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TARGET 2024

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



**MAY 2023 TO
DECEMBER 2023**

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Out of 100 questions asked in UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2023,
22 questions reflected directly and
20 questions reflected partially
from the IAS Parliament



Total number of questions directly reflected from IAS Parliament (including Target 2023 series)	22
Number of questions directly reflected from the Target Series 2023	15
Total number of questions partially reflected from IAS Parliament	20

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TARGET 2024

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

 May 2023 to December 2023

1. UNITED NATIONS & ITS ORGANS

- It is an international organization founded in **1945 after the World War II**.
- Its charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 51 countries have signed the charter.
- Its predecessor, the **League of Nations**, created by the **Treaty of Versailles in 1919** was disbanded in 1946.
- Its mission is to maintain international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.
- UN System is made up of the
 - Main Organs** established by the Charter of the UN,
 - Specialized agencies** provided for in Article 57 of the Charter &
 - Funds & Programmes** established by the General Assembly under its authority derived from Article 22 of the Charter.

THE UNITED NATIONS	
<p>ESTABLISHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded in 1945 after World War II. Its charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945. Its predecessor, the League of Nations, created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 was disbanded in 1946. 	<p>MISSION</p> <p>Its mission is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain international peace and security Develop friendly relations among nations Promote social progress, better living standards and human rights
<p>FACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headquarters - New York Official Languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian Members - 193 (Latest Member South Sudan) Secretary General - Antonio Guterres (Portugal) 	<p>SIX MAIN ORGANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Assembly The Security Council Economic and Social Council The Trusteeship Council The Secretariat The International Court of Justice

Main Organs

1.1 UN General Assembly

- It is the main deliberative organ and composed of **all member states**, each of which has one vote.
- Mandate** – To discuss, debate, and make recommendations on subjects pertaining to international peace and security, including development, disarmament, human rights, international law, and peaceful arbitration of disputes between nations.
- It considers reports from the other four organs of the UN, assesses the financial situations of member states, and **approves the UN budget**.
- Sessions - Regular session** (annually from Sep to Dec), **Special session** and **Emergency Special Session** (within 24 hours) at the request of UN Security Council or majority of members or one-member state if the majority of states concur.
- Appointments** - UNGA appoints Secretary General of UN based on the recommendations of UNSC.

UNGA	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	New York, United States
India's membership	India is a member

- It elects non-Permanent members in Security Council and Members for Social and Economic Council.
- Along with Security Council, it elects Judges to International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- **Membership** - There are 193 UN member states, each with a vote in the General Assembly.
- The assembly's President changes with each annual session and is elected by the body itself.
- **Palestine and Vatican City** are the United Nations' two non-member observer states, which have the right to speak at assembly meetings but cannot vote on resolutions.
- **Assembly Actions** - Decision on important questions such as those on peace and security, UN budget, admission, suspension and expulsion of members to various organs of UN requires **special majority**.
- It can make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security that are under consideration by the Security Council.
- In 1948, it promulgated the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which contained 30 articles outlining global standards for human rights.
- In 1950, it initiated "**Uniting for Peace**" resolution which states that if UNSC fails to exercise its primary responsibility" for maintaining international peace and security, UNGA should take up the matter itself and urge collective action.
- In 2000, it set forth the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), followed by Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015.
- UNGA has the **power to censure states** for violating UN Charter principles.
- **UN budget** - United Nation is funded by its member states through **compulsory and voluntary contributions**.
- The size of each state's compulsory contribution depends mainly on its economic strength, though its state of development and debt situation are also considered.
- Member countries can make voluntary contribution to UNESCO, WHO, UN Programmes and Funds such as Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UN General Assembly 193 countries

Main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ

1 country = 1 vote

Annual sessions: September - December

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Subsidiary Organs

- Disarmament Commission
- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Main Committees
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Adoption of Resolution

- Resolution in UNGA can be adopted in two ways i.e., reaching consensus among member states and by voting on the resolution.

Unlike resolutions of the UN Security Council (UNSC), resolutions of the UNGA are **not legally binding**.

Consensus

- All member states have agreed to adopt the text of a draft resolution **without taking a vote**.
- Consensus will not be reached, even if one member State requests a vote.
- It is important to note that consensus does not mean that all Member States agree on every word in the draft resolution and they still have reservation about certain parts.
- Thus, the viewpoint of every member country is taken into consideration. This process is inclusive in nature.

Voting

- It need to get a **simple majority** to agree on the text of a resolution.
- There is no need to care about the perspectives of the minority who disagree.
- Those countries that did not vote in favour of a resolution on a particular agenda item will be less likely to implement the actions on an agenda item that are recommended in a resolution, hence it is divisive.

UN Secretary-General

- The UNSC approved 9th UN Secretary-General António Guterres for a 2nd term for 5 years starting from 2022.
- While there are **no term limits**, no Secretary-General has so far served more than 2 terms.
- **Selection process** - The Secretary-General is appointed by the UN UNGA on the **recommendation of the UNSC**.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UN ACABQ)

- It is a subsidiary organ of the UNGA comprising of 16 members.
- It ensures that fund contributions to the UN system are put to good effect and that mandates are properly funded.
- UN General Assembly appoints members of the Advisory Committee in their individual capacity on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.
 - Surendra Kumar Adhana from India was re-elected to key UN advisory committee for 2024-26 term.

UN Recent Happenings

- **General Comment No. 26**, the UN guidance has been adopted for States to initiate climate action to protect children's rights.
- **Gaza war**- Amid Israel's ongoing military attacks on the Gaza Strip, UN has invoked [Article 99 of the UN Charter](#) in a bid to establish a ceasefire.
- It is seen as a **discretionary power of the Secretary-General**.
- The UNGA, met in a resumed 10th Emergency Special Session and voted on the draft resolution titled "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations".
- It was submitted by **Jordan** and co-sponsored by more than 40 nations including Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia and South Africa.
- The resolution was adopted with 120 nations voting in its favour, 14 against it and 45 abstaining (**India also abstained**).
- India defended its decision to abstain in UNGA vote saying that the resolution did not include "explicit condemnation" of the terror attacks in Israel.

Article 99 - The **Secretary-General** may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security

UNGA Emergency Special Session

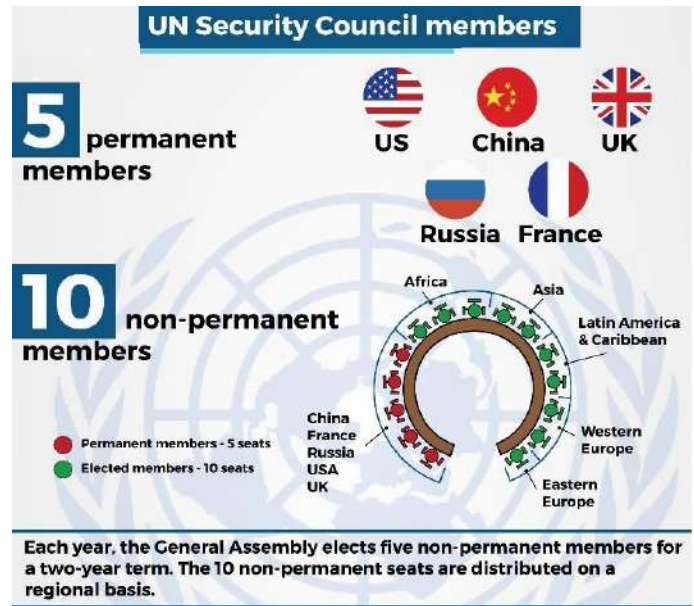
- An UNGA emergency special session happens when the **UNSC is deadlocked** i.e. when one of the five permanent Council members (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States) uses their veto power to quash a related draft resolution.
- UN Member States can request the Assembly President to convene such a session to make appropriate recommendations for collective measures, including calling for ceasefires, the use of armed force, etc.
- If adopted by a 2/3rd majority, the **non-binding** General Assembly resolution provides guidance for nations.

1.2 United Nations Security Council

- **Responsibility** - Maintenance of international peace and security.
- The Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
- The council has 15 members: **5 Permanent** - US, UK, Russia, France & China and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for **2-year term**.
- The Security Council is the only UN organ that has the power to make **binding decisions** on member states.
- Equitable geographical distribution is also taken in to account for membership - African Group (3), Asia-Pacific Group (2), Latin American and Caribbean Group (2), Western European and Others Groups (WEOG) (2) and Eastern European Group (1).
- Arab states are given 1 seat alternately drawn from either Africa's quota or Asia's by informal agreement.
- The presidency of the Security Council rotates alphabetically among 15 members **every month**.

UNSC	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	New York, United States
India's membership	India is not a permanent member

- **Voting system** - Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.
- Permanent Member States at the Security Council has a special voting power known as the "**right to veto**".
- Decisions on procedural matters should have vote of at least 9 of the 15 members and decision on substantive matters require 9 votes and the absence of negative vote by any of the 5 permanent members.
- If any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.
- If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain.
- Veto powers of P5 countries was used **most frequently by Russia**, blocking more than 100 resolutions since the council's founding.



G4 Nations	Razali Reform Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 countries bids for permanent seats in UNSC. • They are <u>Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan was proposed by the then UNGA president Ismail Razali in 1997 to enlarge the UNSC from its present 15 members to 24 members. • Under the plan, the UNSC would have 5 new permanent members without veto powers, and 4 more non-permanent members.
Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club)	L.69 group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are group of countries who are <u>opposing the expansion</u> of permanent seats in the UNSC under the leadership of Italy. • Members - Italy, Spain, Malta, San Marino, Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia & Turkey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is of pro-reform member states, including primarily developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. • The Group is bound by the firm conviction that expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UNSC is imperative. • The group currently has 42 countries <u>including India.</u>
Group of Friends	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Group of friends' was launched in 2022 during India's Presidency of the U.N. Security Council. • Co-chairs - India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal. • Aim - To promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, seek facilitation of capacity building and technical assistance to the host state authorities. 	

Proposed Reforms in UNSC

- The demands for reform of the UNSC is based on 5 key issues:
 1. Categories of membership (permanent, non-permanent)
 2. The question of the veto held by the five permanent members
 3. Regional representation
 4. The size of an enlarged Council and its working methods
 5. The relationship between Security Council and General Assembly.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies


- Any reform of the Security Council would require the agreement of **at least 2/3rd of UN member states**.
- The agreement of all the permanent members of the UNSC enjoying the veto right is also required.

India & UNSC

- India has declared its candidature as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the **2028-29 term**.
- India has already held a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for **7 terms**. In total, India has been in the UNSC for 14 years.

1.3 UN Economic & Social Council

- It is the UN’s central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on *sustainable development*.
- It coordinates the activities of UN and intergovernmental level work of UN Specialised Agencies.
- It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a **3-year term**.
- Seats in the council are allocated based on geographical representation.

UN ECOSOC	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	New York, United States
India’s membership	India is a member

- For the nations to be the elected as members of ECOSOC, it needs **2/3rd majority** of UN General Assembly votes.
- Each member of the ECOSOC has one vote and generally voting in the council is by **simple majority**.
- The President is elected for a **one-year term**.

Recent Developments

- In 2022, India got elected to 4 key UN ECOSOC bodies. They are:
 - Commission of Social Development** - It is responsible for the follow-up and implementation of the *Copenhagen Declaration* and *Programme for Action*.
 - Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations** - It is a standing Committee that considers the applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by the NGOs.
 - UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development** - It is a subsidiary body of the ECOSOC which holds an annual intergovernmental forum.
 - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** - CESCR is a body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights by its State Parties.
- UN Statistical Commission** - *India was recently elected* to UN Statistical Commission for a 4-year period beginning January 1, 2024.

UN Statistical Commission is the highest body of the global statistical system established in 1947, as ECOSOC’s Functional Commission.

The Statistical Commission oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	
Functional Commissions	Other Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Narcotic Drugs Population and Development Science and Technology for Development Social Development Statistics Status of Women United Nations Forum on Forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee for Development Policy Committee of Experts on Public Administration Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS UNEGN United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names UNGGIM Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

- The Commission consists of 24 member countries of the United Nations elected by ECOSOC on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution for **4 years** term.

1.4 Secretariat

- It undertakes the day-to-day work of the UN, administering the programmes and policies of the organization.
- It is headed by the Secretary-General, assisted by a staff of international civil servants worldwide.
- UN Secretariat is located in New York City, USA.

UN Secretariat	
Founded in	1945
Location	New York, United States

1.5 International Court of Justice

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is also called as the “**World Court**”.
- It is seated at the Peace Palace, *Hague, Netherlands*.
- It is the only principal organ of UN to be not located in New York.
- It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies.
- It hears cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues.
- It is composed of **15 judges elected to 9-year terms** of office by the UNGA and the Security Council.
- **5** judges are elected every 3 years to ensure continuity within the court and are eligible for re-election.
- Of the 15 judges, the composition is mandated to be as follows - 3 from Africa, 2 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 3 from Asia, 5 from Western Europe and other states and 2 from Eastern Europe
- The President and Vice-President are elected by secret ballot to hold office for 3 years.
- The **P5 members** of the UNSC always have a judge on the Court.
 - The exception was China, which did not have a judge on the Court from 1967 to 1985 because it did not put forward a candidate.
- The Court settles **legal disputes between nations only** and not between individuals, organizations and private enterprises in accordance with international law.
- The Court can only hear a dispute when requested to do so by one or more States. It **cannot deal with a dispute of its own motion**.
- The judgment is **final, binding** on the parties and without an appeal.
- Though the rulings of the ICJ are binding, some countries ignored them, as ICJ has no direct means of enforcing its orders.
- There are 2 types of ICJ jurisdictions.
 - **Contentious jurisdiction** - Resolving legal disputes between consenting states
 - **Advisory jurisdiction** - The UNGA, the Security Council and other specialized bodies of the organization can request the ICJ for an opinion (non-binding) on a legal question.
- Decisions and Advisory Opinions are by majority, and, in the event of an equal division, the President's vote becomes decisive.

ICJ	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	Hague, Netherlands
India's membership	India is a member

International Court of Justice	15 judges
Settling disputes between states	
Deals with territorial and border disputes, aggression, and provides advisory opinion to Security Council, General Assembly and other UN organs	

Recent Developments

- **Russia-Ukraine war** - Ukraine has filed an application before the ICJ, instituting proceedings against Russia concerning a dispute relating to the interpretation and fulfilment of the “Genocide Convention 1948”.
- In its verdict, ICJ ruled that Russia shall immediately suspend the military operations it commenced in Ukraine on February 24, 2022.
- **Climate change** - A group of 16 countries, led by Vanuatu sought an advisory opinion from the ICJ on the issue of climate change.

- **Israel-Palestine issue** - South Africa has moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), invoking the ***Genocide Convention, 1948***, against [Israel](#), accusing it of committing genocide during its ongoing military campaign in Gaza.
- The ICJ ordered that Israel must prevent acts of genocide in its military operations in Gaza.

1.6 Trusteeship Council

- It was formed to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of Member States, and to prepare the territories for self-government and independence.
- By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence, with the last nation being Palau.
- So, UN suspended its operation on 1994, and it continues to ***exist only on paper***.
- By a resolution adopted in May 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion.

Trusteeship Council
Supervising the administration of Trust Territories
Suspended its operations on 1 October 1994

SPECIALISED AGENCIES


- Specialized Agencies are ***legally independent international organizations*** with their own rules, membership, organs and financial resources, which were brought into relationship with the United Nations through negotiated agreements.
- Some existed before the First World War. Some were associated with the League of Nations. Others were created almost simultaneously with the UN. Others were created by the UN to meet emerging needs.
- There are totally ***15 specialized agencies*** under the United Nations (UN).
- These agencies carry out operations to promote multilateral cooperation from professional and technical viewpoints in an extremely broad range of areas, such as labour, education, science, culture, agriculture and public health.

Specialized Agencies^{1,5}

- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO** International Labour Organization
- IMF** International Monetary Fund
- IMO** International Maritime Organization
- ITU** International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
- UPU** Universal Postal Union
- WHO** World Health Organization
- WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO** World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP⁷**
 - **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - **IDA** International Development Association
 - **IFC** International Finance Corporation

1.7 World Bank Group

- The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of 5 international organizations that make leveraged loans to developing countries. The organizations are
 1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),
 2. International Development Association (IDA),
 3. International Finance Corporation (IFC),
 4. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and
 5. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- They have their own country membership, governing boards, and articles of agreement but work as one.
- Each member countries in the organisation get voting power according to the shares held in the organisation's capital.

World Bank		 THE WORLD BANK
Founded in	1944	
Headquarters	Washington D.C., USA	
India's membership	India is a member of 4 of the 5 constituents of World Bank Group.	
ICSID	India is not a member of ICSID	

Specialized Agencies of the UN		Not Specialized Agencies
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	IBRD and IDA provide loans at preferential rates to member countries, as well as grants to the poorest countries.	Established in 1944 to finance the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.
International Development Association (IDA)		Established in 1960, to reduce poverty by providing zero to low-interest loans (called “credits”) and grants for programs.
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	IFC, MIGA & ICSID focus on strengthening the private sector in developing countries by providing financing, technical assistance, political risk insurance, and settlement of disputes to private enterprises, including financial institutions.	Established in 1956, provides various forms of financing without sovereign guarantees, primarily to the private sector.
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)		Established in 1988, provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector.
International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)		Established in 1966, works with governments to reduce investment risk.

- **Governing Bodies** - The two main governing bodies are Board of Governors and Board of Directors.
- BOG is appointed by World Bank members and meets annually in joint meeting with Board of Governors of IMF.
- There is a separate BOD for IBRD, IDA, IFC and MIGA.
- India is a member of 4 of the 5 constituents of the World Bank Group **except ICSID**.
- India is one of the founder members of IBRD, IDA and IFC.

World Bank

- **IBRD and IDA** are collectively known as World Bank that provides loans to countries for capital programs.
- They were created at the 1944 *Bretton Woods Conference*, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries or shareholders, represented by a Board of Governors (BOG), who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank.
- The aim of World Bank is to
 1. End extreme poverty by reducing share of global population that lives in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030,
 2. Promote shared prosperity by increasing the incomes of the poorest 40% of people in every country
 3. Provide sustainable development.
- **Other works**
 - **International Health Partnership (IHP+)** – World Bank with the World Health Organization, administers the IHP+ to improve the health of citizens in developing countries.
 - **Clean Air Initiative (CAI)** - It is a World Bank initiative to advance innovative ways to improve air quality in cities through partnerships in selected regions of the world by sharing knowledge and experiences.
 - **Reports** – Ease of Doing Business, Global Economic Prospects, Global Financial Development Report, International Debt Statistics, World Development Report, World Development Indicators, Logistic Performance Index, Poverty and Shared Prosperity.

International Bank for Reconstruction & Development

- IBRD is a global development cooperative owned by 189-member countries and it is the largest development bank in the world.
- It is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- It was established in 1944 to finance the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.
- It supports the World Bank Group’s mission by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.

- IBRD finances investments across all sectors and provides technical support and expertise at each stage of a project.
- IBRD places special emphasis on supporting **lower-middle-income countries** as they move up the economic chain, graduating from IDA to become clients of IBRD.
- It will also help coordinating responses to regional and global challenges.
- The Bank's member governments are shareholders which contribute paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters.
- In addition to these contributions, the IBRD acquires most of its capital by borrowing on international capital markets through bond issues.
- To become a member of the Bank, under the IBRD Articles of Agreement, a country **must first join the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- **Only members of IBRD** are allowed to join other institutions within the Bank such as IDA, IFC, and MIGA.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- IFC is the private sector arm of The World Bank founded in 1956.
- IFC provides financing for private enterprise investments in developing countries.
- It also provides advisory services to encourage the development of private enterprise in nations.
- The IFC funds banks and other financial institutions that in turn lend to other projects (financial intermediaries).
- **Recent Developments** - In 2020, IFC launched the Green Equity Approach (GEA) to increase their clients climate lending and reduce their exposure to coal-related projects.
- Originally it required clients to reduce their exposure by half by 2025, and to zero by 2030.
- IFC updated its GEA policy recently and will no longer allow financial intermediary clients to support new coal-powered electricity projects.

THE WORLD BANK GROUP

BRETTON WOODS TWINS

- World Bank & the IMF was founded at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944.
- The World Bank Group works with developing countries to reduce poverty, while the IMF serves to stabilize the international monetary system.
- Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group.

ORGANS OF WBG

- IBRD and IDA together form the World Bank.
- IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.
- IFC, MIGA, and ICSID focus on strengthening the private sector in developing countries.

GOALS OF WBG

1 END EXTREME POVERTY

2010

2030

To reduce the percentage of the people who lives in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030

2 PROMOTE SHARED PROSPERITY

To promote income growth of the bottom 40% in each country.

189

The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries.

These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors. Generally, the governors are member countries' ministers of finance or ministers of development.

They meet once a year at the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

United States of America (USA) is the largest Shareholder of the World Bank Group

IMPORTANT REPORTS RELEASED BY THE WORLD BANK

Remittance Report	Ease of Living Index
World Development Report	Ease of Doing Business
Logistics Performance Index	Global Economic Prospect Report
Global Financial Development Report	Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022

India & the World Bank

- **Animal Health System Support for One Health' (AHSSOH)** – Launched in 2023 to create an ecosystem for better animal health management system using the One Health approach covering five states in India.
- **Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme-III** - It is a programme supported by the World Bank in India that aims to improve the quality of engineering education.
- It was started by Ministry of Education in 2017 - concluded on 30th September 2021.
- **National Hydrology Project** - It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% grant to implementing agencies on pan India basis that was started in 2016 and supported by the World Bank.
- Its objective is to improve the extent, quality and accessibility of water resources information and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resources management institutions in India.
- **Meghalaya Community-led Landscape Management Project** - This World Bank supported project was launched in 2018 to empower communities in Meghalaya to strengthen rural communities and traditional institutions to take charge of their natural resources.
- **Indus Waters Treaty** - It was signed in 1960 by India and Pakistan with the intervention of the World Bank which requires the commissioners to meet at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan to discuss cooperation on the Indus River System.

1.8 World Health Organization

- WHO is the first global health organization with the authority of directing and coordinating matters related to international health.
- It has 194-member countries, and its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of WHO, attended by delegations from all member states.

WHO	
Founded in	1948
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

- It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states
- The Executive Board of WHO implements the decisions and policies of the World Health Assembly.
- The members of the WHA generally meet **every year** in Geneva.

- The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget.

- **Recent Developments** - The U.S. has withdrawn from WHO in 2020 and **re-joined in 2021**.

- WHO has certified Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as malaria-free or eliminating the Anopheles mosquito-borne disease in their territories.

- WHO released the **Global TB Report** highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TB all over the world.

- It also released the first-ever **fungal priority pathogen list** to identify fungi which pose the greatest threat to public health.

- WHO established its first off-shore **Global Centre for Traditional Medicines (GCTM)** at Jamnagar, Gujarat in India to support WHO's efforts to implement the **WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023**.

- The annual international health conference World Health Summit 2022 held in **Berlin, Germany** was co-organised by WHO for the first time.

- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, was nominated as the next Regional Director for the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region recently.



1.9 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation.
- Established in 1967, WIPO has 193 member states.
- **Aim** - To promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property (inventions, trademarks, and designs) and copyrighted materials (literary, musical, photographic, and other artistic works).
- **HQ** - Geneva, Switzerland
- WIPO's predecessor was the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI) that administered 2 conventions - Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. BIRPI is thus transformed to become WIPO.
- WIPO administers 26 treaties including the WIPO Convention.
- **Marrakesh Treaty of WIPO** - Facilitates access to published works for *blind, visually impaired and print disabled*. *India was the first country* to sign this treaty.

WIPO	
Founded in	1967
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

India and WIPO

- India acceded to the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and WIPO Copyright Treaty (collectively known as the WIPO Internet Treaties) in 2018.
- The treaty is a Special agreement under **Berne Convention** and extends coverage of copyright to the internet and digital environment.

Berne Convention

- It is an international agreement governing copyright (for protection of literary and artistic works), which was first accepted in Berne, Switzerland, in 1886.
- The Convention is open to all States and Instruments of ratification or accession must be deposited with the Director General of WIPO.
- The Convention deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors.
- It is based on three basic principles
 - a. principle of national treatment
 - b. principle of automatic protection
 - c. principle of independence of protection
- It contains a series of provisions determining the minimum protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries.



1.10 World Meteorological Organization

- WMO was created in 1950 as an intergovernmental organization.
- It became a **specialized agency of the United Nations**, in 1951, for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- It has fostered collaboration between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of its Members and furthered the application of meteorology in many areas.
- Through its members, WMO provides forecasts and early warnings to nations, which help prevent and mitigate disasters.
- WMO monitors and forecast the transport of chemical and oil spills, forest fires, volcanic ash, haze and nuclear isotopes.
- The **World Meteorological Congress** is the supreme body of WMO.
- **Secretariat** - Geneva, Switzerland.

WMO	
Founded in	1950
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

- **Report** - State of the Global Climate report (annual), State of Global Water Resources
- **Recent Developments** – The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative - **Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)**
- G3W aims to establish internationally coordinated monitoring of greenhouse gas fluxes (top-down) to support the provision of the UNFCCC parties and other stakeholders.
- **Components** - There are 4 main components of G3W
 - Surface-based and satellite-based observations
 - Prior observations
 - Near-real time international exchange of input and output data
 - Global high-resolution modelling/data assimilation

Members
WMO has 187 Member States and 6 Member Territories.
Region I: Africa
Region II: Asia
Region III: South America
Region IV: North America, Central America and the Caribbean
Region V: South-West Pacific
Region VI: Europe

India and WMO

- India has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the WMO.
- India will develop a customised model that can issue advance warning of floods in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The system is called **Flash Flood Guidance System** which aims to provide forecasts 6 hours in advance.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- It was established by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** in 1988.
- IPCC, a body of climate experts, is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- The IPCC does not undertake scientific assessments but only evaluates the state of scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change.
- It prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on climate change and Special Reports.
- IPCC's 6th assessment cycle (AR6) began in 2015 and culminated with the release of Synthesis Report (SR) in 2023.
- The Synthesis Report is the final part of AR6 which is fully based on the reports of the three Working Groups of the IPCC plus the three Special Reports.

1.11 UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- UNESCO aims to promote peace, social justice, human rights and international security through international cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs.
- It has 194 member states and is based in **Paris, France**.
- It accorded recognition in 2011 to **Palestine. (Israel is not a member)** of UNESCO
 - The **United States** which has quit from the UNESCO has **re-joined** the organization.

UNESCO	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	Paris, France
India's membership	India is a member

- It is a global development agency with missions that include promoting sex education, literacy, clean water and equality for women.
- It is known for its **World Heritage Mission** which encourages world countries to protect Natural and Cultural Heritage sites.
- It publishes the **Global Education Monitoring report and Gender Parity Index**.
- It also leads the **Man and Biosphere Programme** for protecting Biosphere reserves across the world.

UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)

- It was launched in 2004 to foster mutual international cooperation with and between member cities committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.
- The Network recognizes **7 creative fields** - Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.
- UNESCO has published the new list of 55 creative cities on World Cities Day (Oct 31st), in which 2 Indian cities **Kozhikode and Gwalior** were included.

Creative Fields	Indian Cities in UCCN
Crafts & Folk Arts	Jaipur (2015), Srinagar (2021)
Design	-
Film	Mumbai (2019)
Gastronomy	Hyderabad (2019)
Literature	Kozhikode (2023)
Media Arts	-
Music	Chennai (2017), Varanasi (2015), Gwalior (2023)

UNESCO World Heritage Site

- World Heritage Sites are cultural and/or natural sites considered to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value', which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee.
- The proposed site must satisfy at least one of the 10 enlisted criteria for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for World Heritage nomination.
- India has **42 sites** in the World Heritage List (34 Cultural sites, 7 Natural sites and 1 Mixed site).
 - Latest addition in WHS List- 42nd is **Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala Temples** and 41st is **Santiniketan** in 2023.
- India has the 6th largest number of Heritage Sites globally recognised by UNESCO.
- 1st WHS from India** - Tajmahal, Agra Fort, Ajanta and Ellora caves all listed in 1983.
- Ahmedabad became the first Indian city to get into the World Heritage list followed by Jaipur.
- Dholavira in Gujarat is the only site of Indus valley civilisation in World Heritage List from India.


Award	Heritage property Awarded
Award of Distinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala
Award of Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church of Epiphany, Haryana David Sassoon Library and Reading Room, Mumbai Bikaner House, New Delhi
Special Recognition for Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala Pipal Haveli, Punjab

India & UNESCO

- UNESCO-ICH** - India has been elected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for 2022-2026 cycle.
- Awards** - The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme is awarded every year since 2000.

1.12 UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- UNIDO is an UN coordinating body for industrial development, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.
- HQ** – Vienna, Austria
- According to Lima Declaration (2013), UNIDO's mission is to promote **Inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)** in member states.
- At present there are 172 Member States in UNIDO.
- The main objectives of UNIDO are,
 - Promotion of industrial growth and technological progress,
 - Most effective use of human resources,

UNIDO 	
Founded in	1966
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria
India's membership	India is a member

3. Equitable development through industrialization, industrial development & environmental protection,
4. International cooperation in industrial investment and technology.

1.13 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- It was established in 1945 with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.
- Its secretariat is in Rome, Italy.
- FAO receives 100% of its funding from its member countries.
- Some of the important key programmes of FAO are Food Security Programmes, Codex Alimentarius, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) etc.,
- **Food Price Index (FFPI)** is a monthly measure of change in international prices of a basket of five major food commodities - Cereals, Sugar, Dairy, Vegetable oil and Meat products.
- **Flagship Reports** - The State of the World's Forests, The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, The State of Food and Agriculture.

FAO	
Founded in	1945
Headquarters	Rome, Italy
India's membership	India is a member



Recent Developments

- **Committee on Forestry** - The Committee on Forestry (COFO) is FAO's forestry statutory body.
- **Plant Treaty** - The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is known as Plant Treaty or Seed Treaty.
- The Plant Treaty adopted by the FAO of the United Nations in 2001 is a legally-binding international instrument that entered into force in 2004.

India & FAO

- India celebrated **2018** as 'National Year of Millets' and notified millets as Nutri-cereals & allowed its inclusion in Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared **2023 as International Year of Millets** upon the request from Indian government.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- It is an international food safety and quality standard-setting body established in 1963.
- It is created by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO).
- Presently the Commission has **189 Codex Members** - 188 Countries and The European Union.
- Each member of the Commission is responsible for identifying any new scientific and other relevant information, which may warrant revision of any existing Codex standards or related text.
- India became the member of Codex Alimentarius in 1964.
- Codex standards and related texts are voluntary and not a substitute or alternative to national legislation.
- Codex currently has standards for Sorghum and Pearl Millet.

1.14 International Monetary Fund

- IMF was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods in July 1944 to build a framework for economic cooperation in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- IMF has 190 countries as its members. **Headquarters** - Washington, D.C.

- **Aim-** To provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential *balance of payments problems*.
- Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects and acts as a **lender of last resort** for countries facing severe economic crises.
- **Special Drawing Rights** - The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.
- Gold remains an important asset in the reserve holdings of several countries.
- **Quota system** - IMF quotas are distributed according to a 4-pronged formula that considers a member country's GDP, its economic openness, economic variability and international reserves.
- Unlike the General Assembly of the United Nations, where each country has one vote, decision making at the IMF was designed to reflect the relative positions of its member countries in the global economy.

