



TARGET PRELIMS 2024

BOOKLET-34

INTERNATIONAL BODIES-4

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1. UN BODIES

1) CORRECTION IN PREVIOUS BOOKLET

1) **World Economic Situation and Prospect Report, 2024 -> By UN DESA** (Not by World Bank)

2) **IMF Membership:**

Note: Currently IMF has 190 members. Except Andorra, other 189 member are members of IBRD.

Note: Andorra became 190th member of IMF in Oct 2020.

2) WMO AND ARCTIC AMPLIFICATION

- A recent study has shown that Arctic Warming is disproportionately high
 - » Compared to the 1991-2020 average, the temperature anomaly is predicted to be more than three times as large as the global mean anomaly when averaged over the next five northern hemisphere extended winters.
 - » **Arctic Amplification** is a widely recognized phenomenon in which human-caused global warming is amplified at the poles, causing the Arctic to warm more quickly than the rest of the globe.
 - » **Multiple factors** enhance warming at high latitudes, but the main one is that warming reduces snow and ice, which would otherwise reflect incoming sunlight. Arctic temperatures have risen at least twice as fast as global temperatures, possibly even faster, since the year 2000

2. OTHER UN BODIES

3) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

- IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization working in the **field of migration**. It is dedicated towards promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It works closely with governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners.
 - It was initially established in 1951 to help resettle people displaced by World War II.
 - But over the years it has expanded its scope and presently has 175 member states and 8 observer states.
 - **Is India a member?** - Yes
- **Headquarter:** Geneva
- **Note:** IOM was not originally a UN Body.
 - In 2016, IOM Director General William Lacy Swing and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon signed a document formally linking IOM to the UN. This document established IOM as a "related organization" on the UN, giving the UN for the first time, an explicit migration mandate.
 - The signing signaled the culmination of a process that began in June 2016 when IOM member states unanimously endorsed the process to join the UN.
 - The signature of the historic agreement brings the leading global migration agency, IOM, into the UN - the culmination of a 65-year relationship.

- **Key Initiatives:**
 - The IOM supported the creation of the Global Compact for Migration in 2018.
 - The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) is an intergovernmental negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the UN, that describe itself as covering "all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner"
 - IOM also coordinates the UN Network on Migration which include UNHCR, WFP, and UNDP, among others.

A) AMY POPE OF USA HAS BECOME THE FIRST WOMEN HEAD OF IOM (MAY 2023)

B) PROJECT PRAYAS (DEC 2023)

- Project PRAYAS (Promoting Regular & Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals) was launched by IOM in partnership with India's Ministry of External Affairs.
- It focuses on facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration for Indian workers and students.
- IOM India says that PRAYAS is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiative for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration.

C) WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

- It is a biennial report.

3. IMPORTANT UN CONVENTIONS

4) VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (VCDR), 1961

- **Introduction**
 - VCDR of 1961 is an international treaty that defines the framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries. It specifies the privileges of a diplomatic mission that enable diplomats to perform their functions without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country.
 - This forms the legal basis of diplomatic immunity.
 - Its articles are considered cornerstone of modern international relations.
- **History**
 - The first attempt to codify diplomatic immunity into diplomatic law occurred in Congress of Vienna in 1815.
 - The present treaty was adopted on 18 April 1961, by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held in Vienna, Australia and first implemented in April 1964.

- The same conference also adopted the Optional protocol concerning the acquisition of Nationality, the Optional Protocol Concerning the Compulsory settlement of Disputes, the Final Act and four resolutions annexed to the act.

- **Key Provisions of VCDR**

- » **Persona Non Grata**
- » **Inviolable Premise**
- » **Archives and document inviolable.**
- » **Free Communication**
- » **Diplomatic Immunities:** Diplomats must not be liable to any form of arrest or detention. They are immune from civil or criminal prosecution, though the sending country may waive this right under Article 32. (Article 29)
 - Under Article 34, they are exempt from most taxes, and under Article 36 they are exempt from most customs duties.
- » **Actions not covered by diplomatic immunity:** professional activity outside diplomat's official functions. (Article 31.1c)
- » **Extension of (most) protection to family members:**

- **Optional Protocols**

- » In the same year that the protocol was adopted, two amendment protocols were added. Countries may ratify the treaty without necessarily ratifying the optional protocol.
 - Concerning Acquisition of Nationality:** The head of the mission, the staff of the mission, and their families, shall not acquire the nationality of the receiving country.
 - Concerning compulsory settlement of dispute :** Dispute arising from the interpretation of this treaty may be bought before the ICIJ

A) INDIA CANADA RIFT ON DIPLOMATIC ROW

- **India Sought Parity in number of diplomats:**
 - » India asked Canada to downsize its diplomatic staff in India. India has 20 diplomats in Canada and sought a similar number of Canadian diplomats in India.
 - India's move followed the Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's remarks in Canadian Parliament in Sep 2023 who claimed a potential Indian link to the Killing of pro-Khalistan separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada earlier this year. India has rejected this claim and have called it "absurd" and "motivated".
- In Oct 2023, **Canada announced recalling of 41 diplomats and their families**. It was done as the diplomats were in danger getting their immunity stripped on an arbitrary date.
 - » Canadian foreign minister has said that the "unilateral revocation of the diplomatic privilege and immunity is contrary to international law" and is violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
 - » **US and UK backed Canada**, stating that Diplomats are required to be on the ground to resolve differences. Notably, the two countries are also part of the **Five Eyes Intelligence-sharing alliance** with Canada, which also include Australia and New Zealand.
- **What did India say?**

- » Official statement of MEA has clarified that India hasn't violated any international legal principle. It has adhered to Article 11.1 of the VCDR based on two-pronged reasons.
 - i. Firstly, Canada has massive number of Diplomatic staff in India as compared to its counterpart.
 - ii. Secondly, Canadian personnel have been continuously interfering in India's internal affairs.
 - » Article 11 says that in the absence of specific agreement, as to the size of the mission, the receiving state may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be reasonable and normal, having regard to circumstances and conditions in the receiving state and to the needs of the particular mission.
- **Has this demand for parity occurred in the past?**
- » Around 2017, Russia and USA also asked for each other's diplomats to be recalled over the principle of parity and reduced the presence of their missions.

5) VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS (VCCR)

- **Consular Access** simply means that a consul (diplomat or other official) will have a meeting with the prisoner who is in the custody of another country. Though this meeting, the diplomat confirms the identity of the individual and ensures good treatment in the custody. Depending on the meeting, the official reports back to her/his country and the next step is initiated (providing legal support etc.)
- **Background to VCCR, 1963: What was the need?**
- **What is Vienna Convention on Consular Relations?**
 - VCCR of 1963 is an international treaty that defines the framework for consular relations between independent states. It was adopted in United Nation Conference on Consular Relations. It came into force in 1967.
 - A consul normally operates out of an embassy in another state, and performs two functions:
 - i. Protecting the interests of countrymen in the host country
 - ii. Furthering the commercial and economic relations between the two states.
 - A consul is not necessarily a diplomat, they work out of the same premise, and under this treaty they are afforded most of the same privileges, including a variation of diplomatic immunity called consular immunity.
 - The treaty has been ratified by 179 countries.
- **Key provisions of the treaty:**
 - **Key functions** of a consul are listed, protecting in the receiving state the interest of the sending states and its nationals, as well as developing commercial, economic, cultural, and scientific relations between the two states. (Article 5)
 - **Declaring persona non-grata**:
 - **Non-intrusion and protection**:
 - **Freedom of communication**
 - **Article 36**:

- It provides that when a national of foreign country is arrested or detained on criminal or immigration charges, the detainees must be advised of the right to have the detainees consulate to be notified and further detainee has the right to regular consultation with consular officials during detention and any trial.

Membership

There are 179 members to the convention including the most UN member states and UN observer states Holy See and State of Palestine.

Optional Protocol

The Conference (UNCCR) also adopted Optional Protocol Concerning Acquisition of Nationality, the Optional Conference concerning the compulsory settlement of disputes, the Final Act and the three-resolution annexed to the act.

6) TIR CONVENTION (THE CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS)

- **Introduction**
 - » It is a **UN Convention** (adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe - UNECE) that allows goods to be sealed in compartments and requires no need for physical checking of the contents, enabling shipments to pass through countries without being opened at the borders.
 - It came into effect in March 1978.
 - » **TIR** stands for "**Transports Internationaux Routiers**" or "International Road Transport".
 - » **Note:** Custom authorities remain entitled to perform inspections whenever they suspect irregularities or randomly.
 - » The convention applies to transport with road vehicles, a combination vehicles and containers provided that some part of the transport includes road transport.
 - This reduces cross border transport time by upto 80% and reduces costs by upto 38 percent.
- **India accessed to the convention in 2017**

4. NON-UN BODIES

1) WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

- **Introduction**
 - WTO was set up under Marrakesh Treaty (1994) as a result of GATT's Uruguay Round (1986-1994) of negotiation. It came into being in 1995 and is successor of GATT, which in turn was established in the wake of the second world war.
 - It is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trades between nations.
 - **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Objective**
 - The **main objective** of the WTO is to ensure that **trade flows as smoothly, freely and predictably** as possible. It does this by facilitating the administration, implementation and operation of multilateral trade agreements and negotiations.
 - Further, WTO **handles trade dispute** through its Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).
 - It also helps in reviewing national trade policies. It provides technical assistance to developing countries on trade policy issues and through training programs.
- **Structure**
 - The WTO has 166 members (166 members (Comoros and Timor Leste joined in MC13 (Feb2024)), accounting for 96% of the world trade. Around 25 others are negotiating members.
 - **Ministerial Conference**
 - Top decision-making body
 - Meet atleast once every two years
 - **General Council**
 - Below ministerial council
 - Includes ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva, but sometimes officials sent from members' capitals) which meets several times a year in the Geneva headquarter.
 - The general council also meets as **Trade Policy Review Body** and Dispute Settlement Body.
 - **Goods Council, Services Council, TRIPS council** are at the next level and report to General Council.
- **Basic Principles used in WTO Trading System**
 1. **Trade without Discrimination (1. Most Favored Nation 2. National Treatment)**
 - a. **Most Favored Nation (MFN): treating other people equally.**
 - Under this country cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners.
 - Grant someone a special favor (such as lower customs duty rate for one of their products) and you have to do the same for all other WTO members.
 - In general MFN means that every time a country lowers a trade barrier or opens up a market, it has to do so for the same goods or services from all its trading partners.
 - It is the first article of GATT, which governs trade in goods.

- **Exceptions -**
 - FTAs, developing countries, unfairly traded products, national security (Article XXI(b)).

b. National Treatment: Treating foreigners and locals equally.

- Imported and locally produced goods should be treated equally - at least after the foreign goods have entered the market. The same should apply to foreign and domestic services.

2. Free Trade: gradually, through negotiation

- a. **Goal:** Eventually removing custom duties (or tariffs) and measures such as import bans or quotas that restrict quantities selectively. From time-to-time red tape and exchange rate policies have also been discussed.
- b. **Negotiations**
 - Under GATT from 1947-48 to 1994 (8 rounds of negotiation)
 - **Now, Doha Round of Negotiation, the 9th round** is underway.

3. Predictability: Through binding and transparent policies

- Binding and transparent policy provides predictability which gives businesses a clearer view of their future opportunities. With stability and predictability investment is increased.

4. Promoting Fair Competition

- Many of the WTO agreements aim to support fair competition: in agriculture, intellectual property, services, for example.

