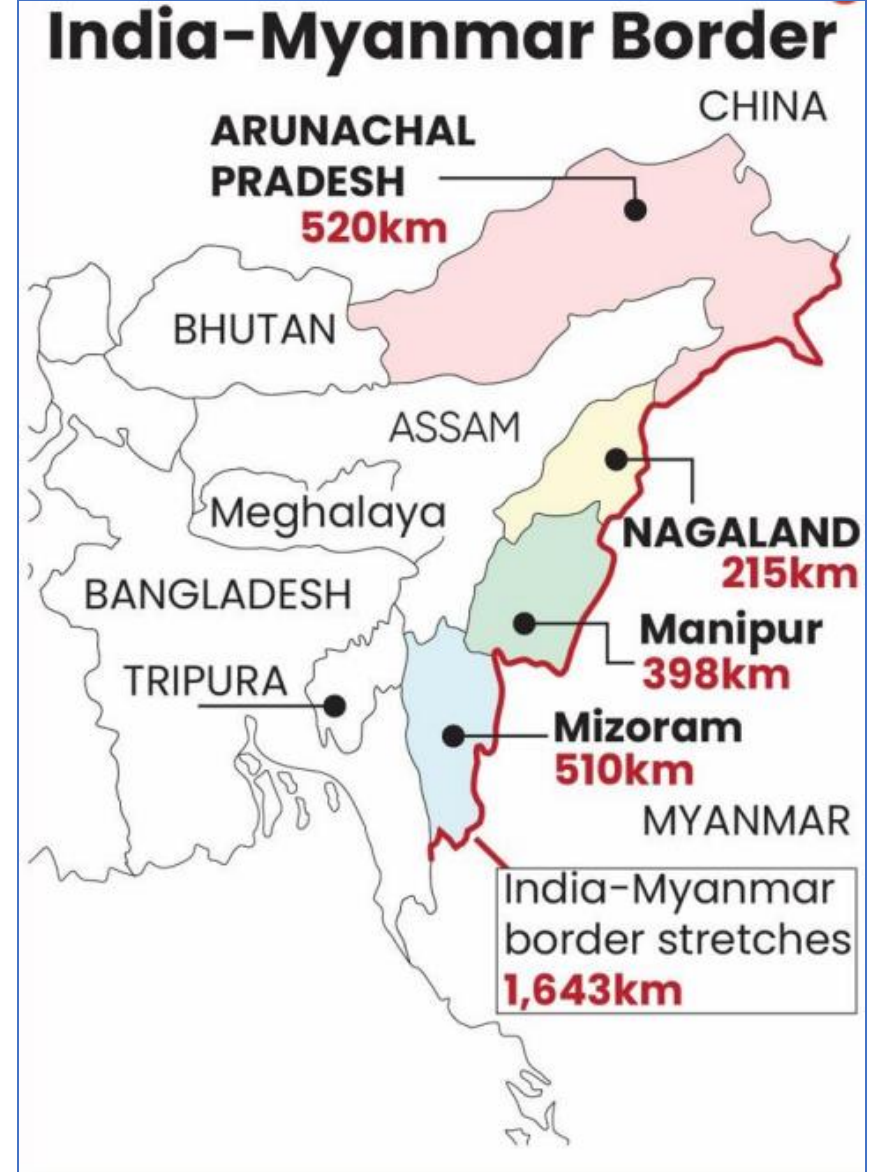
- **FMR between India and Myanmar**
- It permits individuals residing within a 16 km radius of the border to traverse freely, without requirements of a visa or other documentation.
- It was formalized in **2018 as part of India's Act East Policy.**

FMR regime conceptualized due to following reasons

- **Strong ethnic and familial ties across the border:** The border demarcated by the British in 1826 effectively divided people of the same ethnicity and culture into two nations without their consent.
- **Local trade and business:** The region has a long history of transborder commerce through customs and border haats.

Other aspects of India-Myanmar relations

- **Commercial and Economic relations:** Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA) and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) signed in 2008.
 - India and Myanmar both are **signatories to the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement.**
- **Regional connectivity projects:** Both are cooperating under Kaladan Multi-Modal Project, India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, etc.
- **Multilateral/regional/sub-regional cooperation:** Both countries are members of BIMSTEC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation.
 - **Myanmar was given status of observer in SAARC in 2008.**
- **Defense cooperation:** Joint military exercise named India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX) is aimed at building and promoting closer relations with armies of the two countries.

