

Organisations, Groupings and Institutions in International Relation

- The term "international organization (IO)" generally refers to international governmental organizations or organizations with a universal membership of sovereign states. E.g. the United Nations, World Trade Organisation etc.
- International organizations are established by treaties that provide legal status. International organizations are subjects of international law and are capable of entering into agreements among themselves and with member states.
- International Organizations are sometimes referred to as intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), to clarify the distinction from international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), which are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate internationally. These include international nonprofit organizations such as the World Organization of the Scout Movement, International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières, as well as lobby groups that represent the interests of multinational corporations.

Useful Tips:

- Most of questions in the Main Examination are on mandate and Structure aspect combined with significance, challenges or critical analysis of functioning.
 - Mandate: Goals/ objectives of an organization
 - Structure: Membership/ Subsidiary bodies/ Working method/ Mechanisms/ Funding sources.
- Organizations aim to promote cooperation among member States in any given area of their mandate. Cooperation takes place through agenda setting/ negotiations/ Agreements/ adjudication of disputes.

Challenges or limitations of most organizations are due to:

1. Member states are focused on their respective national interests. This makes cooperation difficult to achieve/ Negotiations take long time at WTO.
2. Differences between major members/ geopolitics interfering in the effective functioning- UNSC/ WHO during Covid-19/ UNESCO
3. Financial/Budgetary constraints/ As the organizations depend on its members for contribution- UN/ UNESCO/WHO
4. Lack of adequate reforms to keep up with changing times has limited the scope of most organisations such as the UN/ IMF and World Bank/ WTO etc.

United Nations Organisation



United Nations System

- **United Nations came into Existence on 24 October 1945. With 51 founding members including India.**
- **Today the United nations has 193 members, With South Sudan being the latest to Join in 2011.**
- **The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.**
- **The three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, development and human rights – are equally important, interrelated and interdependent.**
- **The UN System involves six Principle Organs, Special Programmes and Funds; Specialized Agencies**
- **Any amendment in the charter requires 2/3rd vote of the General Assembly i.e 129 out of 193.**

Charter and Mandate

- **According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:**
 - **to maintain international peace and security;**
 - **to develop friendly relations among nations;**
 - **to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;**
 - **and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.**

The Principle Organs

- **General Assembly.**
- **Security Council.**
- **Economic and Social Council.**
- **Secretariat**
- **International Court of Justice.**
- **Trusteeship Council.**

The General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.
- Each year, on Tuesday of the second week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address. 2023-24 is 78th session.
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.
- Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.
- The General Assembly, each year, elects a GA President to serve a one-year term of office.
- In September 2023 Dennis Francis, of Trinidad and Tobago was elected the president for the 78th session 2023-24.
- India's Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first woman to hold this office in 1953

The General Assembly

- Pursuant to its “Uniting for Peace” resolution of November 1950 (resolution 377 (V)), the General Assembly may also take action if the Security Council fails to act, owing to the negative vote of a Permanent Member, in a case where there appears to be a threat to or breach of the peace, or act of aggression.

Committees of the General Assembly

- Each Member State may be represented by one person on each Main Committee - there are six in total - and on any other committee that may be established upon which all Member States have the right to be represented.
- First Committee- Disarmament and International Security
- Second Committee- Economic and Financial
- Third committee- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
- Fourth Committee- Special Political and Decolonization
- Fifth Committee- Administrative and Budgetary
- Sixth Committee- Legal

Other Committees

- **The Credentials Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly.**
- **The General Committee meets periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the General Assembly and its committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress.**

UPSC 2023

With reference to the “United Nations Credentials Committee”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
2. It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year.
3. It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

The Security Council

- **The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.**
- **It has 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members). Each Member has one vote.**
- **There has been one and only expansion of the Security Council in 1965 by increasing non-permanent members from 6 to 10.**
- **10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years**
- **Non-Permanent membership is elected on following pattern:**
- **African-Asia-Pacific States-5/ Latin American and the Caribbean states-2 Eastern European – 1/Western Europe and others 2**
- **The Security Council submits an annual report to the general assembly**

The Security Council

- The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It also travelled to many cities, holding sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama in 1973, Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990 and Nairobi, Kenya in 2004
- A representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

The Security Council

- **The Security Council has a Presidency, which rotates, and changes, every month.**
- **Military Staff Committee,**
- **Article 29 of the United Nations Charter sets out that the Security Council may establish subsidiary bodies as needed for the performance of its functions.**
 - **Standing Committees: Rules of procedure, Meetings away from Headquarters, Admission of New members**
 - **Counter-Terrorism Committee: 1373- (2001), 1624 (2005)**
 - **Non-Proliferation Committee,**
 - **Sanctions Committees: e.g 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh) Al-Qaida and associated individuals groups undertakings and entities**
 - **assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities**

Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council

- **Peacekeeping Operations and Political Missions**
- **International Courts and Tribunals (e.g. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993)**
- **Advisory Body, The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), formed in 2005 is an intergovernmental advisory body for both Security Council and the General Assembly**

Step By Step Action

- **CHAPTER VI: PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**
- **CHAPTER VII: ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION**
- **When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:**
 - **set forth principles for such an agreement;**
 - **undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;**
 - **dispatch a mission;**
 - **appoint special envoys; or**
 - **request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.**

Functioning of the Security Council

- **When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:**
 - **issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;**
 - **dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.**
- **Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:**
 - **economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;**
 - **severance of diplomatic relations;**
 - **blockade;**
 - **or even collective military action.**
- **A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy**

Question

- **What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. 10/ (150 words) /2017**

Economic and Social Council

- The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.
- Seats on the Council are allotted based on geographical representation with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and thirteen to Western European and other States.
- President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves a one year term

Functional Commissions of the ECOSOC

- **Statistical Commission** : highest body of the global statistical system bringing together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world
- **Commission on Population and Development** : Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global level
- **Commission for Social Development** : key United Nations body in charge of the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action (1995).
- **Commission on the Status of Women** : principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women
- **Commission on Narcotic Drugs** : supervising the application of the international drug control treaties.
- **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** : The Commission acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
- **Commission on Science and Technology for Development** : intergovernmental forum for discussion on timely and pertinent issues affecting science, technology and development.
- **United Nations Forum on Forests**: a subsidiary body with the main objective to promote "... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end..."

Trusteeship Council

- The Trusteeship Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter, under Chapter XIII, to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence.
- By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence. The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994.
- By a resolution adopted on 25 May 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion required -- by its decision or the decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council.

11 Former Trust Territories

There were eleven trust territories under the administration of the UN Trusteeship Council.

- **Western Samoa**
- **Tanganyika**
- **Rwanda-Urundi**
- **Cameroons under British administration**
- **Cameroons under French administration**
- **Togoland under British administration**
- **Togoland under French administration**
- **New Guinea**
- **Nauru**
- **Strategic Trust Territory/ Trust territory of the Pacific Islands**
- **Italian Somaliland**

Secretariat

- The Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.
- The Secretary-General is chief administrative officer of the Organization,
- SG is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.
- UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world.
- Mr. António Guterres, is the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1 January 2017

The International Court of Justice

- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Five of the 15 judges are elected every three years to ensure continuity.
- If a judge were to die in office, resign, or be incapacitated to perform the duties expected of her, a special election is held as soon as possible to fill the vacancy for the unexpired duration of her tenure.

ICJ

- The Court also adheres to an ethno-cultural matrix to ensure that it is representative of the 'main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.'
- Of the 15 judges, it is mandated that three should be from Africa, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, three from Asia, five from Western Europe and other states, and two from Eastern Europe.
- Its seat is at the Peace Palace in the Hague (Netherlands).
- It is the only one of the six principal organs of the United Nations not located in New York (United States of America).

