



LAST MINUTE PRELIMS RECKONER 2025

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
OTHER THAN UN**

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Group of 7:

- ✓ The G7 is an informal grouping of **seven of the world's advanced economies**, founded in **1975** in response to the oil crisis.
- ✓ In 1998, Russia was formally admitted to the group, making it the G8. In 2014, **Russia was suspended indefinitely** following the annexation of Crimea, whereupon the forum name reverted to G7.
- ✓ Both a formal **constitution and a permanent headquarters are absent** from the G7.
- ✓ In 2023, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, PM Modi unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima.
- ✓ The Quad Leaders' Summit also took place on the sidelines of the G7.
- ✓ **Member nations:** UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- ✓ In 2024, **Italy** as the President will host the summit at **Apulia**.

Group of 20:

- ✓ The G20 is the premier forum for **international economic cooperation**.
- ✓ Founded in 1999 after the Asian Financial crisis, the G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global Financial crisis of 2008.
- ✓ The Group **does not have a permanent secretariat**.
- ✓ India held the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.
- ✓ The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" or "**One Earth · One Family · One Future**". INTEGRATED LEARNING FOR CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION
- ✓ With the addition of the **African Union** as a member in 2023, G20 now has **21 members**.
- ✓ Read more here: <https://ilearncana.com/details/Review-of-Indias-G20-Presidency/4708>

G20

G8

G7



Canada



Russia



France



Germany



Italy



Japan



United Kingdom



United States of America



Argentina



Australia



Brazil



China



European Union



India



Indonesia



Mexico



Saudi Arabia



South Africa



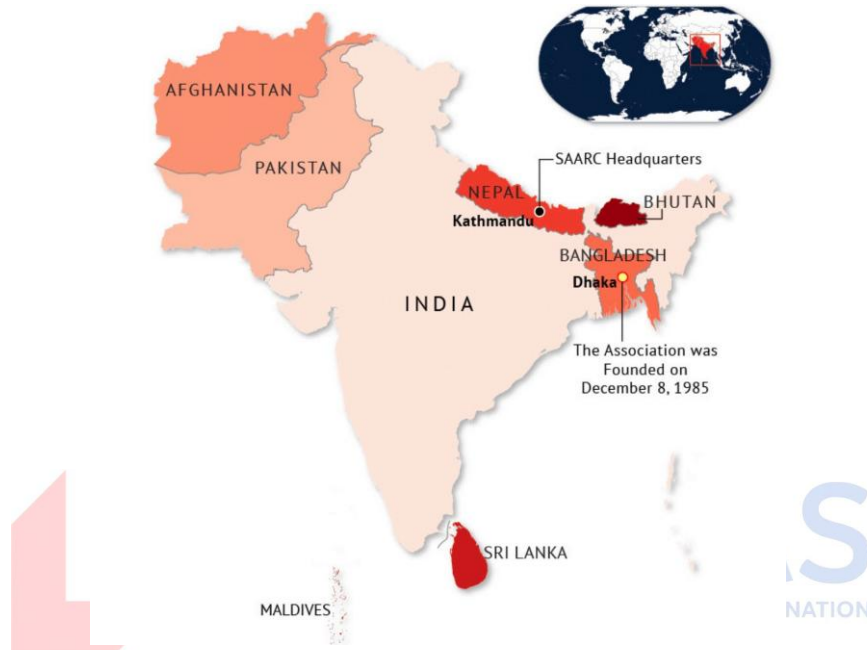
South Korea



Turkey

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- ✓ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter in Dhaka** in 1985.
- ✓ Comprises of eight Member States: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**
- ✓ Secretariat: **Kathmandu, Nepal**
- ✓ Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the **basis of unanimity**
- ✓ **Nine Observers:** Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Mauritius, Myanmar and the United States of America



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- ✓ Established in 1997 with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration.**
- ✓ Initially known as **BIST-EC** (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation)
- ✓ **Members:** Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan
- ✓ BIMSTEC Secretariat: **Dhaka, Bangladesh**
- ✓ Read more here: <https://www.ilearncana.com/details/India-and-BIMSTEC/3316>