1. Encouraging Development and Economic Reform

- For developing countries' need of flexibility, WTO agreements allow for special assistance and trade concessions.

A) WTO AGREEMENTS:

Uruguay round resulted into 20 agreements on which WTO was founded.

- Some of the Important Agreements were WTO Agreement, Agreement on Agriculture, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Trade Related Aspects of Investment Measures, General Agreement on Trade in Services

WTO AGREEMENT

- WTO was established through this agreement. It is an umbrella agreement and other agreements are annex to this agreement.

AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE (AOA)

- It is aimed at establishing a fair and market-oriented agriculture trading system.
- It is based on **Special and Differentiated Treatment**.
- The agreement also has a **Special Safeguard Mechanism**

- This provides options to countries to impose additional duties on imported products when there is surge in imports or products are imported at lower price.
- The **Main component of AOA** are:

A. Market Access

- It calls for provision of access to imported agriculture goods in the member countries.
- There are two provisions - one is tariffication and Tariff reduction and another one is Minimum market Access.

B. Domestic Support or Domestic Subsidies

▪ **Introduction**

- Under WTO, subsidies are identified as boxes which are given the colors of traffic lights: Green (permitted), Amber (slow down - i.e., be reduced), red (forbidden).
- In Agriculture, things are, as usual, more complicated.
- The Agriculture Agreement has no red box, although domestic support exceeding the reduction commitment levels in the amber box is prohibited; and there is a blue box for subsidies that are tied to programmes that limit production. There are also exemptions for developing countries (sometimes called an "S&D box", including provisions in Article 6.2 of the agreement).

▪ **Amber Box**

- All domestic support measures considered to distort the production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box.
 - These include measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities.
- This support is subjected to limits:
 - 5% of agricultural production for developed countries
 - 10% of agricultural production for developing countries
- Countries that had larger subsidies than the limits at the beginning of post-Uruguay Round reform period are committed to reduce.

▪ **India's Current Situation and Stand:**

- Under WTO law, MSP based subsidy is counted as a trade-distorting subsidy, and if given beyond the permissible limit, breaches WTO law. Currently, India has a temporary relief due to a 'peace clause' which bars countries from bringing legal challenges against price support-based procurement for food security purposes.
- However, a permanent solution to this issue is still not in offing.

▪ **Current Negotiations:** Key points that are being discussed are:

- How much further these subsidies should be reduced, and whether limit should be set for specific products rather than continuing with a single overall "Aggregate" limits.

- **Blue Box**

- This is the '**amber box with conditions**' - conditions designed to reduce distortion.
 - Blue box supports are subsidies that are tied to programmes that limit production by imposing production quotas or requiring farmers to set aside part of their land.
- Any support that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit production.
- At present, there is **no limit on spending** on the blue box subsidies.

- **Green Box**

- Green box subsidies must not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion. They have to be government funded (not by charging consumers higher prices) and must not involve price support.
- These include programs that are not targeted at a particular product, and include direct income support for farmers that are not related to current production level or prices.
- They also include environmental protection and regional development program.
- They are **allowed without limits**, provided they comply with policy specific criteria.
- The green box is defined in Annex 2 of the Agriculture Agreement.
 - E.g. Agriculture research, Training, Pest Control etc.

- **Special and Differentiated Treatment Box (S&D Box) Subsidies**

- Not available to developed countries.
- These include assistance which are essential for rural development and upliftment of poor farmers. These are government assistance to encourage agriculture and rural development which is in nature of rural development program of developing countries, agriculture investment subsidies which are generally available to low-income or resource poor producers in developing countries.

- **Agriculture Subsidies and India:**

- India has continuously come under attack from the US and other western countries for its MSP regime. India along with China have also retaliated regularly by demanding US and EU to give up their farm subsidies first which they have strategically covered under Green Box subsidy.
- India claims that it is unnecessarily targeted to deflect attention from the enormous subsidy package that developed markets such as US and EU offer in form of Green box subsidies. India have complained that green box subsidies also distort global trade by making agricultural production cheaper in developed markets.
- Further, India is demanding exemption for its food security initiatives which is another bone of contention at WTO.

- The above difference has become a **major factor for lack of progress in the WTO negotiation process.**

C. Export Subsidies

- Subsidies that subsidize exports are called export subsidies. These are direct subsidies given by government to producers of agricultural products against exports.
- Targets were set for its reduction with time frame both for developed and developing countries

B) SOME RECENT UPDATES

WTO PANEL RULES AGAINST INDIA IN IT TARIFFS DISPUTE WITH EU, OTHERS (APRIL 2023)

- **Background of the case:** In 2019, the EU challenged India's introduction of import duties of between 7.5% and 20% for a wide range of IT products, such as mobile phones and its components, as well as integrated circuits, saying they exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan filed similar complaints the same year.
- **WTO panel verdict:**
 - A world trade panel ruled that India has violated global trading rules in dispute with EU, Japan and Taiwan. It has recommended India to bring such measures into conformity with its obligations.
- **India's Response:**
 - If India decides to appeal, the case will sit in legal purgatory since the WTO's appeal bench is no longer functioning due to US opposition to judge appointments.

C) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AT WTO

- **Introduction**
 - The eight yearlong Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-1994) also resulted in the creation of the Dispute Settlement System (DSS) and the adoption of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) to govern the trade disputes between member states.
- The DSS process **comprises three stages:**
 1. Consultations between parties
 2. Adjudication by panels, or the Appellate body (if appealed);
 3. Implementation of the ruling, including the possibility of countermeasures if the losing party doesn't implement the ruling.
- WTO's **General Council** (which have representatives (ambassadors or equivalent) from all member states) also convenes as the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to deal with disputes between member countries.