Mandate and Jurisdiction

- **The Court's role is:**
 - **Contentious cases:** to settle, in accordance with international law, **legal disputes submitted to it by States** and
 - **Advisory:** to **give advisory opinions on legal questions** referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

Working of the Court

- The Court can only hear a dispute when requested to do so by one or more States.
- **The States involved in the dispute must also have access to the Court and have accepted its jurisdiction, in other words they must consent to the Court's considering the dispute in question. This is a fundamental principle governing the settlement of international disputes, since States are sovereign and free to choose how to resolve their disputes.**

A State may manifest its consent in three ways:

- **by a special agreement: two or more States with a dispute on a specific issue may agree to submit it jointly to the Court and conclude an agreement for this purpose;**
- **by a clause in a treaty: over 300 treaties contain clauses (known as jurisdictional clauses) by which a State party undertakes to accept the jurisdiction of the Court should a dispute arise with another State party about the interpretation or application of the treaty;**
- **by a unilateral declaration: the States parties to the Statute of the Court may opt to make a unilateral declaration recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as binding with respect to any other State also accepting it as binding. This optional clause system, as it is called, has led to the creation of a group of States each of which has given the Court jurisdiction to settle any dispute that might arise between them in future. In principle, any State in this group is entitled to bring one or more other States in the group before the Court. Declarations may contain reservations limiting their duration or excluding certain categories of dispute. They are deposited by States with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

Programmes and Funds

- **The UN system, also known unofficially as the "UN family", is made up of:**
 - the UN itself and
 - many affiliated programmes, funds, and
 - specialized agencies, all with their own membership, leadership, and budget.
- **The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions.**

Programmes and Funds

- **UNDP -United Nations Development Programme**
- **UNCDF -United Nations Capital Development Fund**
- **UNV -United Nations Volunteers**
- **UNEP -United Nations Environment Programme**
- **UNFPA= United Nations Population Fund**
- **UN-HABITAT- United Nations Human Settlements Programme**
- **UNICEF-United Nations Children's Fund**
- **WFP- World Food Programme (UN/FAO)**

Other UN entities

Research and Training

- **UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**
- **UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research**
- **UNSSC United Nations System Staff College**
- **UNU United Nations University**

Programmes and Funds

- The United Nations Development Programme works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Strategic Plan 2022-2025 sets out the direction for a new UNDP, optimized to help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and collective response to the Covid-19 related challenges.
- **Global Policy Network:** UNDP's Global Policy Network (GPN) is a network of global experts and practitioners, from local to global, anchored by the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and the Crisis Bureau

Programmes and Funds

- **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF):** Formed in 1966 the UN Capital Development Fund makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries (LDCs).
- **United Nations Volunteers (UNV):** Created in 1970 UNV is based in Bonn, Germany. The UNV programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board

Programmes and Funds

- **The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfill their potential. UNICEF provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers.**
- **In 1965 the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for the Promotion of brotherhood among nations.”**
- **UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021**
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): UNFPA is the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency. The organisation was created in 1969.**
- Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview

Funds and Programmes

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Established by the General Assembly in 1972
- UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that:
- sets the global environmental agenda,
- promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,
- and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.
- It is based In Nairobi, Kenya,
- The Global Chemicals Outlook II – From Legacies to Innovative Solutions
- seeks to alert policymakers and other stakeholders to the critical role of the sound management of chemicals and waste in sustainable development

UNEP

- In 2019 UN-Habitat and UN Environment, hosted the first Cities Summit during the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4) in Nairobi.
- under the theme Innovation for Livable and sustainable Cities: Multi-level and Integrated Urban Systems
- The new UN Environment Urban Systems Integration programme will help local and national governments accelerate their transitions to circular and low-carbon economies, enhance efficiency, and reduce cities' resource demands while improving health and well-being.

Programmes and Funds

- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT): is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. The headquarters of the UN-Habitat Secretariat are located in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Together with other UN departments and agencies, it measure progress by the Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in Agenda 2030.
- The New Urban Agenda was adopted by the world community at Quito, Ecuador 2016
- India was unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat in 2017 for 2 years.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland, and has offices in New York and Addis Ababa.
- UNCTAD is part of the UN Secretariat. It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but has its own membership, leadership.
- Support developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. It provides analysis, facilitate consensus-building, and offer technical assistance.

Programmes and Funds

- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Over the years it has provided vital assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people. UNHCR is governed by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Human Rights Council

- Formed in 2006, the Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe
- It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.
- Member States are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- India was elected for a new term starting 2019, Previously India served two terms 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 term
- African States: 13 seats, Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats, Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats, Western European and other States: 7 seats, Eastern European States: 6 seats
- The Bureau of the Council consists of five people - one President and four Vice-presidents - representing the five regional groups. They serve for a year, in accordance with the Council's annual cycle.
- Universal Periodic Review mechanism which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member, Advisory Committee which serves as the Council's "think tank" States, Complaint Procedure which allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

Programmes and Funds

- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA):** UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950. It is headquartered in Amman, Jordan.
- **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS):** established in 1973 UNOPS helps the UN and its partners provide peace and security, humanitarian and development solutions. UNOPS headquarters are located in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- **UN-Women-** Formed in 2010 UN women is an organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Specialized Agencies

- The term "specialized agencies" refers to the various organizations that are affiliated with the United Nations but operate autonomously under their own charters.
- These agencies specialize in specific areas such as health, education, labor, agriculture, and more. They are called "specialized" because each agency focuses on a particular aspect of international cooperation and works to address specific global challenges within its mandate.
- Each specialized agency has its own governing structure, leadership, and budget, but they collaborate closely with the United Nations and often work together on projects and initiatives to achieve common goals.
- These agencies complement the work of the United Nations by providing expertise and resources in their respective fields, contributing to the overall mission of promoting peace, development, and cooperation worldwide.

Specialised Agencies

- **The Specialized Agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.**
- **UN specialized agencies coordinate their work with the United Nations through negotiated agreements.**
- **Unlike UN funds and programmes, which are established by and report to the United Nations General Assembly, specialized agencies are legally independent of the United Nations and have separate budgets, members, rules, and personnel.**
- **The bulk of their funding comes from voluntary contributions from governments, institutions, and individuals. Some specialized agencies, such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), have been in existence longer than the United Nations.**
- **There are currently 15 specialized agencies.**

Specialised Agencies

- **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO):** The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It was formed in 1945 and has headquarter in Rome, Italy. It is linked to the ECOSOC in the UN.
- Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.
- FAO designated Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” (GIAHS) are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):** established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).
- Its headquarters is in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. In October 1947, ICAO became an agency of the United Nations linked to the ECOSOC.
- ICAO works with the Convention’s 192 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and
- policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

Specialised Agencies

- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):** IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub.
- It invests in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes.
- It help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development. Since 1978, it has provided US\$18.5 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 464 million people.
- **International Labour Organisation (ILO):** The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States , to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- In 1946, the ILO became a specialized agency of the newly formed United Nations. Its **headquarters is in Geneva Switzerland.** In **1969, the organisation received the Nobel Peace Prize** for improving peace among classes, pursuing decent work and justice for workers, and providing technical assistance to other developing nations