IMF	
Founded in	1944
Headquarters	Washington, D.C., US
India's membership	India is a member

- **Source of funding in IMF - Quotas are the IMF's main source of financing.**
- Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.
- The **New Arrangement to Borrow (NAB)** constitutes a second line of defence to supplement IMF resources.
- **Bilateral Borrowing Agreements** serve as a third line of defence after quotas and the NAB.
- Concessional lending and debt relief for low-income countries are financed through separate contribution-based trust funds.

IMF Facts	IMF Lending Facts
 1944 IMF is established	 \$1 trillion Amount available for lending
 190 Member countries	 34 Current lending arrangements
 150 Nationalities among staff	 76 Recipient countries of emergency pandemic financing
 24 Executive Directors representing 190 countries	 \$303 million For technical advice, training and learning

Recent Developments

- **IMF Bailout** - Sri Lanka secured a \$3 billion bailout (support to an entity facing a threat of bankruptcy) from IMF amid the worst economic crisis.
- The IMF lends money countries in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from a basket of five currencies, US dollar, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen and British Pound.
- But the bailout can be executed in the form of loans, cash, bonds, or stock purchases.


India and the IMF

- India is a **founder member** of the IMF.
- India has not taken any financial assistance from the IMF since 1993. Repayments of all the loans taken from International Monetary Fund have been completed on May 2000.
- **Finance Minister** is the ex-officio Governor on the Board of Governors of the IMF.
- **RBI Governor** is the Alternate Governor at the IMF.
- India's current quota in the IMF is 13,114 million of SDR which is 2.75% of total SDR holdings. India is the **8th largest quota holding country** at the IMF and holds 2.63% of total voting power in IMF.
 - China's quota is 6.4% and that of US is 17.43%.

1.15 International Labour Organization

- It was created in 1919 by the **Versailles Peace Treaty** ending World War I.
- After the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the 1st specialized agency associated with the UN.

- The organization has 187 member states. Its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.
- ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers.
- ILO designates some member countries as nations of **“Chief Industrial Importance”**.
 - The designated nations are Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

ILO 	
Founded in	1919
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

- In 1988, the international labour conference adopted the **“Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work”** to eliminate all forms of forced or compulsory labour, abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.
- **ILO Governing Body** – Apex executive body of the ILO that meets *thrice a year*.
- **Functions** - It takes decisions on ILO policy, decides the agenda of the International Labour Conference, Adopts the draft programme and budget of the organisation for submission to the conference.
- It elects the Director-General.
- The broad policies of the ILO are set by the International Labour Conference, which meets once a year in June, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- An ILO Recommendation is a **non-binding instrument** which seeks to serve as a guiding principle for national policy process.
- In 2015, it adopted recommendations regarding “The Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience” that provides guidance to member States on the measures to be taken to generate employment and decent work for the purposes of prevention, recovery, peace and resilience with respect to crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters.
- Each member state of ILO is required to submit the instruments so adopted before the competent authority (the Parliament in case of India). India supported the adoption of Recommendation.
- It publishes **Global Wage report, Global Employment Trends for Youth Report, World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends.**

FUNDAMENTAL CONVENTIONS OF ILO	GOVERNANCE CONVENTIONS
<p>The 11 Core Conventions of the ILO (also called as Core/human rights conventions) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) 2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105) 3. Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100) 4. Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111) 5. Minimum Age Convention (No.138) 6. Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182) 7. Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87) 8. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98) 9. Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111) 10. Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) 11. Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) <p>India does not ratified the 87, 98, 111, 155 and 187 Conventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO Governing Body has also designated another 4 Conventions as governance (or priority) instruments to encourage member States to ratify them. • These conventions are important for the functioning of the international labour standards system. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Labour Inspection Convention (No. 81) 2. Employment Policy Convention (No. 122) 3. Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention (No. 129) 4. Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention (No. 144) <p>India has not ratified the 129 convention</p>

- Convention 138 and Convention 182 are the instruments on child labour among the **11 core ILO Conventions**
- **Convention 182** is the first labour standard to be universally ratified. It was adopted in international labour conference, 1999.
- It penalises and prohibits the worst form of child labour. It includes
 1. all forms of slavery including sale and trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, forced labour, recruitment in armed conflict


2. prostitution or production of pornography
 3. Production and trafficking of drugs etc.
- It prohibits the sexual exploitation of children, trafficking, deployment in armed conflict and other conditions that compromise their overall well-being.
 - It complements the ILO's efforts under the **Minimum Age Convention 138 of the year 1973**.
 - Convention 138 prevents the employment of children below a lower age threshold. In India, it is 14 years according to RTE act.
 - **Singapore Declaration** - It urges countries to ensure labour protection and was adopted at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of ILO held at Singapore in 2022.

India and ILO

- India is a founder member of the ILO.
- India held the chairmanship of ILO's governing body from October 2020 to June 2021.
- In 2017, India has **ratified Convention 138 and Convention 182**.
- Countries which ratify any of the ILO conventions must go through a periodical reporting system every 4 years.


1.16 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- IFAD is an international financial institution, the UN's food and agriculture hub.
- **HQ:** Rome, Italy.
- It was setup after "The World Food Conference 1974" which was organized in response to the food crises of 1970s in Sahelian Countries of Africa.
- It provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects.

IFAD 	
Founded in	1977
Headquarters	Rome, Italy
India's membership	India is a founding member

1.17 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- It is the first ever international organization devoted exclusively to maritime matters.
- It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
- The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution.
- It covers accidental and operational oil pollution along with pollution by chemicals, sewage, garbage and air pollution.
- IMO currently has 175 Member States and 3 Associate Members. Observer status is granted to qualified non-governmental organisations
- It's headquarters in the United Kingdom.

IMO 	
Founded in	1948
Headquarters	London, U.K
India's membership	India is a member

India and IMO

- India has the privilege of being elected to the council of the IMO, ever since it started functioning, except for two years during 1983-1984.
- **Ballast water management convention** was adopted in IMO in 2004 and came into force in 2017 to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another.
- The **Bunker convention** was adopted in 2001 and came into force in 2008 to ensure that adequate, prompt, and effective compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by oil spills, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers.

Ballast Water


- Ballast water is water carried in ships' ballast tanks to improve stability, balance and trim.
- It is taken up or discharged when cargo is unloaded or loaded, or when a ship needs extra stability in foul weather.
- When ships take on ballast water, plants and animals that live in the ocean are also picked up.
- Discharging this ballast water releases these organisms into new areas where they can become marine pests.

- India does not ratify the Bunker as well as Ballast water conventions.
- **Nairobi Convention (2007)** - It provides the legal basis for States to remove shipwrecks that may have the potential to affect the safety of lives, goods and property at sea, as well as the marine environment.
 - India ratifies the Nairobi convention on ship wreck.

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council recently.


1.18 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- It was created after the **Chicago convention** on International Civil Aviation drafted in 1955.
- It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency as well as for aviation environmental protection.
- Secretariat - Montreal, Canada.
- **Goals under CORSIA and LTAG**
 1. 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050
 2. Carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards
 3. Net zero by 2050
- **CORSIA** - Carbon Offsetting and Reporting Scheme for International Aviation -It is an emission mitigation approach for the global airline industry that aims to address any annual increase in total CO2 emissions from international civil aviation above 2020 levels.
- CORSIA is implemented in 3phases. For the first two phases (2021-2026), **participation is voluntary.**
 - A pilot phase (2021-2023),
 - First phase (2024-2026),
 - Second phase (2027-2035).
- **LTAG** - Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for international aviation of **net-zero carbon emissions by 2050** in support of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement's temperature goal.
- **India & ICAI** - India has stated that it will start participating in the ICAO's CORSIA and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.

ICAO 	
Founded in	1955
Headquarters	Montreal, Canada
India's membership	India is a member

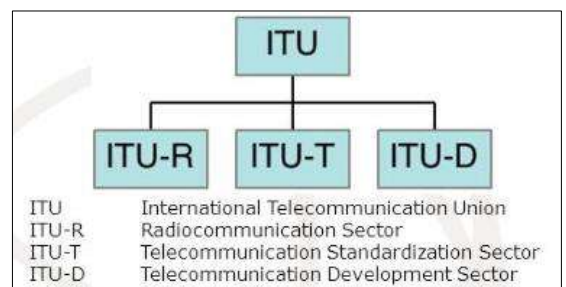
1.19 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ITU is responsible for the allocation of radio spectrum and satellite orbits, and for the standardization and development of ICTs worldwide.
- The ITU has 193-member states that elect representatives to the ITU Council.
- **Founded** - 1865 (International Telegraph Union)
- **Secretariat** - Geneva, Switzerland.
- Coverage - whole ICT sector, from digital broadcasting to the Internet and from mobile technologies to 3D TV.
- ITU also has a membership of more than 700 private-sector entities.

ITU 	
Founded in	1865
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

India and ITU

- India has been a regular member of the ITU council since 1952.
- The ITU Area Office is **fully funded by India.**
- It is located in the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building at Mehrauli, New Delhi.
- It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, promoting economic cooperation in the region.



1.20 UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

- UN WTO is responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- HQ** - *Madrid, Spain*.
- UNWTO's membership includes 160 Member States, 6 Associate Members and over 500 Affiliate Members.
- It encourages the implementation of ***Global Code of Ethics for Tourism***, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution.
- The UNWTO Executive Council represents the Organization's governing body which meets at least twice a year.

UNWTO	
Founded in	1946
Headquarters	Madrid, Spain
India's membership	India is a member

1.21 Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- UPU is the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- Established** - 1874
- Headquarters** - Berne, Switzerland.
- UPU is the ***2nd oldest*** international organization worldwide.
- The *Treaty of Bern (1874)* established the General Postal Union which renamed into UPU in 3 years.
- The UPU now has 192 member countries.
- It comprises of 4 bodies – The Congress, The Council of administration, The Postal Operations Council and the International Bureau.

UPU	
Founded in	1874
Headquarters	Berne, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

- They are subordinate to the United Nations, but since they are immediately controlled by distinct inter-governmental bodies and derive most of their financial resources from other sources than the United Nations budgets, somewhat more akin to specialized agencies than to "subsidiary organs" such as UN commissions and committees.
- Moreover, as their activities are more operational and carried out at field level, they have needs dictated by an environment quite different from that of headquarters-centred administrations.

1.22 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP was formed in 1965 to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.
- UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. It also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programmes.
- Flagship publication** - UNDP publishes an annual ***Human Development Report*** (since 1990) to measure and analyse developmental progress.
- It also publishes regional, national, and local HDR.
- UNDP also released Human Development Index in its HDR.
- In collaboration with Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UNDP develops Multi-Dimension Poverty Index (MDI) to be included in HDR.
- Recent** - Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Government of Japan, and the UNDP have announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in India.

UNDP	
Founded in	1965
Headquarters	New York City, USA
India's membership	India is a member

Main focus areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development Democratic governance and peacebuilding Climate and disaster resilience

• **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**



- The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015.
- SDG is a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- The 17 SDGs ensures that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

1.23 United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)

- It is a **consortium of 36** United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies, departments and offices.
- It was previously known as the *United Nations Development Group* (UNDG).
- It serves as a high-level forum for joint policy formation and decision-making and guides, supports, tracks and oversees the coordination of development operations in 162 countries and territories.
- **Headquarters** - *New York, United States*
- The UNSDG meets *twice a year* under the chairmanship of the UNSDG Chair with the *Development Coordination Office (DCO)* serves as the Secretariat of the Group.

1.24 United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF works to reach the most disadvantaged Children and adolescents and aims to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.
- **HQ** - New York.
- Its work is funded **entirely through the voluntary support** of millions of people around the world and partners in government, civil society and the private sector.
- It is a special program of the United Nations devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.
- **CryptoFund** - It is a new financial vehicle allowing UNICEF to receive, hold, and disburse cryptocurrency.
- This cryptocurrency-denominated fund is a part of *UNICEF’s Innovation Fund*.
- The investments are made in **bitcoin and ether**.
- The Fund supports start-ups, provides technical assistance to pilot, and accelerate innovative solutions.


UNICEF	
Founded in	1946
Headquarters	New York, United States
India’s membership	India is a member

- UNICEF is the *1st UN organisation* to hold and make **transactions in cryptocurrencies**.
- **YuWaah** - To facilitate skilling youth, UNICEF launched Generation Unlimited India (YuWaah) in 2019.
- The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage team visited India in 2022 to witness state interventions which have helped reduce the prevalence of child marriage.
- **Reports** - The State of the World's Children report

Focus areas	
Adolescent development	Gender
Child protection	Health
Child rights	Humanitarian emergencies
Children with disabilities	Immunization
Climate change and environment	Migrant and refugee children
COVID-19 response	Nutrition
Early childhood development	Social and behaviour change
Education	Social policy
	Water, sanitation and hygiene

1.25 UN Conference on Trade & Development (UN CTAD)

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly.
- It was formed to handle the problems of developing countries dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- **Established** – 1964; **HQ** - Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is a part of UN Secretariat.
- **Reports published by UNCTAD** - Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, World Economic Situation and Prospects, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report, Commodities and Development Report.
- **Recent Developments** - In 2021, the UNCTAD proposed a 'Blue Deal' for global trade, investment and innovation for the post-COVID-19 economy.

UNCTAD 	
Founded in	1964
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member



1.26 United Nations Environment Programme

- UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda.
- **Established** – 1972; **HQ** - Nairobi, Kenya
- It works on 7 broad thematic areas - Climate change, Disasters and conflicts, Ecosystem management, Environmental governance, Chemicals and waste, Resource efficiency, and Environment under review
- **Reports** - Global Environment Outlook, Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Actions on Air Quality & Rise of Environmental Crime Report (along with INTERPOL)
- **IPCC** - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988.
- **IPBES** - UNEP also provides secretariat services to Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

United Nations Environment Assembly

- The UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment which brings together representatives to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- UNEA is hosted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) *every two years*.
- It was created in 2012 as the governing body of the UNEP.
- All the members of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) are members of the UNEA.

Funding

- To be able to fulfil its mandate and to deliver its programme, the UNEP relies on voluntary contributions for over 95% of the funding needed.
- 3 main sources of funding for UNEP are:
- **UN Regular Budget** - Supports the functions of UNEP Secretariat, including the Governing Bodies, coordination in the UN system and cooperation with global scientific communities.
- **Environment Fund** - It is **UNEP's core fund** which amounts to around 15% annually and was established in 1973 by the UNGA.
- **Earmarked Contributions** - Amounts to around 80% annually and consists of Earmarked Funds and Global Funds such as Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

- It was established under the **Cancun Agreements** in 2010 by 194 countries party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It was established as a dedicated financing vehicle for developing countries within the global climate architecture, serving the **Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement**.
- The Fund pays particular attention to the needs of societies that are highly vulnerable to climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African States.
- **HQ** - Incheon City, Republic of Korea

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- It was established on the eve of the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**.
- It is a Unique Partnership of 18 agencies, including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs.
- GEF is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health.
- It is a financial mechanism for 5 major international environmental conventions
 1. Minamata Convention on Mercury
 2. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
 3. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
 4. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and
 5. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Recent developments

- In 2022, UNGA recognized the **universal right** to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- 2022 marked the **50th anniversary** of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **One Health Approach** - In 2022, UNEP joined the One Health Joint Plan of Action, a UN initiative to increase action across the triple planetary crisis by addressing human, animal, plant and environmental health as one interlinked challenge.
- The quadripartite alliance of **UNEP, FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** released the One Health Joint Plan of Action.
- One Health Joint Plan of Action is a **5-year plan** that focuses on strengthening health systems and addressing zoonotic epidemics, neglected tropical and vector borne diseases, food safety risks and antimicrobial resistance.
- **Champions of the Earth award** - The annual Champions of the Earth award has been awarded to trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect our natural world.
- It is the UN's highest environmental honour launched by UNEP in 2005.
- In 2018, UNEP honoured PM Narendra Modi with 'Champions of the Earth' award in the leadership category for 'his pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and for his unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022'.

1.27 United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18)

UNFF18 held in New York, discussed the contributions of SFM to energy, livelihoods and the SDGs.

- **UNFF** - A subsidiary body established by the **UN ECOSOC** in 2000.
- The UN General Assembly adopted the first ever **UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030**.
- There are **6 Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets** in the Strategic Plan - voluntary and universal
- The Forum has **universal membership**, and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies. The UNFF meet happens annually.
- **UNFF18** - The 18th session of UNFF held in New York.
- It discussed the contributions of **sustainable forest management (SFM)** to energy, livelihoods and SDGs.
- India presented a case of a UNFF country-led initiative on long-term SFM. India also shared concerns on wildfires and the problems associated with current forest certification schemes.


1.28 UN-Habitat

- It is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- **Established** - 1978
- **Headquarters** - Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Aim** - To promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
- It reports to the United Nations General Assembly.
- The 1st UN-Habitat Assembly was held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat conference) is held once in bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 & 2016).
- It is the custodian agency for 9 of the 15 indicators under SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).
- UNEP and UN-Habitat jointly facilitated the observance of the 1st International Day of Zero Waste on March 30, 2023.

UN-HABITAT	UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Founded in	1977
Headquarters	Nairobi, Kenya
India's membership	India is a member

1.29 UN Fund for Population Activities (UN FPA)

- The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.
- **Established** - 1969
- The organization informally known as 'United Nations Population Fund'.
- It aims to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.
- Released **State of World Population Report, 2023**.

UNFPA	
Founded in	1969
Headquarters	New York, USA
India's membership	India is a member

1.30 WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All

- It was established in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Council is currently comprised of **10 members**, including the Chair.
- The Council is **all-female group** comprises distinguished economists and area experts.
- **Recent developments** - The Council launched the first of a kind roadmap to link health with sustainable economic growth at the 76th World Health Assembly.

1.31 The Pandemic Fund

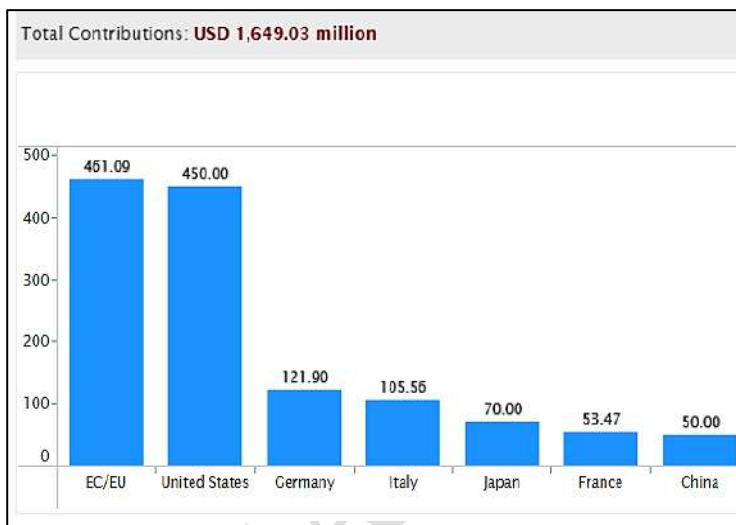
- Pandemic Fund is a multi-stakeholder global partnership officially established in November, 2022.
- It is one of the ***Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)***.

• It is a collaborative partnership among donor countries, co-investors (countries that are eligible to receive funding), foundations and civil society organizations (CSOs).

• **Objective** – To provide a dedicated stream of additional, long-term financing to strengthen critical pandemic ***Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR)*** capabilities in low- and middle-income countries.

• **Governing Structure**

1. Governing Board
2. Technical Advisory Panel
3. Secretariat - The World Bank
4. Trustee - The World Bank



- **Funding** - The financial volume of The Pandemic Fund depends upon contributions from donors.
- **Founding financial contributors** - Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United States, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Wellcome Trust.

Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)

- They provide independently governed multi-contributor collaboration platforms for the global community.
- It focuses on specific themes and each FIF is a type of trust fund for which the ***World Bank*** serves as trustee.
- **Examples** : *Adaptation Fund, The Pandemic Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund*, etc.,
- FIF Trusteeship does not involve overseeing or supervising the use of funds.

- **Recent developments** - India is believed to have placed a funding request of around \$55 million in its first call with the Pandemic Fund of the World Bank.


1.32 UN Capital Development Fund

- The UN Capital Development Fund was created in 1966 by the UN General Assembly.
- **Headquarters** - New York City
- It is an autonomous, ***voluntarily funded*** UN organization, affiliated with the ***UN Development Programme***.
- It assists developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans.
- It makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 46 ***Least Developed Countries (LDCs)***.
- The Administrator of UNDP is also the Managing Director of UNCDF.
- Similar to UNDP, UNCDF receives contributions from member states and international development partners.

1.33 United Nations Volunteers (UNV)


- UNV contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.
- **Established** - 1970
- **Headquarters** - Bonn, Germany.

- UNV is administered by the UNDP and reports to the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board.
- UN Volunteers are **mid-career professionals**, with an average age of **35 years**, who combine technical skills and professionalism with motivation and dedication.
- The minimum number of years of professional experience required depends on the UN Volunteer category and can range from 0-2 years.
- A total of 51% of all UN Volunteers are **Women**.

UNEP 	
Founded in	1972
Headquarters	Nairobi, Kenya
India's membership	India is a member

1.34 World Food Programme

- The WFP, the food-assistance branch of the UN is the world's largest humanitarian organisation committed towards its global goal of **ending hunger by the year 2030**.
- **Established** - 1961 by the FAO and UN General Assembly at the behest of the US president Dwight Eisenhower.
- **HQ** – Rome, Italy
- Ai - to **eradicate hunger and malnutrition**, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food aid itself.
- In India, WFP has moved from providing direct food aid to providing technical assistance and capacity building services to the Government, with Ministry of Agriculture being the nodal ministry.
- **Food-for-work** programmes help promote environmental and economic stability and agricultural production.
- WFP runs entirely on public donations and its donors include governments, corporations and individuals.
- It provides food assistance in two ways, either by way of providing food or by meeting people's food-needs by providing cash-based transfers.
- The UN defines undernourished people as those individuals whose food intake falls below the minimum level of dietary energy requirements.
- The **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** was awarded to the UN's World Food Programme (WFP).

WFP  World Food Programme	
Founded in	1961
Headquarters	Rome, Italy
India's membership	India is a member

Nobel Peace Prize


- The Nobel Prizes would be dedicated to the person who shall have done the most or the best work
 - For fraternity between nations,
 - For the abolition or reduction of standing armies and
 - For the holding and promotion of peace congresses.
- The Nobel Peace Prizes have been awarded since 1901.
- It was not awarded on 19 occasions including 1914-1916, 1918, 1939-1943 among some other years.
- Overall, the prize has been awarded to 135 laureates, including 107 individuals and 28 organisations.

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

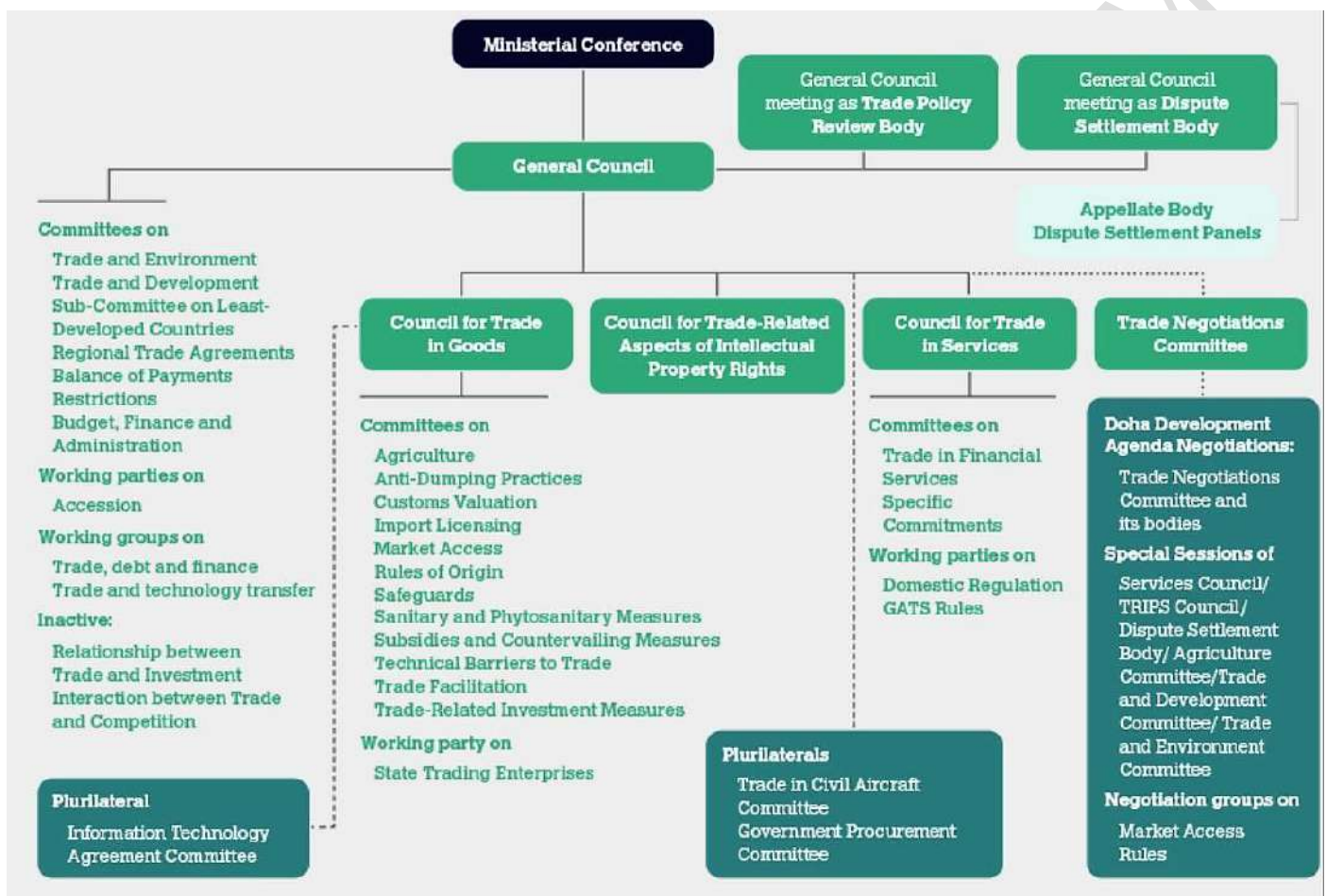
It describes the organizations whose cooperation agreement with the UN has many points in common with that of Specialized Agencies, but does not refer to Article 57 and 63 of the UN Charter, relevant to Specialized Agencies.

1.35 World Trade Organization (WTO)

- It operates a global system of trade rules, acts as a forum for negotiating trade agreements, it settles trade disputes between its member countries and it supports the needs of developing countries.
- WTO officially commenced under the **Marrakesh Agreement**, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- It was created by Uruguay round of negotiations and established in 1995.
- The trade agreements are signed by representatives of member governments and ratified by their parliaments.

WTO 	
Founded in	1995
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

- WTO has 164 members and 25 observer governments.
- The members ***need not*** have to ***be fully independent states***.
- Even customs territory with full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations can join with the consent of other members. e.g.: Hong Kong.
- 5 principles which WTO follows are non-discrimination, reciprocity, binding and enforceable commitments, transparency, safety values.
- ***General Council*** is the top day-to-day decision-making body. It has representatives from all member governments and also meets, under different rules, as the Dispute Settlement Body.
- Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body, where members are represented by its trade ministers, which meets every 2 years.
- All decisions are taken through consensus and ***any member can exercise a veto***.



- **MC5 Doha** - It is attempting to complete negotiations on the Doha Development Round.
- It has no specific agreement dealing with the environment. But a number of WTO agreements include provisions dealing with environmental concerns.

5th Ministerial Conference, Doha 2001



- These prominent issues raised were –
 - Agriculture** - Undoing the trade-distorting subsidies provided in the developed countries for farming, while gaining exemption for necessary subsidies for developing countries.
 - Medicines** - Relaxing IPR norms for life saving drugs in developing countries
 - SDT** - Special & Differential Treatment for goods from the weaker countries
- While, negotiations on most of these issues haven't concluded, the developed countries have been keen to move on to newer issues like 'e-commerce'.
- On the contrary, the developing countries want the Doha issues to settled first.

- The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures address environment related issues.
- The 12th biennial ministerial conference held in Geneva in June 2022.

WTO's 'Developing Country' Status

- WTO agreements contain special provisions through '**special and differential treatment**' (S&DT) provisions, which give developing countries special rights and allow other members to treat them more favourably.
- S&DT provisions can grant developing countries longer timeframes to implement the agreements and even commitments to raise trading opportunities for such countries.
- The WTO has not defined 'developed' and 'developing' countries and so, the member countries are free to announce whether they are 'developed' or 'developing'.
- At the Bali Ministerial Conference (2013) a mechanism was established to review and analyse the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions.

MFN Status

- MFN status is an economic position in which a country enjoys the best trade terms given by its trading partner. i.e. It receives the lowest tariffs, the fewest trade barriers, and the highest import quotas (or none at all).
- The World Trade Organization's 164 members have the **Principle of non-discrimination** and offers most favoured nation (MFN) treatment.
- Under this principle, the WTO members commit to treating **other members equally** so they can all benefit from each other's lowest tariffs, highest import quotas and fewest trade barriers for goods and services.
- The only exceptions are developing countries, regional trade areas, and customs unions.
- For countries outside the WTO, such as **Iran, North Korea, Syria, Belarus**, etc, the WTO members can impose whatever trade measures they wish without flouting global trading rules.
- Russia lost its "most favoured nation" (MFN) status over its invasion of Ukraine.

MFN STATUS

Developing countries receive preferential treatment without having to return it, so their economies can grow.

Dispute Settlement Body in WTO




- Dispute Settlement Body establishes "panels" of experts to consider a case.
- DSB accepts or rejects the panels' findings.
- The panel's report can only be rejected by consensus in DSB; hence its conclusions are difficult to overturn.
- DSB monitors the implementation of the rulings and recommendations, and has the power to authorize retaliation when a country does not comply with a ruling.
- Appeals to the panel ruling are dealt by the permanent 7-member Appellate Body broadly representing the members.
- DSB has to accept or reject the appeals and again the rejection is only possible by consensus.

India & WTO

- In 2019, Australia, Brazil, and Guatemala complained against India for sugar subsidies at the WTO.
- India filed an appeal with the Appellate Body of the WTO disputing a verdict by the WTO's dispute settlement panel on sugar subsidies in 2022.
- According to WTO rules, **subsidies cannot exceed 10%** of the total value of sugar production.
- The WTO ruled that India's sugar policy was favouring domestic producers through subsidies at the cost of foreign producers.
- The panel recommended India to withdraw its alleged prohibited subsidies within 120 days from the adoption of this report.
- India provides subsidies under Production Assistance, Buffer Stock and Marketing and Transportation Schemes
- India has stated that the WTO's dispute panel ruling has made certain erroneous findings and is completely unacceptable.


1.36 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons and materials by the early detection of the misuse.
- It was established in 1957 as an autonomous organization report to both the UNGA and Security Council.
- It is widely known as the world’s **“Atoms for Peace” organization**. HQ – Vienna.
- It has a total membership of 178 including India. North Korea has withdrawn its candidature from IAEA.
- It is an essential component of Treaty on the **Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT)**, which states that each Non-Nuclear Weapon State is required to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA.
- **India and IAEA** - India has ratified an Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which means that its civilian reactors are under IAEA safeguards and open for inspections.

IAEA 	
Founded in	1957
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria
India’s membership	India is a member


1.37 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- The inter-governmental organization promotes humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.
- It had been an observer to the UN since 1992 and joined the UN system in 2016.
- It aims to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.
- It has 175 member states and 8 observer states.
- IOM works in the 4 broad areas of migration management - Migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and Forced migration
- The biennial **‘World Migration Report’** is the flagship publication of IOM.