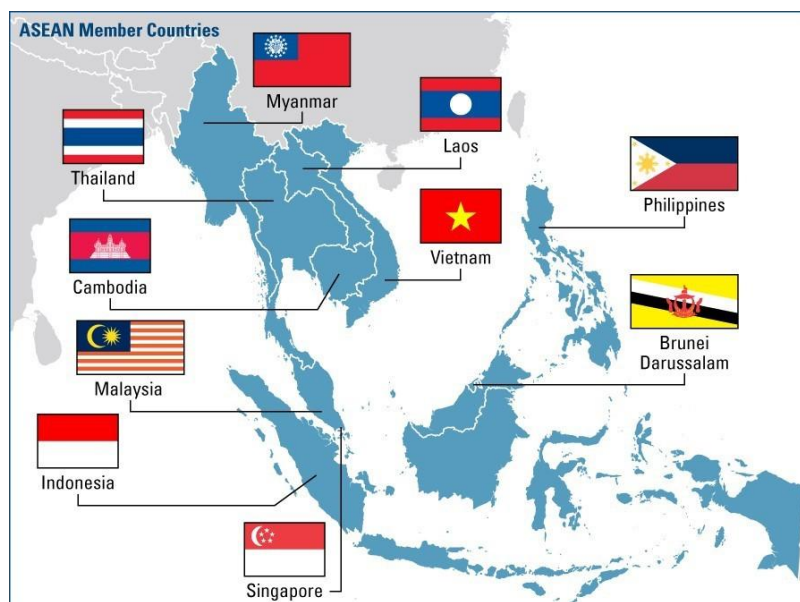
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ✓ Founded in: **2001**
- ✓ Currently, SCO has **9 full members**: India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran. **Iran** is the **latest member** inducted in 2023.
- ✓ Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia are observers who would like to follow Tehran. Belarus is expected to be inducted in 2024.
- ✓ It has two permanent bodies:
 - **SCO Secretariat**, based in **Beijing**, China
 - Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**, based in **Tashkent**, Uzbekistan
- ✓ Read more here: <https://www.ilearncana.com/details/Shanghai-Cooperation-Organisation-SCO/2445>



Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ✓ Regional intergovernmental organization comprising **ten countries in Southeast Asia**.
- ✓ Established in 1967 with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- ✓ Headquarters: **Jakarta**, Indonesia
- ✓ ASEAN-India relations were elevated to a **Strategic Partnership** in 2012. In 2022, the Strategic Partnership was elevated to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.