Decent Work Country Programme

- Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) have been established as the main vehicle for delivery of ILO support to countries.
- *DWCPs are the distinct ILO contribution to UN country programmes*
- A DWCP is the expression of the ILO Programme and Budget in a country
- **two basic objectives.** They promote decent work as a key component of national development strategies. At the same time they organise ILO knowledge, instruments, advocacy and cooperation at the service of tripartite constituents in a results-based framework
- Tripartism and social dialogue are central to the planning and implementation of a coherent and integrated ILO programme of assistance to constituents in member States.
- The DWCP (2018-22) articulates the 5 year programme strategy of ILO constituents to promote Decent Work in India
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8— “Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all”
- Creating a more decent future of work through better quality of jobs, transition to formal employment and environment sustainability” is the overarching development objective of DWCP (2018-22)

Priorities

- Promote, adopt and implement international labour standards for protection of workers from unacceptable forms of work
- Create sustainable, inclusive and decent employment for women and the youth, especially vulnerable to socio-economic and environmental exclusion and in informal economy
- Tripartite mechanisms work better for protecting rights of workers through promoting labour administration, occupational safety and health (OSH) and social protection

Specialised Agencies

- International Telecommunications Union (ITU): ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- An organisation based on public-private partnership since its inception, ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and almost 800 private-sector entities and academic institutions.
- ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has twelve regional and area offices around the world. ITU was formed in 1865, in Paris, at the International Telegraph Convention; this makes it one of the oldest intergovernmental organisations in the world. ITU became a United Nations specialized agency in 1947

UPSC 2023

- **Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO(International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (15 Marks/ 250 words)**

Specialised Agencies

- International Monetary Fund (IMF):
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO): It is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.
- In 1948 an international conference in Geneva adopted a convention formally establishing IMO. (the original name was the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, or IMCO, but the name was changed in 1982 to IMO).
- The IMO Convention entered into force in 1958 and the new Organisation met for the first time the following year, 1959. IMO currently has 175 Member States and three Associate Members.
- Its secretariat is base in London, U.K.

UPSC 2019

- **‘Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.’ Discuss the statement in the light of US’ withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being ‘anti-Israel bias’.(10 Marks/ 150 words)**

UNESCO

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):** It is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication.
- The UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945. UNESCO has 195 Members and eight Associate Members. It is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board. The Secretariat, headed by the Director-General, implements the decisions of these two bodies
- . Its headquarters are located at Paris, France.
- Through the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage , adopted by UNESCO in 1972, it encourages the
 - identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- “Many Voices One World”, also known as the MacBride report, was a 1980 UNESCO publication written by the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems.
- It also comes up with a Global Education Monitoring report.

Specialised Agencies

- **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)**: Established by a General Assembly resolution in 1966 as an autonomous body within the UN, it became a specialised agency in 1985.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. As of January 2018, 167 States are Members of UNIDO.
- The mission of the UNIDO, as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.
- **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**: Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), with its headquarters in the Berne, Switzerland, is the second oldest international organisation worldwide. With its 192 member countries, it is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.
- **World Bank**: see the entry on Bretton Woods institutions below

WHO

- World Health Organisation (WHO): WHO began functioning with its Constitution coming into force on 7 April 1948 – now celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194 member states. It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- 71st World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2018
- India was the chair of 68th WHA in 2015-16
- The significant outcome of the 68th World Health Assembly is the adoption of a Global Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)
- Working through offices in more than 150 countries, WHO Secretariat staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people.
- WHO defines health as state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- Its Publications include the World Health Report, World Health Statistics etc.

UPSC 2020

- **Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. (150 words, 10 marks)**

Specialised Agencies

- **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO):** WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation.
- It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 191 member states. Its mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.
- Its mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO):** It is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 191 Member States and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organisation (IMO), which was founded in 1873.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later in 1951. The Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva, is headed by the Secretary-General. Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress.

Specialised agencies

- **World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO):** It is an agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts.
- UNWTO's membership includes 158 countries, 6 Associate Members and over 500 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.
- On 27 September 1970, Statutes of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) was adopted . From 1980 onwards, this day is celebrated as "World Tourism Day". It began functioning s the in 1975.
- In 2003, the UNWTO general council and the UN agreed to establish the WTO as a specialized agency of the UN. Its headquarters is in Madrid.

UN and India

- **Founding Member:** Since 1945
- **Peacekeeping:** Historically largest troop contributor. 43 mission participations. Currently third largest contributor
- **Decolonisation:** India was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on UN on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. India was also elected the first chair of the Decolonization Committee (Committee of 24) where its ceaseless efforts to put an end to colonialism are well on record.
- **Anti-Apartheid:** Key role against the regime In South Africa: In fact, India was the first country to raise the issue in the UN (in 1946) and played a leading role in the formation of a Sub-Committee against Apartheid set up by the General Assembly. When the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted in 1965, India was among the earliest signatories.
- **Terrorism:** With the objective of providing a comprehensible legal framework to counter terrorism India took the initiative to pilot a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in 1996 and continues to work for its early adoption
- **India has made its annual payment of \$30.54 million to the United Nations (UN) budget for the year 2023**
- **India's share is assessed at 1.044% of the total budget of \$3.217 billion. Although the share works out to \$33.592 million, the UN gives India a credit of \$3.052 million that it collects from its Indian employees in lieu of the income taxes they would have had to pay**
- **The UN's highest assessment for a country is 22%, which works out to \$707.897 million for the US. China follows the US with an assessment of 15.254%, or \$490.83 million. Britain, which has been overtaken by India in terms of the size of its economy, pays \$140.775 million, or 4.375% to be the fifth-largest contributor, with Japan and Germany taking the third and fourth positions, respectively.**

UN Peace Keeping

- Not explicitly mentioned in the UN charter
- UN Peacekeeping helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.
- Peacekeepers protect civilians, actively prevent conflict, reduce violence, strengthen security and empower national authorities to assume these responsibilities.
- It works within the mandates set by the UN Security Council and General Assembly.
- Peace keeping is coordinated through the secretariat.
- 55 peacekeeping operations around the world have, through the years, successfully completed their mandate.
- There are currently 14 peacekeeping operations led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

India and the United Nations

- **India strongly believes in the United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered as the most efficacious means for tackling today's global challenges.**
- **India's status as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 cemented its position within the UN system as a leading advocate of the concerns and aspirations of developing countries and the creation of a more equitable international economic and political order.**

A case for Reforms

- Since the end of the Cold War, India has been spearheading a move for reforms at the UN to make the world body more representative of the changing global realities while enhancing its credibility and effectiveness.
- In 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution. The resolution reflected three main complaints:
 - The Security Council no longer represents contemporary political realities.
 - Its decisions reflect only Western values and interests and are dominated by a few powers.
 - It lacks equitable representation
- In view of these growing demands for the restructuring of the UN, on 1 January 1997, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry into how the UN should be reformed. For instance how should the members of the Security Council be elected.
- UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 75/1 in 2020 also reiterated the commitment to reforms of the UN.

UN Reforms: Proposals

- **The following are just some of the criteria that have been proposed for new permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council. A new member, it has been suggested, should be:**
 - **A major economic power**
 - **A major military power**
 - **A substantial contributor to the UN budget**
 - **A big nation in terms of its population**
 - **A nation that respects democracy and human rights**
 - **country that would make the Council more representative of the world's diversity in terms of geography, economic systems, and culture.**

UN Reforms

- **A related issue was to change the nature of membership altogether. Some insisted, for instance, that the veto power of the five permanent members be abolished.**
- **Many perceived the veto to be in conflict with the concept of democracy and sovereign equality in the UN and thought that the veto was no longer right or relevant.**
- **As the UN completed 60 years of its existence, the heads of all the member-states met in September 2005 to celebrate the anniversary and review the situation.**

UN Reforms and India

- India is today at the forefront of efforts on UN reform, including expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and nonpermanent categories to reflect contemporary realities. In this regard it coordinates action with Brazil, Germany and Japan as part of the G-4.
- India supports an increase in the number of both permanent and non-permanent members. Its representatives have argued that the activities of the Security Council have greatly expanded in the past few years. The success of the Security Council's actions depends upon the political support of the international community.
- India has suggested that the UN reforms need to be “broad-based and all-encompassing” and the changes should not be restricted to its secretariat only.
- India has been a non permanent member of the Security Council 8 times -during 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12 and most recently during 2021-22. India served as the President of the Council in August 2021 and December 2022.
- at the core of India's call for reformed multilateralism, lies the reform of the UN Security Council, reflective of the contemporary realities of today
- The 193 member-United Nations adopted a consensus resolution in its 69th General Assembly on September 14, 2015 to move from Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) to a Text-Based Negotiations (TBN) process for reforming the United Nations Security Council.