IOM 	
Founded in	1951
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India’s membership	India is a member

1.38 Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- It is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the UN.
- **HQ** - The Hague, Netherlands
- It is the implementing body of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**, which entered into force in 1997.
- It has 193 Member States working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.
- It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.
- Until now, OPCW could only say whether chemical weapons were used but not who had used them.
- By the Relationship Agreement (2001) between the OPCW and the UN, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary General.

OPCW 	
Founded in	1997
Headquarters	The Hague, Netherlands
India’s membership	India is a member

CEB MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

1.39 United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination


- It is the highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system.
- It is the main instrument for supporting and reinforcing the coordinating role of the UN intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters.
- UNSCBE is chaired by the UN Secretary-General. The membership includes

1. The United Nations
 2. All 15 specialized agencies
 3. Related Organizations (3) - WTO, OPCW, IAEA, IOM
 4. 12 funds and programmes created by the General Assembly.
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is the newest member to join the CEB.

OTHER UN INITIATIVES


1.40 UN Women

- It was established to improve the coordination and coherence of gender equality and empowerment of women, and promote more effective gender mainstreaming.
- It works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.
- It has partnership with governments and civil society groups, businesses, foundations and committed individuals.
- It released the Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): ‘The Gender Snapshot 2022’.

UN WOMEN 	
Founded in	2010
Headquarters	New York, USA
India's membership	India is a member


1.41 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) is an entity of the UN Secretariat responsible for economic, social and environmental issues.
- It promotes international cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development.
- It helps countries individually and regionally to formulate and implement national development strategies.
- Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 was prepared by the UN DESA which is an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals.
- It also publishes **World's Women Report** once in 5 years, **World Economic Situation & Prospects** (along with UNCTAD), **World Youth Report** etc.

UN - DESA 	
Founded in	1948
Headquarters	New York, USA
India's membership	India is a member

1.42 UN Human Rights Council (UN HRC)

- UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within the UN system (a subsidiary body of UNGA).
- It replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- Members are elected by the UN General Assembly with 3-year terms by absolute majority, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. It has 47 seats.
- It meets 3 times a year to examine human rights violations worldwide.
- Its resolutions are **not legally binding** but carry moral authority.
- The General Assembly, via a 2/3rd majority, can suspend the rights and privileges of any Council member that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership.

UN HRC 	
Founded in	2006
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
India's membership	India is a member

- The Universal Periodic Review of the UNHRC assesses the human rights situations in all UN Member States by taking into account information from different sources including the NGOs.
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)/UN Human Rights is the leading UN entity on human rights.
- It supports different human rights monitoring mechanisms in the UN system including UNHRC.

Recent Developments

- **Russia** – Russia lost the election to UNHRC against Albania and Bulgaria in the Eastern European Region.
- Russia’s membership was suspended in the wake of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

1.43 UN Commission on International Trade Law (UN CITRAL)

- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of *international trade law*, specializing in commercial law reform.
- Its business is the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.
- It adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration in 1985 and the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules in 1980.
- **UNCITRAL Model Law** - United Nations Commission on International Trade Law proposed the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency to deal with such issues.
- It has provisions allowing foreign insolvency courts, and officials access to domestic courts (and vice versa).
- It also provides for recognition of orders and judgments passed by insolvency courts located in foreign jurisdictions. **India has adopted model law.**

UN CITRAL	
Founded in	1966
Headquarters	New York
India’s membership	India is a member

1.44 U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund

- It was established by the UNGA in 2005 as an emergency response fund.
- It mainly funds projects in **countries at war** or experiencing other crises like **natural disasters**.
- It receives broad support from United Nations Member States, observers, regional governments and international organizations, the private sector and individuals.
- The UN specialized agencies, the International Organization for Migration and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs can apply for loans.

1.45 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

- The UNAOC was established in 2005 as a political initiative of Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General.
- It is an initiative that seeks to galvanize international action against extremism through the forging of international, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation.
- It was co-sponsored by the Governments of **Spain and Turkey**.
- The High Representative and Secretariat are operating from New York.

1.46 Global Compact for Migration

- It is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.
- The agreement was signed in the UNGA by adopting a political declaration “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” in 2016 and adopted in 2018.
- It is framed consistent with one of the targets (SDG 10.7) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which member States have committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe and orderly migration.

- The pact is **not binding** on member countries.
- All the 193 member countries of UNGA became part of the global pact for migration.
- However, few countries have refused to sign or withdrawn from the agreement – USA, Australia, Hungary, Australia, Israel, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Latvia, Italy, Switzerland and Chile.

1.47 United Nations Global Compact

- It is a **voluntary initiative** to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goals.
- **Established** - 2000
- Under this pact, companies are brought together with UN agencies, labour groups and civil society. Cities can join the Global Compact through the Cities Programme.
- Accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the **Ten Principles** and delivering the SDGs through accountable companies and ecosystems that enable change.
- The 10 principles spreads across 4 heads such as **Human rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption**.
- **India is also a part** of the UN Global Compact. Global Compact Network India (GCNI), is the Indian arm of the organisation and it held the 2nd Gender Equality Summit.

1.48 Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

- **Aim** - To achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.
- **Established** - 1977 under UNESCO
- **Secretariat** - Kuala Lumpur
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNDP and the UNESCO are founding organisations of the Institute and they are **non-voting members** of the General Conference.
- It has a total membership of 93 representing 46 countries. India is represented by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

1.49 Paris Principles

- **Paris Principles** - Officially known as ‘Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions’.
- The Paris Principles set out the minimum standards that NHRIs must meet in order to be considered credible and to operate effectively.
- The key pillars of the Paris Principles are pluralism, independence and effectiveness.
- Paris Principles was adopted in Paris in 1991, and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993.
- The six principles require a country’s human rights agency to be independent from the government in its structure, composition, decision-making and method of operation.

The Paris Principles identify six criteria that NHRIs should meet:

- Clearly defined and **broad-based mandate** based on universal human rights standards
- **Autonomy** from government
- **Independence** guaranteed by legislation or the constitution
- **Pluralism** including membership that broadly reflects their society
- Adequate **resources**
- Adequate **powers of investigation**

Recent Developments

The Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions’ (GANHRI), an organisation affiliated to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has deferred re-accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India for a year.

- GANHRI’s Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) deferred re-accreditation to NHRC for the second time.
- The first such instance was in 2016 and accreditation was restored in 2017.
- Without the accreditation, NHRC will be unable to represent India at the UN Human Rights Council.

1.50 World Restoration Flagships

- The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Under UN Decade, 10 pioneering initiatives that restore natural world were declared World Restoration Flagships. The selected flagships are eligible to receive UN-backed promotion, advice or funding.
- **Ganga Project** is recognised by the United Nations for their role in restoring the river.

1.51 UN Peacekeeping Mission

- It is a joint effort between the UN Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- The UN began its Peacekeeping efforts in 1948 when it deployed military observers to West Asia.
- The UN Peacekeepers provide security as well as political and peace-building support to conflict-ridden countries.
- **India** - India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers were deployed in **Abyei**, located on the border between South Sudan and the Sudan.
- India is the **5th largest troop contributor (TCC)** with 5,323 personnel deployed in 8 out of 13 active UN Peacekeeping Missions, of which 166 are police personnel.
- India also holds the unfortunate record of having the highest fatalities due to malicious acts, during UN peacekeeping missions.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly hall.

In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN Peacekeeping mission.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - May 29

1.52 Blue Helmets

- They are the UN military personnel that work alongside the UN Police and civilian colleagues to promote stability, security and peace processes.
- The personnel get the name from the iconic blue helmets they wear.
- All military personnel under Blue Helmets are members of their national armies first who are seconded to work under the UN command.
 - *African and Asian countries contribute more soldiers to Blue Helmets than their western counterparts.*
- **Enlistment** - The UN Office of Military Affairs recruits highly qualified military officers from the UN member states for service in the UN peace missions around the world.
- The military officers are to serve as individual Staff Officers, Military Observers, or as part of a formed unit from a Troop-Contributing Country.
- Staff officers are also deployed at the UN headquarters from where they monitor all aspects related to deployment of troops on the ground.
- They work under the UN flag for periods normally of upto 1 year in the field, or 2/3 years at the headquarters.

UN Peacekeeping

- UN Peacekeeping helps countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace.
- They are called 'blue helmets' and comprised of civilian, police and military personnel.
- In the last 3 years alone, 68 peacekeepers belonging to 20 countries have lost lives for the cause of peace.

1.53 UNITAMS

- The UNSC has voted to end its political mission dedicated to ending the civil war in Sudan.
- The liquidation of UNITAMS will begin on March 1, 2024.
- The United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) was established in 2020 to support the promotion and protection of **human rights**.

2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ECONOMIC

2.1 New Development Bank

- It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the **BRICS countries**.
- Aim** - To finance infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging market and developing countries.
- It supports sovereign and non-sovereign projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments
- It has an initial authorized capital of 100 billion dollars, and an initial subscribed capital of 50 billion dollars.
- The initial subscribed capital shall be equally distributed amongst the founding members (BRICS countries).
- The initial authorized capital of the Bank was divided in to 1 million shares and made available for subscription to members, to which all members subscribed equally.
- The voting power that was based on the subscribed shares is equally shared among the members.
 - All members of UN could be members of the NDB.*
- However, the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.
- Founding Member Countries** - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South-Africa.
- The NDB admitted Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay (yet to deposit capital) and Egypt (2023) as other members.

NDB	
Founded in	2014
Headquarters	Shanghai, China
India's membership	India is a member

2.2 Asian Development Bank

- It was conceived as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.
- ADB now has **68 members** of which 49 from within Asia and Pacific while remaining 19 from outside.
 - Niue, an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, is the 68th member (2019).
- The bank admits member countries from **Asian region** and **non-regional developed countries**.
- Some of the non-regional member countries are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, United States, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany etc.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ADB finances projects in four ways,
 - Public sector (sovereign) financing** - Financial products for developing member country governments and public sector entities.
 - Private sector (non-sovereign) financing** - Direct financial assistance to private sector projects
 - ADB funds and resources** - ADB funds activities in various sectors through loans and grants, financed from ordinary capital resources as well as special and trust funds.
 - Co-financing partnerships** - ADB partners with multilaterals, bilateral and private institutions and with commercial finance institutions to finance development projects in the region.
- It was modelled closely on the World Bank and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.

ADB	
Founded in	1966
Headquarters	Manila, Philippines
India's membership	India is a founding member

- It prepared a new long-term strategy **'Strategy 2030'** to respond to the changes brought about by a rapidly evolving Asia and the Pacific.
- **India & ADB** - India is a founding member and the 4th largest shareholder.
- ADB is developing New Delhi as a regional hub for its operations in South Asia.

2.3 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- It is a multilateral financial institution which brings countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.
- The membership is open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

- At present, it has **109 Members**.

- It has authorized capital of US 100 billion dollars and subscribed capital of USD 50 billion.
 - **China is the largest shareholder** in AIIB followed by India and Russia

- **Japan and the US** are **not** its members.


- It offers sovereign and non-sovereign finance for projects in various sectors with an interest rate of London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 1.15 % and a repayment period of 25 years with 5 years in grace period.

- **Recent Developments**

-AIIB has approved a \$750 million loan to India to strengthen the country's battle against the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable households.

- The loan is co-financed by the AIIB and the Asian Development Bank.

- In 2018, **AIIB was granted Permanent Observer status** in the deliberations of UNGA and the ECOSOC.

AIIB		 ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK
Founded in	2016	
Headquarters	Beijing, China	
India's membership	India is a member	

<p>1 ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)</p> <p>109 members</p> <p>Capital \$100 billion</p> <p>Agenda: Infrastructure projects in Asia</p> <p>Biggest members (by capital)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  China 30.3%  India 8.5%  Russia 6.6%  Germany 4.5% 	<p>2 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)</p> <p>68 members</p> <p>Capital \$165 billion</p> <p>Agenda Social development projects including education, environment sustainability, poverty and infrastructure</p> <p>Biggest members (by capital)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Japan 15.7%  US 15.6%  China 6.5%  India 6.4% 	<p>3 WORLD BANK</p> <p>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA)</p> <p>189 members</p> <p>Agenda: Poverty reduction, development aid for poorest nations</p> <p>Biggest members (by votes)</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>IBRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  US 16%  Japan 7%  China 4%  Germany 4%  India 3% </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>IDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  US 10.3%  Japan 8%  UK 6%  India 2%  China 2% </td> </tr> </table>	<p>IBRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  US 16%  Japan 7%  China 4%  Germany 4%  India 3% 	<p>IDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  US 10.3%  Japan 8%  UK 6%  India 2%  China 2%
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2.4 European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

- The EBRD is a financial institution developed to help Eastern European and ex-Soviet countries develop free-market economies *after the fall of communism*.


- It is not to be confused with the European Investment Bank (EIB) which is owned by EU member states and used to support EU policy.

- The EBRD is owned by 72 countries from 5 continents (North America, Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia), as well as the European Union and the European Investment Bank.

- These shareholders have each made a capital contribution, which forms the core funding. The US is the biggest shareholder.

- EBRD's core operations pertain to private sector development in their countries of operation.

- **India & EBRD** - In 2018, India has become the **69th shareholder of the EBRD**.

EBRD		 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Founded in	1991	
Headquarters	London, UK	
India's membership	India is a member	

- India takes a shareholding in the EBRD but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing.
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has signed a pact for cooperation on energy projects.

2.5 Bank for International Settlements

- It is a bank for central banks.
- **HQ** - Basel, Switzerland
- **Aim** - To serve central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, to foster international cooperation in those areas and to act as a bank for central banks.
- **63** central banks and monetary authorities are currently members of the BIS including Reserve Bank of India.
- It is known for its famous **Basel norms**.

BIS	
Founded in	1930
Headquarters	Basel, Switzerland
India's membership	RBI is a member

2.6 World Customs Organization

- WCO established in 1952, is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- It is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.
- It represents 185 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.
- The 6-digit identification code, **HS (Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System) code** is developed by WCO.

WCO	
Founded in	1953
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium
India's membership	India is a member

JUDICIAL

2.7 International Criminal Court

- **Establishment** – In 1998 under the “Rome Statute”.
- **Headquarters** – Hague in Netherlands.
- **Aim** - To end impunity through international criminal justice.
- **Jurisdiction** – It is limited to offences occurring after it came into effect on July 1, 2002 and act as a court of last resort.
- **Functions** – It investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community.
- It is intended to complement, not to replace, national criminal systems.
- It prosecutes cases only when States do not are unwilling or unable to do so genuinely.
- It does not have its own police force or enforcement body and relies on cooperation with countries worldwide for making arrests, transferring arrested persons to the ICC detention centre in The Hague, freezing suspects' assets, and enforcing sentences.
- While it is not a United Nations organization, it has a cooperation agreement with UN.

ICC	
Founded in	2002
Headquarters	The Hague, Netherlands
India's membership	India is not a member

Organs of ICC	Crimes within the jurisdiction of ICC
Presidency Judicial division The office of the prosecutor The Registry	Genocide War crimes Crimes against humanity Crime of aggression

- There are 123 members. Malaysia is the latest member to join.
- The co-operation of the non-party states with the ICC is of **voluntary nature**.
- But when a case is referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council all UN member states are obliged to co-operate, since its decisions are binding for all of them.
- **Official languages** - English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

India, USA, China, Russia and Ukraine are not the member of ICC whereas Britain, Japan, Afghanistan, and Germany are members of ICC.

Features	ICC	ICJ
Subject Matter	Trial criminal offenses i.e. genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression	Settle the legal dispute i.e. sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resource
Members	Individuals either ratified member of ICC or accept the jurisdiction of ICC	Only states either member of United Nation or ICJ or both.
Jurisdiction	Criminal prosecution of individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contentious Jurisdiction • Advisory opinion
Authorized Statute	Follow Rome Statute	Follow ICJ Statute
Composition	Composed of 18 judges elected to 9-year terms and not re-elected for further terms	Composed of 15 judges elected to 9-year terms and may be re-elected for up to two further terms
Appeal	Appeal is instituted by appeal chamber	No appeal provision for ICJ
Independence	Independent organization	United Nation Judiciary organ


Rome Statute

- The Rome Statute laid the foundation for the establishment of International Criminal Court in 2002.
- It is a multilateral treaty which serves as ICC's foundational and governing document.
- States becomes party to Rome Statute by signing it and subsequently becomes member of ICC by ratifying it.
- USA, Israel, UAE and several other countries are also signatories to the 'Rome Statute' but haven't ratified yet.
- **India is not a party to the Rome Statute.**
- The court tries individuals and not countries.

- The ICJ rules on disputes between states, but cannot prosecute individuals.
- The ICC investigates and prosecutes individual war criminals who are not before the courts of individual states.

2.8 Permanent Court of Arbitration

- It is an intergovernmental organization established to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states.
- It provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve **disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements.**
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- PCA has **no sitting judges**; instead, parties themselves select the arbitrators.
- PCA has 122 Contracting Parties including India, Pakistan, China, Russia, and the US.
- The organization is **not a United Nations agency** but has observer status in the UN General Assembly.

PCA 	
Founded in	1899
Headquarters	The Hague, Netherlands
India's membership	India is a party

- The rulings of PCA are **binding** but the tribunal has **no powers for enforcement**.

2.9 Court of Arbitration of Sports

- The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is an institution independent of any sports organization which provides for services to resolve the sports related matter through arbitration.
- The CAS was created in 1984 and is placed under the administrative and financial authority of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS).
- Headquartered at Lausanne (Switzerland), the CAS sets up non-permanent tribunals for the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games or other similar major events.

MARITIME

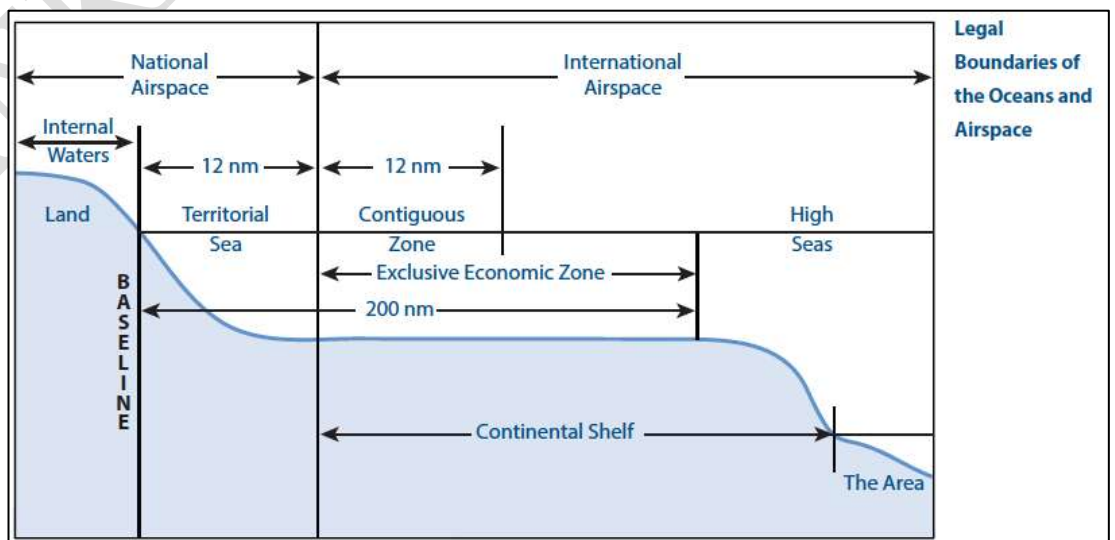
2.10 UNCLOS

- UN Convention on the Law of Sea is the international agreement adopted in 1982 and came into force in 1994.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- 167 countries plus the UN Observer state Palestine, as well as the Cook Islands, Niue and the European Union have joined in the Convention.
- India ratified** UNCLOS in 1995.
- Under UNCLOS, the sea and resources in the water and the seabed are classified into three zones:
- Internal waters (IW)** -It is on the landward side of the baseline which includes gulfs and small bays. Coastal states treat IW like land.
- Territorial sea (TS)** -It extends outwards to 12 nautical miles from the baseline.
- The coastal nations enjoy sovereignty over air, sea, seabed and subsoil and all living and non-living resources therein.
- Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** -This extends outwards to 200 nautical miles from the baseline.
- In EEZ, the coastal nations have sovereign rights for exploration, exploiting, conserving and managing all the natural resources therein.

UNCLOS	
Founded in	1982
India's membership	India is a member

“ States have the right to implement territorial rights up to 12 nautical miles into the sea. All vessels have the right of “innocent passage” through this region of territorial waters
- UNCLOS ”

- Disputes can be submitted to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea established under the Convention, to the International Court of Justice, or to arbitration.




- The Tribunal has **exclusive jurisdiction over deep seabed mining disputes**.
- China and UNCLOS** - China designed a new maritime rule to control the entry of foreign vessels in China's disputed territorial waters covering South China Sea, East China Sea and Taiwan Strait.

- Both military and commercial foreign vessels including submersibles and nuclear vessels will be required to report their detailed information upon their visits to these regions under the new rules.
- This is seen as violating the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) guidelines.

2.11 ITLOS

- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an independent judicial body to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS Convention.
- It was established by the UNCLOS in 1982 and came to force in 1994.
- The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.
- The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention and other entities like states or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention and to state enterprises and private entities.
- **Dr. Neeru Chadha** has become the first Indian woman to be elected as a judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS) for a nine-year term from 2017 to 2026.

ITLOS	 International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
Founded in	1982
Headquarters	Hamburg, Germany
India's membership	India is a member

2.12 International Sea Bed Authority

- It is an intergovernmental body to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- It was established under the 1982 **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** and the 1994 UN Convention on Law of the Sea.
- It has 168 Members which includes 167 Member States and the European Union.
- It has obtained its observer status in the United Nations.
- UNCLOS defines the international seabed area as “the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction”.
- ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the seabed area for the benefit of humankind.
- **India & ISA** - ISA entered into an exploration contract with the Government of India for the exploration of polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean.
- India is implementing a programme called **Deep Ocean Mission**, on exploration of Polymetallic nodules through the Ministry of Earth Sciences.


International Sea Bed Authority	
Founded in	1982
Headquarters	Kingston, Jamaica
India's membership	India is a member

2.13 Neptune Declaration

- Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change was unveiled at the **Davos summit 2021**.
- It aims to promote and protect the **welfare of seafarers**.
- It was launched in response to the crew change crisis raised from coronavirus-related travel bans.
- Signed by more than 850 organizations, it outlines the main actions that are required to be taken in order to resolve the crew change crisis.

2.14 International Whaling Commission

- It was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.
- **Whale hunting was banned in 1986** by the IWC due to dwindling whale populations, with a worldwide moratorium placed on the practice to allow the species to rebound.
- An integral part of the Convention is **legally binding Schedule** which sets out specific measures.
- These measures include **catch limits** (which may be zero as it the case for commercial whaling) by species and area, designating specified areas as whale sanctuaries, protection of calves and females accompanied by calves, prescribe open and closed seasons and areas for whaling and restrictions on hunting methods.
- The IWC has no ability to enforce any of its decisions through penalty imposition.
- IWC has 88 members.
- The Convention recognises **3 different types of whaling**: commercial, aboriginal subsistence and special permit (scientific) whaling.
- **Aboriginal subsistence hunting** is allowed in several countries including the US, Russia, who are historically and culturally depend on whale for subsistence and not for profit.
- In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on **commercial whaling** and is binding on all the members.
 - Iceland and Norway are the only other nations which allows commercial whaling.
- **Special permit whaling** is not regulated by the Commission but by national governments.
 - Japan continued to hunt whales despite the moratorium, exploiting a loophole that allowed hunting for "scientific research".
- **Japan and IWC** - The Japanese government was trying hard to persuade the IWC to allow its commercial whaling operations.
- IWC refused to budge and rejected the proposal.
- Japan withdrew from IWC and resumed commercial whaling.
- **Conservation Efforts** - In 1994, the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary was created by the IWC members.
- **2018 meeting of IWC** held in Brazil adopted "Floriano Declaration" proposed by Brazil.
- The declaration insists that commercial whaling is no longer a necessary economic activity and would allow the recovery of all whale population to pre-industrial whaling levels.
- It is a **non-binding agreement** and was backed by 40 countries, with 27 pro-whaling states voting against.

International Whaling Commission 	
Founded in	1946
Headquarters	Imping ton, England
India's membership	India is a member



WHALE SANCTUARY



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION 

- Two Sanctuaries are currently designated by the International Whaling Commission, both of which prohibit commercial whaling.
- The first of these, the **Indian Ocean Sanctuary**, was established in 1979 and covers the whole of the Indian Ocean south to 55°S.
- The second, **Southern Ocean Sanctuary** was adopted in 1994 and covers the waters of the Southern Ocean around Antarctica.
- An additional proposal for a Sanctuary in the South Atlantic Ocean has been repeatedly submitted to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in recent years.
- To date it has not achieved the three-quarters majority of votes needed to amend the Schedule and thus become designated by the IWC.



2.15 Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- A dynamic *inter-governmental organisation and a regional forum*.

- **Established in-** 7 March 1997.

- **Objective-** Strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region.

- **Apex body-** Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM) which meets annually

- **Membership-** 23 Member States and 11 Dialogue Partners; **Latest member-** France

- **Non-members-** Pakistan, Myanmar

- **Dialogue Partners** –Italy, Japan, Germany, China, USA, UK, Russia, Turkey, Korea and Egypt. Saudi Arabia has been admitted as the 11th Dialogue Partner in IORA in 2023.

- **Chair** - The Council of Ministers, on voluntary offer by Member States, elects a Chair of the Association for a period of **two years**.

- If there is no voluntary offer, the Chair is elected on the basis of geographical consideration.

- **People's Republic of Bangladesh** chairs IORA's apex body COM for the period of 2021 to 2023 while India held it during 2011-2013.

- **Troika-** It was established by the Council of Ministers which consists of

- **Chair-** Sri Lanka
- **Vice Chair-** India
- **Previous chair-** Bangladesh

- **Hierarchical administrative structure**

- Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) – It meets annually.
- Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) – It meets twice a year.

- **The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)** – It is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

- It originated in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in 2013 in Perth, Australia.

- The 1st IOD was held in Kerala in 2014. India hosted the 8th Edition of IOD virtually in 2021.

IORA	
Founded in	1997
Secretariat	Ebene, Mauritius
India's membership	India is a member



China - Indian Ocean Region Forum

- China convened the 1st 'China-Indian Ocean Region Forum' bringing together **19 countries from the region except India**.
- The first Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation (IORFDC) was held in **Kunming city in China**.
- **Purpose-** To establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

2.16 RIMES

- Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an intergovernmental institution registered with UN, for the generation and **application of early warning information**.

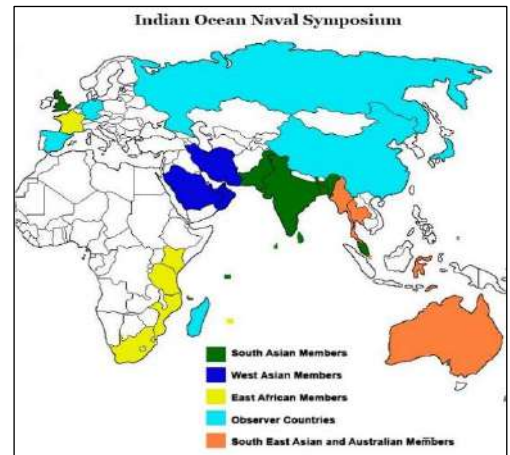
- Established in 2009 by the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, aftermath the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

- It works with 22 member states and 26 collaborating countries. **India is a member state**.

- It operates from its regional early warning centre in **Pathumthani, Thailand**.

2.17 Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of relevant maritime issues.
- It includes **25 nations (including India)** that permanently hold territory within the Indian Ocean, and 8 observer nations.
 - **Observers** - China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Russia and Spain.
- The Chairmanship rotates for every 2 years. Thailand was the chair for 2023.
- The maiden edition of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was conducted at Goa.



Indian Ocean Commission

- The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.
- There are also **6 observers**: China, **India**, Japan, Sovereign Order of Malta the European Union and the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie.
- The commission was created in 1982 in **Port-Louis, Mauritius**.

2.18 Seabed 2030

- Seabed 2030 project was launched at the **United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference** in 2017.
- It is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
- It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data (depth and shape of the ocean floor) to create a map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
- It comprises of a global centre and 4 regional centres.

GEBCO

- It is an international group of mapping experts developing a range of bathymetric data sets and data products.
- Its origin is traced back to the GEBCO chart series initiated in 1903 by Prince Albert I of Monaco.
- It operates under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
- IHO is an intergovernmental organization, established in 1921 to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

2.19 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

- Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO was established by a resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO.
- It assists governments to address their individual and collective ocean and coastal management needs, through the sharing of knowledge, information and technology.
- It fosters the establishment of regional intergovernmental coordinating tsunami warning and mitigation systems in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, in the North East Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean seas.

IOC-UNESCO	
Founded in	1960
Headquarters	Paris, France
India's membership	India is a member

2.20 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

- IOTC is an intergovernmental organization that manages tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas.
- The Agreement for the establishment of the IOTC was adopted in 1993 and entered into force in 1996.

The Indian Ocean is the 2nd largest tuna fishery in the world.

- It was created within the framework of ***UN Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Constitution.***
- **Headquarters** - Victoria, **Seychelles.**
- **Members** - 30 member countries ***including India.***
- Membership is open to Indian Ocean coastal countries and members of the UN and UN special organisations and those who fish for tuna in the Indian Ocean
- **Functions** – The Commission has 4 key functions drawn from the UNCLOS.
 - Reviewing the trends of the stocks of Tuna and tuna-like fish.
 - Encouraging, and coordinating research and development activities.
 - Conservation and management measures.
 - Reviewing economic & social aspects of fisheries.

Tuna fish (Thunnus and Katsuwonus sp)

- Tuna is a nomadic species found throughout the world's oceans.
- It belongs to a subgroup of the mackerel family.
- It is high in protein and omega-3 fatty acids. It is also known as Kera fish or Choora in India.
- **Species** - Northern Bluefin Tuna, Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Blackfin Tuna, and Longtail Tuna.
- Bluefin tuna is the largest & most prized species & categorized recently as Endangered by IUCN.



WEAPONS

2.21 UN Disarmament Commission

- It is a subsidiary organ of UN General Assembly, created in 1952, composing all UN member states and reports annually to UNGA.
- It was created as a deliberative body to prepare proposals for a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.
- The UNDC is serviced substantively by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and technically by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

UN Disarmament Commission

Founded in 1952

India's membership **India is a member**

2.22 Conference on Disarmament

- It is the ***only permanent multilateral disarmament negotiating forum*** of international community.
- Though it includes practically all multilateral arms control and disarmament problems, it focuses on nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
- It was established by the UNGA in 1979 and meets annually in Geneva in a three-part session.
- It is ***independent of the United Nations*** and it submits reports annually or more often to the UNGA.
- Currently, the CD consists of ***65 member states including India.***
- India recognizes CD as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum and discards any other forum.

2.23 Wassenaar Arrangement

- It promotes transparency and greater responsibility in ***transfer of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.***
- It came into being in 1996 to succeed the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls.
- It has 42 members and all the permanent UNSC members are signatories ***except China.***
- India has been admitted as the 42nd member.
- The Wassenaar States meet regularly in Vienna, Austria, and make their decisions based on consensus.

Wassenaar Arrangement



Founded in 1996

Secretariat Vienna, Austria

India's membership **India is a member**

2.24 Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Originally called "**London Club**", it was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in 1974.
- It is a **voluntary, non-legally binding** export control regime.
- It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- The NSG Guidelines were published in 1978 by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ensure that nuclear trade for peaceful purposes does not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- It has 48 participants with European Commission and the Chair of Zangger Committee as observers.
- Signatories to the NPT can join the NSG.
- After India U.S Civil Nuclear Agreement, India has been trying to become a member. But its membership has been blocked by China.