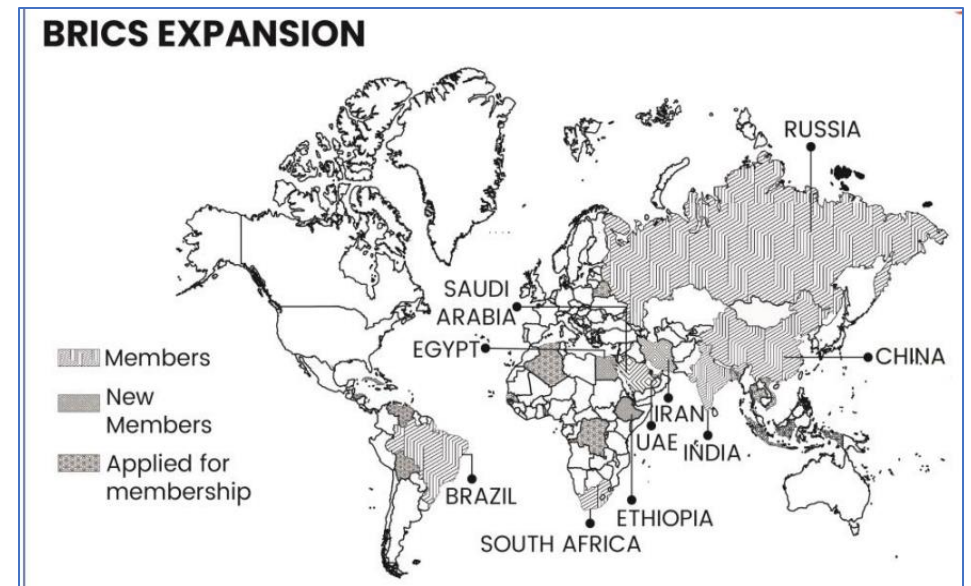


EXPANSION OF BRICS

- Recently, five new members namely **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates** have **joined BRICS** as full time permanent members.

About BRICS

- British economist **Jim O' Neill** coined and used the acronym '**BRICs**' for the first time in 2001.
- BRIC started functioning as a formal grouping on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- First BRIC Summit was held in **Yekaterinburg (Russia)** in **2009**.
- BRIC became BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.



Major Initiatives of BRICS

- **New Development Bank (NDB)** (HQ: Sanghai) and **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** was created to provide mutual financial support.
- **Medical cooperation: Ufa Declaration** was adopted to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- **BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework Programme** (2015) helped facilitate a common response to COVID-19.
- **BRICS Payments Task Force** as a step towards cooperation between central banks and other financial institutions on national payments systems.
- **BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel** promotes exchange of information on cyber threats among their central banks.

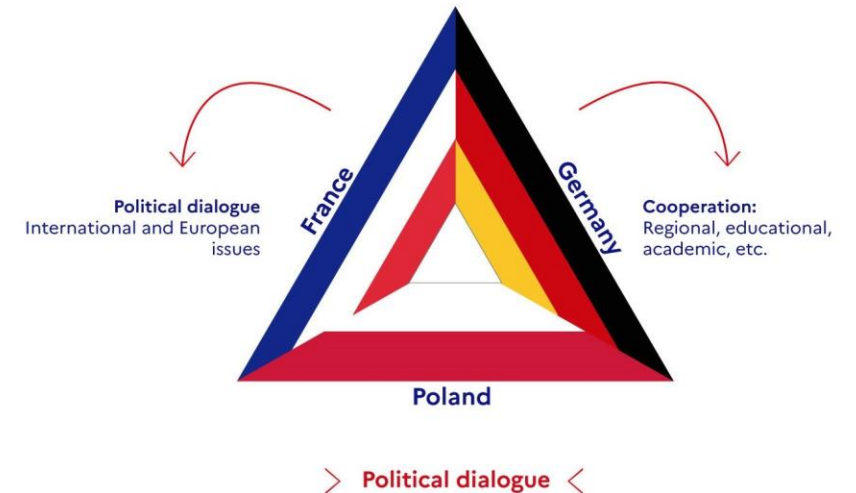
THE WEIMAR TRIANGLE

- **Foreign Ministers of Germany, Poland, and France** have met recently to revive the **Weimar Triangle**.
- **Weimar Triangle is a regional group created in 1991**, to develop a shared vision for Europe and forge closer ties between these three countries' societies.
- The Triangle was initially the key forum for supporting **German-Polish reconciliation after World War II**.
- The group takes its name from the **city of Weimar, Germany**, where the initial meeting took place.

1991: creation of the Weimar Triangle

What is the Weimar Triangle?

