

including a shared interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific open and free.

- **More than 77 Mn People Slipped into Poverty in 2021 Due to Pandemic: UN**
The United Nations (UN) has said that more than 77 million people slipped into poverty in 2021 as governments struggled to service debts and secure early vaccine access. The UN report suggests that rich countries managed to avoid the worst economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic but poorer ones continue to deal with debilitating debt. The report said 20% of the countries will not be able to return to pre-2019 levels of GDP per capita by the end of 2023. The poorest countries pumped billions into servicing debts and were forced to cut spending on education and infrastructure.