Nuclear Suppliers Group 	
Founded in	1974
India's membership	India is a not member




Civil Nuclear Deal 2005



- It recognised India as a nuclear weapons power.
- It emphasised on non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Even though India did not officially join NPT, this agreement afforded the same benefits as other leading nuclear powers like civilian space programmes, high-technology trade, and missile defence.
- It included separation of civilian and military nuclear facilities and bringing civilian nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards.

2.25 Missile Technology Control Regime

- MTCR is an **informal, non-treaty association** of governments sharing common interests in the non-proliferation of missiles, unmanned air vehicles, and related technologies.
- It was established in 1987 by Japan.
- It aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.
- It has 35 members, which include most of the world's key missile manufacturers, including India. **Pakistan is not a member.**
- It seeks to restrict the exports of missiles and related technologies of any type of weapon of mass destruction.

MTCR 	
Founded in	1987
India's membership	India is a member

2.26 Australia Group

- The Australia Group (AG) is an **informal forum** of countries which, seeks to ensure export controls over development of **chemical or biological weapons**.
- It has 43 members including India and the European Union.
 - China is not a member** of AG nor of MTCR nor Wassenaar Arrangement.
- All States participating in the AG are Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.
- AG meets once a year in Paris with Australia as a chair.

Australia Group	
Founded in	1985
India's membership	India is a member

SECURITY

3.1 Financial Action Task Force

- It was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries, with headquarters in **Paris**.
- Members** - It has **39 members** that include all 5 permanent members of UNSC and 2 regional organisations - Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission.

- Saudi Arabia, Israel and Indonesia are “observer countries” (partial membership).
- India became a full member in 2010.
- **Objectives** - To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for **combating money laundering, terrorist financing** and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- It is therefore a “**policy-making body**” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- It is empowered to curtail financing of UN-designated terrorist groups. It can publicly sensor countries that are not abiding by its norms.
- **Grey List** - A country is put on the grey list that are “**Monitored Jurisdictions**” when it fails to curb terrorism financing and money laundering.
- Grey list countries – **21 countries**. In 2022, Pakistan was taken off from the Grey list after four years since its inception in 2018.
- **Blacklisting** a country refers to countries facing a “**call to action**” or severe banking structures, sanctions and difficulties in accessing loans.
- Black list Countries - **North Korea, Iran and Myanmar**.

FATF	
Founded in	1989
Secretariat	Paris (OECD HQ)
India's membership	India is a member

High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action (Black list)
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Iran
Myanmar

EAG Meeting

- Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism is a regional body comprising 9 countries - India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus.
- It is an **associate member of the FATF**.

3.2 INTERPOL

- INTERPOL, or International Criminal Police Organisation, is an inter-governmental body founded in **1923**.
- It is headquartered in **Lyon, France**, and has offices in several countries around the world.
- Interpol has **195 member countries** and has a National Central Bureau (NCB) in each member country.
- NCB of the country links its national police with Interpol's global network.
- It facilitates global police cooperation to fight international crime.
- Interpol issues 8 different notices which are mostly colour coded.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is the national central bureau of India to liaison with Interpol.

INTERPOL	
Founded in	1923
Headquarters	Lyon, France
India's membership	India is a member

Red Notice

- Red Notices are issued for fugitives wanted either for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
- An RN is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.



- An RN is published by Interpol at the request of a member country.
- The country issuing the request need not be the home country of the fugitive.
- An RN is not an international arrest warrant.

Interpol's Match-Fixing Task Force

- The INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) was created in 2011.
- It brings together law enforcement agencies around the world to tackle match-fixing and corruption in sport.
- **Members** - It has 100 member units, with more than 150 national points of contact worldwide.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is a member of the IMFTF.

Macolin Convention

- It is the other name for the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.
- It is a multi-lateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing.
- It is the only rule of international law on the manipulation of sports competitions.

OTHERS

2.27 World Economic Forum

- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation.
- The Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum is held in Davos, Switzerland.
- Its objective is to improve the state of the world.
- The key reports & indices by WEF are Global Competitiveness Report, Global Enabling trade Report, Global Gender Gap Index, Human Capital Index and Inclusive Development Index
- It established the **Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution** in San Francisco to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of science and technology.
- **The Great Reset** - It is an initiative by the World Economic Forum based on the assessment that the world economy is in deep trouble.
- **EDISON Alliance** - WEF launched the Essential Digital Infrastructure and Services Network (EDISON) Alliance to work with governments and industries to accelerate digital inclusion.
- WEF will serve as the secretariat and platform for the Alliance.

WEF	
Founded in	1971
Headquarters	Cologny, Switzerland
Summit	Davos, Switzerland







































2.28 Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development

- It started with 18 European countries plus the US and Canada to create an organisation dedicated to economic development.
- It now has **38 members**, Costa Rica being the latest addition.
- European Commission also participates alongside members in discussions on the OECD.
- It works closely with non-members like China, India through "Enhanced Engagement" programmes.
- It administers and publishes the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which is a regular assessment of the attainment of 15-year-olds in three areas of knowledge thus measuring the performance of educational systems across countries.
- India, a non-member, is a signatory of this policy.

OECD	
Founded in	1961
Headquarters	Paris, France
India's membership	India is not a member

Tax Inspectors Without Borders

- TIWB is joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance.

 Australia (joined 06.1971)	 Greece	 New Zealand (05.1973)
 Austria	 Hungary (05.1996)	 Norway
 Belgium	 Iceland	 Poland (11.1996)
 Canada	 Ireland	 Portugal
 Chile (05.2010)	 Israel (09.2010)	 Slovak Republic (12.2000)
 Colombia (04.2020)	 Italy	 Slovenia (08.2010)
 Costa Rica (May 2021)	 Japan (04.1969)	 Spain
 Czech Republic (06.1971)	 Korea (12.1996)	 Sweden
 Denmark	 Latvia (08.2016)	 Switzerland
 Estonia (12.2010)	 Lithuania (08.2018)	 Turkey
 Finland (01.1969)	 Luxembourg	 United Kingdom
 France	 Mexico (05.1994)	 United States
 Germany	 Netherlands	

Minimum Corporate Tax

- 136 countries, including India, agreed to enforce a **minimum corporate tax rate of 15%**, and an equitable system of taxing profits of big companies in markets where they are earned.

Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework of OECD

- In 2022, the OECD approved the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) with a view to automatically exchanging such information.
- CARF provides for the reporting of tax information on transactions in Crypto-Assets in a standardised manner.
- The information, according to CARF, will be shared on an annual basis.

2.29 International Solar Alliance

- It is an Indian initiative, launched by **India and France** in **Paris**, on the side lines of **COP-21**, held at Paris.
- It is instituted to connect **solar-resource-rich nations** for research, low-cost financing and rapid deployment of clean energy.
- HQ - **India (Interim Secretariat - Gurgaon)**
- It aims to channel \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy projects under a global mega fund for clean energy.
- Membership** - The 121 prospective member countries (those falling between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) of the ISA
- Also the UN member, can join the Alliance by signing and ratifying the Framework Agreement or by acceptance or approval.
- UN member countries which are located beyond the Tropics can join the ISA as **Partner Countries**.
- UN including its organs can join the ISA as **Strategic Partners**.
- Organizations that have potential to help the ISA achieve its objectives, constituted by sovereign states at least one of which is a member of the ISA can join the ISA as a **Partner Organization**.
- There are no targets or legal obligations imposed on member-countries.
- There is no membership-fee to join the ISA.
- Structure** - The ISA will have a two-tier structure – the **Assembly and the Secretariat**.
- Each member-country is represented on the Assembly, which meets annually at the Ministerial level at the seat of the ISA. The Assembly may also meet under special circumstances.
- The Assembly the supreme decision-making body of ISA that makes all necessary decisions regarding the functioning of the ISA, including the selection of the Director General and approval of the operating budget.
- Each Member has one vote in the Assembly.
- Partner Countries, Partner Organizations, Strategic Partners, and Observers may participate without having the right to vote.
- The UNGA has conferred **Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- India and ISA** - Government of India has committed to host ISA Secretariat for 5 years duration from 2016-17 to 2020-21 and will contribute US\$ 27 million to the ISA for creating corpus.

ISA	
Founded in	2015
Headquarters	Gurgaon, India
India's membership	India is a founding member

Recent Developments

- India hosts the 6th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) started in New Delhi in 2023.

- **6th Assembly of ISA**
 1. **President** – Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.
 2. **Deliberation** – On 3 critical issues energy access, energy security, and energy transition.

2.30 International Energy Agency (IEA)

- It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the **framework of the OECD**.
- It was initially designed to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to disruptions in the supply of oil.
- **Only OECD member states can become members** of the IEA.
- Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Slovenia all OECD member states are members of the IEA.
- Currently, the IEA is made up of **31 member countries** and Lithuania became its 31st member in 2022.
- In addition to this, the IEA has 11 association countries including Brazil, China and India.
- The IEA examines the full spectrum of energy issues including oil, gas and coal supply and demand, renewable energy technologies, electricity markets, energy efficiency, access to energy, demand side management etc.
- The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia.
- Its flagship releases are **World Energy Outlook and Key World Energy Statistics**.
- IEA member countries are required to maintain total oil stock levels equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year's net imports.
- **India-IEA Agreement** - The Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and India was signed in **2021**.

IEA	
Founded in	1974
Headquarters	Paris, France
India's membership	Associate member

IEA is made up of 31 member countries, 11 association and 4 accession countries

Member countries

Australia	Austria	Belgium	Canada
Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland
France	Germany	Greece	Hungary
Ireland	Italy	Japan	Korea
Lithuania	Luxembourg	Mexico	New Zealand
Norway	Poland	Portugal	Slovak Republic
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	The Netherlands
Türkiye	United Kingdom	United States	

Accession countries

Chile	Colombia	Israel	Latvia
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Association countries

Argentina	Brazil	China	Egypt
India	Indonesia	Morocco	Singapore
South Africa	Thailand	Ukraine	

3.3 International Energy Forum

- It consists of **72 member countries**, aiming to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of common energy interests among its members.
- It is unique because it comprises not only countries of the IEA and OPEC, but also other major players outside of IEA and OPEC, including Argentina, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa.
- The Forum's biennial Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers.

2.31 International Disability Alliance

- The International Disability Alliance (IDA) was established in 1999 as a network of global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and their families.
- It is a key player in the negotiation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- The Alliance aims to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN CRPD worldwide.
- IDA, Norway and Ghana virtually hosted the second Global Disability Summit in 2022.

2.32 International Press Institute

- It is a global network of editors, journalists and media executives who share a common dedication to quality, independent journalism.
- It was founded in 1950, the IPI has members in over 120 countries.
- It enjoys consultative status with the UN, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.
- IPI's Death Watch names journalists and media staff who were deliberately targeted because of their profession either because of their reporting or simply because they were journalists as well as those who lost their lives while on assignment.

International Press Institute 	
Founded in	1950
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria
India's membership	India is a member

2.33 World Petroleum Congress

- It is widely recognized as the 'Olympics of the oil and gas industry' and is organized by World Petroleum Council.
- It is conducted tri-annually.
- **World Petroleum Council** is a non-advocacy, non-political organisation with charitable status in the U.K. and has accreditation as a Non-Governmental Organization from the United Nations.

2.34 World Travel and Tourism Council (2017)

- It is a forum for the travel and tourism industry, is made up of members from the global business community and works with governments to raise awareness about the industry.
- HQ - London
- It is known for being the only forum to represent the private sector in all parts of the travel and tourism industry worldwide.
- It publishes research in conjunction with Oxford Economics on the economic and social impact of the industry.

World Travel and Tourism Council 	
Founded in	1990
Headquarters	London, UK
India's membership	India is a member

2.35 International Coffee Organization

- ICO is the main intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing Governments to tackle the challenges in the coffee sector.
- It is a London based body set up under the auspices of the United Nations in 1963 under the International Coffee agreement of 1962.
- It is the only intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing Governments.

International Coffee Organization 	
Founded in	1963
Headquarters	London, UK
India's membership	India is a member

- It has **49 members** which includes Exporting (42) and Importing (7) countries which represents 93% of world coffee production and 63% of world consumption.
 - **India is in major exporting countries** and European Union in importing countries.
- Its Member Governments represent 98% of world coffee production and 67% of world consumption and India is one among them.
- **World Coffee Conference (WCC)** is a property of ICO. The earlier editions of WCC were held in London (2001), Brazil (2005), Guatemala (2010), and Ethiopia (2016).

Recent developments - 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC)

- It is the first time India is hosting the conference.
- **Aim** - To significantly increase India's access and acceptance in the global coffee markets.
- **Organized by** - The Coffee Board, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and International Coffee Organization.

India, the 7th largest producer of coffee, is the 5th largest exporter with its main destinations being European countries such as Italy and Germany and also Russia.

- **Theme of the Conference** - Sustainability through circular economy and regenerative agriculture.
- **Brand ambassador** - Coffee Board inducted tennis player, Arjuna awardee, and coffee planter Rohan Bopanna.

Coffee Board of India

- Managed by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to promote coffee production in India.
- **Headquarters** – Bengaluru.

- The event will feature engaging sessions, coffee tastings, competitions, panel discussions, and an exhibition showcasing cutting-edge coffee products and services.
- **Significance of Bengaluru** – It is the coffee capital of India State, solely accounting for over 70% of the country's total coffee production.

2.36 International Sugar Organization (ISO)

- ISO is an intergovernmental organization with 90 member countries, based in **London**, which was established by the International Sugar Agreement of 1968, as the body responsible for administering the Agreement.
- ISO represents (based on data for 2022) - 87% of world sugar production, 64% of world sugar consumption, 34% of world imports, 92% of world exports.
- **India becomes Chair** of International Sugar Organization (ISO) for 2024 to lead global sugar sector.
- India is the **largest consumer and 2nd largest producer of sugar**, 3rd largest country in the world in ethanol production after USA and Brazil.

2.37 International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)

- It is the **governing body** of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (**ITTO**) which meets once a year.

- **Aim** – To promote sustainable tropical forest management and trade of sustainably produced tropical timber.

- To develop **forest-related policies** and approve and **finance field-level projects**.

- **Membership** – Comprises all the **75 ITTO's members**.

- **Assisted by 4 committees**


- Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets.
- Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management.
- Committee on Forest Industry.
- Committee on Finance and Administration.

ITTO

- It is an intergovernmental organization based on **International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006** that entered into force in 2011.
- **Objectives** – To promote sustainable forest management, diversify international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.
- **Membership** – **75 members including India and EU**, representing about 90% of the global tropical timber trade and more than 80% of the world's tropical forests.

2.38 International Council of Museum

- ICOM is the main and **only organization** of museums and museum professionals with global scope, committed to promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.
- It was created in 1946 and is headquartered in **Paris, France**.
- It serves as a network of museum professionals acting in a wide range of museum- and heritage-related disciplines.

International Council of Museum 	
Founded in	1946
Headquarters	Paris, France
India's membership	India is a member

2.39 United World Wrestling (UWW)

United World Wrestling (UWW)

- It is the international governing body for the sport of amateur wrestling; its duties include overseeing wrestling at the Olympics.
- It presides over international competitions for various forms of wrestling.
- The flagship event of UWW is the Wrestling World Championships.
- It was formerly known as the FILA having assumed its current name in September 2014 and was created during the IOC Olympic Congress in Lausanne in 1921. Headquarters - Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The International Testing Agency (ITA) is supporting UWW with the delivery of their anti-doping program since 2019.

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)

- It was founded in 1958 and is based in New Delhi. The WFI is the apex body for wrestling in India and it organizes all national and international wrestling events in India.
- It promotes wrestling players for the Olympics, Asian Games, National Wrestling Championships, and World Wrestling Championships.
- The suspension means that Indian wrestlers cannot represent India at any global wrestling events until the WFI is restored.

2.40 International Organization of Legal Metrology (IOLM)

- IOLM is an intergovernmental organization established in 1955. It
 1. Develops model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.
 2. Provides mutual recognition systems which reduce trade barriers and costs in a global market.
 3. Promotes and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and competencies within the legal metrology community worldwide,
 4. Cooperates with other metrology bodies to raise awareness of the contribution that a sound legal metrology infrastructure can make to a modern economy.
- **Headquarters** – Paris, France.
- It is international standard-setting body in the sense of the World Trade Organization's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement.
- **Members** - It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members. India became the member in 1956.

To sell a weight or measure in the International market an OIML Pattern Approval certificate is mandatory.

India and the OIML

- India can now issue the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) Certificates.

- The OIML-Certificate System is a system for issuing, registering and using OIML certificates, and their associated OIML type evaluation/test reports.
- India joins as 13th authority for issuing OIML certificate for selling weights & measures anywhere in the world and Department of Consumer Affairs can issue the certificate now.

2.41 Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

- **AIBD** - It is a regional inter-governmental organisation in the field of *electronic media development*
- **Established** – In 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO.
- **Objectives**
 - To act as window for regional policy makers to access worldwide information.
 - To establish inter-regional links and cooperation.
 - To act as agent of change in developing regional IT environment.
- **Founders** - International Telecommunication Union, UN Development Programme, and UNESCO.
- **Voting** - These founding organizations are non-voting members of the General Conference.
- **Region** - It services countries of UN-ESCAP (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).
- **Members** - 26 full members represented by 43 member organisations and 50 affiliate members.
- **Secretariat** - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Recent Developments** - India has been elected recently as the President of AIBD General Conference (GC) for the 3rd successive term.
- **India & AIBD** - India is one of the ***founding members of the AIBD.***
- ***Prasar Bharati***, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is the representative body of India at AIBD.

GC 2023

- The 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023 of AIBD was held in 2023 at Port Louis, Mauritius.
- **Mandate-** To achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.

Prasar Bharati is India's state-owned Public service broadcaster, headquartered in New Delhi which comprises the Doordarshan Television and Akashvani.

2.42 Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

- A-WEB is the largest association of ***Election Management Bodies (EMBs)*** worldwide.
- **Aim** - To achieve sustainable democracy around the world through the strengthening of the processes of election management in member countries.
- **Launch** - 2013 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- **Members** - 119 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) as Members and 20 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members.
- All members may participate in all A-WEB activities, take part in making decisions for the Association, and receive services and benefits provided by the Association.
- A-WEB organises capacity building programmes and undertakes Election Visitor and Observation Programmes in various countries to study election management practices and share knowledge with other member EMBs.
- **India's position** – India is a member to the association of world election bodies (A-WEB) and is represented by Election Commission of India (ECI).
- **Recent Developments** - Chief Election Commissioner & 3 members of Election Commission of India (ECI) attends the 11th meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).

India A-WEB Centre

- India A-WEB Centre has been established at New Delhi in 2019
- **Aim** – To document and research for sharing the best practices and training and capacity building of officials of A-WEB members.
- The Centre is bringing out several publications and documents, including a world class Journal titled '*A-WEB India Journal of Elections.*'
- The ECI is providing all the necessary resources for the India A-WEB Centre.

3. INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

3.4 G20

- It is an international forum that brings together the world's leading industrialized and emerging economies.
- **Launch-** Established in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a regular forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Objectives-

- Policy coordination between its members to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth
- To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises
- To create a new international financial architecture

G20 	
Founded in	1999
India's membership	India is a member
Chair	India (2023)

- **Member-** Earlier, it comprises of 19 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Russia, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China and Indonesia) and European Union.

- The group does not have permanent secretariat.

- **Presidency** - The President is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.

- **Troika**- It comprises of past, present, and future presidents. Troika 2023 includes Indonesia, India, and Brazil.

- **Guest**- Every year, the host country chooses other guests.

- Spain always participates in the G20 summits.

Working structure-

- **Finance track**- Meets 4 times in a year.
- **Sherpa track**- Established after the inception of G20 Leaders' Summit in 2008. It covers non-financial issues.
- **Engagement groups**- An unofficial track comprising non-government participants from each member country.



India's G20 Presidency

- India held the Presidency of G20 from **Dec 2022 to 30 Nov 2023**.
- **Theme** - One Earth One Family One Future.
- It means Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole earth is a family).
- The theme is drawn from the **Maha Upanishad**.
- **Guest countries**- Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE






Key outcomes of New Delhi Declaration

- India achieved a unanimous "**New Delhi Leaders' Summit Declaration**" on developmental and geopolitical matters.
- The declaration reflects India's motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" –“Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all”, which resonates with the spirit of multilateralism and inclusiveness.

Outcomes	Description	Significance
Russia-Ukraine War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G20 nations agreed that states cannot grab territory by force and highlighted the suffering of the people of Ukraine, but avoided direct criticism of Russia for the war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India along with Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, played a key role in avoiding a fracturing of the G20 over the Ukraine conflict, reflecting the growing power of the Global South developing nations in the group.
Inclusion of African Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 55-member African Union was formally made permanent member of the G20, on par with the European Union, in order to make the grouping more representative. Until now only South Africa was a member of G20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entry of the AU would provide greater voice to the Global South within the G20 where the G7 countries have long played a dominant role.
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multinational rail and shipping project linking India with the Middle East and Europe has been announced. The corridor would include <i>India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Israel and European Union.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will challenge China's economic ambitions in the region. It aims to boost trade, deliver energy resources and improve digital connectivity.
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The G20 leaders agreed to pursue <i>tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030</i> and accepted the need to phase-down unabated coal power. It stressed the urgency of mobilizing “US\$5.8-5.9 trillion in the pre-2030 period for developing countries” and “US\$4 trillion per year for clean energy technologies by 2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will help countries to attain net-zero emissions by 2050.
Green Development Pact	<p>The declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Envisages a green development pact Endorses high-level principles on lifestyle Voluntary principles of hydrogen <i>Chennai principles</i> for a sustainable resilient blue economy <i>Deccan principles</i> on food security and nutrition among others 	<p>Objectives of this move involves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development Resilient blue economy Food security and nutrition Climate financing
Global bio fuel alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an alliance driven by <i>India, the United States, and Brazil</i>, is a concerted effort to address pressing energy and economic challenges through sustainable biofuels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inauguration of the Global Biofuel Alliance at the G20 Summit signifies a pivotal moment in the pursuit of sustainable energy solutions.
Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A voluntary framework for Systems of Digital Public Infrastructure</i> for the development, deployment and governance of DPI has been unanimously accepted. The declaration also mentions the approval of India's plan to build and maintain <i>Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository</i>. The declaration takes note of the proposal to create <i>One Future Alliance</i>, a voluntary initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The repository will be a virtual stack where non-G20 and G-20 countries can voluntarily share their open-source mechanisms. One Future Alliance will assist and fund the implementation of digital public infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries.
Reform of Multilateral Development Banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The member countries endorsed the G20 Roadmap for Implementing the Recommendations of the G20 Independent Review of MDBs Capital Adequacy Frameworks and called for its implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF) recommendations are focused on enabling MDBs to use the existing resources effectively.

G20 Satellite Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has proposed to launch the G20 satellite mission for environment and climate observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to help the countries of Global South for environment and climate observation.
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Cultural values reflected in G20 summit

Cultural Heritages	Significance
<p>Nataraja Sculpture</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World's tallest 27-foot Nataraja sculpture has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, venue of the G20 Leaders' Summit. Metal - The Bharat Mandapam Nataraja statue is an <i>ashtadhatu</i> (8-metal alloy). The eight metals include copper, zinc and lead with traces of tin, silver, gold and mercury, with iron. Crafting process - <i>Lost-wax</i> casting method, indigenous to the Chola era.
<p>Konark wheel</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A replica of Konark Wheel from the Sun temple in Odisha served as the backdrop of Indian Prime Minister's welcome handshake with G20 leaders. Konark Wheel was built during the 13th century under the reign of King Narasimhadeva-I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty. The wheel with 24 spokes representing the wheels of Lord Surya's sun chariot. The wheel has been adapted in the Indian National Flag. Its rotating motion symbolises time, Kaalchakra, as well as progress and continuous change. Konark sun temple, an example of Kalinga architecture, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
<p>Nalanda University</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Backdrop of Nalanda, a UNESCO World Heritage site, welcomed delegates for the President's dinner. Nalanda was an acclaimed Mahavihara, a large Buddhist monastery in the kingdom of Magadha (modern-day Bihar). It is an ancient centre of higher learning, founded by Kumargupta I of the Gupta dynasty in 5th century CE. It was patronized by various rulers including King Harshavardhana of Kannauj (7th century CE) and the Pala rulers (8th – 12th century CE). The library of Nalanda is known as Dharma Gunj (Mountain of Truth) or Dharmagañja (Treasury of Truth).

Gifts given to the world leaders in the G20 Summit

The Gifts	Significance
Sheeshamwood Sandook with Brass Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a strong box made of solid old wood or metal, with a lid on top and embellishments all over. The Sandook was handcrafted using Sheesham (Indian Rosewood), which is valued for its strength, durability, distinctive grain patterns and rich colour. The brass <i>patti</i> (strip) was delicately etched and embedded on to the wood.
Kashmiri Saffron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kashmiri Saffron's intense aromatic profile, vibrant colour and unmatched potency sets it apart. This is due to the crisp air, abundant sunlight and well-drained soil of Kashmir, which yields saffron with a higher concentration of essential oils.
Pekoe Darjeeling & Nilgiri Tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pekoe <i>Darjeeling</i> and <i>Nilgiri</i> Tea are two illustrious gems from India's tea tapestry, epitomizing the delicate art of tea cultivation and infusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nilgiri Tea comes from the most spectacular mountain range in southern India, cultivated amidst the mountains' lush terrain at an elevation of 1000-3000 ft.
Araku Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Araku Coffee is the world's first terroir mapped coffee, grown on organic plantations in the Araku Valley of <u>Andhra Pradesh</u>. Araku Coffee is known for its unique texture and a symphony of flavours.
Sundarbans Honey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundarbans is home to wild colonies of honeybees and is less viscous than other honey.
Kashmiri Pashmina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Kashmiri, it refers to the raw unspun wool of the Changthangi goat (the world's most unique Cashmere goat) found only at a height of 14,000 feet above sea level. In ancient courts, Pashmina was used as an indicator of rank and nobility.
Zighrana Ittar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zighrana Ittar is a masterpiece of fragrance from Kannauj in <u>Uttar Pradesh</u>. Ittar (perfume) is an essential oil derived from botanical sources.
Khadi Scarf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synonymous with Mahatma Gandhi, khadi is an eco-friendly clothing material most beloved for its beautiful texture and versatility throughout the seasons. It is also one of the most important symbols of India's freedom struggle.
Banarasi silk stole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banarasi silk stoles are India's elegant treasures. Handcrafted in <u>Varanasi</u>, luxurious silk threads are used to create intricate patterns, reflecting the city's cultural richness and its weaving heritage.
Assam stole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assam stoles are traditional pieces of clothing crafted using <u>Muga silk</u>.
Kanchivaram stole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stole using pure mulberry silk threads crafted in <u>Tamil Nadu</u>.
Ikkat stole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stole by artisans of <u>Odisha</u> using <u>mulberry silk</u> with the exquisite Ikkat technique. 'Ikat' is a meticulous dyeing process on silk or cotton.

- **2024 Presidency**- India has formally handed over the G20 presidency to Brazil.
- The next G20 summit is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2024, with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva taking over the presidency.

3.5 SAARC

- South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.
- **Members** - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Secretariat** - Kathmandu, Nepal.
- It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) in 2006.
- States with observer status include Australia, China, European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and United States.
- **SAARC Development Fund** - It was created by SAARC member states in 2010 to promote welfare of the people of SAARC region, improve their quality of life, and accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
- It has an authorized capital of \$1.5 billion and a total capital base of \$500 million.

SAARC	
Founded in	1985
Secretariat	Kathmandu, Nepal
India's membership	India is a member



3.6 BIMSTEC

- **BIMSTEC** – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- It is a regional organization group of littoral countries encircling the Bay of Bengal with own flag and emblem.
- **Established in – 1997** with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- 2022 marked the **25th anniversary of BISTEC** formation.
- **Secretariat at** – Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Aim** – To foster **economic and social development** among member countries.
- **Members – 7 members** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand).
- It includes 5 members from **SAARC** and 2 from **ASEAN**.
- BIMSTEC was initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand- Economic cooperation) before the joining of Myanmar (1997), Bhutan (2004) and Nepal (2004).
- **BIMSTEC Charter** – It was signed and adopted during the fifth BIMSTEC Summit in Sri Lanka in 2022.

BIMSTEC	
Founded in	1997
Secretariat	Dhaka, Bangladesh
India's membership	India is a member

BIMSTEC
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES

Importance of BIMSTEC

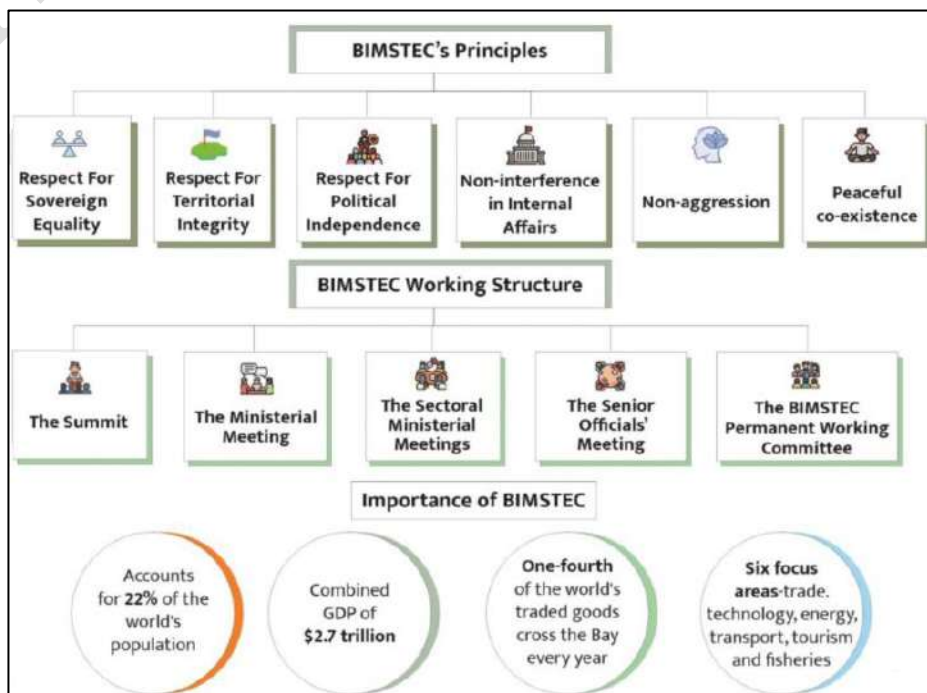
- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas—trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

First summit held in Thailand

Sri Lanka is the current Chair

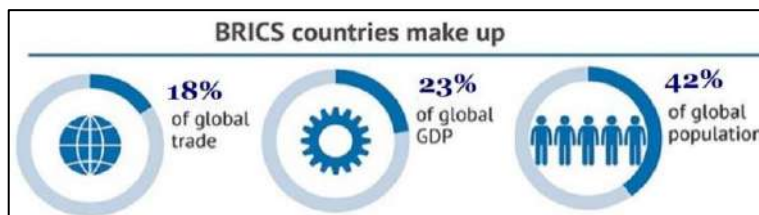
Various BIMSTEC Centres

- **BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC)** – It is to be housed in the premises of the Central Power Research Institute in **Bengaluru, India**.
- It will also function as the Secretariat of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee.
- **BIMSTEC Centre on Weather and Climate** - It is located in the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in **Uttar Pradesh, India**.
- **BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory** – In 2006, it was proposed for the establishment of BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and the BIMTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO) in **Bhutan**.
- **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility** – The Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the establishment was signed in 2022 during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit but its entry into force is awaited.
- 6th BIMSTEC summit under the chairmanship of Thailand will be held in 2024 with promising features like
 - Adoption of the BIMSTEC Rules of Procedure
 - Adoption of the BIMSTEC Maritime Cooperation Agreement (BMCA)
 - Launching of BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030



3.7 BRICS

- Originally conceived as BRIC by Jim O'Neill, the grouping consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- Launch-** It was launched by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2006.
- BRIC turned into BRICS in 2010, with the entry of South Africa.
- Members-** Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.