India's Case of Permanent Membership of the Security Council

- **India itself also wishes to be a permanent member in a restructured UN. Following arguments can be put forth in Support of India's claim;**
 - India is the second most populous country in the world comprising almost one-fifth of the world population.
 - Moreover, India is also the world's largest democracy.
 - India has participated in virtually all of the initiatives of the UN.
 - Its role in the UN's peacekeeping efforts is a long and substantial one.
 - The country's economic emergence on the world stage is another factor that perhaps justifies India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council.
 - India has also made regular financial contributions to the UN and never faltered on its payments.
 - Its military strength and responsible behaviour in terms of nuclear proliferation also bolster its claims
- **India is aware that permanent membership of the Security Council also has symbolic importance.**
- **It signifies a country's growing importance in world affairs.**
- **This greater status is an advantage to a country in the conduct of its foreign policy: the reputation for being powerful makes one more influential.**

UPSC 2015

- **Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council.(12.5 Marks/ 200 Words)**



VISION IAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

Challenges

- **Despite India's wish to be a permanent veto-wielding member of the UN, some countries question its inclusion.**
- **Neighbouring, Pakistan, with which India has troubled relations, is not the only country that is reluctant to see India become a permanent veto member of the Security Council.**
- **Some countries, for instance, are concerned about India's nuclear weapons capabilities. These views find common cause in the coalition known as Uniting for Consensus or the Coffee club (1995), which also includes countries such as Italy and Argentina.**
- **P-5 members have adopted an ambiguous attitude towards the reform**
- **There is no consensus on candidates from Africa**

India's views on UN reforms: PM Modi in 2020

- The international community must ask if the UN is still relevant 75 years after its founding,
- despite the Organization's achievements, including the avoidance of a Third World War, there have since been many conflicts, and
- today's challenges are vastly different from those of the past.
- India's respect for the Organization is "unparalleled", however, Indians have long waited for reform
- There is a need for India to be included in the UN's decision-making structures.
- "stability in the United Nations and empowerment of the United Nations are essential for the welfare of the world"

The Permanent Court of Arbitration

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration, established convention of 1899, is an intergovernmental organization providing a variety of dispute resolution services to the international community. The 1899 convention was revised in 1907.
- The PCA has 121 Contracting Parties (States) which have acceded to one or both of the PCA's founding conventions.
- The PCA has a three-part organizational structure consisting of an Administrative Council that oversees its policies and budgets, a panel of independent potential arbitrators known as the Members of the Court, and its Secretariat, known as the International Bureau, headed by the Secretary-General.
- The PCA provides administrative support in international arbitrations involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.
- The PCA's functions are not limited to arbitration and also include providing support in other forms of peaceful resolution of international disputes, including mediation, conciliation, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).
- The PCA is available to provide administrative support in fact-finding commissions of inquiry involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.
- The Secretary-General of the PCA may be called upon to act as the appointing authority, or to designate another appointing authority, for the appointment of arbitrators under the PCA's Rules of Procedure, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, or other rules of procedure.
-

G-20

- G-20 the Group of Twenty was established in 1999 as a forum in which major advanced and emerging economies discuss global financial and economic matters
- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85 per cent of global gross domestic product and over 75 per cent of global trade.
- The objectives of the G20 are:
 - a) Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
 - b) To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and
 - c) To create a new international financial architecture.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- Since its inception, it has held annual Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings and more recently Summits of Heads of State.
- G20 was raised to the Summit level in 2008 to address the global financial and economic crisis of 2008.
- G-20 leaders Summits have been held in Washington in 2008 and in London and Pittsburgh in 2009.

G-20

- The G20 Presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time. Reflecting its nature as an informal political forum, the G20 does not have a permanent secretariat. Instead, the G20 president is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global economy.
- To ensure continuity, the presidency is supported by a “troika” made up of the current, immediate past and next host countries. The in 2022-23 the Troika constituted Indonesia, India and Brazil. Next Troika includes India, Brazil and South Africa.
- 2021 G20 summit took place in Rome Italy, and 2022 The Summit took place at Bali, Indonesia, India took over the presidency of the G20 in December 2022 and hosted the summit in September 2023. 2017 it was held in Hamburg Germany and in 2018 in Buenos Aires and in 2019 at Osaka, Japan. 2020 Saudi Arabia hosted it virtually.
- India had earlier hosted a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in 2002.
- The preparatory process for the G20 Summit is conducted through the established Sherpa and Finance tracks that prepare and follow up on the issues and commitments adopted at the Summits. Amitabh Kant was appointed India’s Sherpa for the G20 in July 2022.
- The Sherpas’ Track focuses on non-economic and financial issues, such as development, anti-corruption and food security, while addressing internal aspects such as procedural rules of the G20 process. The Sherpas carry out important planning, negotiation and implementation tasks continuously. The Finance Track focuses on economic and financial issues (Secretary, economic affairs).

Question- UPSC Preliminary Exam 2020

In which of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?

- a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey**
- b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand**
- c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam**
- b) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea**

G-77

- Established in 1964 by a group of 77 developing countries in the United Nations.
- Still in existence the G-77 aims to promote collective economic interests, mutual cooperation for development and negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system.
- The G77 is the largest intergovernmental grouping of developing countries in the UN. Established on 15 June 1964, the group today has 134 members including India.
- Pakistan took over the Chair of the group in 2022.
- The G-24 - The Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24) was established in 1971 by the Group of 77 (G-77) as one of its Chapters. It coordinates the position of developing countries on monetary and development issues in the deliberations and decisions of the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWI)

G-7

- Established in 1975 as G-5 (France, Germany, Japan, the UK, and the USA).
- Subsequently expanded as the G-7 to include Canada (1976) and Italy (1978) and the G-8 to include Russian Federation (1998).
- However Russia was ejected from the G8 political forum in March 2014 following the Russian annexation of Crimea, thus again becoming G-7.
- The G-7 conducts semi-formal collaboration on world economic problems.
- Government leaders meet in annual G-7 Summits, while Finance ministers and/or their leading officials periodically hold other consultations.
- The 2021 G-7 summit was hosted by UK at Cornwall, 2022 it took place in Schloss Elmau, Germany. The 2023 G-7 Summit was hosted by Japan at Hiroshima in May.