> A forum for dialogue and cooperation <



MISSION ASPIDES

- **European Union launches 'Mission Aspides' to protect Red Sea vessels from Iran-backed Houthi attacks.**
- **It aims to preserve freedom of navigation, provide maritime situational awareness, accompany ships and protect them from possible multimodal attacks at sea.**
- **Its area of operation will include Bab Al Mandeb and Strait of Hormuz, as well as international waters in Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Gulf.**



EU Launches Mission to Protect Maritime Traffic in Red Sea



INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE FOR INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IFC-IOR)

About IFC-IOR

- Genesis: IFC-IOR was established in 2018, based at IMAC, and hosted by the Indian Navy.
- IMAC is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- Aim: Strengthening maritime security in the region by building a common coherent maritime situation picture using White Shipping Agreements.
- Region covered: Indian Ocean Region and adjoining Seas.
- 67 linkages in 25 countries have been established to secure the global commons for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region towards the well-being of all.
- IFC-IOR hosts 12 International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from 12 partner nations viz. Australia, France, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the UK and the USA.

Zimbabwe Plans To Cull 200 Elephants Amid Drought

- ❑ In response to a **severe drought, Zimbabwe has decided to kill (cull)** 200 elephants to help tackle food shortages.
- ❑ This tough decision comes because the country's elephant population is too large for the environment to support, and there is an **urgent need to provide food for people.**
- ❑ Zimbabwe has over 84,000 elephants, but the land can only comfortably support around 45,000.
- ❑ Zimbabwe's decision is similar to actions taken in **Namibia**, where they have also started culling animals due to drought and food shortages.
- ❑ These issues have been worsened by climate change and weather patterns **like El Niño.**

What is China's 'Anaconda Strategy'?

- ❑ Tensions between China and Taiwan are growing, with China using a military strategy called the **"Anaconda Strategy."**
- ❑ This strategy is designed to **wear down Taiwan and limit its actions, while China increases its military presence** around the island.

What is the Anaconda Strategy?

- ❑ The Anaconda Strategy is a slow, squeezing tactic, similar to how an anaconda snake wraps around its prey before striking.
- ❑ China uses this strategy to weaken Taiwan gradually. Instead of launching an immediate attack, China focuses on surrounding Taiwan and weakening its defenses through military drills and psychological pressure.



What is THAAD?

- ❑ The United States has decided to send the **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)** missile system to Israel.
- ❑ This is part of the **U.S.'s promise to help strengthen Israel's defence**, especially with the rising tensions with Iran, which have included recent missile attacks on Israel.

What is the THAAD Missile Defence System?

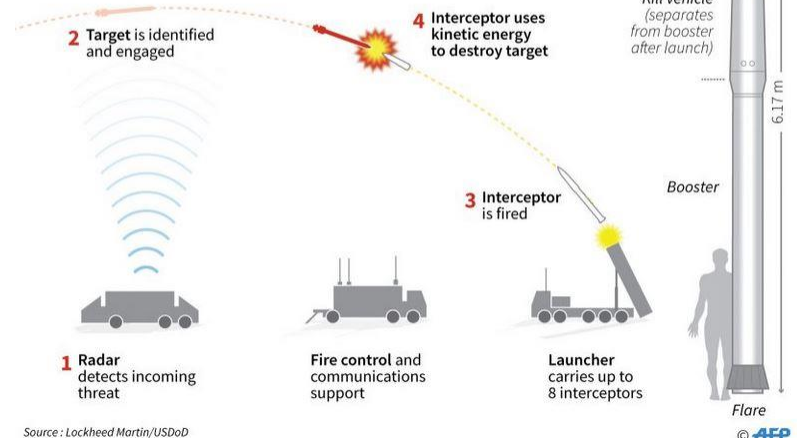
THAAD, or Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence, is an advanced missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles during the last part of their flight.

It works by using a technology **called "hit-to-kill,"** meaning it directly hits a missile in the air to destroy it, rather than using explosives.

Missile defense system

THAAD: Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

- Targets ballistic missiles inside or outside the Earth's atmosphere
- Considered highly deployable for being easy to move around
- Cost: \$1 billion



Jordan Becomes First Country to Eliminate Leprosy

- ❑ The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.
- ❑ For more than 20 years, Jordan has not had any cases of indigenous leprosy (cases that originated within the country).

What Is Leprosy?

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a long-lasting infectious disease caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium leprae*.

It affects the skin, nerves, and sometimes other parts of the body.

Leprosy is still considered a neglected tropical disease (NTD). Each year, over 200,000 new cases are reported in more than 120 countries.



Thank you

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