- It is a political body and has been established to administer rules and procedure of the DSU and has been tasked with fulfilling various functions.
- It has the authority to establish dispute settlement panels, refer matter for arbitration, adopt panel, appellate body, and arbitration reports, maintain surveillance over the implementation of recommendations and rulings contained in such reports, and authorize suspension of concession in the event of non-compliance with those recommendations and rulings.
- **Appellate Body:**
 - It is a standing body of seven persons that hear appeals from reports issued by panels in disputes brought by WTO members. It can uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusion of a panel. The AB has its seat in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - **DSS rulings and recommendations are nearly automatically adopted** as it follows a "negative consensus based procedure" for establishing panels, and adopting panel and AB reports.
 - **Note:** All other decisions such as appointment of panel or appellate body (AB) members, are taken through positive consensus mechanism.

US' WITHHOLDING OF APPELLATE BODY APPOINTMENT AND ITS IMPACT

- **Why new members are not being appointed?**
 - **What concerns have USA raised?**
 - The Appellate body has treated USA in an unfair manner and overstepped vis-a-vis its mandate.
 - USA also want an unconventional set of reforms that aim to increase the control of member states over DSS decisions, thereby allowing them to bilaterally modify, review and delete parts of the rulings.
- **Other concerns related to DSS.**
 - **Inability to effectively deal with complex cases** involving trade obligations and human health, environment, sustainable development and technology on trade and commerce.
 - Other criticisms include the process being costly, too "legalistic" in its interpretation of obligations (without accommodating the interests of developing countries) and it is lengthy.
- **Adverse Impact of dysfunctional Dispute Settlement mechanism of WTO** -> Increase in number of pending disputes; threatens entire rule-based trading regime -> difficult for smaller countries to hold larger countries accountable; Reduces relevance of WTO; Hamper trade including food trade -> exacerbate hunger and erodes food producer's income; Unresolved trade dispute -> political tensions.

D) REPORT: WORLD TRADE REPORT

- An annual publication that aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy, and multilateral trading system.

- **Key Highlights of World Trade Report, 2023**
 - The report examines how re-globalization - or increased international cooperation - could address the three major challenges facing today's global economy: national and economic security, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability.

E) WORLD TRADE STATISTICAL REVIEW

The report provides a detailed analysis of the latest developments in world trade. It is produced annually and has replaced International Trade Statistics, the WTO's former annual statistical publication.

F) WORLD TRADE BAROMETER

- It is a set of indicators to provide "**real-time**" information on trends in world trade.
- The **Goods Trade Barometer**, formerly the **World Trade Outlook indicator**, is a leading indicator that signals changes in world trade growth two to three months ahead of merchandise trade volume statistics.
- The **Services Trade Barometer** is a coincident indicator that illustrates the current state of services trade slightly ahead of official statistics.

7) WTO: 13TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (FEB MARCH 2024)

- WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 26th Feb 2024 to 2nd March 2024.
- **Key Decisions:**
 - MC endorsed the accession to the WTO of two LDCs - **Comoros and Timor-Leste** as members of WTO.
 - **Some important outcomes:**
 - **Domestic Regulation of Services:** An important outcome of MC13 was an agreement reached to implement new disciplines for domestic regulation of services, integrating into WTO framework. These disciplines are designed to facilitate trade in services by streamlining and simplifying regulatory procedures.
 - **Least developing countries** continuing to get the benefits of LDC even three years after graduation.
 - Geneva commitment to revive the dispute settlement system by 2024 was reiterated.
 - Decision to improve the use of **special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions**.
- **No decision on several key issues such as:**
 - **Finding a permanent solution to public stockpile**
 - **Curbing fishing subsidies that leads to over-capacity and overfishing:** India has been asking developed countries engaged in distant water fishing to stop providing any kind of subsidies for 25 years.
- **A number of Developing country demands remained unresolved:**

- **Lifting of moratorium on levying customs duty on e-commerce:** India along with several developing nations has been consistently seeking an end to the moratorium in place since 1998 on their ability to levy custom duties on cross-border e-commerce. India has argued that this undermines its ability to generate revenue from a rapidly burgeoning area of global trade. However, the members agreed to further extend the moratorium on imposing import duties on e-commerce trade for 2 more years.
- **Reconstitution of the WTO's dispute settlement appellate body**

8) INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

- **Introduction**
 - » **ICC** is an Intergovernmental Organization and International tribunal that is designed to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression when domestic courts fail to do so. It thus complements existing national judicial systems and therefore only exercises its jurisdiction when certain criteria are met, such as:
 - when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute the criminal or;
 - when the UNSC or individual states refer investigations to court.
 - » It sits in **the Hague, in the Netherlands**.
 - » It began functioning on **1st July 2002**, the date that the **Rome statute** entered into force. The Rome statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document.
 - » **Note:** Not to be confused with International Court Of Justice (ICJ).
 - » **Note:** Judgments are final without appeal and binding upon the parties concerned.
- **Membership:**
 - » As of **March 2024**, **124 states** are parties to the Statute of the Court, including all the countries of South America, nearly whole of Europe, most of Oceania and roughly half of Africa.
 - **Armenia joined** ICC in 2023.
 - **Burundi** and **Philippines** were member states but later withdrew (in 2017 and 2019) respectively.
 - » **Another 31 countries** have signed but not ratified the Statute.
 - The law of treaties obliges these states to refrain from "acts which would defeat the objects and purpose" of the treaty until they declare that they don't intend to become a party to the treaty.
 - » **Four Signatories, Israel, Sudan, USA and Russia**, have informed the UN Secretary General that they no longer intend to become state parties and, as such have **no legal obligations** arising from their signature of the statute.
 - » **41 members of UN** have neither signed nor acceded to the Rome statute; some of them including India and China are critical of court.
- **Why has India not joined ICC?**
 - » The issue of State Sovereignty and national interests.
 - The ICC Chief Prosecutor has been given the power to initiate cases on her/his volition.
 - » **Definition of crimes** that come under ICC's jurisdiction.
 - For e.g. India has objected to the definition of **Crime Against Humanity (CAH)** during negotiations of the Rome Statute. India was not in favor of using 'widespread or