IMF and World Bank

- **The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were both created at an international conference convened in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States in July 1944.**
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are institutions in the United Nations system.**
- **They share the same goal of raising living standards in their member countries.**
- **Their approaches to this goal are complementary,**
 - with the IMF focusing on macroeconomic issues and
 - the World Bank concentrating on long-term economic development and poverty reduction
- **Both institutions include 189 member countries and have vast operations around the world.**

IMF

- **The IMF's mandate. The IMF promotes international monetary cooperation and provides policy advice and capacity development support to help countries build and maintain strong economies.**
- **The IMF also makes loans and helps countries design policy programs to solve balance of payments problems when sufficient financing on affordable terms cannot be obtained to meet net international payments.**
- **IMF loans are short and medium term and funded mainly by the pool of quota contributions that its members provide.**
- **IMF staff are primarily economists with wide experience in macroeconomic and financial policies.**
- **Key Publications: World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report.**
- **MD and Chair: Kristalina Georgieva since October 2019**
- **Board of Governors , consisting of one governor and one alternate governor from each member country**
- **Twenty-four of the governors serve on the International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC**
- **The day-to-day work of the IMF is overseen by its 24-member Executive Board**

Reforms

- **Quota:** A member country's quota determines its maximum financial commitment to the IMF, its voting power, and has a bearing on its access to IMF financing. When a country joins the IMF, it is assigned an initial quota in the same range as the quotas of existing members of broadly comparable economic size and characteristics.
- The largest member of the IMF is the United States, with a current quota (as of March 2017) of SDR82.99 billion 17.46 %, it has 16.51 % of Votes. The smallest member is Tuvalu, with a quota of SDR2.5 million.
- According the information on the IMF website (1 October 2023) India has a quota 13,114.4 Million SDR or 2.75 %. In terms of number of votes it corresponds to 132,603 or 2.63%
- Quotas are denominated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's unit of account. (U.S. dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling and the Chinese Renminbi).

Reforms

- **Though developing countries hold less than half the overall quota at the moment, with their rapidly increasing economic heft they have demanded a greater share — with limited success.**
 - The 15th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), adopted in 2020 did not increase the quota.
 - This follows the poor precedent set by the long delay in adoption in 2016 of the previous 14th GRQ (originally approved in 2010 and finally implemented in 2016). That had doubled the overall size of the quotas to \$659 billion or SDR477 billion (from \$339 billion or SDR 238.5 billion) while allotting an additional 6% of quotas to the developing world.
- **Dissatisfaction with lending and conditions:** The developing world is looking beyond the short-term crisis management tools that the IMF, as the sole international lender of last resort, has traditionally offered them for decades now — albeit in an unsatisfactory and politically biased way.
- **Leadership:** In 2011 the BRIC nations, issued a statement declaring that the tradition of appointing a European as managing director undermined the legitimacy of the IMF and called for the appointment to be merit-based
- **Competition and Alternatives:** With the rise of competing global institutions ready to meet the capital needs of the developing world, the patience of countries such as India may be tested more easily.
- **In 2023 the G20 appointed Expert group led by Larry Summers and N.K. Singh for suggesting reforms at the Multilateral development Banks.**
- **Singh and Summers argue that “multilateral development banks are the only institutions that provide the combination of expertise, staying power, low-cost financing, leverage, and knowledge-sharing capabilities needed to assist developing countries. But to help transform these countries' future, the MDBs must first transform themselves.”**

N.K Singh and Larry Summers Suggest the following:

- **First, the MDBs should embrace a triple mandate by adding global public goods (GPGs) to their current goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.**
 - This would mean fleshing out the policies and procedures needed to integrate their climate and development agendas. By clarifying and formally committing to these objectives, MDBs can better design and execute programs to address GPGs (such as climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, water security, and pandemic preparedness) rapidly and at scale.
- **Second, stakeholders should provide MDBs with the requisite resources.**
 - By our calculations, sustainable lending levels at the MDBs need to triple by 2030, rising to about \$400 billion annually. This includes grants and concessional finance for the poorest countries, non-concessional funding for creditworthy middle-income countries, and resources for mobilizing private finance.
- **Third, a coalition of funders (including governments, philanthropies, and the private sector) should establish a new “global challenges mechanism” that offers a range of financing options, such as guarantees, equity, and other risk-sharing instruments.**
 - This is needed to address a pervasive MDB shortcoming: the underuse of non-lending instruments (like guarantees) for sovereign and non-sovereign borrowers. Such tools have become especially relevant in today’s volatile economic climate.
- **Implementing our proposed agenda demands strong political leadership and the ability to stay the course. But we would point out that there is no other choice. The future of our planet and its people is at stake.**

The World Bank

- **The World Bank's mandate:** The World Bank promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to help countries reform certain sectors or implement specific projects—such as building schools and health centers, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment.
- World Bank assistance is generally long term and is funded both by member country contributions and through bond issuance.
- World Bank staff are often specialists on particular issues, sectors, or techniques.
- World Bank staff are often specialists on particular issues, sectors, or techniques.
- Member countries are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank.
- The governors delegate specific duties to 25 Executive Directors, who work on-site at the Bank.
- **PRESIDENT:** Ajai Banga, of the USA has been appointed as the new President of the Board in June 2023. Ajay Banga most recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organization with nearly 24,000 employees. Under his leadership, MasterCard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world.
- **Key Publications:** World Development Report, Global Economic Prospects, Doing Business Report.

Five Institutions, One Group

- The World Bank Group consists of five organizations:
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
- The International Development Association (IDA) provides interest-free loans — called credits — and grants to governments of the poorest countries.
- Together, IBRD and IDA make up the World Bank.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. It help developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing investment, mobilizing capital in international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments.

World Bank

- **The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** was created in 1988 to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. MIGA fulfills this mandate by offering political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders.
- **The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)** provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes.

The International Criminal Court

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.
- The treaty known as Rome Statute signed in 1998, effective since 2002, officially established the ICC.
- The court is unique as it was created by a treaty and not by the UN. The ICC tries individuals and not countries or organisations, for four crimes:
 - Genocide,
 - war crimes,
 - crime against humanity and
 - crime of aggression.
- It does not have retrospective powers.
- It has jurisdiction:
 - on the territory State parties and countries that have accepted the jurisdiction
 - In other countries if crime are committed by the national's of the state parties or the countries that have accepted the jurisdiction,
 - in other countries if crimes were referred to by the UNSC, pursuant to a resolution adopted under chapter VII of the UN charter.
- ICC does not replace national courts but complements them. As a court of last resort it only prosecutes cases only when the country is either unwilling or unable to prosecute
- The Rome Statute created Court, trust fund for victims, and Assembly of State Parties
- It has four organs- Presidency, Judicial divisions with 18 Judges divided in three division- pre trial , trial and appeals, Office of Prosecutor, Registry.
- the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations
- Countries such as India and the United States, are not members of the ICC.