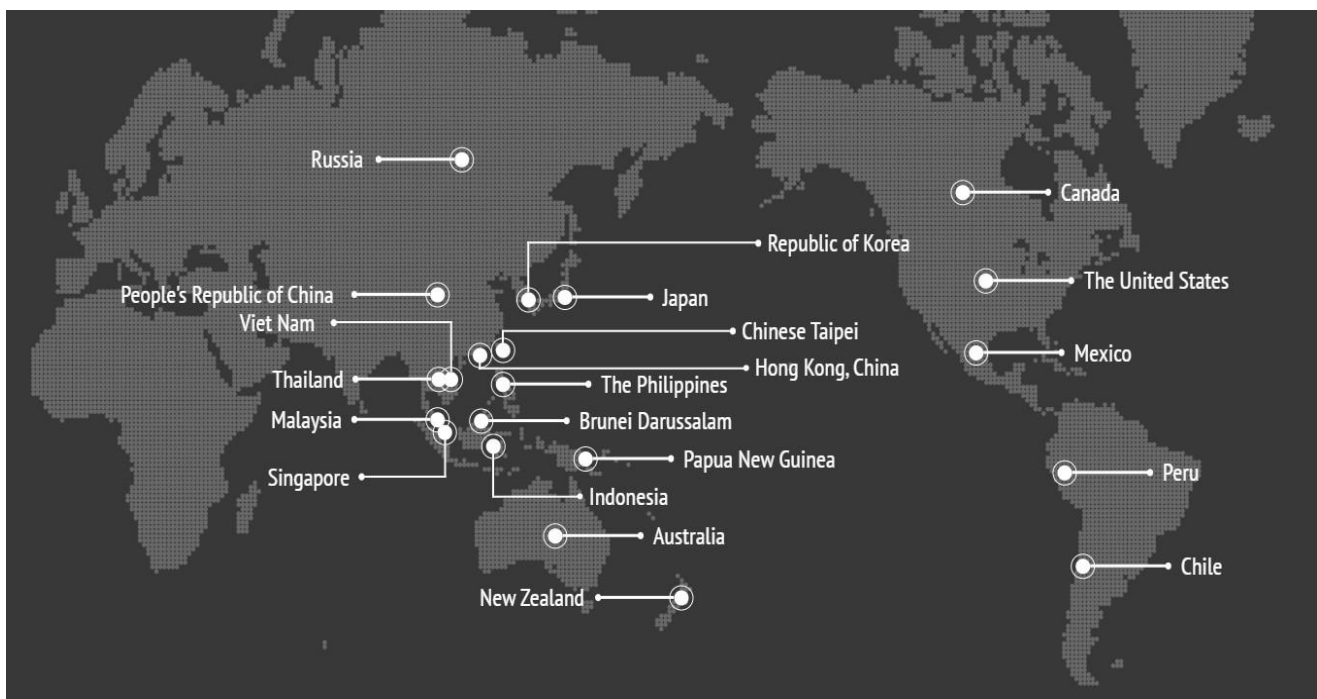
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- ✓ Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the **ten member states of the ASEAN** and its five FTA partners: **Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea**.
- ✓ India was part of the negotiations but pulled out in 2019 after talks failed to address its concerns.
- ✓ Read more here: <https://www.ilearncana.com/details/India-and-RCEP/500>



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- ✓ Inter-governmental forum of **21 member economies** in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- ✓ Established in 1989.
- ✓ **Headquarters in Singapore.**
- ✓ India is not a member but has **observer** status.