- systematic' as one of the conditions, preferring 'widespread and systematic', which would require a higher threshold of proof.
- Further, India wanted a distinction to be made between international and internal armed conflict.
 - India also wanted that use of nuclear weapons and terrorism should be included among the crimes under the purview of ICC but it wasn't.
- **Composition and Voting Power:**
- » **Assembly of State Parties:** It is the court's legislative and oversight body. It consists of one representative from each member state having one vote each.
- **Judicial Division**
- » The judicial division of ICC consist of **18 judges of the court**, organized into three chambers - the Pre-Trial Chamber, Trial Chamber and Appeals Chamber.
 - » **Judges are elected** by the Assembly of States Parties. They serve **9 year term** and are generally not eligible for re-election.
- **Relation with the UN**
- » It is independent from the UN. However, the Rome Statute grants **certain powers to UNSC**, which limits its functional independence.
 - E.g. : Article 13, allows the UNSC to refer to the court situations that would not otherwise fall under the court's jurisdiction (e.g. UNSC referred situation in Darfur and Libya to ICC)
 - » The court **cooperates with UN** in other areas including exchange of information and logistic support.
 - » The court also reports to the UN each year on its activities and some meetings of the assembly of states of parties are held at UN facilities.
- **Limitations of ICC**
- » **Doesn't have capacity to arrest suspects** and thus have to depend on member states for their cooperation.
 - » **3 P-5 UNSC members** are not part of it. China never signed and US, and Russia didn't ratify the Rome Statute
- **Criticisms**
1. **A tool for Western Imperialism** -> Has convicted leaders from small, weak states (mostly African). Therefore, ICC has been accused of bias and is being a tool of western imperialism.
 2. **Insufficient Checks and Balances:** USA claims that there are insufficient checks and balances on the authority of the ICC Prosecutor and judges and insufficient protection against politicized prosecutions or other abuses.
 3. **Imposition of a particular kind of ideology** - ICC has tended to impose ideas of liberal democracy on all states. This 'one size fits all' is not an effective solution.
- **Recent Developments**

A) ARMENIA JOINING ICC (2023)

- Armenia's Parliament votes to join the ICC (60-22 votes). Later, the Armenian President approved the Parliament's decision.
- **Geopolitical Impact:**
 - **Straining of ties with Russia:** The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin of Russia over events in Ukraine. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Mr. Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.
 - Though Armenia has assured Russia that Mr. Putin wouldn't be arrested if he entered the country.

B) IN MARCH 2023, THE ICC HAS ISSUED AN ARREST WARRANT AGAINST VLADIMIR PUTIN ACCUSING HIM OF THE WAR CRIME OF ILLEGALLY DEPORTING HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE.

- Russia has repeatedly denied its forces have engaged in war crimes, or forcibly taken Ukrainian Children.

C) SOUTH AFRICA WAS LOOKING FOR LEGAL OPTIONS IF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN ATTENDED THE 15TH BRICS SUMMIT IN SA.

- It is because SA is a member of ICC and thus is obliged to arrest Vladimir Putin if he came to South Africa.
- Note: Putin attended the summit virtually.

9) PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION (PCA)

- **Introduction**
 - » Established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded in the Hague in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference, it is an intergovernmental organization of 122 contracting parties, providing a variety of dispute resolution services to the international community.
 - » It is based in The Hague in The Netherlands.
 - » It is not a court in conventional understanding of the term but facilitates international arbitration to resolve disputes that involve states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, private parties etc. by assisting in the establishment of arbitration tribunals and facilitating their work.
 - » It is not a UN agency but is an official UN observer.
 - » PCA is different from International Court of Justice which is housed in the same building, the Peace Palace in Hague.
 - People at large are more familiar with the ICJ than with PCA, partly because of the closed nature of the cases handled by PCA and due to small number of cases dealt with between 1946 and 1990. THE PCA's CASELOAD however, has increased since then.
 - » 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 Secretary General.
- **Other Key features**

- » **International Offices:** Beyond its headquarters in the Peace Palace in Hague, the PCA has opened offices in various cities in order to make its services more accessible in different regions of the world [Buenos Aires, Mauritius, Singapore]
- » **Financial Assistance Fund:** This fund aims to assist developing countries meet part of costs involved in international arbitration or other means of dispute settlement offered by the PCA.

A) INDIA REITERATES ITS "CONSISTENT AND PRINCIPLED POSITION" THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE "SO-CALLED COURT OF ARBITRATION" IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1960 INDUS WATER TREATY (JULY 2023)

- Hours after a Court of Arbitration (CoA) ruled that it has "competence" to consider matter concerning the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in J&K, a construction that Pakistan has opposed, India reiterated its position.
 - » **Background:** The World Bank had appointed Murphy as chairman of the CoA on October 17, 2022, after Pakistan sought such a Court to consider its concerns about the designs of Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power projects.
 - » India has opposed the constitution of the CoA and contends that it is in contravention of the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. Till date, India has not exercised its right under Treaty to appoint two arbitrators to the CoA. New Delhi has not attended the court's proceedings and has sent its correspondence to World Bank
 - » **In the Award,** the Court carefully considered objections to the competence of the Court raised by India (by way of correspondence to World Bank). In a unanimous decision, which is binding on the Parties and without appeal, the Court rejected each of the objections raised by India and determined that the Court is competent to consider and determine the disputes set forth in Pakistan's Request for Arbitration.
- Ministry of External Affairs said that a Neutral Expert is seized of differences pertaining the two projects. Neutral expert proceedings are the only Treaty Proceeding at his juncture. The treaty doesn't provide for parallel proceeding on the same set of issues.