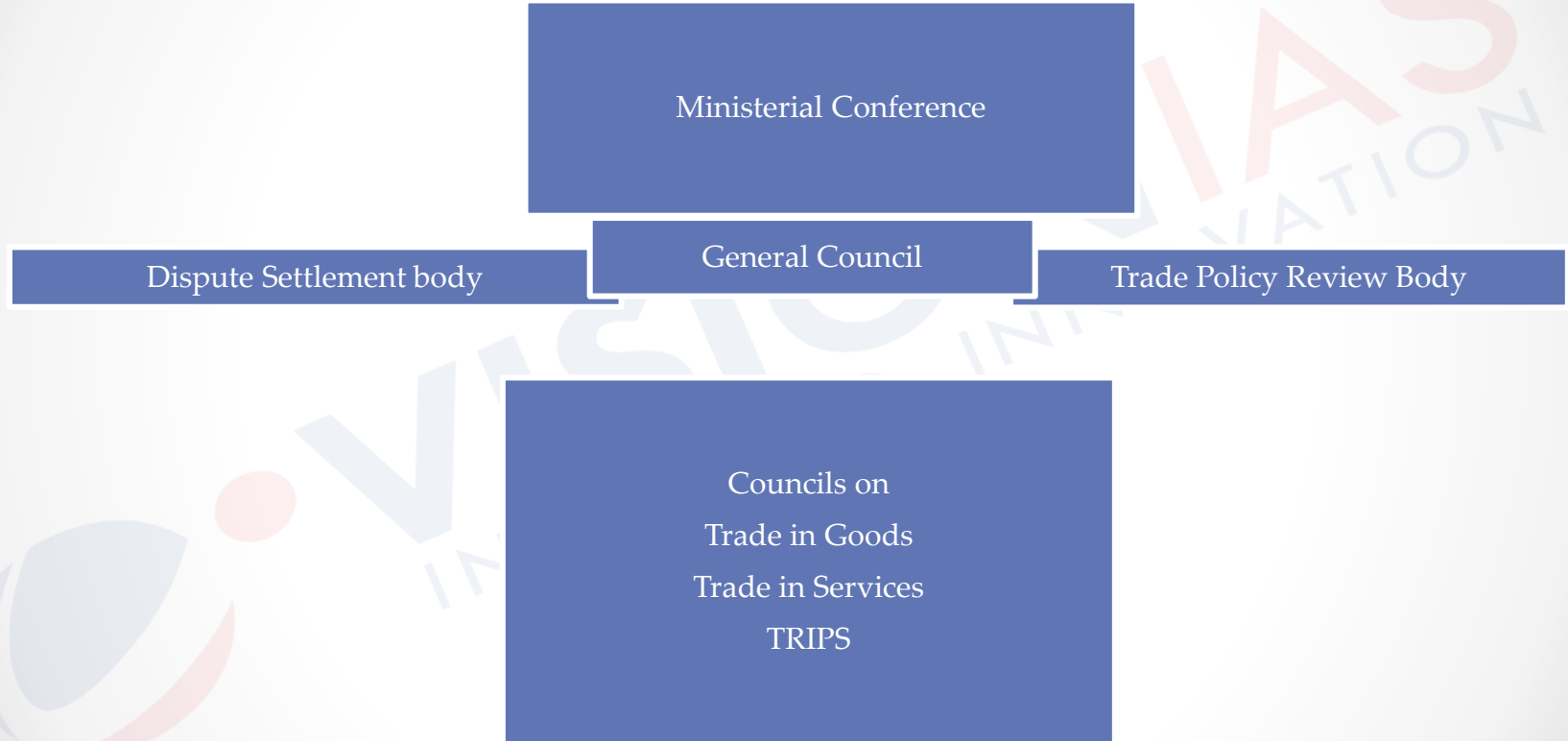
The WTO: Basics

- Formed in 1995 after the Uruguay Round to replace the replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. Its secretariat is in Geneva
- The WTO has 164 members representing 98 per cent of world trade. Afghanistan is the latest to join the organization in 2016. Over 20 countries are seeking to join the WTO.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- At the heart of the system — known as the multilateral trading system — are the WTO's agreements, negotiated and signed by a large majority of the world's trading nations, and ratified in their parliaments.

The WTO

- The WTO's top decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference (MC).
- The latest ministerial conference, MC-11, was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 10 to 13 December 2017. The Conference ended with a number of ministerial decisions, including on fisheries subsidies and e-commerce duties, and a commitment to continue negotiations in all areas.
- WTO members agreed on 23 February 2022 that the postponed 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12). It subsequently took place in June 2022 in Geneva.
- Below this is the General Council (normally ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva, but sometimes officials sent from members' capitals) which meets several times a year in the Geneva headquarters.
- The General Council also meets as the Trade Policy Review Body and the Dispute Settlement Body.

WTO structure



Director General

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) is the seventh Director-General of the WTO.
- She took office on 1 March 2021, becoming the first woman and the first African to serve as Director-General. Her term of office will expire on 31 August 2025.

The WTO mandate

- **There are a number of ways of looking at the WTO:**
 - It's an organization for liberalizing trade.
 - It's a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements.
 - It's a place for them to settle trade disputes.
 - It operates a system of trade rules.
- **Above all, it's a negotiating forum. Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments go, to try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other. The first step is to talk.**
- **The bulk of the WTO's current work comes from the 1986-94 negotiations called the Uruguay Round and earlier negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).**
- **The WTO is currently the host to new negotiations, under the “Doha Development Agenda” launched in 2001.**

Doha Development Round

- **The Doha Round is the latest round of trade negotiations among the WTO membership.**
- **Its aim is to achieve major reform of the international trading system through the introduction of lower trade barriers and revised trade rules.**
- **The work programme covers about 20 areas of trade. The Round is also known semi-officially as the Doha Development Agenda as a fundamental objective is to improve the trading prospects of developing countries.**
- **The Round was officially launched at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001.**
- **The Doha Ministerial Declaration provided the mandate for the negotiations, including on agriculture, services and an intellectual property topic, which began earlier.**
- **In Doha, ministers also approved a decision on how to address the problems developing countries face in implementing the current WTO agreements.**

Dispute Resolution

- **Resolving trade disputes is one of the core activities of the WTO.**
- **A dispute arises when a member government believes another member government is violating an agreement or a commitment that it has made in the WTO. The WTO has one of the most active international dispute settlement mechanisms in the world.**
- **Since 1995, over 500 disputes have been brought to the WTO and over 350 rulings have been issued.**

The Mechanism

- Settling disputes is the responsibility of the Dispute Settlement Body (the General Council in another guise), which consists of all WTO members.
- The Dispute Settlement Body has the sole authority to establish “panels” of experts to consider the case, and to accept or reject the panels’ findings or the results of an appeal. It monitors the implementation of the rulings and recommendations, and has the power to authorize retaliation when a country does not comply with a ruling.
- First stage: consultation (up to 60 days). Before taking any other actions the countries in dispute have to talk to each other to see if they can settle their differences by themselves. If that fails, they can also ask the WTO director-general to mediate or try to help in any other way.
- Second stage: the panel (up to 45 days for a panel to be appointed, plus 6 months for the panel to conclude). If consultations fail, the complaining country can ask for a panel to be appointed. The country “in the dock” can block the creation of a panel once, but when the Dispute Settlement Body meets for a second time, the appointment can no longer be blocked (unless there is a consensus against appointing the panel).

Appeal

- **Either side can appeal a panel's ruling. Sometimes both sides do so. Appeals have to be based on points of law such as legal interpretation — they cannot reexamine existing evidence or examine new issues.**
- **Normally appeals should not last more than 60 days, with an absolute maximum of 90 days. The Dispute Settlement Body has to accept or reject the appeals report within 30 days**
- **Each appeal is heard by three members of a permanent seven-member **Appellate Body** set up by the Dispute Settlement Body and broadly representing the range of WTO membership.**
- **Members of the Appellate Body have four-year terms. They have to be individuals with recognized standing in the field of law and international trade, not affiliated with any government.**
- **US has been blocking new appointments in this body leading to a crisis. Thus, in December 2019 the Appellate body became dysfunctional.**

UPSC 2014

- **WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.(12.5 Marks/ 200 words)**

UPSC 2016

- **“The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries.” Discuss in the Indian perspective.(12.5/200)**

UPSC 2018

- **What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15marks/ 250 words)**

TRIPS

- **"Intellectual property" refers to creations of the mind.**
- **Intellectual property rights can be defined as the rights given to people over the creations of their minds**
 - Copyright and rights related to copyright
 - Industrial property
- **The WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), negotiated during the 1986-94 Uruguay Round, is adhered by all member of the WTO and is effective since 1995.**
- **introduced intellectual property rules into the multilateral trading system for the first time.**

UNCITRAL

- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
- Established in 1966, it is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the United Nations with the general mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.
- It is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The issues dealt with by the WTO and UNCITRAL are different.
- The WTO deals with trade policy issues, such as trade liberalization, abolition of trade barriers, unfair trade practices or other similar issues usually related to public law,
- whereas UNCITRAL deals with the laws applicable to private parties in international transactions. As a consequence, UNCITRAL is not involved with "state-to-state" issues

Asian Development Bank

- Based in Manila, Philippines it opened on 19 December 1966
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific,
- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- India has been a member of ADB since its inception in 1966.