- Now it has admitted more members (**Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Ethiopia**)
- Chair-** Chaired by member countries in rotational basis.
- First summit-** Held in Yekaterinburg in 2009.
 - In **Fortaleza declaration, New Development Bank** was created in 2015 worth 100 bn dollars.

BRICS	
Founded in	2009
Headquarters	Shanghai, China
India's membership	India is a member

BRICS Summit 2023

- It is the first in-person summit since 2019, which meets at an important geopolitical and geo-economic moment.
- It is first in-person meeting since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- South Africa** is the chair for 2023.
- Agenda-** 'BRICS in Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism'.
- Participation in dialogues-** BRICS-Africa Outreach, BRICS Plus Dialogue
- New Members** – In the ongoing summit at Johannesburg, South Africa, BRICS has invited **Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, and Ethiopia** to be its new members.
 - Argentina formally rejects BRICS membership recently.
- Their membership will begin in January, 2024.
- With the additions, it will represent **almost half the world's population**, and will include three of the world's biggest oil producers, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran.

3.8 BBIN

- In 1996, **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal**, formed the **South Asian Growth Quadrangle** to boost energy and power, trade and investment, transport, and tourism.
- They requested ADB's assistance.
- The addition of Maldives and Sri Lanka to this group lead to the creation of the SASEC Program, leaving the four-party idle.
- In 2014, when **SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement** failed due to rejection by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal Initiative was formulated to push the agenda.

- The landmark BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement was signed by Transport Ministers of the BBIN in 2015.
- It will allow seamless movement of passenger and cargo vehicles among the four countries.

BBIN	
Founded in	2015
India's membership	India is a member



- Bangladesh, India and Nepal have agreed on the operating procedures for passenger vehicle movement in the sub-region under the MVA.

- Bhutan did not ratify it, demanding a cap on vehicles entering its territory for some time.
- Three signatory countries have anyway agreed to start implementation of the MVA among them.

3.9 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- It is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Current member states (9)** - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and **Iran (latest addition)**.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization	
Founded in	2001
Headquarters	Beijing, China
India's membership	India is a member

- **Observer States (4)** - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- **Dialogue Partners (6)** - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, Sri Lanka.

The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.

The SCO Secretariat, based in **Beijing**, is the main permanent executive body of the SCO

The Council of Heads of State is the top decision-making body in the SCO.

The **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**, headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

All SCO members, except for China, India & Pakistan, are also members of the Eurasian Economic Community.

The original purpose of the SCO was to serve as a counterbalance to NATO and in particular to avoid conflicts that would allow the United States to intervene in areas bordering both Russia and China.

SCO Summit - The SCO Summit 2022 held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The Samarkand declaration adopted by the Summit pointed out the series of challenges and headwinds to be faced by humanity in the 21st century.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres suggested the **Acceleration Agenda** at the SCO summit address to end the dependence on fossil fuels while providing universal, affordable and sustainable energy for all.



HEADS OF STATE COUNCIL (HSC)

- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.
- It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the
- The SCO Heads of Government Council (HGC) meets once a year to discuss the organisation's multilateral cooperation strategy and priority areas, to resolve current important economic and other cooperation issues, and also to approve the organisation's annual budget.
- SCO's official languages are **Russian & Chinese**.

SCO

SCO Secretariat

Beijing

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

Tashkent

The SCO Secretary-General and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS are appointed by the Council of Heads of State for a term of three years.

3/5

Covers 3/5th of the Eurasian continent

42%

Covers around 42% of World Population

20%

More than 20% of global GDP

- **23rd SCO Summit** - The 23rd SCO meeting of the council of heads of the member states was held *virtually*.
- This is the first time **India** holds the presidency of the SCO summit.
- **Theme - SECURE**- Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- India has created **5 new pillars** and focus areas of cooperation in SCO –
 - Startups and Innovation
 - Traditional Medicine
 - Digital Inclusion
 - Youth Empowerment
 - Shared Buddhist Heritage
- 24th SCO chair is **Kazakhstan** and the summit is to take place in **Astana**.

3.10 BASIC

- The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the 4 countries (**Brazil, South Africa, India, & China**) in 2009.
- The signatories committed to act together at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Copenhagen Summit.
- BASIC is one of several groups of nations working together to fight climate change and carry out negotiations within the UNFCCC.



3.11 I2U2

- Called as the “**West Asian Quad**” & comprises of **India, Israel, the U.S., and the UAE**.
- This idea was articulated by U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan.
- **Aim** - To discuss common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond.
- To encourage joint investments in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
- With the help of private sector capital and expertise, the countries will look to
 1. Modernise infrastructure,
 2. Explore low carbon development avenues for industries,
 3. Improve public health, and
 4. Promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.
- Both the I2U2 and the Abraham Accords will focus on increasing Israel’s integration into the region.



Abraham Accord

- **Signed in** – 2020
- **Agreement between** - UAE, Bahrain, Israel
- **Mediated by** – The US
- **Objective**- To normalise ties with Israel.
- Following the signing of Abraham Accords, 5 Arab states (**Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Morocco, and Sudan**) have established diplomatic ties with Israel.

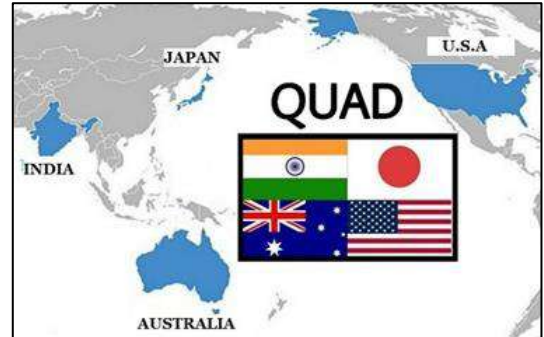
3.12 Quad

- The Quadrilateral Group consisting of **India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.** was formed in **2017**.
- It aims to strengthen the defence and security cooperation amongst the four countries.
- The idea was originally conceived in 2007 by the former Japan’s Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe.
- It has a shared objective to ensure and support a “**free, open and prosperous**” **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The Quad leaders held their first formal summit in 2021.

- In the second meeting that was held in Tokyo in 2022, the US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (**iCET**) was unveiled.

Outcomes of QUAD 2023 Summit

- The Leaders of the QUAD countries participated in person in the Summit held at **Tokyo, Japan**.
- **Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative** to facilitate research and development and support the Indo-Pacific's energy transition.
- The **Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains** were approved to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development.
- **'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme'** to support policy makers and practitioners in the region to design, build and manage sustainable and viable infrastructure in their countries.
- **'Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience'** to leverage QUAD's collective expertise in undersea cables to secure and diversify these critical networks.
- QUAD support for a small-scale ORAN deployment in **Palau**, the first in the Pacific region. They also released the ORAN Security Report to support industry investment in open, interoperable and secure telecom platforms.
- **QUAD Investors' Network (QUIN)** has been launched as a private sector led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.
- The **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness**, announced at 2022 Summit had notable progress.



3.13 AUKUS

- In September **2021**, leaders of **Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States** announced the creation of an enhanced trilateral security partnership called "AUKUS."
- It is intended to strengthen the ability of each government to support security and defence interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.
- It will promote deeper information sharing and technology sharing; and foster deeper integration of security.
- It will also promote defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.
- **India is not a part** of this grouping.



3.14 Five Eyes Alliance

- The Five Eyes is an intelligence alliance consisting of the **US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand**.
- The origins of the Five Eyes can be traced back to the informal meetings between the US and UK code-breakers during the World War II.
- After the World War II, Britain-USA continue to be and the UKUSA agreement was signed in 1946.
- It was later expanded to include Canada in 1948, and Australia and New Zealand in 1956, thereby creating the Five Eyes alliance, partly due to past shared Commonwealth heritage.

- **Working** - The Five Eyes members use communications methods, including signals intelligence (SIGINT), to monitor the citizens of other member countries.
- In 2016, the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council came into being.
- **Recent issue** – The intelligence shared among Five Eyes partners had prompted Canadian Prime Minister’s allegations against India.

***SIGINT** is intelligence derived from electronic signals and systems used by foreign targets, such as communications systems, radars, and weapons systems that provides a vital window for our nation into foreign adversaries' capabilities, actions, and intentions.*

3.15 Collective Security Treaty Organisation

- When the Cold War drew to a close in 1991, the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of 8 socialist states dissolved.
- Less than a year later, Russia and five of its allies in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was a loose club of post-Soviet countries, signed a new Collective Security Treaty, which came into force in 1994.
- In 2002, as Central Asia loomed larger in geopolitics, it declared itself the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a full-blown *intergovernmental military alliance*.
- Also known as the “**Tashkent Pact**” or “**Tashkent Treaty**”.
- It has 6 members - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. Uzbekistan had quit the alliance in 2012.
- HQ - **Moscow**
- It aims to
 1. To strengthen peace, international and regional security including cybersecurity and stability
 2. To protect on a collective basis of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the members
- The Article 4 of CSTO is very similar to **NATO’s Article 5**.


CSTO 	
Founded in	1992
Headquarters	Moscow, Russia
India’s membership	India is a not a member

Warsaw Pact 

- It is a treaty establishing a mutual-defense organization among then Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. It was signed in 1955.
- It was formed on the immediate aftermath of admitting West Germany to NATO, during cold war.
- After democratic revolutions in eastern Europe and the dissolution of Soviet Union, the pact was formally declared “nonexistent” in 1991.

3.16 North Atlantic Treaty Organization

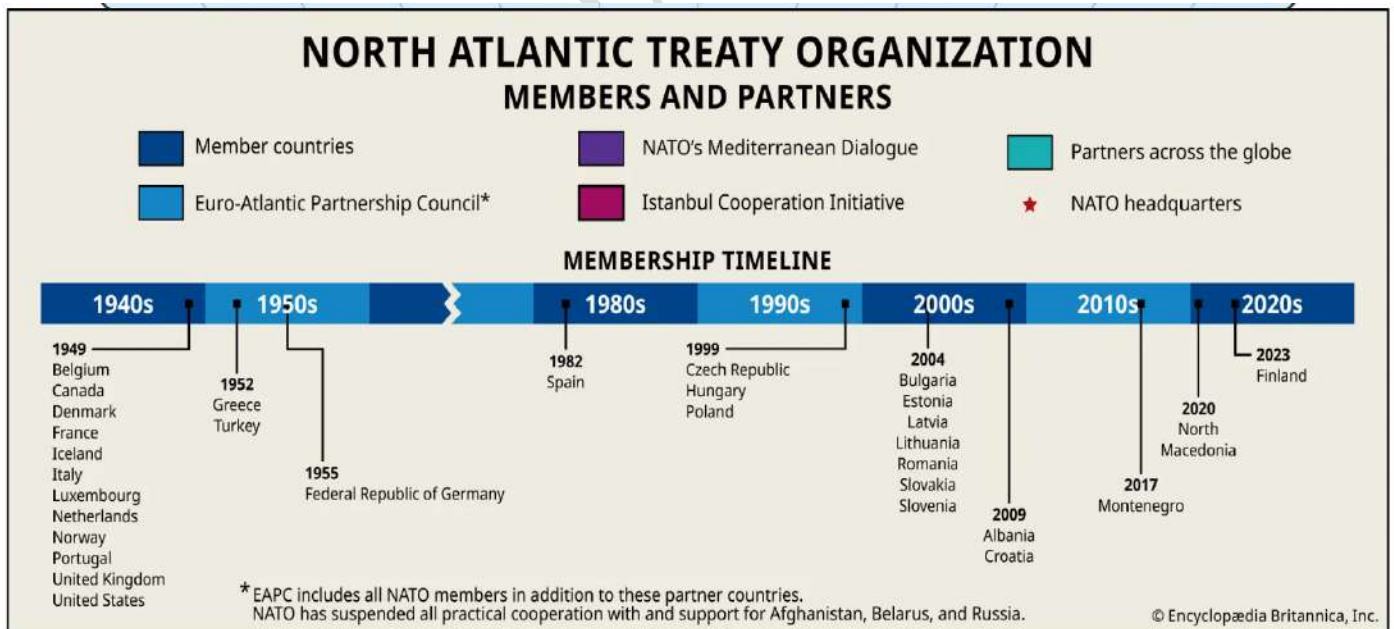
- It was founded in **1949** as a mutual-defense and political alliance.
- It is an intergovernmental political and military alliance setup by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure collective security against Soviet Union.
- HQ - **Brussels, Belgium**
- The key member States included the United States, Canada, and American allies in Europe.
- NATO was the US’s first peacetime military alliance outside the western hemisphere.
- Core tasks - collective defence, crisis-management and cooperative security.
- Members of NATO are committed to **mutual defence** in response to an attack by any external party.
- **Collective defence** lies at the very heart of NATO, “a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance”.
- This is laid out in **Article 5** of the North Atlantic Treaty, the founding treaty of NATO.
- **Members - 32 countries** are members of NATO.
 - **Sweden** became NATO's newest member in 2023.
- All Alliance decisions are taken by consensus, with each ally having an equal say.

NATO 	
Founded in	1949
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium
India’s membership	India is a not a member

- In 2019, Members of NATO are gathered in London to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the defence alliance.

Process to secure NATO Membership

- **Article 10** of the treaty provides for entry of a new member to accede to the treaty by unanimous agreement of the existing members.
- Once the member countries of the NATO have established consensus about a country's potential membership, it is called upon to initiate accession talks with the alliance.
- **MAP** - Following this, they may be invited to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP). Reaching this stage does not secure membership.
- It is a preparatory mechanism providing advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the specific needs of applicant countries.
- It may continue even after the applicant country has become a member.
- **MAP obligations** - The 5 chapters of the MAP identify issues that might be taken up, also suggesting mechanism through which the preparations for "possible eventual membership" can be taken forward.
- They constitute issues relevant to politics and economics, defence/military, resources, security and legality.
- **Confirming intent** - This process begins with NATO experts and representatives of the invited countries at the NATO's headquarters in Brussels.
- The idea is to obtain formal confirmation of the invitee's willingness and ability to meet the political, legal and military obligations and commitments of the NATO membership.
- The second step of the process requires the applicant country to issue a formal letter of intent to NATO. This acts as a confirmation to the obligations and commitments of the organisation.
- **Necessary amendments** are, then, made to make the invitees party to the Washington Treaty followed by ratification of the applicant countries' constitutional protocols to facilitate the membership.
- **Acceding to the Treaty** - After all NATO members notify their acceptance to the US government about the applicant, the Secretary General would call the potential new members to accede to the Treaty.
 - [The US government is the depository of the Washington Treaty.]
- Following the invitee depositing their instruments of accession with the U.S. State Dept., the applicant becomes a member of the NATO



NATO Plus

- It is a security arrangement that brings together the grouping of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and 5 countries - **Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and Israel**.
- It was formalized in 2019.
- **Aim** - To boost defence and intelligence ties.

3.17 The Bucharest Nine Countries

- The “*Bucharest Nine*” or “*Bucharest Format*” or “*B9*” was founded in 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of *Romania*.
- It is a group of **9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe** that became part of the NATO after the end of the Cold War.
- It is also regarded as the “*Voice of the Eastern Flank*” in the NATO alliance.
- The group was created at the High-Level Meeting of the States from Central and Eastern Europe in Bucharest on the initiative of,
 1. Klaus Iohannis, who became the President of Romania in 2014,
 2. Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in 2015.
- B9 offers a platform for deepening the dialogue among the participant allied states, in order to articulate their specific contribution to the ongoing processes across the NATO.
- **Composition** of B9 include, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- All nine countries were once closely associated with the now dissolved Soviet Union, but later chose the path of democracy.
- Romania, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria are former signatories of the now dissolved Warsaw Pact military alliance led by the Soviet Union.
- (The other Warsaw Pact countries were the erstwhile Czechoslovakia and East Germany, and Albania.)
- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were part of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

DID YOU KNOW?


All members of the B9 are part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Bucharest Nine Countries



3.18 G7 Grouping

- It is an intergovernmental economic group consisting of **7 largest IMF advanced economies** such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US.
- **EU is also represented** within the G7 as an invitee.
- Formerly called **G8 with Russia** in it, but due to Crimean crisis, Russia was ejected from the group.
- The organization was founded to facilitate shared macroeconomic initiatives by its members in response to the collapse of the exchange rate 1971.
- G7 summit is being held annually to discuss economic policies, while the G7 finance ministers have met at least semi-annually.
- For the first time in the last 44 years, **Gender Equality Advisory Council** was set up to convince private sector companies to set up such council and eradicate the problem of gender inequality from the root.
- **Nature** - Together the member countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world’s population.
- Unlike other bodies such as NATO, the G7 has **no legal existence, permanent secretariat or official members.**
- It has **no binding impact** on policy, and all decisions and commitments made at G7 meetings need to be ratified independently by governing bodies of member states.

G7 	
Founded in	1975
India’s membership	India is not a member



Outcomes of the recent G7 summit

- The recent G-7 summit was held in in **Hiroshima, Japan.**

- **Hiroshima Vision Statement on Nuclear Disarmament** - Commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all through taking a realistic, pragmatic, and responsible approach.
- The G7 Summit initiated the ***Hiroshima AI process (HAP)*** to determine a way forward to regulate artificial intelligence (AI).

Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

- It is an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Aim** - To bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- It built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.
- GPAI is a group of 25 member countries.
- **India** joined the group as a *founding member* in 2020.
- It brings together engaged minds and expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organisations and academia to foster international cooperation.


- **Support for Ukraine** - G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Ukraine by providing additional military and financial assistance in its war against Russia.
- Announced new sanctions against Russia, including a ban on the import of Russian gold.
- **De-risking not decoupling from China** - Countering China's economic coercion. Pledged to work together to promote fair and open trade.
- **Addressing the global food crisis** - New initiative to provide \$5 billion in food assistance to countries that are most affected by the crisis.
- **Investing in clean energy and infrastructure** - Invest USD 600 billion in clean energy and infrastructure over the next five years to make clean energy more affordable and accessible.
- Compensating for the developed world's contribution to global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Protecting human rights and democracy** - Reaffirmed their commitment to protecting human rights and democracy around the world.
- To provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.
- Condemned the human rights abuses in China, Russia, and other countries.

3.19 G11 Grouping

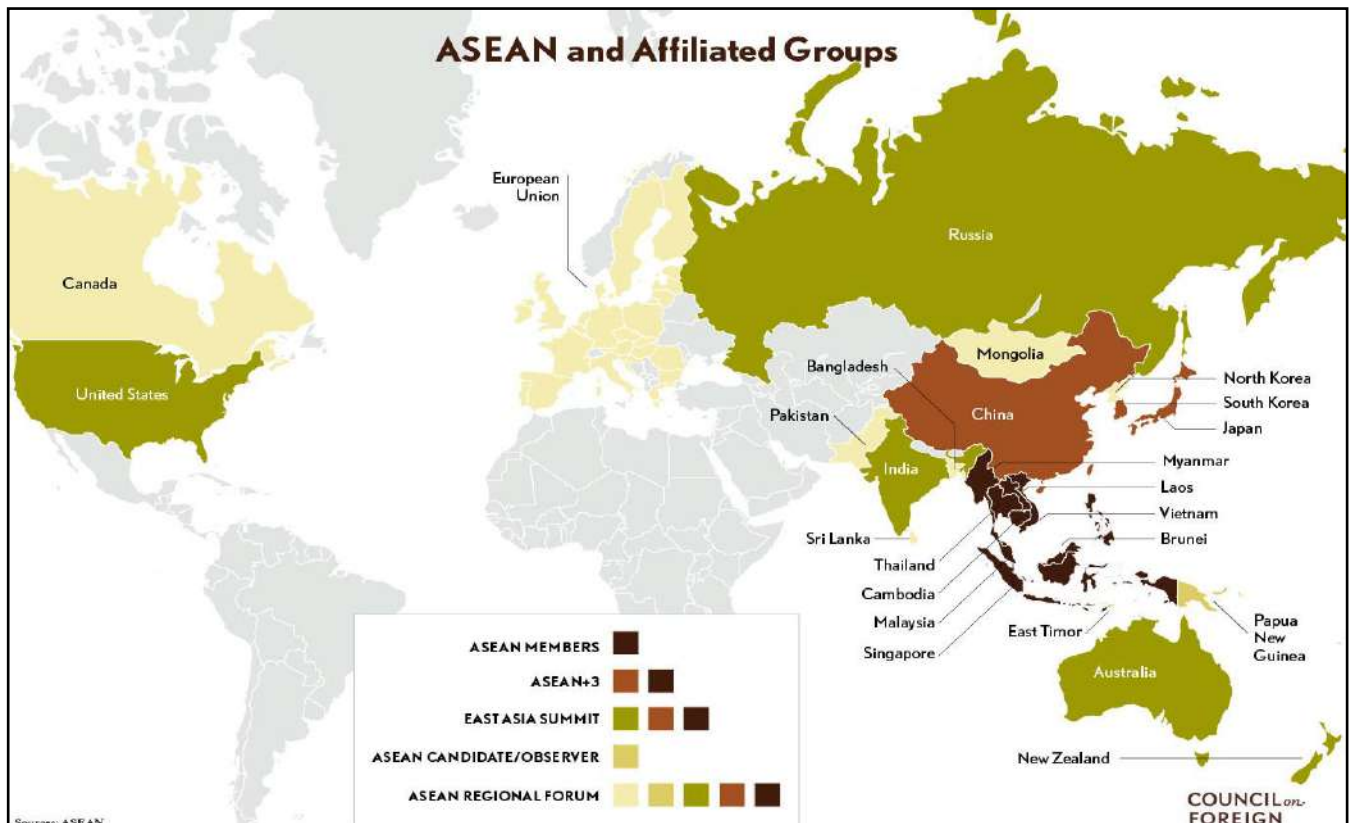
- G11 will be the expansion of the G7 grouping which will include G7 countries, ***India, Australia, South Korea, and Russia.***
- G7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- It is being widely perceived as an *"anti-Chinese" platform*.
- It was established in 2006.

3.20 Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- It is a regional organisation comprising ***10 Southeast Asian states*** which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members.
- **Members** - Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- **Aim**- To accelerate economic growth, social progress, socio-cultural evolution alongside regional stability.
- ***ASEAN plus Three*** - To improve existing ties with the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea.
- ASEAN became ***ASEAN Plus Six*** with additional countries: Australia, New Zealand and India

ASEAN 	
Founded in	1967
Headquarters	Jakarta, Indonesia
India's membership	India is a dialogue partner

- In 2006, ASEAN was given observer status at the United Nations General Assembly.
- In response, the organisation awarded the status of "*dialogue partner*" to the UN.



- **Delhi Dialogue** - Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual **track 1.5 event** between India and ASEAN since 2009.
- Track 1.5 diplomacy involves both officials and non-officials such as business leaders, business organisations and all possible non diplomats of two states.
- ASEAN and India hold annual summits since 2002 to elevate political, security, economic and socio-cultural ties.

Recent Developments

- **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** - India and the ASEAN countries reached an agreement to review their free trade pact for goods by 2025.
- Recently, the 20th ASEAN India summit was held in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.

DID YOU KNOW?

2022 marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and is being celebrated as the 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'

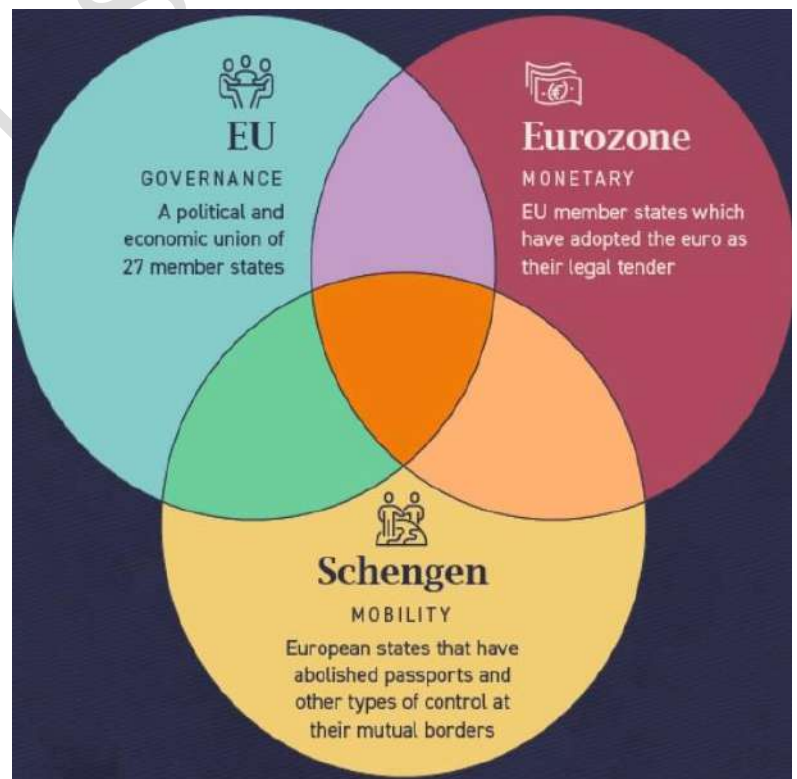
3.21 European Union

- It is a political and economic union of **27 member states** that are located primarily in Europe.
 - The *United Kingdom withdrew* from the European Union on 31 January 2020.
- The **Maastricht Treaty** established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship.
- The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the **Treaty of Lisbon**, came into force in 2009. **The Lisbon Treaty** contains a clause under Article 50, providing for a member to leave the EU.
- The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system of laws that apply in all member states.
- EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the internal market, enact legislation in justice and home affairs, and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries, and regional development.
- Within the **Schengen Area**, passport controls have been abolished.
- A monetary union has been established within union but lacks common Fiscal union.
- Of 27 member states, **only 20** EU member states use the euro currency.
- The EU as a whole is the largest economy in the world.

- EU has a common foreign and security policy, thus developing a coordinated external relations and defence.
- The membership of EU entails a partial delegation of sovereignty to the institutions in return for representation within those institutions, a practice often referred to as "pooling of sovereignty".
- To become a member, a country must meet **the Copenhagen criteria**, of the European Council which requires a stable democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law; a functioning market economy; and the acceptance of the obligations of membership, including EU law.
- **Future enlargement of EU** – 6 countries have applied for membership in EU. They were categorised in to candidate countries and potential candidates.
- **Candidate Countries** - These countries are in the process of 'transposing' (or integrating) EU legislation into national law. They are Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey



- **Potential Candidates** - Potential candidate countries do not yet fulfil the requirements for EU membership. They are Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.
- Kosovo's independence from Serbia in 2008 is not recognised by all EU member countries.
- The four countries that are not EU members have partly committed to EU's economy and regulations - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
- **The European Council** gives political direction to the EU.
- **Council of European Union** acts together with European Parliament as a legislature.
- **European Commission** is the Executive arm.
- **Court of Justice of European Union** ensures uniform application and interpretation of European Law.
- **European Central Bank** together with national central bank determines monetary policy.
- **India and EU** – 2022 marks India's 60 years of diplomatic relations with the European Union (EU).



- The first India-EU Summit, in June 2000, marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship.
- At the fifth India-EU Summit in 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a '**Strategic Partnership**'.

European Commission

- It is an institution, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.

- HQ - ***Brussels.***
- It consists of a President and commissioners from the 27 member nations, known as 'the college,' who together take decisions on political and strategic matters.
- A new college of Commissioners is appointed every 5 years.

European Council

- The European Council (informally EUCO) is a collective body that defines the European Union's overall political direction and priorities.
- Established as an informal summit in 1975, the European Council was formalized as an institution in 2009 upon the entry into force of the ***Treaty of Lisbon.***
- It comprises the heads of state or government of the EU member states, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
- The President of the European Council is elected by the European Council by a qualified majority for a once-renewable term of two and a half years.
- The European Council has no legislative power, but it is a strategic body that provides the union with general political directions and priorities, and acts as a collective presidency.
- The European Commission remains the sole initiator of legislation, but the European Council is able to provide an impetus to guide legislative policy.
- The meetings of the European Council, still commonly referred to as EU summits, are chaired by its president and take place at least twice every six months.

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

- The ECJ is the supreme court of the European Union (EU) in matters of the EU law.
- It is a part of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).
- The ***Luxembourg-based*** court was found in 1952 after the Treaty of Paris.
- It ensures that EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country, and that the countries and EU institutions abide by the EU law.
- It settles the legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions.
- In terms of hierarchy, the national courts of member countries are below the ECJ in matters of EU law.

Article 17 of the EU Copyright Directive

- Article 17 of the EU Copyright Directive is the final version of what was previously called "Article 13."
- It attempts to reshape copyright law for the internet age.
- It is based around the relationship between copyright holders and online platforms, compelling the latter to enforce tighter regulation over protected content.
- Article 17 provides that online content-sharing service providers need to obtain an authorisation from rightholders for the content uploaded on their website.
- If no authorisation is granted, they need to take steps to avoid unauthorised uploads.
- By this proposed article memes, remixes and other types of user-generated content would all be put at risk as these could technically be seen as breaches of copyright.

EU's Carbon Border Tax

- The '***Carbon Border Adjusted Mechanism***' (CBAM) would cover energy-intensive sectors such as cement, steel, aluminium, oil refinery, paper, glass, chemicals as well as the power sector.
- A recent draft regulation pertaining to the CBAM proposed that goods entering the EU would be taxed at the borders.
- Such a tax would promote "low-carbon, resource-efficient manufacturing."

Temporary Protection Directive of 2001

- TPD describes "Temporary protection" as an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin.
- The directive applies when "there is a risk that the standard asylum system is struggling to cope with demand stemming from a mass influx risking a negative impact on the processing of claims".

- **Recent** - Responding to the Ukraine crisis, EU Member States made the unprecedented decision to activate the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD).
- The war in Ukraine is the first time that the EU has invoked the TPD. It is being seen as another sign of European unity against Russia.

3.22 African Union

- The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- It was officially launched in 2002 in Durban, South Africa.
- It is successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).
- HQ - **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
- It reinforced the main objectives of the OAU which were to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonisation and apartheid
- Members have signed the **African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** for goods and services at the 12th AU Summit. It is the world's largest FTA by the number of countries participating.
- **Agenda 2063** calls for greater collaboration for African led initiatives for the achievement of the aspirations of African people.

India- Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

- It is the official platform for the African-Indian relations.
- **Aim** - To strengthen India's cooperation with Africa in the Global South.
- The summit happens **once in every three years**.
- So far, 3 summits have taken place- 2008, 2011, 2015.
- The IAFS has a 3-tier platform of the African Union, the 8 regional economic communities of Africa and important bilateral participants.
- First and third summit was held in India while the second summit was held in Addis Ababa, Egypt.
- The first two summits were held under the **Banjul formula** with the participation of 15 African countries and the AU Commission.
- At 3rd Summit, a massive event for all 54 African countries was held.

3.23 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

ECOWAS the West African bloc could intervene in Niger's coup.