B) OTHER IMPORTANT RECENT CASES

- Italian Marine Case (2020)
 - » The PCA ruled that both India and Italy had concurrent jurisdiction in the matter but concluded that the Marine's immunity precluded India's Jurisdiction.
 - In India's favor, the Court found that the Italian vessel had violated the right and freedom of navigation of the Indian fishing vessel under UNCLOS and this action merited compensation.
- Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary (Bangladesh vs. India) (2014)
- Mauritius vs United Kingdom (18th March 2015, ruled that the Chagos Marine Protected Area was illegal)
- Philippines vs China (July 2016 - no evidence that China had historically exercised exclusive control over the waters or resources)

10) INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)

- **Introduction**
 - INTERPOL is world's largest international police organization, with 196 member countries.
INTERPOL facilitates international police cooperation.
 - **Vision:** "Connecting Police for a safer world"
 - **Mission:** "Preventing and fighting crime through enhanced cooperation and innovation on police and security matters".
 - **Headquarter:** "Lyon, France"
 - Work focuses mainly on
 - Public safety and battling terrorism
 - Crime against humanity
 - Environmental crime
 - Genocide
 - War crimes
 - Organized crimes
 - Piracy, illicit traffic in work of art
 - Illicit drug production
 - Drug trafficking
 - Weapons smuggling
 - Human trafficking
 - **Money laundering**
 - Child Pornography
 - White-collar crime
 - Computer crime
 - Intellectual Property crime
 - Corruption
- **Interpol Notice**
 - An Interpol notice is international alert circulated by Interpol to communicate information about crimes, criminals, and threats from police in a member state (or an authorized international entity) to their counterparts around the world.
 - There are eight types, seven of which are known by their color codes: Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Black, Orange and Purple.
 - **Red Notice**
 - The most well-known notice is the Red Notice which requests (provisional) arrest of wanted persons, with a view to extradition. An Interpol notice is "*the closest instrument to an international arrest warrant in use today*. (Interpol **does not have the authority to issue arrest warrants** in the formal sense of the word, as this is the domain of the sovereign member states.)
 - **A Blue Corner Notice** is issued by the international police cooperation body to collect additional information from its member countries about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a crime.

A) 91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERPOL

- About General Assembly: It is INTERPOL's supreme governing body and comprise of delegates appointed by the governments of our countries. It meets once a year and takes all the major decisions affecting general policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods, finances and programmes of activities.
- **Key Highlights of 91st assembly in Vienna**
 - » Resolution was passed to strengthen the collaborative response to disrupt financial crime and corruption, combat online sexual exploitation, and promote diversity within interpol itself.
 - » The delegation supported the adoption of Interpol's Vision 2030 and the establishment of the Interpol Future Council.

Other Important initiatives by Interpol

1. Global Focal Point Initiative

- To trace, seize and return stolen public funds to the country of origin.

11) INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

- **Beginning:**
 - It is the world's **center of cooperation in nuclear field**. It was set up as world's "Atoms of Peace" organization in 1957 within the UN family. Though established independently of the United Nations through its international treaty, the IAEA statute, the IAEA reports to both UNGA and Security Council.
- **Objective / Purpose:**
 - It serves as an **intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear power worldwide.**
 - It seeks to further inhibit the use of nuclear for military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
- **IAEA SAFEGUARDS**
 - It is a system of inspection and verification of the peaceful use of nuclear materials as part of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, supervised by IAEA.
- **Some Conventions**

A) CONVENTION ON SUPPLEMENTARY COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE

- Introduction

1. It recognizes the importance of the measures provided in the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the field of nuclear energy as well as in national legislation on compensation for nuclear damage consistent with the principle of these conventions.
2. It desires to establish a worldwide liability regime to supplement and enhance these measures with a view to increasing the amount of compensation for nuclear damage.

3. This worldwide liability regime would further encourage regional and global cooperation to promote a higher level of nuclear safety in accordance with the principles of international partnership and solidarity.

- Other details
 1. CSC allows for increasing the compensation amount in the event of a nuclear incident through public funds pooled in by contracting parties based on their own installed nuclear capacities.
 2. Entered into force on 15th April 2015.
- India ratified the convention in Feb 2016.

12) WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF)

- **Introduction**
 - WEF is a Swiss nonprofit foundation, based in Cologny, Geneva. Recognized by Swiss authorities as the international institute for public private cooperation, its mission is cited as "committed to **improving the state of the world** by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas".
 - It is best known for its annual meeting at Davos (Switzerland).

B) 2024 ANNUAL MEET AT DAVOS (JAN 2024): KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** took centre stage at this years WEF meet. Both its' positive and negative sides were discussed.
- **War and Uncertainty:** Fragile geopolitical situation in various parts of the world is threatening global supply chain and causing uncertainty around food security.
- **Need for businesses to adapt to climate and united action against climate** was another important area.
- **India's bright prospects** and **China's slowing economy** was another area of discussion
- **Investment in women's health** could boost global GDP by USD 1 trillion annually by 2040.
- **Announcement of the launch of 'Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality'**: It was launched with the support and endorsement of WEF and Government of India.
 - The objective of the alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investment in the identified areas of women's health, education and enterprise.

C) KEY REPORTS BY WEF

Report	Period (last published)	India's ranking	Comments
Global Risks Report	Annual (Jan 2024)		See details below
Travel and Tourism Competitive Index	Biannual (2022)	54th/117 (eight lower than 2019)	Japan, the USA, Spain, France and Germany are at <u>top of the list</u> .