OECD

- ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
- Established in 1961 the OECD is based in Paris and has 38 members.
- It is a forum whose member countries describe themselves as committed to democracy and the market economy, providing a platform to compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practices, and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members.
- The majority of OECD Members are high-income economies ranked as "very high" in the Human Development Index, and are regarded as developed countries. Their collective population is 1.38 billion. In 2017, OECD Member countries collectively comprised 62.2% of global nominal GDP (US\$49.6 trillion) and 42.8% of global GDP (US\$54.2 trillion) at purchasing power parity. The OECD is an official United Nations observer.
- The OECD's origins date back to 1960, when 18 European countries plus the United States and Canada joined forces to create an organisation dedicated to economic development.
- Today its membership spans North and South America to Europe and Asia-Pacific. They include many of the world's most advanced countries but also emerging countries like Mexico, Chile and Turkey.
- In May 2007, the Council, meeting at ministerial level, invited the Secretariat to strengthen OECD cooperation with Brazil, India, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China and South Africa through "Enhanced Engagement" programmes.

BRICS

- **BRICS brings together five major emerging economies, comprising 43% of the world population, having 37% of the world GDP and 17% share in the world trade.**
- **The acronym BRIC was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs analyst Jim O'Neil.**
- **As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of G8-Outreach Summit in July 2006.**
- **The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in September 2006.**

BRIC to BRICS

- The 1st BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16 June 2009. The Yekaterinburg summit's final resolution outlined the group's preference for multilateralism and multipolar world, with UN playing a central role in dealing with global challenges and threats".
- It was agreed to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Minister's meeting in New York in September 2010.
- South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya on 14 April 2011.
- 11 BRICS Summits have taken place till 2019.
- The 8th BRICS Summit was hosted by India during its Chairmanship in 2016.
- the 9th Summit took Place in Xiamen, China in 2017 and
- 10th Summit took place in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2018 in July.
- 11th Summit took place in Brasilia, Brazil in November 2019

Recent BRICS Summit

- 11th Summit was held in Brasilia, Brazil, in November 2019.
- The theme of this summit was “Economic Growth for an innovative Future”.
- 12th BRICS summit was hosted by Russian Federation Virtually in 2020.
- The theme was “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”

13th BRICS Summit

- **13th BRICS Summit Was Hosted by India Virtually in 2021**
- **The theme chosen by India was “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.”**
- **Under India's Chair ship several new initiatives took place: These included the**
 - **first BRICS Digital Health Summit;**
 - **the first BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms;**
 - **a BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan;**
 - **an Agreement on cooperation in field of remote-sensing satellites;**
 - **a virtual BRICS vaccine Research & Development Centre;**
 - **BRICS Alliance on Green Tourism,**

13th Summit 2021

- Highlighting the leading role that BRICS countries can play in the post-COVID global recovery, Prime Minister called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.
- Elaborating on these themes, Prime Minister stressed the need for accelerating 'build-back' by enhancing speed and accessibility of vaccination, creating 'resilience' by diversifying pharma and vaccine production capacities beyond the developed world, fostering 'innovation' by creatively using digital tools for public good, ensuring reform of multilateral institutions to enhance their 'credibility', and promoting 'sustainable' development by articulating a common BRICS voice on environmental and climate issues.
- The leaders also discussed important regional and global issues, including recent developments in Afghanistan. There was convergence of views on the threat posed by growth of terrorism and extremism, and all BRICS partners agreed to accelerate implementation of the BRICS Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism.
- At the conclusion of the Summit, the leaders adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'.

Summits

- **14th BRICS summit Was Hosted by China in 2022 virtually. Theme of the 14th BRICS Summit was “Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development.”**
- **15th BRICS summit was hosted by South Africa at Johannesburg in August 2023. The theme for the 15th BRICS Summit was “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.**
- **The 16th Summit would be Hosted by Brazil in 2024.**

New Development Bank

- During the sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014), the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).
- In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.
- Fortaleza Declaration provided that:
 - The Bank shall have an initial authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion.
 - The initial subscribed capital shall be US\$ 50 billion, equally shared among founding members.
 - The first chair of the Board of Governors shall be from Russia.
 - The first chair of the Board of Directors shall be from Brazil.
 - The first President of the Bank shall be from India.
 - The headquarters of the Bank shall be located in Shanghai.
 - The New Development Bank Africa Regional Center shall be established in South Africa concurrently with the headquarters.

New Development Bank

- More than the establishment of the NDB, the Fortaleza Declaration is remarkable for adoption of **‘one-nation one-vote’** prescription for the proposed bank.
- In comparison the Bretton-Woods institutions — the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — have structures that aren’t equitable, to say the least.
- Bank’s Articles of Agreement specify that all members of the United Nations could be members of the bank, however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.
- financing is delinked from the policy reforms and conditions that the traditional institutions are known for
- The inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the NDB was chaired by Russia and held on the eve of the Ufa Summit on 7 July 2015, when the Bank formally came into existence as a legal entity. During the meeting, the appointment of the President, Mr. K.V. Kamath, as well as four Vice Presidents and the Board of Directors took place.
- With the Headquarters being setup in Shanghai China, on 27 February 2016, the NDB became fully operational.
- It aims to reach between \$10 billion and 15 billion of loans by 2021.
- The creation of the NDB happened in the context of a real and continuing power shift in the international system from the developed industrialized world towards emerging market economies.

Objectives of the NDB

The main objectives of NDB operations are:

- **Fostering development of member countries**
- **Supporting economic growth**
- **Promoting competitiveness and facilitating job creation**
- **Building a knowledge sharing platform among developing countries**

To fulfill its purpose, the Bank will support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

Contingency Relief Arrangement (CRA).

- The Durban summit (2013) announced the setting up of a US\$100 billion contingency relief arrangement (CRA).
- In 2015 it was established
- China is the largest contributor with US\$ 41 billion, while Brazil, India & Russia contribute US\$ 18 billion each and South Africa contributes the remaining US\$ 5 billion.
- The aim of CRA would be to “forestall short term liquidity pressures, provide mutual support & further strengthen financial stability” of these countries.
- The BRICS CRA is expected to serve the needs of emerging economy in boosting access to additional foreign exchange reserves, should such situation arise.
- In 2016 it was declared operational

India's Approach

- **India hosted the 8th BRICS Summit during its Chairmanship from 15-16 October 2016 in Goa. The theme of India's BRICS Chairmanship was Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.**

During India's BRICS Chairmanship, five-pronged approach:

- **(i) Institution building to further deepen, sustain and institutionalise BRICS cooperation;**
- **(ii) Implementation of the decisions from previous Summits;**
- **(iii) Integrating the existing cooperation mechanisms;**
- **(iv) Innovation, i.e., new cooperation mechanisms; and**
- **(v) Continuity, i.e., continuation of mutually agreed existing BRICS cooperation mechanisms.**
- **In short, the Indian approach towards its BRICS Chairmanship could be captured by 'IIIC or I4C'.**

Significance and Challenges

- While some are skeptical about the BRICS formation, there is no doubt that this group of countries along with a number of others at similar levels of development is playing an increasingly important role in the global economy.
- The contribution of BRICS countries to global GDP has increased from 8% in 2000 to 24% in 2017. Being home to 43% of the world's population, three of the BRICS economies are ranked in the top 10 by GDP size, namely China, India and Brazil (9th).

