Syllabus subtopic:

- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

Prelims and Mains focus: About the event and its significance

News: Nepal has invited the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, along with several other heads of governments and states, for the Sagarmatha Dialogue (Sagarmatha Sambaad).

Background

- India and Pakistan have been caught up in a cycle of hostility which has prevented Islamabad from hosting the SAARC summit since 2016.

- The dialogue aims at drawing all the SAARC leaders and providing an opportunity to break the ice.

About the event

- The Sambaad (dialogue) is named after the world’s tallest mountain Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) which is also a symbol of friendship and is meant to promote the notions of common good and collective well-being of humanity. Sagarmatha, being the highest natural landmark on the earth, is also the tallest witness of the unfolding global events.

- The three-day event (first-ever), to be held in Kathmandu, from April 2 will be the biggest diplomatic dialogue in Nepal’s recent history that will be attended by many global figures apart from the leaders of the SAARC countries.

- Invitations have been sent to over 150 foreign guests including heads of government and heads of states, Ministers, business leaders, media, members of multilateral organisations, think tank experts, academics, civil
society leaders and activists.

- The event is expected to **focus on the threat of climate change** *(Theme: "Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity")* to the modern world. Given the large number of global leaders, the event is expected to **emerge as a venue for bilateral interaction among leaders**.

- Discussions will also dwell upon the **organic link between mountains, oceans and many other ecosystems**. Largely, the dialogue will be an opportunity to devise on the actions needed to realize the **Sustainable Development Goals** and commitment made under the **Paris Agreement** to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 °C to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

**Note:**

- **Sagarmatha National Park** is a national park in the **Himalayas of eastern Nepal** that is dominated by Mount Everest.

- It encompasses an area of 1,148 km² (443 sq mi) in the Solukhumbu District and ranges in elevation from 2,845 to 8,848 m (9,334 to 29,029 ft) at the summit of Mount Everest.

- In the north, it shares the international border with the **Qomolangma National Nature Preserve of Tibet**. In the east it is adjacent to **Makalu Barun National Park**, and in the south it extends to **Dudh Kosi river**. It is part of the **Sacred Himalayan Landscape**.