Global Competitiveness Index	Annual (2023)	40/134	The report ranks countries on their ability to attract, develop and retain skilled people. Switzerland, Singapore and the US are the top ranked countries
Global Gender Gap	Annual (June 2023)	127/146	Details below
Energy Transition Index	Annual (2023)	67th/140	The Energy Transition Index, which benchmarks 120 countries on their current energy system performance and on the readiness of their enabling environment, finds that while there has been broad progress on clean, sustainable energy, there are emerging challenges to the equity of the transition – just, affordable access to energy and sustained economic development – due to countries shifting their focus to energy security
Future of Growth Report, 2024		Global average score is 52.8 (100 is best score) India's score is 51.2.	The report introduces a multidimensional framework to assess the quality of economic growth across 107 countries globally. Nation's economic growth is measured across four pillars - Innovativeness; inclusiveness; Sustainability; and Resilience.
Future of Jobs Report, 2023	Annual (2023) 4th edition		The report explores how jobs and skills will evolve over the next five years. Economic, health and geopolitical trends have created divergent outcomes for labour markets globally in 2023 Technology adoption will remain a key driver of business

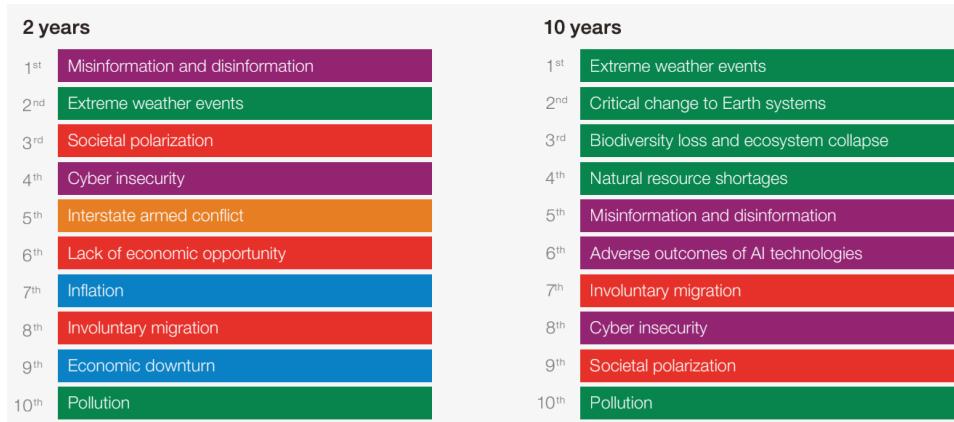
			transformation in the next five years Within technology adoption, big data, cloud computing and AI feature highly on likelihood of adoption
Global Cooperation Barometer 2024	Note: Released by <u>WEF</u> in collaboration with <u>McKinsey & Company</u> .		It is meant to serve as a tool for leaders to better understand the contours of cooperation broadly and along five pillars – trade and capital flows, innovation and technology, climate and natural capital, health and wellness, and peace and security

D) GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT, 2023

- GGG Report benchmarks 146 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions:
 - i. Economic Opportunities
 - ii. Political Empowerment
 - iii. Educational Attainment
 - iv. Health and Survival
- **Key Highlights: 2023 Report**
 - Iceland (91.2%), Norway (87.9%) and Finland (86.3%) are the best performing countries
 - **India's rank is 127/146 countries (improvement from 135 last year)**
 - India performance badly in Economic Participation and Opportunities (36.7%) and Parity on Political Empowerment (25.3%).

E) GLOBAL RISK REPORT, 2024

- Global Risk Report is an annual study published by WEF ahead of its annual meet at Davos, Switzerland.
- The report describes changes occurring in the global risks landscape from year to year and identifies global catastrophic risks.
- **2024 Report: Key Highlights**
 - **Global Short-term and long term risks:**



- **Most Important Risk for India**

- **Misinformation and disinformation (MI); Infectious disease; Illicit Economic Activity; Inequality (Wealth and Income); and Labour shortage**

13) INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

- International Whaling Commission is an inter-governmental organization whose purpose is the conservation of whale and the management of whaling to allow orderly development of whaling industry.
- The legal framework of the IWC is **the International Convention for the regulation of Whaling**.
 - The convention was established in 1946, making it one of the first pieces of international environmental legislation.
 - All member countries of IWC are signatories of this convention.
- Currently (Aug 2023) IWC has 88 members.
- The **legally finding schedule** of the convention sets out specific measures that the IWC has collectively decided to be necessary in order to regulate whaling and conserve whale livestock.
- These measures include
 1. **catch limits** (which may be **zero in the case of commercial whaling**) by species and area.
 2. **Designating specified areas as whale sanctuaries**,
 3. Protection of calves and females accompanies calves etc.
- The commission also **coordinates and funds conservation work** including research related to conservation.
 - **India joined the IWC in 1981**.
- **Important countries which are not members**
 - Canada (left in 1982), Venezuela (left in 1999), Egypt (left in 1989), **Japan (left in 2019)**.
- **Key Efforts**
 - In 1982, the IWC adopted moratorium on commercial whaling.
 - Countries like Russia and Japan had opposed it.
 - In 1994, the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary was created by the IWC.
- **Other facts**
 - The IWC allows whaling quotas for aboriginal subsistence and also member nations can issue 'Scientific permits' to citizens.

14) STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI)

- **About SIPRI**
 - » It is an international institute based in Stockholm, Sweden, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.
 - » It was established in 1966. It provides data, analysis and recommendations to policy makers, researchers, media, and the interested public.
 - » Its **funds** are mostly drawn from governments and independent philanthropic organizations around the world. It also receives annual support from Swedish government.

A) SIPRI REPORT (MARCH 2024)

- India remained the world's largest arms importer and its imports increased by 4.7% (between 2014-18 to 2019-23)
 - **Russia (36%)** continues to be India's main arms supplier. But this was the first five year period since 1960-64 when deliveries from Russia (or USSR) made up less than half of India's arms import.
- **Saudi Arabia** is the world's 2nd largest arms importer.
- **Pakistan** has significantly increased its arms import (by around 45%).
- **China's arms import shrank by 44%**, mainly as a result of substituting imported arms, with locally produced systems.