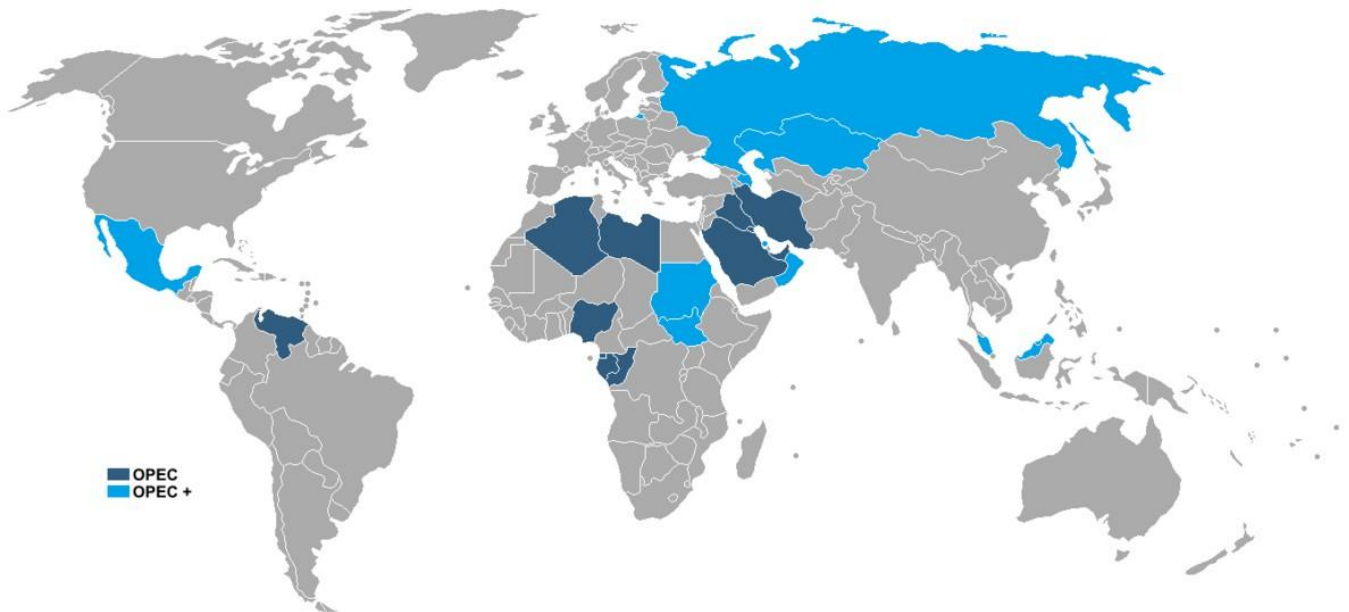


Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- ✓ Organization of 12 oil-exporting nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its member countries.
- ✓ Created at the **Baghdad Conference** in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ✓ OPEC Secretariat is located in **Vienna, Austria**.
- ✓ **Members:** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- ✓ Ecuador, Indonesia, Qatar and Angola are former members.
- ✓ **80.4% of the world's proven oil reserves** are located in OPEC Countries
- ✓ OPEC member states **produce about 40% of the world's oil**, and their exports make up around **60% of global petroleum trade**.

OPEC +

- ✓ In 2016, OPEC formed an **alliance with other oil-producing nations** to create OPEC+.
- ✓ The 10 countries now in OPEC+ include **Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Oman, Bahrain, Brunei, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan and Mexico**.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

- ✓ **Economic and political union** between 27 European countries.
- ✓ Formed in 1993 through the **Maastricht Treaty**. Later in 2009, several organizational changes were brought forth through the **Treaty of Lisbon**.
- ✓ The member states of the EU are **subjected to binding laws**.
- ✓ Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**
- ✓ Member states **must agree unanimously** for the EU to adopt policies in areas which it considers to be sensitive.
- ✓ **Copenhagen criteria:**
 - Conditions that candidate countries must meet before they can be part of the EU
- ✓ **Member states:**
 - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
- ✓ **Eurozone:**
 - Monetary union which uses the **euro** currency
 - Composed of 19 EU members states
- ✓ **Schengen Area:**
 - Border-free area that guarantees free movement to **anyone legally present in the EU**.
 - Of the 27 EU member states, 25 participate in the Schengen Area, with the recent addition of **Bulgaria and Romania**.
 - **Cyprus and Ireland** are the EU states not part of the Schengen zone.
 - The countries of the **European Free Trade Association** are also part of the Schengen zone.
- ✓ **European Economic Area (EEA):**
 - Includes EU countries and also **Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway**. It allows them to be part of the EU 's single market.
- ✓ **Switzerland** is not an EU or EEA member but is part of the single market.
- ✓ In 2012, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Peace**.



European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1960 as an alternative trade bloc for those European states unable or unwilling to join the European Union.
- ✓ **Members:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
- ✓ India recently concluded the **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with the EFTA nations.



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- ✓ Security alliance of **32 countries from North America and Europe**.
- ✓ NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through **political and military means**.
- ✓ Formed in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, also called the **Washington Treaty**.
- ✓ **Collective defence** is at the heart of the Treaty.
- ✓ At present, NATO has 32 member countries:
 - **Founding members:** Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.
 - **Other members:** Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Finland and Sweden.
- ✓ In March 2024, **Sweden** finally became the 32nd country to join the NATO.