Many challenges lie ahead for the BRICS

- Each of these emerging economies are presently on divergent growth paths, which in turn translate into differing priorities and the lack of a unified agenda.
- Bilateral Frictions between India and China also present a challenge in recent times
- The growing international criticism of Russia on Ukraine issue also creates perception problems.
- Increasing global polarization between Russia, China and the West puts strain on the BRICS.

Going Forward

- This is why overcoming individual ambitions is a prerequisite if the trends toward deepening through institutionalization are to actually materialize.
- In that sense, it makes more sense for the BRICS to subscribe to a well-defined economic scope
- Since these five countries cumulatively hold considerable weight in global economics and politics, their continuing engagement serves well for stable growth prospects in the regions they encompass.

The AIIB

- **The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.**
- **Headquartered in Beijing, it commenced operations in January 2016 and has now grown to 93 approved members from around the world.**
- **The Bank has an authorized capital of USD 100 billion. China is the largest shareholder with 26.06 per cent voting shares in the bank.**
- **India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia 5.93 per cent and Germany with 4.5 per cent.**
- **It lent \$1.7 billion in 2016, which increased to \$2.5 billion in 2017.**
- **India is the first country where the Bank has committed more than \$1 billion of financing**

UPSC 2014

- **India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India.(12.5 marks/ 200 words)**

IBSA

- **IBSA is a unique Forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges. All three countries are developing, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious nations.**
- **The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia on 6 June 2003 and issued the Brasilia Declaration.**
- **Cooperation in IBSA is on three fronts:**
 - **First, as a forum for consultation and coordination on global and regional political issues, such as, the reform of the global institutions of political and economic governance, WTO/Doha Development Agenda, climate change, terrorism etc.;**
 - **second, trilateral collaboration on concrete areas/projects, through fourteen working groups and six People-to-People Forums, for the common benefit of three countries; and**
 - **third, assisting other developing countries by taking up projects in the latter through IBSA Fund.**
- **IBSA is a an example of the desirability and feasibility of South-South cooperation beyond the conventional areas of exchange of experts and training. IBSA success in contributing to discourse on global issues also shows the importance of engaging with the countries of the South.**

IBSA- structure

Joint Working Groups

- **Joint Working Groups to promote sectoral cooperation have been established. There are 14 Joint Working Groups in areas, Transport; Health; Education; Defence; Science & Technology; Trade & Investment; Culture; Agriculture; Energy; Public Administration and Governance, Revenue Administration, Human Settlement, Environment and Social Development.**

People-to-People Forums

- **There are six People-to-People Forums under IBSA. These are, Parliamentary Forum, Women's Forum, Academic Forum, Local Governance Forum, Business Forum, and Editors' Forum. There is also a Tri-nation Forum on MSME.**

Focal Points

- **Senior Officials from the Foreign Offices of the three countries dealing with IBSA are the designated Focal Points; Secretary (West), assisted by Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, is the IBSA Focal Point for India. Focal Points meet once a year for a standalone meeting and also meet prior to the Trilateral Commission.**

Trilateral Commission

- **The Brasilia Declaration established a Trilateral Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers. The Commission meets regularly; the first meeting of the Trilateral Commission was held in New Delhi on 4 - 5 March 2004. In addition, Foreign Ministers meet regularly before every IBSA Summit as well as on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.**

Organizational Structure

Summits

- **Five IBSA Summit have been held so far: 1st IBSA Summit in Brasilia on 13 September 2006; the 2nd in South Africa on 17 October 2007, the 3rd in New Delhi on 15 October 2008, 4th in Brasilia on 15 April 2010 and the 5th in Pretoria on 18 October 2011.**

IBSA Fund

- **An innovative work of IBSA is the establishment of IBSA Facility Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries. An annual amount of US \$ 1 million is contributed by each IBSA member country.**
- **IBSA Fund received the 2010 MDG Award for South-South cooperation on 17 September 2010 in New York recognizing the work of the three countries in using innovative approaches to share development experiences in other parts of the world.**

IBSA Business Forum

- **An IBSA Business Forum was launched in Cape Town in March 2005. From India, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM are represented on the Council; CII coordinates India's participation.**
- **IBSA has also initiated a trilateral Naval Exercise since 2008**

The Commonwealth

- **1931-1949 British Commonwealth.** 1949 'London Declaration' agreed that all member countries would be "freely and equally associated". It also meant the adjective 'British' was removed. The declaration stated the Commonwealth members were "free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress".
- It has 53 members, prominent ones including India, Canada, Australia, The UK etc.
- The year 1965 marked a watershed in the Commonwealth with the setting up of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- The Commonwealth is represented by the secretariat at the UN General Assembly as an observer. The Secretary-General is elected by Commonwealth heads of government for a maximum of two four year terms.
- In 1971, the CHOGM process was set up and as the meetings of the Commonwealth heads of governments, which until then only took place in the UK, travelled out of London. The first CHOGM was held in Singapore in 1971
- The Commonwealth has no written constitution, members reach decisions through consultations.

Commonwealth

- The 14 points Singapore Declaration dedicated the members to the principles of world peace, liberty, human rights and equality.
- A CHOGM has a two tier format - a) Executive Sessions, where the the heads of government interact in a more formal manner and they make statements, and are accompanied by ministers or officials, and (b) a Retreat, where the heads of government interact informally with their counterparts without the presence of any aides.
- India, the Commonwealth's largest member state, has once hosted CHOGM. New Delhi was the venue for the seventh CHOGM in 1983.
- India is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget but has played an important role in the Commonwealth's important landmarks
- Latest Summit of the CHOGM, was held in London in April 2018.
- It issued statements on the Blue Charter on Ocean Governance and on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment
- Commitment to raise intra-Commonwealth trade to \$2 trillion by 2030.

Commonwealth

- In the context of BREXIT commonwealth has seen renewed interest by the UK and India is being seen as the key country to reinvigorate this body.
- It is a forum that provides leadership opportunity to India and also strneghten its outreach to small island nations who form bulk of the membership.
- The Commonwealth remains a platform for development aid, democratic values and educational opportunities,
- but its relevance is unlikely to increase unless it adopts a more egalitarian and inclusive attitude on the question of leadership and immigration

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- It was established at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960
- OPEC Secretariat is located in Vienna, Austria, it also functions as the Headquarters of the Organization. The Secretariat was originally established in 1961 in Geneva, Switzerland. In April 1965 it was shifted to Vienna.
- 81.89% of the world's proven oil reserves are located in OPEC Member Countries and 48% gas reserves,
- OPEC generates approximately 44 percent of the world's total crude oil production, and approximately 21 percent of the world's natural gas production.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- OIC is inter-governmental organization with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. It was established in 1969.
- Its headquarters is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavours to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- OIC provides India with a platform to engage with the Muslim world
- It could Strengthen India's interests in areas ranging from energy security to counter-terrorism cooperation
- Relations with important member countries such as Saudi Arabia and UAE is key.
- In this context the special invitation to India as a guest of honour in the 2019 meeting of the foreign ministers was of special significance, as traditionally the OIC has been seen as favorably inclined towards Pakistan.

The World Economic Forum

- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
- The World Economic Forum provides a platform for the world's 1,000 leading companies to shape a better future. As a membership organization, the Forum engages businesses in projects and initiatives – online and offline – to address industry, regional and systemic issues.
- Publications: Global Competitiveness Index, The Inclusive Development Index 2018, Global Gender gap Report, Human Capital Report

Questions

- **The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. 2013/ 200 words/ 10 marks**
- **India has recently signed to become a founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. 2014/ 200 / 12.5/**
- **What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. 2017/ 150/10**
- **What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? 2018/250/15**