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional group of 15 founded in 1975.
- It was established through the **Lagos Treaty**.
- **Mission** – To promote economic integration in all fields of economic activity, social and cultural matters.
- The Institutions of the ECOWAS are as follows:
 1. The Commission
 2. The Community Parliament
 3. The Community Court of Justice
 4. ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development
- The ECOWAS Commission and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (The Fund) are its two main institutions.
- **Single currency** – Its larger aims are to have a single common currency and create a single, large trading bloc in western Africa.
- The grouping has also intervened militarily in the region in the past.
- **Members** – Benin, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.
- **Suspended Members** – Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali
- In 2024, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali announced their withdrawal from the bloc.
- **Alliance of Sahel States** - It is a mutual defense pact created between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso in 2023.
- The **Liptako-Gourma region** is where the Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger borders meet.



3.24 East Asia Summit

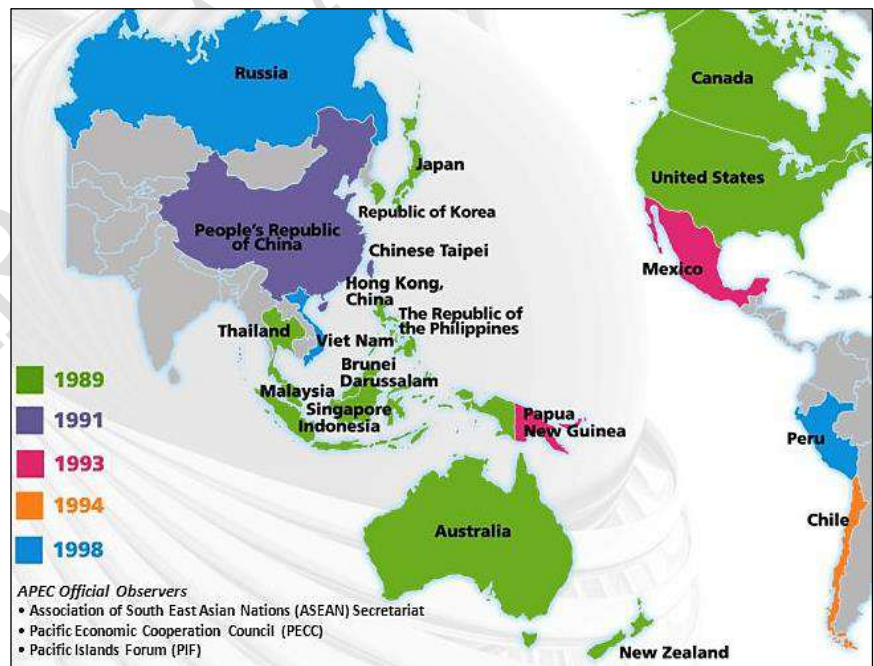
- It is a regional premier forum for strategic dialogue.
- It has **18 members** - the 10 ASEAN countries along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the US and Russia.
- Annual leaders' Summit is usually held alongside ASEAN meetings.
- The chair position of EAS rotates between ASEAN Member States annually.
- Apart from the Leaders' Summit, meetings of EAS Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers are also held annually.
- The 19th EAS will take place in 2024 in **Lao PDR** – the 2024 ASEAN and EAS Chair.



3.25 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

- It is a regional forum for **21 Pacific Rim member economies** established in **1989**.
- **Aim** - To promote balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and growth by accelerating regional economic integration. HQ - **Singapore**
- **Members** - Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian and Vietnam.
- **3 official observers** - ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.
- India is not in the grouping and has applied for membership. It was invited to be an observer for the first time in 2011.
- The criterion for membership is that the member is a separate economy, rather than a state and the result of it is the inclusion of Taiwan.
- The U.S. hosted APEC 2023 Summit with the theme "Creating a Resilient & Sustainable Future for All".

APEC	
Founded in	1989
Headquarters	Queenstown, Singapore
India's membership	India is not a member



3.26 Organization of Islamic Cooperation

- It is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of **57 member states**.
- Its administrative centre is located in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- The organisation works to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.

OIC	
Founded in	1969
Headquarters	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
India's membership	India is not a member

- **India is not a member** but was invited to the meeting as a *guest of honour* in 2019 for the first time.
- **Recent Developments** - The 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania,

3.27 Gulf Cooperation Council

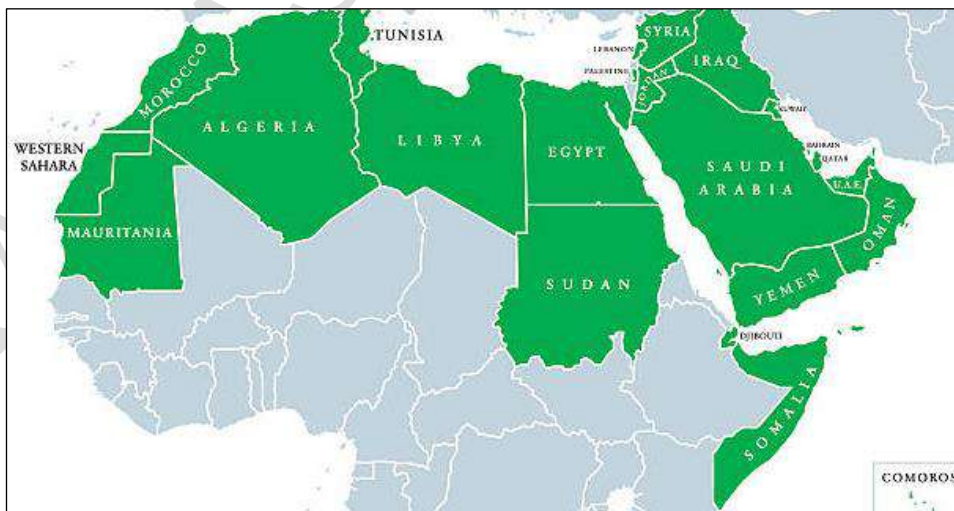
- It is a regional political and economic alliance of **6 Gulf States** i.e., Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Its aim is to achieve ever closer union between the energy rich Gulf countries.
- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE and Egypt have imposed an air, land and sea blockade on Qatar since 2017.
- **Recent Development** – The four blockading countries signed the Al-Ula declaration during the 41st GCC summit based on greater cooperation within the Council.

GCC	
Founded in	1981
Headquarters	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
India's membership	India is not a member



3.28 Arab League

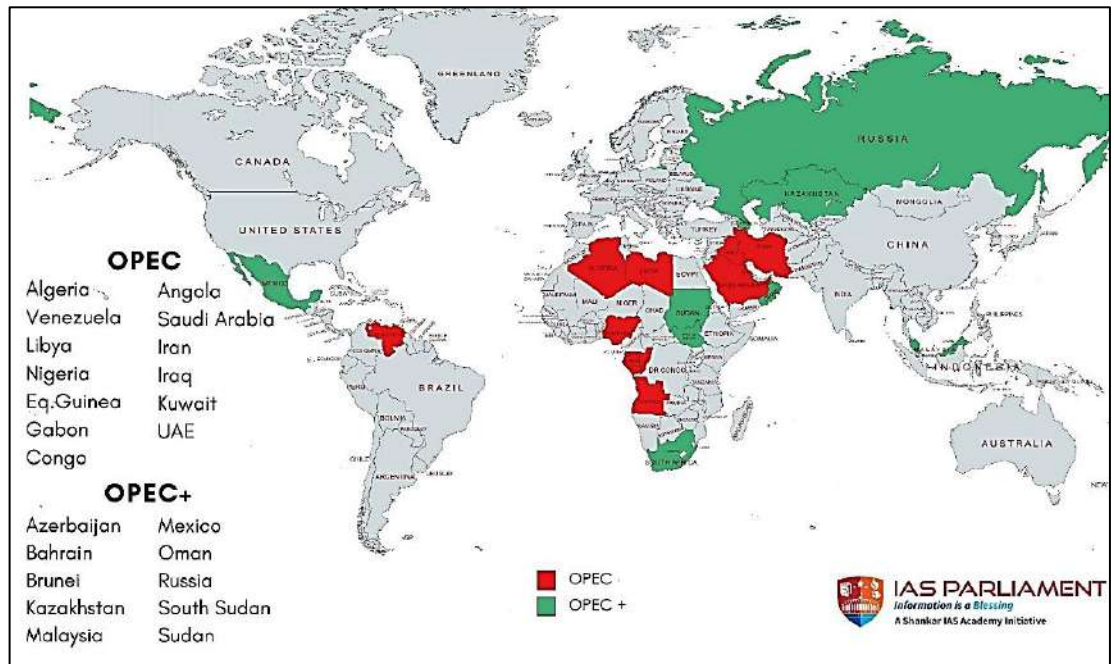
- The Arab League, formally known as the League of Arab States, was established in 1945 with initially 6 nations: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
- Currently, it has **22 member states**, who have pledged to cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.
- **Recent developments** - Syria is back in the influential Arab League, more than a decade after being thrown out.
- **Syria** – Syria was ousted from the Arab League in 2011 following President Bashar al-Assad's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests, which led to the ongoing civil war in the country.
- The conflict has since killed around half a million people and displaced about 23 million.



3.29 Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- It is an intergovernmental organization of **13 nations** to coordinate and unify their petroleum policies and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to have regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.
- HQ – **Vienna**
- **Members** -Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Libya, UAE, Algeria, Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Congo.
- Qatar terminated its membership from 2019. **Russia is not a member of OPEC.**

- OPEC countries possess more than 80% of the world's proven crude oil reserves.
- Since 2007, OPEC has published the **"World Oil Outlook"** annually, in which it presents a comprehensive analysis of the global oil industry including medium- and long-term projections for supply and demand.



- **OPEC+** - It is a loosely affiliated entity consisting of the **13 OPEC members and 10 of the world's major non-OPEC oil-exporting nations.**

- It includes Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan in addition to OPEC members.
- Since 2016, they cooperate in fixing the global crude oil prices.

3.30 CARICOM Countries

- The Caribbean community, also known as CARICOM, was formed in 1973 by the **Treaty of Chaguaramas.**
- It is an **economic and political community** that works jointly to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.
- It is a grouping of **15 member states and 5 associate members** (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands).




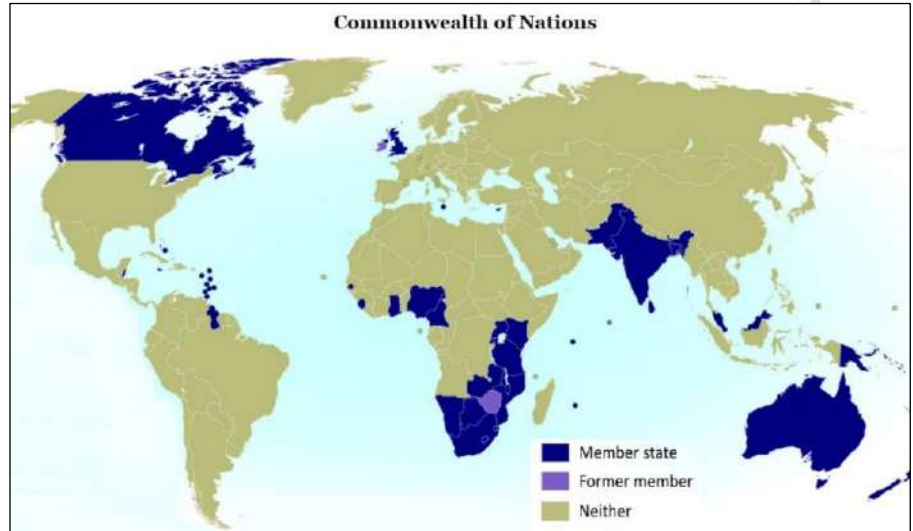
- Its membership is **open to any other State or Territory of the Caribbean Region.**
- First ever India- CARICOM leaders' summit was held in New York in 2019.
- India announced a \$14-million grant for community development projects and \$150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related works in that summit.

3.31 Commonwealth of Nations

- It is an organisation of **56 member states** that are mostly former territories of the British Empire.
- It operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organised through the Commonwealth Secretariat and non-governmental organisations, organised through the Commonwealth Foundation.
- King Charles III is the Head of the Commonwealth and the monarch of 16 members of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth realms.

- Member states have **no legal obligation** to one another.
- Instead, they are united by language, history, culture and their shared values of democracy, free speech, human rights, and the rule of law.
- Every 2 years, member countries meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.
- All members have an **equal voice**, regardless of size or economic stature.
- Britain and several others, mostly in the Caribbean, grant the right to vote to Commonwealth citizens who reside in those countries.
- In non-Commonwealth countries in which their own country is not represented, Commonwealth citizens may seek consular assistance at the British embassy.
- The first member to be admitted without having any link to the British Empire was **Mozambique** followed by Rwanda in 2009.

Commonwealth of Nations 	
Founded in	1931
Headquarters	London, UK
India's membership	India is a member



CHRI


- The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organization, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- CHRI's objectives are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other internationally recognized human rights instruments, as well as domestic instruments supporting human rights in member states.

Harare Commonwealth Declaration

- It was a declaration of the Commonwealth of Nations, issued in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 1991.
- It sets out the Commonwealth's core principles and values, detailing the Commonwealth's membership criteria, and redefining and reinforcing its purpose.

3.32 Arctic Council

- It is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- The **Ottawa Declaration** lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council - Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.
- In addition, 6 organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as **Permanent Participants**.
- The Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to Non-Arctic States. Observers primarily contribute through their engagement in the Council at the level of Working Groups.
- **Observers** - China, France, Germany, **India**, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland and UK.

Arctic Council 	
Founded in	1996
Secretariat	Tromsø, Norway
India's membership	India is an observer

8 ARCTIC STATES
Canada
The Kingdom of Denmark
Finland
Iceland
Norway
The Russian Federation
Sweden
The United States



3.33 MERCOSUR

- It is a **full customs union and a trading bloc** with members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Venezuela was suspended from membership in 2016.
- Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname are its associate members.
- Observer countries are New Zealand and Mexico.
- Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency.
- **India - MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement** is operational since 2009.
- India and the Mercosur bloc have stepped up efforts to expand their preferential trade agreement to make greater inroads into the other's market.



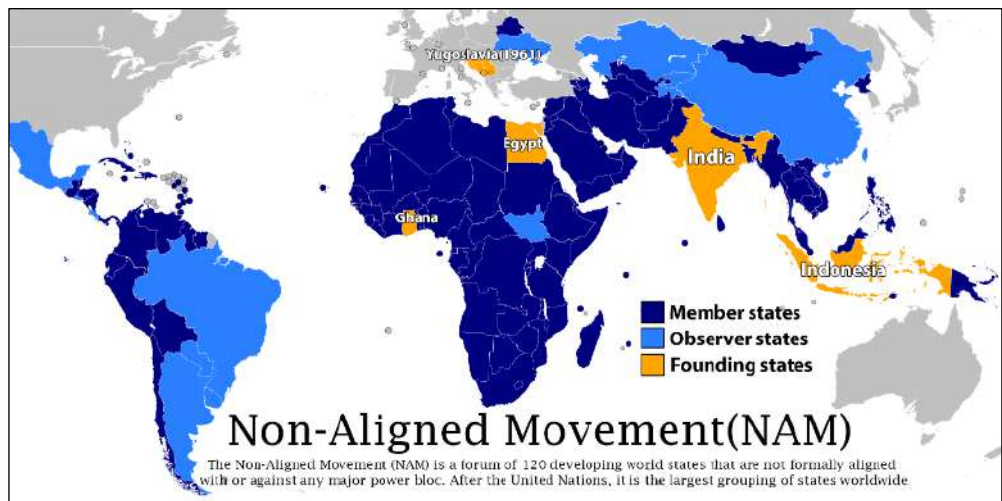
3.34 NAM Summit

- NAM was established in 1961 with 29 members. **India is one of the founding members.**
- It has since grown to 120 members to become one of the largest groupings of nation-states.
- It was envisioned as a platform for those who didn't want to be dictated by the then two superpowers - USSR and USA.
- The concept of not aligning a country's policy with others can be traced to the Congress of Vienna (1814-15) when the neutrality of Switzerland was recognised.
- The NAM was founded during the collapse of the colonial system and the independence struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions and at the height of the Cold War.
- While some meetings with a third-world perspective were held before 1955, historians consider that the **Bandung Asian-African Conference** is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of NAM.
- This Conference was held in Bandung in **1955** with the aim of identifying and assessing world issues at the time and pursuing out joint policies in international relations.
- The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the **"Ten Principles of Bandung"** were proclaimed at that Conference.
- The NAM was formed during the Cold War to create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers.

NAM	
Founded in	1961
Coordinating Bureau	New York, U.S
India's membership	Founding member

- The First Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was held in **Cairo, Egypt in 1961.**
- Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia later became the founding fathers of the movement.

- It held its first ministerial in Belgrade (erstwhile Yugoslavia) in 1961 and complete independence of members in their foreign policy was ingrained.



- **NAM 2.0** - There were calls for reimagining the non-alignment concept in 2012 to suit the emerging current realities of an emerging and assertive China.

- The 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in 2024 in **Kampala, Uganda.**
- **Uganda** assumes Chairmanship for 2024-2027.

3.35 Council of Europe

- It aims to uphold human rights, democracy, and rule of law in Europe and promote European culture.
- HQ - **Strasbourg, France.**
- It has **46 member states** and is distinct from the EU.
- No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe.
- Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe **cannot make binding laws**, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states on various topics.
- The best-known body of the Council of Europe is the **European Court of Human Rights**, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states.

European Court of Human Rights

- It is an international court set up in Strasbourg, France in 1959 that rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

3.36 Eurasia Economic Union

EAEU is a **political and economic union of 5 states** located in central and northern Eurasia i.e., Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

- It facilitates the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people among its member countries.
- India is holding negotiations to finalize free trade agreement with EAEU.

3.37 Eastern Economic Forum

- EEF was established by Russian Federation, in 2015 to support economic development of Russia's '**Far East**', and to expand international cooperation in Asia-Pacific region.
- It takes place each year in **Vladivostok.**
- It serves as a platform for the discussion of key issues in World economy, regional integration and the development of new industrial and technological sectors.
- The macro-region borders 2 oceans, the Pacific and the Arctic, and 5 countries, China, Japan, Mongolia, the United States and the N. Korea.

3.38 China's 17+1

- China's 16+1 initiative is a cooperation forum between ***China and Central and Eastern European Countries (China-CEEC)*** founded in 2012 in Warsaw.
- It is seen as an extension of China's Belt and Road initiative (BRI).
- With the addition of Greece in 2012, it was known as 17+1 cooperation.
 - *Lithuania quits in 2021 and Latvia and Estonia have left the China-CEEC forum in 2022.*
- **Objective** - To promote business and investment relations between China and the CEEC countries.
- Focus on infrastructure projects such as bridges, motorways, railway lines and modernisation of ports in the member states.
- **Members of the initiative** - 12 EU member states and 3 Balkan states.
- They are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

3.39 Organization of American States

- It brings together all ***35 independent states of the Americas***.
- It constitutes the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere.
- In addition, it has granted permanent observer status to 69 states, as well as to the European Union (EU).
- ***India is a permanent observer to it.***
- The Organization's four main pillars are democracy, human rights, security, and development.



OTHER GROUPINGS

3.40 China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Italy was planning to leave China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as it believes that BRI is more beneficial for China and wants to maintain a balanced international relationship with U.S. and China

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- Also known as the ***New Silk Road***, BRI is the infrastructure and connectivity project *both by land and sea*.
- The two-pronged plan includes
 - The overland Silk Road Economic Belt
 - Maritime Silk Road
- The two were collectively referred as the ***One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative*** but eventually became the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Announced in ***2013***.
- **Aim** - To connect China with Europe by land and rail, and to Africa and Asia by sea.
- The project has expanded to Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, significantly broadening China's economic and political influence.
- Under the initiative, China has built or financed bridges, roads, ports, and even laid down digital connectivity networks in partner countries.
- **Membership** - Currently 147 countries



Italy is the only G7 country to sign up for the BRI.

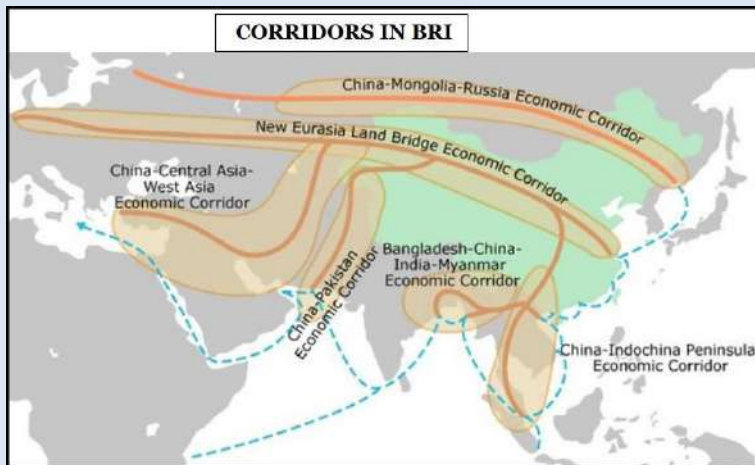
- BRI will eventually encompass 100 countries representing 70% of the world's population, 55% of GDP and 24% of global trade.
- **Other alternatives** - European Union and United States have their own development schemes known as "Globally Connected Europe" and "[Build Back Better](#)".
- **India's Stand** - India does not support the BRI as it passes through Indian territory illegally held by Pakistan.

China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)

- CMEC is the newest of the **6 land corridors under the [Belt and Road Initiative \(BRI\)](#)**.
- Initially, it was part of ambitious 'Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) corridor' proposed in 2013 but later it became standalone economic corridor in 2017.
- **Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) corridor** proposed in 2013 to link Kunming in China's Yunnan province with Kolkata has been largely stalled as of now.

Project South Asia under the BRI project

- China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)
- Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network (CNEC)
- China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)



- **Significance** – China will be able to shift its manufacturing to its south-western provinces to avoid the middle-income trap.
- It provides shorter routes to markets in South Asia, East Africa, West Asia, and Europe.
- It opens the Myanmar market to all Chinese goods and services and allows China to import raw materials from Myanmar and beyond.
- **Impact on India** – It will reinforce and strengthen the [string of pearls strategy of China](#).
- CPEC, CMEC and the CNEC signify the economic as well as strategic rise of China in the Indian subcontinent.

3.41 Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

- CSC is a **regional security grouping** initially known as the Trilateral for Maritime Security Cooperation.
- **Established in – 2011**
- **Aim** – To promote a safe, secure, and stable Indian Ocean, with India playing a leadership role.
- **Membership – 4**
 - **India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives** were part of trilateral maritime security collaboration, while **Mauritius** joined at 5th meeting of grouping in Male in 2022.
- **Observer status – Bangladesh and Seychelles**, now they have received invitations to become active participants in the group.
- **Permanent secretariat – In Colombo**, established in 2021 to coordinate all activities and implement decisions made at the National Security Advisor (NSA) level.
- **Meeting** – It happens at the level of NSA and deputy NSA.
- **Security-focused exercises** - In 2021, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives conducted **Exercise Dosti XV** in Maldives and they subsequently conducted their 1st joint exercise in the Arabian Sea named as **Table Top Exercise (TTX)**.

5 Pillars of Colombo Security Conclave

1. Maritime safety and security
2. Countering terrorism and radicalization
3. Combating trafficking and transnational organised crime
4. Cyber-security and protection of critical infrastructure
5. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

The CSC countries are all members of the 2 region-wide Indian Ocean groupings, the [Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\)](#), and the [Indian Ocean Naval Symposium \(IONS\)](#).

- **Significance** – Since 2021, it has investigated terrorism and terror financing, narcotics trafficking, cybercrime and security, marine pollution, maritime law, and coastal security.
- **Conducting conferences** - In 2022, for the 1st time, the organisation held a
 - Conference of oceanographers and hydrographers
 - Conference on coastal security and the next iterations of these conferences are scheduled for 2024.
- **Joint working groups** – It is to focus on terrorism, cyber-security, humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR), trafficking and transnational organised crimes.
- **Collaborating on capacity-building** - In sectors such as counter-terrorism, police, law enforcement, and cyber-security.
- **Recent Developments** - India's National Security Adviser (NSA), took part in the 6th NSA meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) which agreed upon a road map for the year 2024.

3.42 IPBES

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body.
- **Aim** - To strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- In 2012 IPBES was **established by the United Nations**, but functions independently.
- HQ - **Bonn, Germany**.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** provides secretariat services to IPBES.
- IPBES currently has close to **140 member States**.
- A large number of NGOs, civil society groupings, individual stakeholders, also participate in the process as observers.

3.43 World Cities Culture Forum

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

- World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture & the Creative Industries.
- It is a global network of cities that share research and intelligence and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.
- The network currently has **40 cities** spanning six continents.
- **Bengaluru** is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai among others.
- WCCF will work in collaboration with Unboxing BLR Foundation in Bengaluru.
- **Summit** - The annual world cities culture summit is hosted on a rotating basis by city partners.
- The summit allows city leaders to share ideas and knowledge about the role of culture as an organising principle for the sustainable city of the future.
- **Last Summit** - Helsinki (Capital of Finland) hosted the World Cities Culture Summit 2022.

3.44 Chip 4 Initiative

- Chip 4 Initiative includes world's top semiconductor producing countries namely the **U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea**.
- It is also known as "**Fab 4**" initiative. (Fab refers to an industry term for the fabrication plants).
- **Objectives**
 - Support industry efforts to diversify their manufacturing base away from China

India, Japan and Australia had announced plans in 2021 to establish a semiconductor supply chain initiative

- Protect Intellectual property of companies in member countries
- Develop policy regarding export of the most advanced semiconductors and equipment
- **Taiwan** – It is the global epicenter of semiconductor manufacturing with the manufacture of over 60% of the world’s chips.
- **Japan** – It is dominant in production of critical manufacturing equipment and materials such as photoresists.
- **South Korea** is a global leader in memory chip production.

3.45 Global Gibbon Network (GGN)

- **Launched by** - Eco Foundation Global, the Hainan Institute of National Park, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Section on Small Apes, the Zoological Society of London and other organizations.
- **Aim** - It is a voluntary global platform to safeguard and conserve the gibbons and their habitats, by promoting participatory conservation policies, legislations, and actions.
- **Agenda** - The GGN focuses on implementation and action according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, Global Biodiversity Framework and other global agendas targets.
- International Gibbon Day is celebrated on October 24th every year.

Gibbons

- **Gibbons** - Gibbons are the smallest and fastest of all the apes.
- **Hoolock Gibbon** - Live in tropical and sub-tropical forests of southeastern part of Asia.
- It is a primate species from the gibbon family of *Hylobatidae*.
- Zoologists believed that Northeast India have 2 species of the ape
 - The **Western Hoolock Gibbon** (Hoolock hoolock) - Widely distributed in all the 7 states of the Northeast.
 - The **Eastern hoolock Gibbon** (Hoolock leuconedys) - Found only in eastern Arunachal Pradesh and in the Sadiya subdivision of Assam.
- But a study led by Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in 2021 proved through genetic analysis that there is only one species of ape in India.
- However, the red list maintained by the IUCN separated the hoolock gibbons in India and categories them as
 - Western Hoolock Gibbon - **Endangered**
 - Eastern Hoolock Gibbon - **Vulnerable**
- Both are on **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972**.
- IUCN states that gibbons are one of the most threatened families of primates.



Classification of Gibbons	Species of Hoolock Gibbon
• Crested Gibbons	• Western hoolock gibbon
• Hoolock Gibbons	• Eastern hoolock gibbon
• Siamang	• Skywalker hoolock gibbon
• Dwarf Gibbons	

The Global Gibbon Network (GGN) conducted its first meeting recently at Haikou, China.

3.46 Global Security Initiative (GSI)

- GSI is a China-led framework to restore stability and security in Asia and to counter-narrative to U.S. leadership.
- **Aim** - To eliminate the root causes of international conflicts, improve global security governance, encourage joint international efforts and promote durable peace and development in the world.
- **Major Pillars**– Mutual respect, Openness and inclusion, Multilateralism, Mutual benefit, Holistic approach.
- **Principles**

The Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) are 3 key new initiatives of China’s foreign policy.

1. Stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.
 2. Stay committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.
 3. Stay committed to abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
 4. Stay committed to taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously.
 5. Stay committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.
 6. Stay committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains.
- Global Security Initiative put forward by the Chinese President Xi Jinping will look to counter the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad.
 - **Recent developments** - Nepal rejected calls from China to join Global Security Initiative (GSI).

3.47 Just Energy Transition Partnership

- The Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) initiative is modelled for the **South Africa**, to support South Africa's decarbonisation efforts.
- It aims to reduce emissions in the energy sector and **accelerate the coal phase-out process**.
- The JETP was launched at the **COP26 in Glasgow** with the support of the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), France, Germany, and the European Union (EU)

3.48 Clean Energy Ministerial

- It is a high-level global forum to promote policies and programs that advance clean energy technology and to encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy.
- At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties in **Copenhagen in 2009**, Clean Energy Ministerial meeting was proposed by **U.S. Secretary of Energy**.
- It has **29 member countries (including India)** and 22 participants.
- It focused on 3 global climate and energy policy goals - Improve energy efficiency worldwide, enhance clean energy supply, Expand clean energy access.
- The CEM Secretariat is a team housed within the **International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris**.
- The first-ever Global Clean Energy Action Forum-2022 (GCEAF) was held at **Pittsburgh, the United States**.
- **SEAD initiative** - The Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) of CEM is a voluntary collaboration among governments to promote use of energy efficient appliances worldwide.
- It is a task of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).
- **India & CEM** – India hosted the CEM senior officials meetings in 2022.
- India announced the launch of the “**Innovation Roadmap of the Mission Integrated Biorefineries**” at the GCEAF 2022.
- The roadmap was launched by the Mission Innovation, and is co-led by Netherlands.
 - **India hosted CEM14 in 2023.**

3.49 Moscow Format

Moscow Format 2023

- **Participants** - Russia, India, China, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Kazan Declaration** – It was adopted at the end of the Moscow format 2023
- **Key features**
 - To create conditions that will **improve the well-being** of the Afghan people.
 - To provide **equal rights to work, education and justice**, without distinction as to gender, ethnicity or religion.

- To prevent further migration, and *enable the return of refugees*.
- **Concerns** – *No timeline* was provided for government formation or on restarting girl’s education.
- **Recent Developments** - Recently, 9 countries attended the 5th edition of Moscow format at Kazan in Russia with UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Qatar as observers.

Moscow Format

- It was *established in 2017 as a six-party mechanism* involving Russia, Afghanistan, India, Iran, China and Pakistan which later expanded with the inclusion of more countries.
- Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021, the Moscow format consultations were held in 2021 and in 2022.
- While Taliban attended the meeting in 2021, it did not participate in the 2022 meeting.

2.43 Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG)

- **Formation** – 1989
- **Members** – European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.), the Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP) and the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) and [Indian Pharmacopoeia \(IP\)](#).
- **Observer** – World Health Organization (WHO) since 2001
- **Objective**
 - To harmonize global pharmacopoeial standards.
 - To reduce manufacturers' burden of having to perform analytical procedures in different ways.
- A pharmacopoeial general chapter or other pharmacopoeial document is harmonized when a pharmaceutical substance or product tested by the document's harmonized procedure yields the same results and the same accept/reject decision is reached.
- **Meeting** – Twice a year and holds monthly status and technical teleconferences.
- **Recent Developments** - Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) became the member of PDG.

IPC was only Pharmacopoeia body in the world to be selected for pilot phase initiated in September 2022.