Sweden joins NATO

NATO members countries as of 07/03/2024



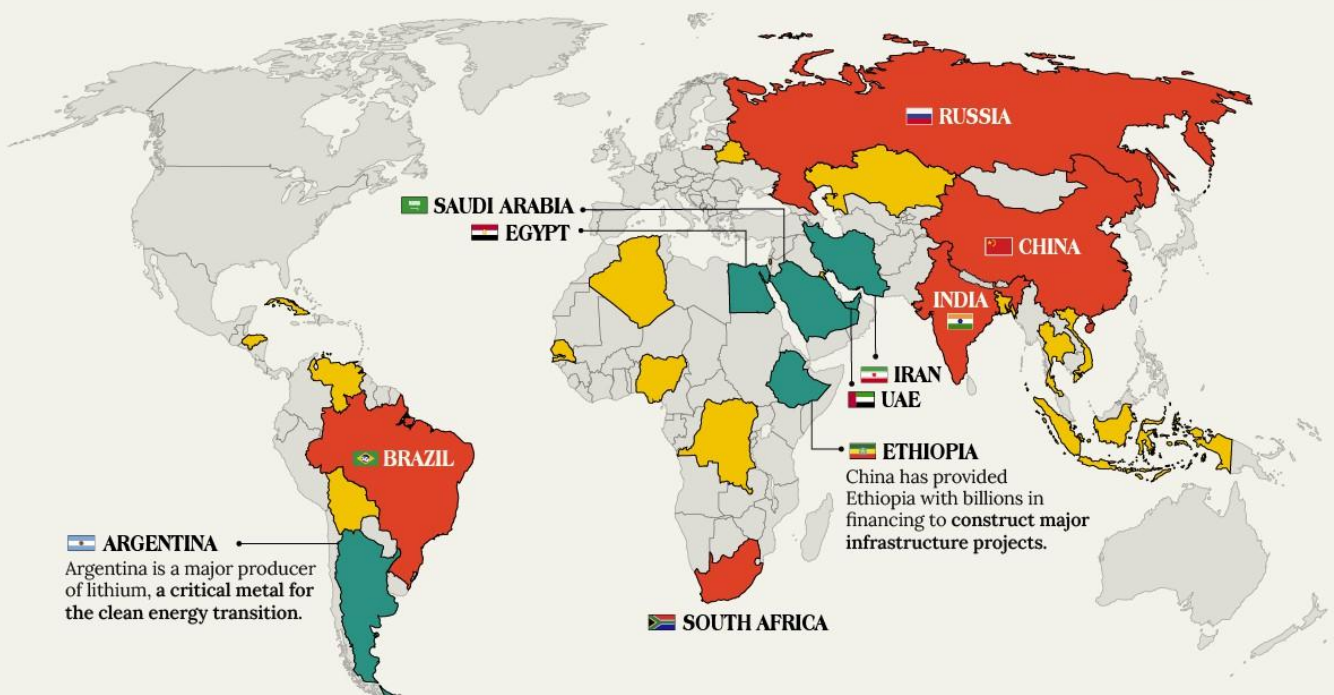
BRICS

- ✓ BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- ✓ The term BRIC was coined by British Economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China.
- ✓ The grouping was formalized during the First meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006.
- ✓ South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- ✓ The **2023 Johannesburg declaration** invited 6 new countries into the grouping → **Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
 - However, the new Argentine President has withdrawn the country from its planned entry into BRICS.

VISUALIZING THE 2023 BRICS EXPANSION

BRICS, a bloc of developing countries formed in 2010, is set to welcome six new members at the beginning of 2024.

▲ Members ▲ New Members ▲ Applied for membership



SHARE OF GLOBAL

GDP 2023 EoY PROJECTION

BRICS total with new members



29%

Saudi Arabia is the only trillion-dollar economy being added to BRICS.

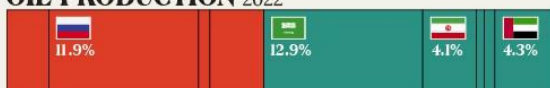
POPULATION 2023



46%

Adding high-population-growth countries like Ethiopia means BRICS could soon represent over half the world's population.

OIL PRODUCTION 2022



43%

The addition of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE will more than double BRICS' share of global oil production.