

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)

July 8, 2022

In news- 7th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Bagan, Myanmar recently.

What is Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)?

- It is a **multilateral format established in 2016 for cooperation between the riparian states of the Lancang River and Mekong River.**
- **The Lancang is the part of the Mekong** that flows through China. Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand are five downstream countries of the Mekong River.
- The **central purpose of the format is for China to manage water flow** from its hydropower dams with the other riparian states.
- A **MLC special fund** was created in 2016 to aid in small and medium-sized projects by the Lancang-Mekong countries.
- The **theme of 2022** meeting was **“Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity”**
- **China has built some dams along the upper stretch of the Mekong, the part it calls the Lancang** and it has been criticized for these dams that affect water levels and downstream fisheries.



About Mekong river-

- The Mekong River is **a trans-boundary river in East Asia and Southeast Asia.**
- It is the **world's twelfth longest river** and the **third longest in Asia.**
- It drains an area of 795,000 km², discharging 475 km³ of water annually.
- Covering a **distance of nearly 5,000 km** from its source on the Tibetan Plateau in China to the Mekong Delta, the river **flows through six countries: China, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam.**