3.50 Mekong Ganga Cooperation

- The Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established in **2000** and it comprises **6 member countries** - India and five ASEAN countries -Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
- The MGC meetings are *co-chaired alternatively* every year between India and one of the 5 Mekong countries.
- The 12th Mekong - Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 16th July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand in a hybrid format.
- It noted the progress in the MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 implementation which was adopted in the 10th MGC.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	
Founded in	2000
India's membership	India is a member



3.51 South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

- SACEP is an inter-governmental organization, established in **1982** by the governments of South Asia.
- **Aim-** To promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- Member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- It also acts as the **Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme**, which comes under the purview of UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme.

3.52 Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

- It is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- It consists of **28 member nations** from Asia including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, **India** etc. Japan, Indonesia, USA etc. are some of its Observer Nations.
- Republic of Kazakhstan is the CICA Chairman for the period 2022-2024.

3.53 E9 Initiative

- E9 meeting is the first of a 3-phased process to co-create an initiative on digital learning and skills, targeting marginalised children and youth.
- E9 initiative aims to accelerate recovery and advance the SDG 4 agenda by driving rapid change in education systems in three of the 2020 Global Education Meeting priorities,
 - a) Support to teachers;
 - b) Investment in skills;
 - c) Narrowing of the digital divide.
- It is spearheaded by the United Nations, the E9 countries - **Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.**

Indian Initiatives.....

- One Nation - One Digital Platform - DIKSHA.
- One Nation - One Channel programme - SWAYAM PRABHA, SWAYAM MOOCS and radio broadcasting.
- PM e-VIDYA - To provide multi-modal access to education to school-going children across India.

3.54 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment

- The **G7 countries** have officially launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment in the Leaders' Summit in Germany.
- PGII is a joint initiative to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries.
- It was first announced in G7 Summit in the **UK (2021)**.
- Back then, the US President had called it the **Build Back Better World (B3W) framework**.
- Collectively, the PGII aims to mobilise nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027 to invest in critical infrastructure that improves lives and delivers real gains for all of our people.
- The project is being seen as the G7 bloc's **counter to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative**.
- The stated purpose of both the PGII and the BRI is to help secure funding for countries to build critical infrastructure such as roads, ports, communication setups, etc. to enhance global trade and cooperation.
- **Purpose** - The PGII is a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership
 1. To meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries and
 2. To support the United States' and its allies' economic and national security interests.
- The PGII of the G7 is meant to be transparent, focused on building climate change-resilient infrastructure, and help in achieving objectives of gender equality and health infrastructure development.
- **Loan, but not an aid** - The PGII will finance the projects from both the government and the private sector.
- The fund is **not "charity or aid", but loans**.
- **Pillars** - The **4 priority pillars** will define the second half of the 21st century.
- **For India** - PGII will invest in companies that increase food security and promote both climate resilience and climate adaptation in India.

PILLARS OF PGII

Tackling the climate crisis and bolstering global energy security **01**

02 Developing information and communications technology (ICT) networks and infrastructure

Advancing gender equality and equity **03**

04 Developing and upgrading the infrastructure of health systems and contributing to global health security

- It will improve the profitability and agricultural productivity of smallholder farms.
- Apart from India, projects have been announced in countries across West Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America.

3.55 India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave

- **NB8** - A regional framework consisting of 8 countries from the Northern Europe.
- **Established in** - 1992
- **Members** -
 - **5 Nordic Countries** - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
 - **3 Baltic countries** - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- **Aim** - To discuss important regional and international issues in an informal atmosphere.
- **Chair** - In 2024, the NB8 is chaired by Sweden which was taken over from Latvia.
- **NB8 Wise Men Report** - It is also known as Birkavs-Gade Report.
- It provides concrete guidelines for promoting cooperation between the 8 countries.
- **e-PINE** - Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe (e-PINE) was launched by the United States in 2003.



3.56 ReCAAP

- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
- Presently, **21 countries are members** of ReCAAP including India.
- Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance are the three pillars of co-operation.
- An ISC has been established at Singapore to collate and disseminate the information among the contracting parties and the maritime community.

3.57 Asia Europe Meeting

- It is an exclusively Asian-European forum, established in 1996.
- It currently has **53 nations** including 2 regional organisations (ASEAN Secretariat, EU) as partners.
- **India is also a member.**
- The 3 pillars of ASEM are Political, Economic, Socio Cultural and Educational.
- The grouping is a platform for non-binding discussion on economic and trade issues.
- The 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM13) took place via video conference from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2021.

3.58 Southern African Development Community

- It is an inter-governmental organization to further socio-economic cooperation and integration, political and security cooperation among **16 Southern African states**.
- They are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Eswatini (Swaziland), Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar.
- HQ - **Gaborone, Botswana**.
- **Southern African Customs Union** is a customs union within SADC and the oldest customs union in the world (established in 1910). It includes Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini (Swaziland).



3.59 World Gold Council

- The World Gold Council is the market development organization for the gold industry formed in 1987.
- Headquartered in **London, United Kingdom**, they have offices in India, China, Singapore and the United States.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.
- They frequently publish research that demonstrates gold's strength both for investors and countries.
- They have also launched various products such as SPDR GLD and gold accumulation plans in India and China.
- WGC also helps to support its members to mine in a responsible way and developed the Conflict Free Gold Standard.

World Gold Council	
Founded in	1987
Headquarters	London, UK
India's membership	India is a member

3.60 International Geological Congress

- International Geological Congress (IGC) is the prestigious global platform for advancement of Earth Science.
- It was founded as a non-profit scientific and educational organization in 1878 but came under the aegis of **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** in 1961.
- Since 1961, the meetings of IGC are held in collaboration and under scientific sponsorship of IUGS.
- So far 36 congresses have been held throughout the world at 3 to 5-year intervals.
- The 36th IGC is funded by the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- It is supported by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the science academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Geological Survey of India** is the nodal agency for organizing the event.
 - **India** is the first Asian country to **host the event twice**.
- The 37th International Geological Congress 2024 will be held in **Busan, Republic of Korea**.

3.61 Berlin Process

- A platform for high-level cooperation between the leaders of the 6 Western Balkan countries (WB6)
- **Establishment** – 2014
- **Objective**
 - To improve connectivity, neighbourly and interpersonal relationships among WB6
 - To integrate the WB6 into a single market and supporting their green and digital transformation
 - To support for the EU integration
- The EU enlargement process has been stalled since 2013 when the last country to become a member was Croatia.
- **Goals** – It was given during 2014 Declaration of the German Chair
 - Resolution of bilateral and internal issues
 - Reconciliation within and between the societies in the region
 - Enhancing regional economic cooperation
 - Laying the foundations for sustainable growth
- **Prerequisite for joining EU**



Balkan Countries

- **WB6** - Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
- **Balkan Countries** - Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Greece, Turkey and WB6

- To reform their economies and political institutions
- To overcome regional conflicts
- To stand together as Russia wages war in Ukraine

3.62 World Local Production Forum (WLPF)

- WLPF is a platform to generate actionable recommendations to support local production of medicines and healthcare technologies.
- **Created by** – World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The 1st edition of WLPF was organized virtually in 2021.
- **Aim**
 - To emphasize the importance of health product production as a vital long-term infrastructure.
 - To promote strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies.
 - To improve timely and equitable access to quality assured health products.
 - To strengthen global, regional, and national health security.
- **Secretariat** – The Local Production and Assistance (LPA) Unit at the WLPF.
- **Significance for India** – To boost India’s resilience in global supply chains of pharmaceuticals and to showcase important contributions of [India’s Pharma industry](#).
- **Recent developments** - India participated in the 2nd World Local Production Forum (WLPF) held at the World Forum, The Hague in Netherlands.

3.63 Paris Club

- Sri Lanka has recently reached an “agreement in principle” with India and the Paris Club group of creditors including Japan, on a debt treatment plan.
- The Paris Club is an **informal group of creditor** nations that work to find sustainable solutions for debtor countries that are unable to repay their bilateral loans.
- The Paris Club has **22 permanent members** which have originated from a 1956 meeting in which Argentina agreed to meet its public creditors in Paris.
- **India is not a member** to this club. The Paris Club usually coincides with the IMF program period.

3.64 Dairy Methane Alliance

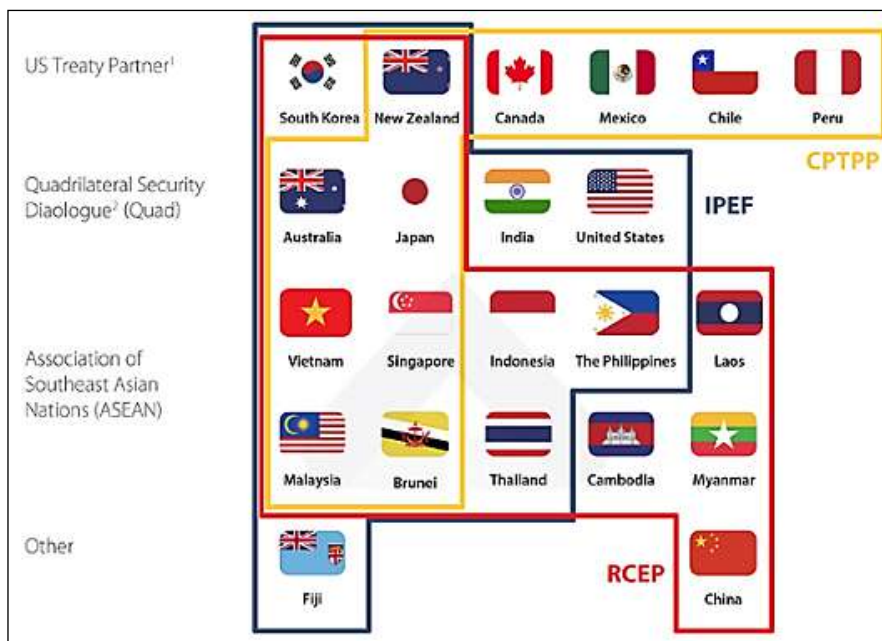
- It is a global initiative led by the **6 dairy companies** to accelerate food industry action to drive down methane emissions from the dairy sector.
- The alliance was launched at the **COP 28, UAE**.
- Signatory companies commit to annually account for and publicly disclose methane emissions within their dairy supply chains by end of 2024.
- The companies joining the alliance is also obliged to publish & implement a comprehensive methane action plan by the end of 2024.
- Environmental Defence Fund and the sustainability non-profit Ceres will hold these companies accountable.

4. TRADE AGREEMENTS

4.1 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

- The IPEF was launched in Tokyo in **2022**.
- The **14 members** of the IPEF include **India**, US, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

- Through this initiative, the IPEF partners aim to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity, development, and peace within the region.
- 4 pillars of the framework** - Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Energy, Decarbonisation and Infrastructure, Tax and Anti-Corruption.
 - India has joined 3 pillars **except the trade pillar.**
- The IPEF is designed to be flexible that the IPEF partners are not required to join all four pillars.
- Under the **IPEF Fair Economy Agreement** members have resolved to cooperate for combating corruption and seizing proceeds of crime.



IPEF	RCEP
The bloc is led by USA	The bloc is led by China
The bloc represents 40% of world's GDP	The block represents 30% of the world's GDP
India is a member of the bloc	India didn't join the bloc but still has a window to join the bloc
The block focuses on digital economy, supply chains, clean energy infrastructure, and anti-corruption measures	The block focuses on negotiation on tariffs or market access
The bloc has no tariffs	The bloc has tariffs

4.2 RCEP

- It is a trade deal signed among **15 countries.**
- These countries include 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, China, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand.
- The members account for nearly 30% of global GDP.
- The 3 largest economies in the pact, China, Japan and South Korea are part of a free trade agreement for the first time.
- In 2019, **India walked out of the agreement** as negotiations failed to address the country's issues and concerns.
- RCEP will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical co-operation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues.
- It aims to achieve the high level of tariff liberalisation, through building upon the existing liberalisation levels between participating countries.
- It takes into account the East Asia Free Trade Agreement (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East

RCEP	
Effective from	2022
India's membership	India is not a signatory



Asia (CEPEA) initiatives, with the difference that the RCEP is not working on a pre-determined membership.

- Instead, it is based on open accession which enables participation of any of the ASEAN FTA partners.

4.3 European Free Trade Association

- It is a bloc comprising of four countries - ***Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.***
- The four EFTA countries are ***not part of the EU.***
- **India EFTA Pact** - India and EFTA started negotiating a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement in 2008, shortly after India started FTA talks with the European Union.
- The agreement is expected to promote economic ties between the countries.
- The talks resumed in Geneva in 2016, but hit a rough patch after the Switzerland insists on stringent IPR regime in India.
- Switzerland has offered to make some concessions as it seeks to put talks on the India-EFTA trade deal on the fast track, hoping to seal it this year as the two countries celebrate 75 years of their friendship treaty.

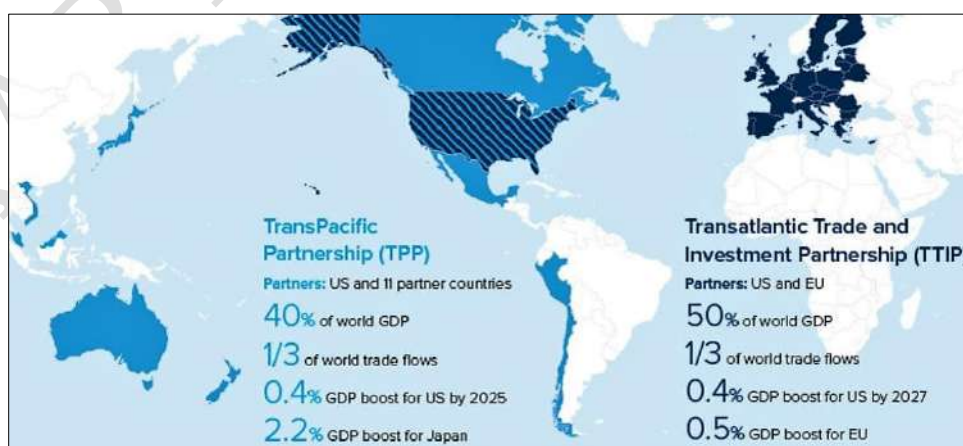
4.4 Asia Pacific Trade Agreement

- It was signed in 1975 as an initiative of UN- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- It is previously named the ***Bangkok Agreement.***
- **Members** - Bangladesh, China, India, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Laos and South Korea.
- It is a ***preferential trade agreement,*** under which the basket of items as well as extent of tariff concessions are enlarged. APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India.

Asia Pacific Trade Agreement APTA	
Signed in	1975
India's membership	India is a member

4.5 TTIP

- It is a ***proposed trade agreement between the EU & US,*** with the aim of promoting trade and multilateral economic growth.
- Its main areas are market access, specific regulation, and broader rules and principles and modes of co-operation.
- The EU member governments will have to approve of the partnership, via unanimous voting.
- The European Parliament is empowered to approve or reject the agreement.
- The TTIP negotiations were launched in 2013 and the negotiations went back and forth.
- After three years of discussion, talks on the TTIP stalled in 2016.



4.6 Trans-Pacific Partnership

- It is a trade agreement between ***Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.***
- It had measures to lower both non-tariff and tariff barriers to trade, and establish an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism. But ***US withdrew from TPP*** leaving the deal idle.

4.7 Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership

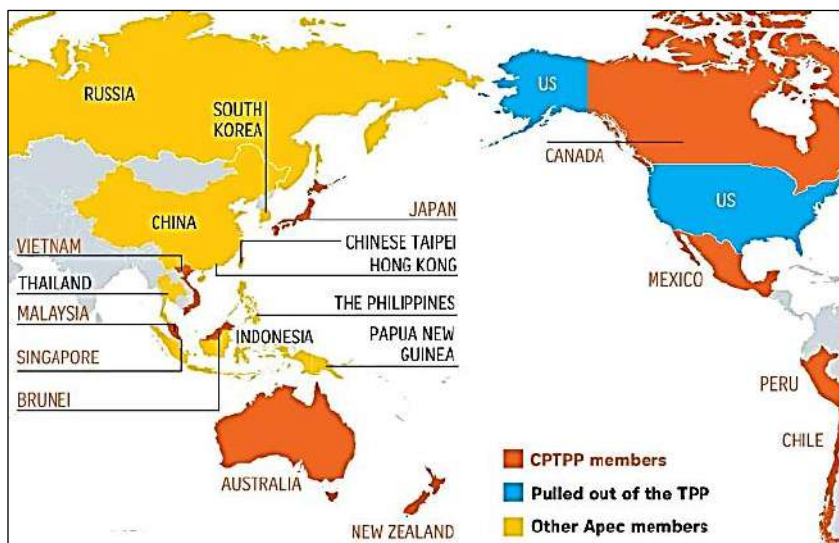
- CPTPP is a free trade agreement (FTA) between **11 Asia-Pacific countries**.

- Also known as **TPP-11**, the CPTPP agreement has been functional since 2018. It came to **replace TPP**.

- It incorporates the provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement (signed in 2016 but not yet in force), with the exception of a limited set of suspended provisions.

- **Members** - Japan, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei and Vietnam.

- All the members **must be members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**.



- It removed the provision that mandated that the deal's final members must account for at least 85% of the combined gross domestic product of the original signatories.
- It also suspended some two dozen provisions that the U.S. had fought for but that the other countries had been reluctant to include.
- **Recent Developments** - The **United Kingdom** recently signed the CPTPP.

4.8 NAFTA

- The North American Free Trade Agreement is an agreement signed in **1994** by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America.
- The goal of NAFTA was to eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
- It established the **CANAMEX Corridor** for road transport between Canada and Mexico, also proposed for use by rail, pipeline and fibre optic telecommunications infrastructure.



4.9 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement

- The USMCA agreement entered into force in **2020, replacing the NAFTA** to create a more balanced, reciprocal trade that supports high-paying jobs for Americans.
- It gives U.S. greater access to the dairy markets of Canada and Mexico & allows extra imports of Canada cars.
- Canada managed to preserve the dispute settlement mechanism as a protection for its wood industry.
- This deal covers more than \$1 trillion trade.

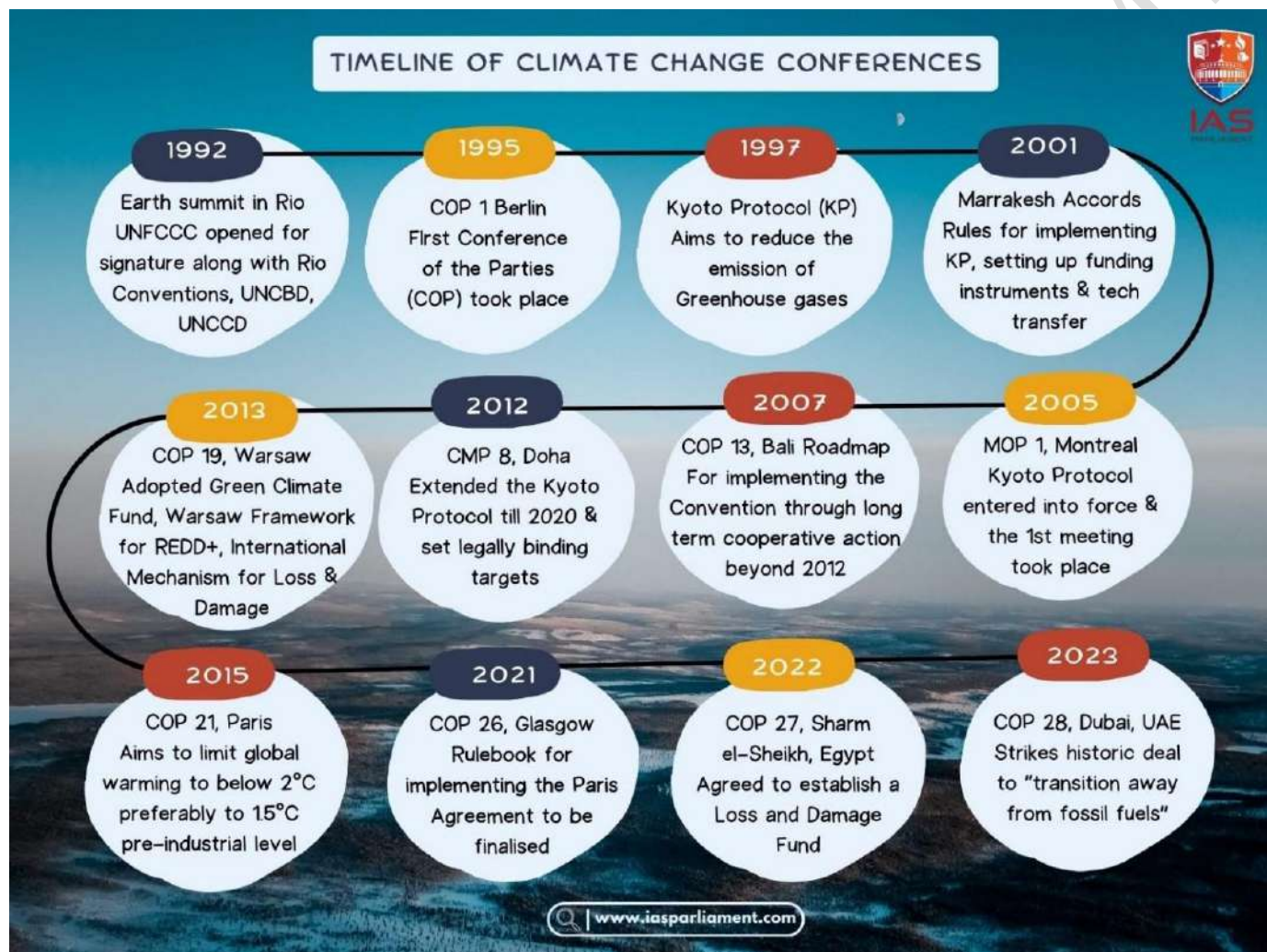
4.10 Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)

- Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) is a trilateral approach to trade, mooted by **Japan with India and Australia** as the key-partners.
- The initiative aims to reduce the dependency on a single nation (at present China).
- SCRI is a direct response to individual companies and economies concerned about Chinese political behaviour and the disruption that could lead to the supply chain.
- SCRI aims to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an “economic powerhouse”.

5. TREATIES & CONVENTIONS

5.1 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- The UNFCCC was formed in 1994 to stabilize GHG emissions and to protect the earth from the threat of climate change.
- The participants at COPs are signatories to UNFCCC and have been meeting every year since 1995.
- At present, the UNFCCC has **198 members**.
- It is **one of the 3 Rio Conventions** which includes Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).



Recent developments

Santiago Network

- The draft text on the Santiago Network has been adopted by the Parties and sent to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of UNFCCC at COP28 in UAE.
- Santiago Network is a collaborative framework established as part of the **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)** under the UNFCCC.
- **Aim** - To connect vulnerable developing countries with technical support and resources to effectively address and manage loss and damage caused by climate change.
- **Genesis**
 - **At COP19, 2013** (Warsaw, Poland) – Proposal to establish
 - **At COP25, 2019** (Madrid, Spain) – Establishment

Santiago is the capital of Chile.

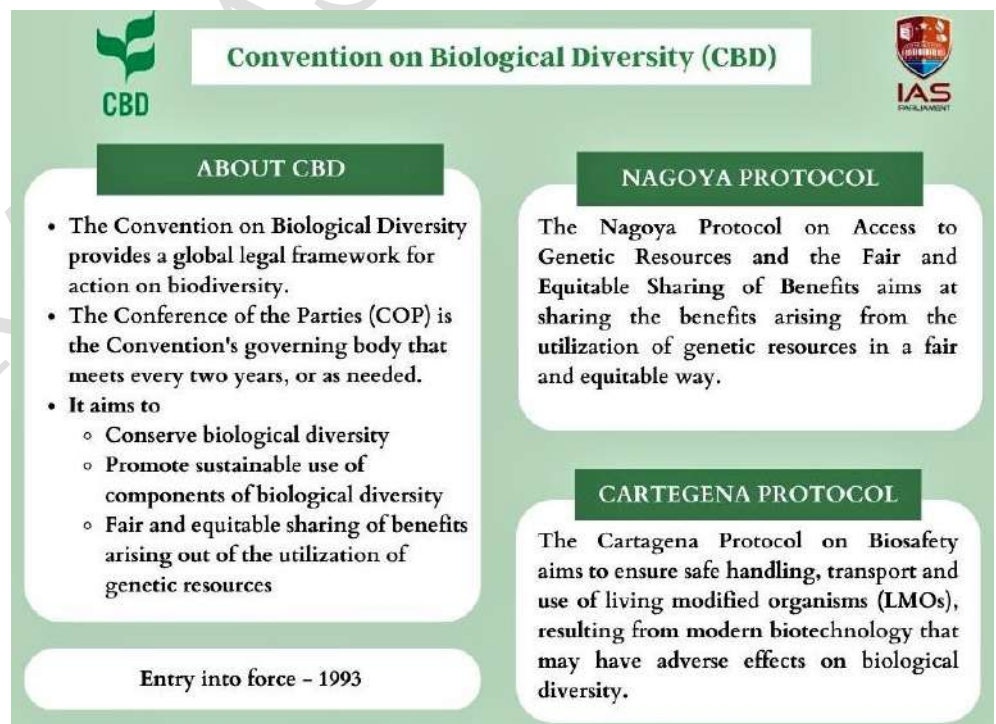
- **At COP26, 2021** (Glasgow, UK) – Decision on functions
- **At COP27, 2022** (Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt) – Adopted terms of references & established advisory body
- **Function** – To contribute for the implementation of the functions of the Warsaw international mechanism.
- **Hosts** - The United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and United Nations Office for Project Services have been selected as hosts.

Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA)

- The GRCA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai in 2023.
- An **India-led initiative** inspired by India's '[River Cities Alliance](#)' (RCA).
- **Launched by** - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- **Secretariat**
 - **NMCG** under Jal Shakti Ministry
 - **NIUA** under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Aim** – To empower global efforts towards **river conservation and sustainable water management**.
- **Membership** – **9 countries** (Indian, Denmark, Cambodia, Japan, Bhutan, Australia, Netherlands, Egypt, and Ghana).
 - **142 Indian River cities**, river cities of Den Haag from the Netherlands, Adelaide from Australia, and Szolnok of Hungary also joined.
- **Supported by** – World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- **Activities** – Water monitoring program, sharing best practices for renaturing urban areas, and restoring aquatic ecosystems for sustainable urban development initiatives will be discussed.

5.2 UN Convention on Biological Diversity

- **CBD** -The CBD that came into force in 1993, was an outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- All the three agreements hold their separate COPs.
- In total, 196 countries, including India, have ratified the CBD and are parties to the COP.
- **Objectives of CBD**
 - Conservation of biological diversity
 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity
 - Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources
- The US is a notable outlier as the only UN member state not to have ratified the treaty although it still has a presence at biodiversity COPs.
- The CBD has given rise to two supplementary agreements



The infographic is titled "Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)" and features the IAS Parliament logo in the top right corner. It is divided into three main sections: "ABOUT CBD", "NAGOYA PROTOCOL", and "CARTEGENA PROTOCOL".

- ABOUT CBD:**
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity.
 - The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the Convention's governing body that meets every two years, or as needed.
 - It aims to
 - Conserve biological diversity
 - Promote sustainable use of components of biological diversity
 - Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources
- NAGOYA PROTOCOL:**

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.
- CARTEGENA PROTOCOL:**

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety aims to ensure safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs), resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity.

At the bottom of the infographic, it states "Entry into force - 1993".

- The Cartagena Protocol of 2003
- The Nagoya Protocol of 2014

Recent Developments

- 25th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-25) was held at Nairobi, Kenya in 2023.
- **SBSTTA** – It is an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body created under *Article 25 of the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)*.
- **Reports to** – COP
- **Participants** – Government representatives
- **Functions**
 - Provides assessments of *the status of biological diversity*
 - Provides assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the convention
 - Responds to questions that the COP may put to the body

SBSTTA-25

- It is the 1st meeting since the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) was adopted in 2022.
- Around 670 participants from 135 countries attended the meeting.
- **Proposal** – To create categorical indicators instead of simple binary indicators to provide a more nuanced report on progress.
- **Online discussion board** – To help experts share their views on the monitoring framework and indicators.

5.3 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- UNCCD is the global voice for land.
- UNCCD promote practices that avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation.
- UNCCD is the driving force behind Sustainable Development Goal 15 and Land Degradation Neutrality.
- The UNCCD works to engage governments, international organizations, scientists, farmers, private enterprise and local communities
 - To promote sustainable practices and shared knowledge that help improve land productivity and create a more resilient future.
- Global Land Outlook report is published by UNCCD.

5.4 Minamata Convention on Mercury

- It is an international environmental treaty that aims to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of mercury and its compounds.
- **India is a party** to the Minamata Convention and ratified it in 2018.

5.5 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- It is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which are identified chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate in living organisms, adversely affect human health/ environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport.
- **India had ratified** the Convention in 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/ acceptance/ approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had notified the 'Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules, 2018 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- The ratification process would enable India to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) financial resources in updating the NIP.
- The Cabinet further delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministers of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in respect of POPs already regulated under the domestic regulations thereby streamlining the procedure.

5.6 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

- It is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.
- **Adopted by-** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1996.

CTBT	
Signed in	1996
India's membership	India is not a member

Structure of CTBT	
Protocols	Annexes to the Protocol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part I detailing the International Monitoring System (IMS) • Part II on On-Site Inspections (OSI) • Part III on Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1 detailing the location of various Treaty monitoring assets associated with the IMS • Annex 2 detailing the parameters for screening events

- **CTBTO** - The Treaty establishes a CTBT Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, to ensure the implementation of its provisions. CTBTO consists of 2 organs,
 - Preparatory Commission (a plenary body) and
 - Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS)
- **Administered by** - Preparatory Commission for CTBTO
- **Condition-** For the treaty to enter into force, 44 "**Annex 2**" States must sign and ratify the Treaty.
- **Signed but not ratified-** China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States
- **Non-signatories-** India, North Korea and Pakistan
- **Withdrawal-** Each State Party has the right to withdraw from the CTBT if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the Treaty have jeopardized the State Party's supreme national interests.

Russia ratified the CTBT agreement in 2000.

What is?.....

- **Signing** a treaty expresses just the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty-making process.
- **Ratification** indicates the state's consent to be bound to a treaty.
- **Accession** is the act whereby a state accepts the offer to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states.
- It has the same legal effect as ratification except that it occurs after the treaty has entered into force.

India is a member of the Multilateral Export Control Regime (Australia Group, Wassenaar Agreement, Missile Technology Control Regime) **except the Nuclear Suppliers Group.**

Conventions that Control the Weapons of Mass Destruction

Convention	Purpose
Geneva Protocol 1925	Banned the use of chemical and biological weapons
Biological Weapons Convention, 1972	Puts comprehensive ban on the biological weapons
Chemical Weapons Convention, 1992	Puts comprehensive ban on the chemical weapons
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	Regulates the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5.7 Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW) was adopted in the *United Nations* in 2017.
- It is the first multilateral **legally-binding** instrument for complete nuclear disarmament.
- Even the NPT of 1968 and nuclear-weapon-free zone contains only partial prohibitions.

NPT	
Founded in	1968
India's membership	India is not a member

TPNW	
Founded in	2017
India's membership	India is not a member

- This treaty prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon related activities, such as undertaking to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
- It obliges States parties to provide adequate assistance to individuals affected by the use/testing of nuclear weapon
- The **8 nuclear weapon states** i.e., US, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan and North Korea along with Israel had not participated in the negotiations.
- *India has neither signed nor ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).*

5.8 Pelindaba Treaty

- The **African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty**, also known as the “Pelindaba Treaty”, established the nuclear-weapon-free zone on the African continent.
- The treaty prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear explosive devices and the dumping of radioactive wastes in the zone.
- It also prohibits any attack against nuclear installations in the zone by Treaty parties.
- The Treaty requires all parties to apply full-scope IAEA safeguards to all their peaceful nuclear activities.
- The Protocol I and II are open for signature by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
- The Protocol III is open for signature by France and Spain.
 - **South Sudan is not a signatory to this treaty.**
- Other Nuclear Free Zone Treaties- Antarctica, Tlatelolco (Latin American and Caribbean), Rarotonga (South Pacific), Bangkok (ASEAN).

5.9 Astana Declaration

- Many UN members including India have signed the Astana Declaration in 2018.
- It vows to strengthen primary healthcare and achieve **universal health coverage by 2030**.
- It marked the 40 years of the historic **Alma Ata Declaration**, which declared *health a human right for all*.

5.10 Ashgabat Agreement (2016)

- It aims to create **multi modal international transport transit corridor**.
- It has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members. Kazakhstan has also joined this arrangement subsequently.
- **Pakistan joined** Ashgabat agreement in 2016. **India has also become member** of the agreement in 2018.
- The **Lapis Lazuli Corridor** is an agreement between Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey seeking to foster transit and trade cooperation by reducing barriers facing transit trade.

5.11 New START Treaty

- New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the **United States and the Russian Federation**.
- The formal name of the treaty is Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- It was signed in 2010 at Prague and entered into force in 2011.
- New START replaced the *Treaty of Moscow (SORT)*.
- **Recent Developments** - New START treaty was the last remaining arms reduction pact between the former Cold War rivals i.e., Russia and United States.
- The two countries met the treaty's central limits on strategic offensive arms in 2018, and subsequently agreed to extend the treaty till 2026.
- But *Russia suspended its participation in February 2023*.

5.12 Indo-US Nuclear Deal

- This deal, also known as the **123 Agreement** or the **US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement**, was signed between the USA and India in 2005.
- **India** - Under the agreement, India agreed to separate its civilian and military nuclear activities.
- It also agreed to open up the civilian part to inspection by the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*.
- **US** - In return, the US offered to resume full nuclear trade i.e., selling of reactors, Transfer of Technology, Uranium sale with India.
- The deal went through several complex stages including:
 1. Amendment of U.S. domestic law (Atomic Energy Act of 1954),
 2. Civil-military nuclear Separation Plan in India,
 3. India-IAEA safeguards agreement.
- It enabled American companies to build nuclear power reactors in India.
- Despite the agreements, there is no sign yet of any contract between an American company and the Indian authorities.

5.13 Hague Code of Conduct

- The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG), formerly known as **International Code of Conduct**, was established in 2002 as an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.
- The HCOG does **not ban ballistic missiles, but calls for restraint** in their production, testing, and export.
- It supplements the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) both concerning the spread of ballistic missiles, but its membership is not restricted.
- **India joined** the HCOG in 2016. The two nuclear weapon neighbours **Pakistan and China are not signatories** to it.
- The Regular Meetings of Subscribing States to the HCOG (annual conferences) are held annually in Vienna.

5.14 Hague Adoption Convention

- The *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* was adopted in 1993 to protect children adoption internationally.
- It seeks to protect children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad and to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.

Hague Convention	
Founded in	1993
India's membership	India is a member

- It reinforces Article 21 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - India ratified Hague convention in 2003.
- In India, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is the nodal agency to deal with this convention.

5.15 Djibouti Code of Conduct

- Djibouti Code of Conduct is an international maritime grouping against piracy in the Indian Ocean Region.
- DCOC aims at Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.
- It is also known as Code of Conduct or Jeddah Amendment.
- It was adopted on 29th January 2009.
- It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Under the code, the signatories agreed to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.
- It has been signed by 20 countries including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.
- The member states are located in areas adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa and include island nations in the Indian Ocean.
- India joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) as an observer in 2020.
- Other observer nation includes Japan, Norway, the UK and the USA.



5.16 Chemical Weapons Convention

- The Chemical Weapons Convention is officially known as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.
- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body.
- The CWC is open to all nations and currently has 193 parties
 - Israel has signed but not ratified the agreement.
- Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty.
- The CWC is the world's first multilateral disarmament agreement to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a fixed time frame.
- India and CWC** - India signed in 1993 and enacted Chemical Weapons Convention Act in 2000.
- National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) has been established under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000 for implementing the provisions of the Convention.

Chemical Weapons Convention	
Founded in	1993
India's membership	India is a member

5.17 Biological Weapons Convention

- The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), also known as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) opened for signature in 1972.
- It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.
- The **Geneva Protocol** prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.
- BWC commits the states to prohibit the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.
 - It has 183 members (including India).
- The absence of any formal verification regime to monitor compliance has limited the effectiveness of the Convention.
- Permitted purposes under the BWC are defined as prophylactic, protective and other peaceful purposes.

Biological Weapons Convention	
Founded in	1972
India's membership	India is a member

5.18 Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

- It is a multilateral treaty relating to liability and compensation for damage caused by a nuclear incident.
- It was adopted in 1997 aiming at increasing the amount of compensation available in the event of a nuclear incident through public funds.
- The fund is to be made available by the Contracting Parties on the basis of their installed nuclear capacity and UN rate of assessment.
- It aims at establishing treaty relations among States that belong to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy or neither of them
- India had also passed its own domestic nuclear liability law, the **Civil Law for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act** in 2010.

5.19 Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling

- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships was adopted by **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** in 2009.
- The convention is aimed at ensuring that recycling ships, do not pose any unnecessary risk to human health and safety or to the environment.
- It was developed with input from IMO, International Labour Organization and the Parties to the Basel Convention.
- Ship recycling yards will be required to provide a Ship Recycling Plan and parties will be required to take effective measures to ensure that ship recycling facilities under their jurisdiction comply with the Convention.
- **India has acceded** to the Hong Kong Convention for Recycling of Ships in 2019.

5.20 Budapest Convention

- It is the sole **legally binding** multilateral treaty that coordinates **cybercrime investigations** between nation-states and criminalises certain cybercrime conduct.
- The convention is **led by Council of Europe**, which is distinct from European Union.
- Both members and non-members of Council of Europe are parties to the convention.
 - **India, Russia and China are not members to this convention.**
- The Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on cybercrime on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence is called the "**Second Protocol**".

5.21 1951 Refugee Convention

- It is a **United Nations multilateral treaty** that defines who is a refugee, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.
- The Convention also sets out which people do not qualify as refugees. e.g., War criminals.
- It also provides for some visa-free travel for holders of travel documents issued under the convention.
- It builds on Article 14 of the 1948 **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.
- The core principle is **non-refoulement**, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.
- The 1967 Protocol broadens the applicability of the Convention. The Protocol removes the geographical and time limits that were part of the 1951 Convention.
- UNHCR serves as the *'guardian' of the 1951 Convention* and its *1967 Protocol*.
- Countries that have ratified the Refugee Convention are obliged to protect refugees that are on their territory, in accordance with its terms.
- **India is not a member** to this convention nor to the protocol.

1951 Refugee Convention	
Founded in	1951
India's membership	India is not a member

5.22 Geneva Conventions

- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 are a set of **4 treaties**, formalized in 1949, and **3 additional protocols**, the first two of which were formalized in 1977 and the third in 2005.
- The focus of the Conventions is the *treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war*.
- But, not the use of conventional or biological and chemical weapons, the use of which is governed respectively by the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Protocol.

• The **Fourth Geneva Convention** is the most imminent convention that applies to the **invasion of Ukraine** by Russian military forces.

• While the Fourth Convention protects civilians, the other Conventions were concerned mainly with combatants rather than civilians.

• Along with the Additional Protocols of 1977, the Fourth Convention expounds upon

1. The general protection of populations against certain consequences of war,
2. The conduct of hostilities and the status and treatment of protected persons,
3. Distinguishing between the situation of foreigners on the territory of one of the parties to the conflict and that of civilians in occupied territory.

Convention	Purpose
First Geneva Convention	It protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during war. It extends to medical and religious personnel, medical units, and medical transport.
Second Geneva Convention	It protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war. It extends to hospital ships and medical transports by sea, with specific commentary on the treatment of and protections for their personnel.
Third Geneva Convention	It applies to prisoners of war, including a wide range of general protections such as 1. Humane treatment, maintenance and equality across prisoners, 2. Conditions of captivity, 3. Questioning and evacuation of prisoners, transit camps, food, clothing, medicines, hygiene and 4. Right to religious, intellectual, and physical activities of prisoners.
Fourth Geneva Convention	It protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

- It also spells out the obligations of the occupying power vis-à-vis the civilian population and outlines detailed provisions on humanitarian relief for populations in occupied territory.
- It contains a specific regime for the treatment of civilian internees, including three annexes on hospital and safety zones, and model regulations on humanitarian relief.
- **Signatories** - Ratified by 196 states, *including all UN member states*.
- ***Both Ukraine and Russia are parties*** to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Protocol I.
- In 2019, *Russia withdrew its declaration* under Article 90 of Protocol 1 which has pre-emptively left itself with the option to refuse access by any international fact-finding missions to Russian entities, individuals or resources that might potentially find Russia responsible for violations of the Geneva Conventions standards.
- Further, the 4 conventions and first two protocols of the Geneva Conventions were ratified by the Soviet Union, not Russia.

5.23 Montreux Convention

- 'Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits' is an international agreement governing the ***Bosporus and Dardanelles Straits in Turkey***.
- Montreux Convention is signed by Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey.
- The agreement came into effect in November 1936.
- **Black Sea Straits** - The ***Bosporus and Dardanelles straits*** connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara.
- It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.
- In the event of a war, the pact gives ***Turkey the right*** to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.
- Turkey has already used its vested power before during the Second World War restricting the passage for naval warships of the Axis powers.
- **Exception** - Article 19 of the treaty contains an exception for the countries on the Black Sea that can effectively undermine Turkey's power in blocking the Russian warships entering or exiting the Black Sea.
- Article says that warships can return to their original bases through the passage and Turkey cannot prevent it.
- **Recent Developments** - In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Turkey is activating the Montreux Convention on naval passage through the Black Sea Straits.
- Implementation of the Montreux convention would limit the movement of Russian warships between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.
- But Russia is free to take Russian fleets currently in the Black Sea that belong to a base in the Mediterranean or Baltic Sea out of the Black Sea under Article 19.



5.24 UN Convention against Torture

- It was adopted by ***UNGA*** in 1984 to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
- It came into force on 26 June 1987, which is now recognized as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, in honour of the Convention.
- There are 173 parties to this convention which includes Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.
 - ***India has signed and yet to ratify this crucial convention***.
- It requires amendment to Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to accommodate provisions regarding compensation and burden of proof.

5.25 UN Arms Trade Treaty

- It is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons.
- The treaty was negotiated in New York City at a global conference under the auspices of the UN in 2012.
- UN General Assembly adopted the ATT in 2013 and entered into force in 2014.
- 113 states have ratified the treaty.
 - **India is not a member to this treaty.**
- China – Signed and Ratified; USA – Signed but not ratified.
- Andorra became the 113th State Party (Signed in 2014 and Ratified in 2022)
- It requires member countries to keep records of international transfers of weapons and to prohibit cross-border shipments that could be used in human rights violations or attacks on civilians.

UN Arms Trade Treaty	
Signed in	2012
India's membership	India is not a member

5.26 Singapore Convention

- The **Singapore Convention on Mediation** (the "Singapore Convention") is a uniform and efficient framework for international settlement agreements resulting from mediation.
- It is the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
- It was signed in 2019 and entered into force in 2020.
- It applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.
- It allows businesses to seek enforcement of a mediated settlement agreement across borders by applying directly to courts of countries that have signed and ratified the treaty.
- Currently, Convention has **56 signatories, including India**, China, and US and 11 of them ratified it.
- Recently Ratified– Nigeria

Singapore Convention on Mediation	
Signed in	2019
Membership	India is a member

5.27 International Convention of Road Traffic

- The Convention on Road Traffic is an international treaty promoting the development and safety of international road traffic by establishing certain uniform rules among the contracting parties.
- It is commonly known as the **Geneva Convention on Road Traffic**.
- The convention addresses minimum mechanical and safety equipment needed to be on board and defines an identification mark to identify the origin of the vehicle.
- The Convention was prepared and opened for signature by the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport held at Geneva in 1949 and came to force on March 1952.
 - **India is a signatory** to Convention on International Road Traffic.

5.28 Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

- The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is an international maritime treaty which sets **minimum safety standards** in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships.
- SOLAS is administered by **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.
- The first version of SOLAS Treaty was passed in 1914 in response to the sinking of the RMS Titanic.
- The Convention in force today is SOLAS, 1974 Amendment, an important international treaty concerning the safety of merchant ships.

5.29 UN High Seas Treaty

- The UN member states agreed on a treaty known as '**Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ)**' for protecting marine life in international waters that lie outside the jurisdiction of any country.
- The UN High Seas Treaty is also referred to as the '**Paris Agreement for the Ocean**'.
- It aims to deal with Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction.
- The treaty concerns the ocean existing beyond the **Exclusive Economic Zones** that lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles into the sea, till where it has special rights for exploration.
- Waters beyond that are known as open seas or high seas where no country is responsible for the management and protection of resources.
- The treaty was to be negotiated under the **United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS)** of 1982, which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources.
- The UNGA decided in 2015 to develop a legally binding instrument for the conservation of high seas within the framework of UNCLOS.
- The Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) was convened to frame a legal instrument on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- The European Union launched the High Ambition Coalition on BBNJ to finalise the agreement.



- **30x30 pledge** – At the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), countries agreed to protect 30% of oceans by 2030, as part of the '30 x 30 pledge' made at the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COP-15).

5.30 Vienna Convention 1961

- It is an international treaty for a framework for **diplomatic relations** between independent countries.
- It specifies the privileges of a diplomatic mission that enable diplomats to perform their function without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country.
- The convention forms the legal basis for diplomatic immunity.
- Under the Article 22 of the convention, the security of any **High Commission or Embassy** is the responsibility of the host nation.
- The Convention was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities in 1961 and entered into force in 1964.

Vienna Convention 1961	
Signed in	1961
Signatory	India ratified

- It is ratified by 193 countries except Palau and South Sudan.
- **India** - The Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act, 1972 was enacted in India to give effect to the Vienna Convention and to provide for matters connected therewith.
- **Recent incident** - After vandalism by pro-Khalistan protestors at Indian High Commission in London, The Ministry of External Affairs invoked the Vienna Convention.

5.31 Warsaw Convention

- It refers to an international agreement that defines the rules and regulations that govern **civil aviation**.
- It defines the potential liability that an international carrier faces with regards to the air transport of people and luggage of various kinds.
- It helps provide a common framework for dispute resolution between parties belonging to different countries.
- **Montreal Convention** is a multilateral treaty adopted by member states of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to amend the important provisions of the Warsaw Convention's regime concerning compensation for the victims of air disasters.

5.32 TRIPS

- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the WTO.
- It sets down minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of many forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations.
- TRIPS was negotiated at the end of the **Uruguay Round of (GATT)** in 1994 and was administered by the **WTO**.
- It introduced intellectual property law into the international trading system for the first time and remains the most comprehensive international agreement on intellectual property to date.
- The **Doha declaration** stated that TRIPS should be interpreted in light of the goal "to promote access to medicines for all."
- TRIPS requires WTO members to provide copyright rights, geographical indications, industrial designs, integrated circuit layout-designs, patents, new plant varieties, trademarks.
- The obligations under TRIPS apply equally to all member states, however developing countries were allowed extra time to implement the applicable changes to their national laws.

5.33 Kimberly Process

- It is a joint initiative of Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society to stem the flow of **Conflict Diamonds**.
- Conflict Diamonds are rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
- It came into effect in 2003 with representation from 85 countries including EU.
- **India is one of the founding members.**
- It is a **binding agreement** to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.

5.34 Mission Innovation

- It is a global initiative of **23 countries and the European Commission** (on behalf of the European Union).
- **India is founding member** of Mission Innovation and part of the Steering Committee.
- It was announced at COP21 of UNFCCC on November 30, 2015, as world leaders came together in Paris to commit to ambitious efforts to combat climate change.
- It works to accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable.

- It committed to seek to double public investment in clean energy RD&D and are engaging with the private sector, fostering international collaboration and celebrating innovators.
- **Mission Innovation 2.0** - Launched in 2021, MI2.0 is catalysing a decade of action and investment in research, development and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all.
- This will accelerate progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to net zero.

5.35 TIR Convention

- Transports Internationaux Routiers Convention is an international transit system under the auspices of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**.
- It came into force from 1975.
- It facilitates the seamless movement of goods within and amongst the Parties to the Convention.
 - **India also ratified the convention.**
- It would enable India to move goods seamlessly along the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and also boosting trade with the Central Asian Republics and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

5.36 Cape Town Convention

- In 2001, the **Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment** were adopted.
- While Cape Town Convention is for **3 sectors** - aviation, railways and space equipment - there are separate protocols for each of the three. The aircraft protocol was adopted at Cape Town in 2001.
- It was signed in the conference organised by **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** and the International Institute for the **Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)**.
- Its main objective is to ensure efficient financing of high value mobile equipment like airframes, helicopters and engines, in order to make the operations as cost effective and affordable as possible.
 - **India acceded** to the Convention and the Protocol in March 2008.
- Indian government plans to bring in the Cape Town Convention Act which will help reduce risks related to asset-based financing and leasing transactions in the civil aviation space.

International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)

- It was set up in 1926 as an auxiliary organ of the League of Nations. Following the demise of the League, it was re-established in 1940 based on a multilateral agreement, the **UNIDROIT Statute**.
- The UNIDROIT is an independent intergovernmental organisation that deals with various legal issues including studying needs and methods for modernizing commercial and private laws.
- Membership of UNIDROIT is restricted to States acceding to the UNIDROIT Statute.
- UNIDROIT's **65 Member States** are drawn from the five continents and represent a variety of different legal, economic and political systems as well as different cultural backgrounds.
- **India will be a member of the Governing Council** for the period 2024-28.
- India's Uma Sekhar was elected to governing council of the Rome-based UNIDROIT.

5.37 Antarctic Treaty

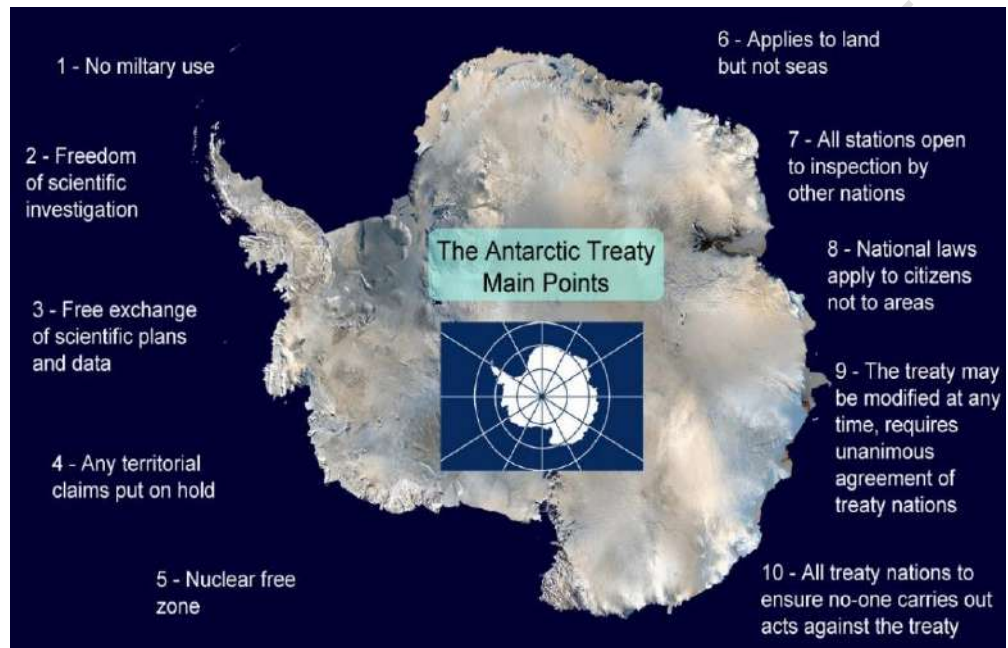
- The 1959 Antarctic Treaty is the only example of a single treaty that **governs a whole continent**.
- **Aim** - Making the Antarctic Continent a **demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only**.
- Headquartered in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, it entered into force in 1961.
- **Members** - Twelve original signatories are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the UK and the US.

- Currently, the treaty has 56 parties. India became a member in 1983.
- **Definition** - Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude.

Antarctic Treaty	
Signed in	1959
Signatory	India is a member

Important provisions of the Treaty

- Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only
- Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end... shall continue
- Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available
- Prohibition of military activities, nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste.
- Neutralising territorial sovereignty, this means a limit was placed on making any new claim or enlargement of an existing claim.
- It put a freeze on any disputes between claimants over their territories on the continent.



Antarctic Treaty System

- It is the whole complex of arrangements made for the purpose of regulating relations among states in the Antarctic by resolving the disputes that are arisen over the years.
- Other than the Antarctic Treaty, the other major International Agreements of the Treaty System are,
 - Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972)
 - Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980)
 - Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (1991)
- Its purpose is to ensure in the interests of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.
- These agreements are legally binding and purpose-built for the unique geographical, environmental and political characteristics of the Antarctic and form a robust international governance framework for the region.

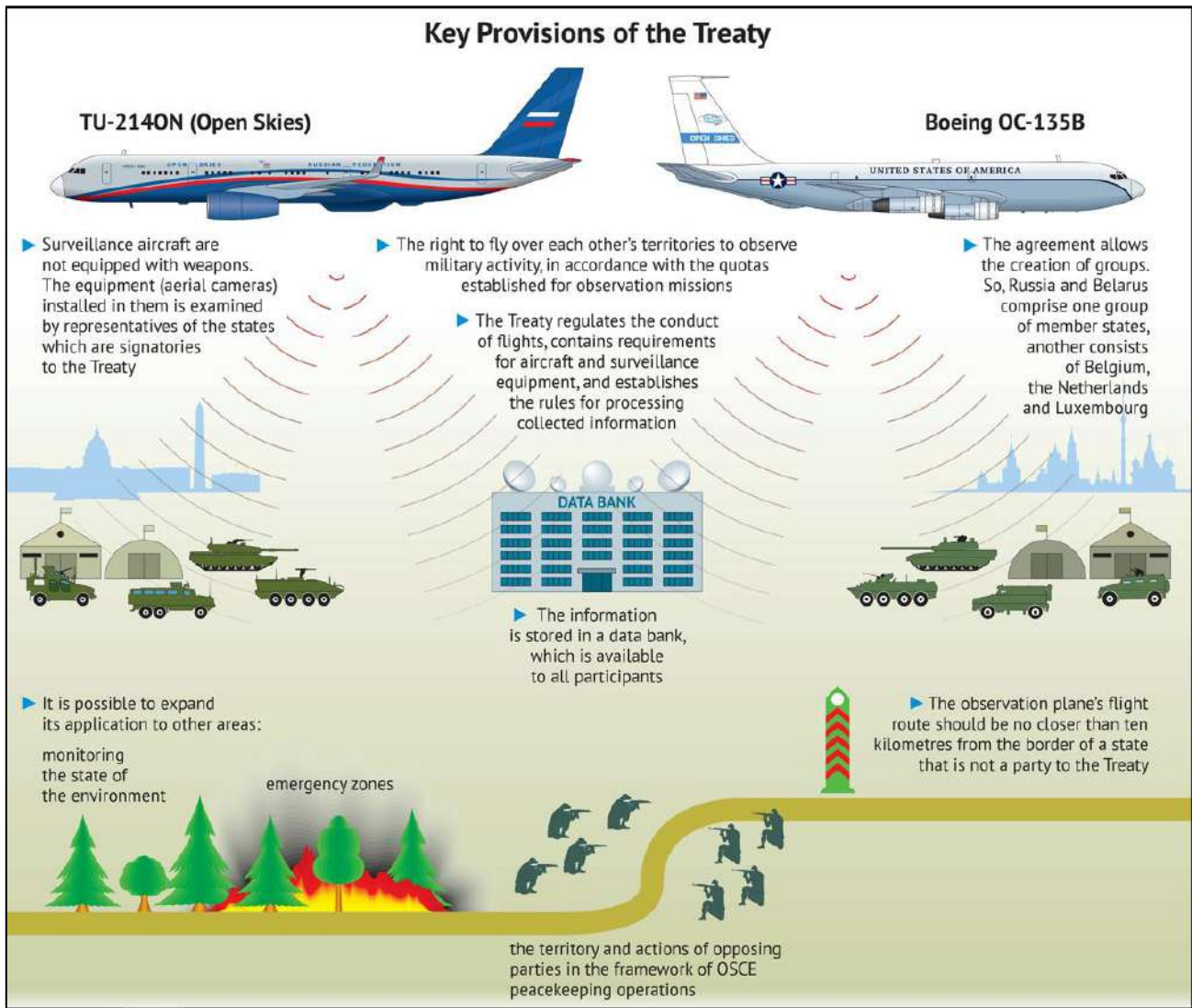
5.38 Open Skies Treaty

- The Treaty on Open Skies establishes a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its signatories.
- The treaty was signed in 1992 between **NATO members and former Warsaw Pact countries** following the demise of the Soviet Union.
- It went into effect in 2002 and had **34 signatories** Kyrgyzstan has signed and yet to ratify the treaty.
- It is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants, a direct role in



gathering information through aerial imaging on military forces and activities of concern to them.

- It aims at building confidence among members through mutual openness, thus reducing the chances of accidental war.
- Under the treaty, a member state can “spy” on any part of the host nation, with the latter’s consent.
- The information gathered, such as on troop movements, military exercises and missile deployments, has to be shared with all member states.



5.39 Outer Space Treaty

- It is called as “Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies”.
- It is an international treaty binding the parties to use outer space **only for peaceful purposes**.
- The treaty came into force in 1967, after being ratified by the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and several other countries.
- It represents the basic legal framework of international space law.
- 113 countries are parties to this treaty, including India.
- Croatia (2023) is the last accession to the treaty.
- It was formulated to bar its signatory countries from placing weapons of mass

Outer Space Treaty	
Signed in	1967
Signatory	India is a member

UN treaties on Outer Space
The Outer Space Treaty 1967
The Rescue Agreement 1968
The Liability Convention 1972
The Registration Convention 1976
The Moon Agreement 1984

destruction in orbit of the Earth, on the Moon or any other celestial body or the outer space.

- However, the Treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit and thus some highly destructive attack strategies such as kinetic bombardment are still potentially allowable.
- The treaty explicitly forbids any government from claiming a celestial resource such as the Moon or a planet.

Key features of the treaty

- the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;
- outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;
- the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities;
- States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and
- States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.

5.40 Asian and Pacific Council

- It was formed in **Seoul (South Korea)** in **1966 by 9 non-Communist Asian and Pacific nations.**
- It is a regional organization in the Far East and in the western part of the Pacific Ocean.
- This Council is **not a political or military arrangement** directed against other nations but for regional co-operation pursuing peace and progress in the Asian and Pacific region.
- **Members** - Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, South Vietnam, and Taiwan
- The Council has an **open door policy**, which means that the organisation has permit open membership to all non-member countries of the region, regardless of ideologies.

Asian and Pacific Council

Formed in	1966
Membership	India is not a member

5.41 Raisina Dialogue

- It is **India's flagship conference** of Geopolitics and geo-economics held **annually in New Delhi.**
- It is organized by **Ministry of External Affairs** in partnership with Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank in India.
- It is designed on the lines of **Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.**
- The name "Raisina Dialogue" comes from Raisina Hill, the seat of the Government of India, as well as the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The conference is committed to address the most challenging issues facing the global community.
- The 1st Raisina Dialogue was held in 2016 and the 9th edition was held in 2024 with the theme, **"Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create"**.

5.42 First Movers Coalition

- It is a global initiative launched by **US and the World Economic Forum (WEF) at COP26 (Glasgow).**
- It is launched as a flagship public-private partnership to harness the purchasing power of companies to **decarbonize the 7 carbon-heavy industries and long-distance transport sectors** responsible for 30% of global emissions.
 - *The industrial sectors that account for 30% of global emissions are Aluminium, Aviation, Chemicals, Concrete, Shipping, Steel, and Trucking.*

5.43 Caspian Sea Breakthrough Treaty

- Caspian Sea is ***bounded by 5 nations*** - Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkmenistan.
- Caspian Sea Breakthrough Treaty was signed in 2018 by the five bordering countries for the sovereign rights over the sea.
- It ends a spat over whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake, granting it ***special legal status meaning that it is not defined as a sea or a lake.***
- The surface water will be in common usage, meaning freedom of access for all littoral states beyond territorial waters.
- But the seabed - which is rich in natural resources - will be divided up.
- It allows each to lay pipelines offshore with consent only from the neighbouring states affected.
- It also removes a legal barrier to building a trans-Caspian gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Europe.



5.44 Minerals Security Partnership

- **Launch** – 2022.
- It is a ***US-led collaboration*** of countries that includes Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, UK, the European Commission, Italy, and now ***India.***
- It is also known as the ***critical minerals alliance.***
- **Aim** - To ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled in a way that helps countries secure a stable supply of critical minerals for their economies.
- The focus is primarily on the supply chains of critical minerals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium and the 17 "rare earth" minerals.
- **Objectives**
 - Strengthened information sharing between partner countries
 - Increased investment in secure critical minerals supply chains
 - Develop recycling technologies

DID YOU KNOW?

India and Australia decided to strengthen their partnership in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals under the Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.

Status of Critical Minerals in India

- India is endowed with and produces over 85 minerals.
- Some of the required critical mineral assets are not yet ready to be mined.
- India is dependent on China and others to meet its requirement of critical minerals including Rare Earth Elements (REE).



Australia - Produces almost half of the world's lithium, 2nd largest producer of cobalt & 4th largest producer of rare earths elements.

1. Antimony	15. Nickel	iv. Neodymium	20. Rhenium
2. Beryllium	16. PGE	v. Promethium	21. Selenium
3. Bismuth	i. Platinum	vi. Samarium	22. Silicon
4. Cadmium	ii. Palladium	vii. Europium	23. Strontium
5. Cobalt	iii. Rhodium	viii. Gadolinium	24. Tantalum
6. Copper	iv. Ruthenium	ix. Terbium	25. Tellurium
7. Gallium	v. Iridium	x. Dysprosium	26. Tin
8. Germanium	vi. Osmium	xi. Holmium	27. Titanium
9. Graphite	17. Phosphorous	xii. Erbium	28. Tungsten
10. Hafnium	18. Potash	xiii. Thulium	29. Vanadium
11. Indium	19. REE	xiv. Ytterbium	30. Zirconium
12. Lithium	i. Lanthanum	xv. Lutetium	
13. Molybdenum	ii. Cerium	xvi. Scandium	
14. Niobium	iii. Praseodymium	xvii. Yttrium	

6. NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

6.1 International Commission on Large Dams

- ICOLD is a *non-governmental International Organization* that provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in **dam engineering**.
- It sets standards and guidelines to ensure that dams are built and operated safely, efficiently, economically, and are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.
- It is directed by the General Assembly consisting of representatives from all the Member Countries and of the Officers of the Commission.
- **Any country can become a "Member Country"** and constitute a National Committee with persons competent in the matters relating to dams.

6.2 International Electrotechnical Commission

- It is a not-for-profit membership organization that was founded in 1906 in London.
- IEC is an international standard setting body that *publishes international Standards* for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.
- **The Standardisation Management Board (SMB)** is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.
- The Chair of the SMB of the IEC is the ex officio Vice-President for the duration of his/her term.
- The Vice-President is responsible for the standardization work of the IEC.
- India won the Vice-Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) chair of International Electrotechnical Commission for the 2023-25 term, during its General Meeting held in San Francisco.