B) SIPRI YEAR BOOK (JUNE 2023)

- **9 Nuclear armed states** are continuing to expand and modernize their nuclear arsenal.
- **Total nuclear warheads** in the world is estimated at 12,512 in Jan 2023.
- **Russia and USA** have 90% of all nuclear weapons.
- **Transparency and dialogue** regarding nuclear weapons and forces between Russia and USA have declined.
- **India:**
 - **Nuclear arsenal** has expanded from 164 in 2022 to 164 in 2023.
- **China** has 410 warheads in Jan 2023 (from 350 warheads in Jan 2022)

5. COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP – CPTPP (EARLIER NAMED TPP)

- **Why in news recently?**
 - » The UK has reached an agreement in principle to join the CPTPP. (March 2023)
- **Introduction**

- » CPTPP is a free **trade agreement** between **11 Pacific Rim countries** (US is no longer part of TPP). It was signed in Santiago, Chile.
- » **Aims/Goals:**
 - Create a new single market (something like EU) -> Deepen economic ties, slash trade barriers, and thus increase trade and economic growth in the region.
 - Establish a common framework for **intellectual property**.
 - Enforce standards for labour law and environmental law.
 - Establish an **investor state dispute settlement**.

- **USA's withdrawal from TPP:**
 - » The earlier proposal of TPP which was signed on 4th Feb 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand, couldn't be ratified because of the withdrawal of USA on 23 January 2017.
- **Countries Participating:** Canada, **USA**, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Australia and New Zealand..



- **CPTPP Commission** was established when the CPTPP entered into force on 30th Dec 2018. It has representative from all 11 members and is the decision making body of the CPTPP.
 - The first meet of CPTPP took place Jan 2019, in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- **Significance**
 - Covers 15% of world's GDP (with UK)
 - In addition to tariff cuts, the CPTPP include **high standards on environment and labor laws, IPR regime, e-commerce** etc.
 -
- **Supporters' Argument**
 - The pact would boost growth in Asia Pacific Economies.
 - It would unlock opportunities and address vital 21st century issues within the global economy.

15) BRITAIN HAS AGREED TO JOIN THE CPTPP, A TRADE PACT BASED AROUND THE PACIFIC RIM, AS IT SEEKS TO BUILD TIES AROUND THE WORLD AFTER LEAVING EUROPEAN UNION.

- The UK and the present members formally signed an accession protocol on 16th July 2023 and will join the agreement when it has been ratified by all parties, or after 15 months if the UK and the majority of CPTPP parties ratify.

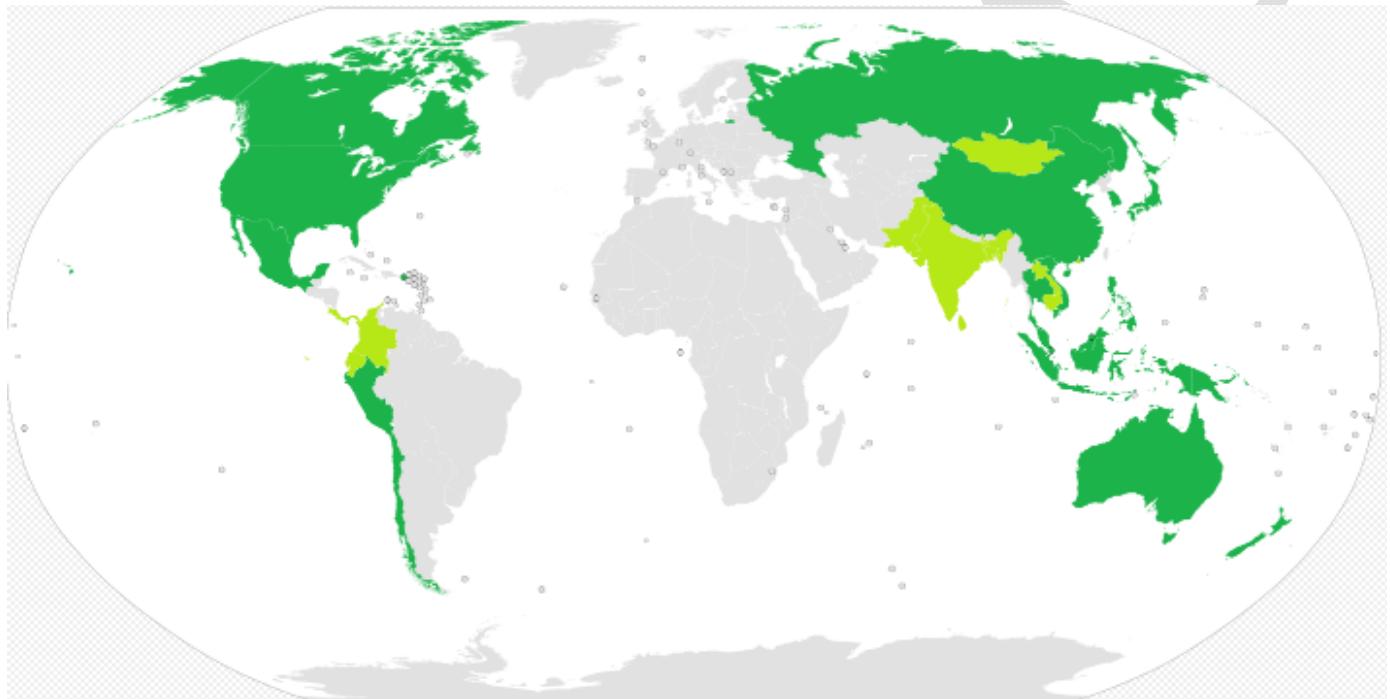
- Britain will become the 12th member and will be the first one to join the partnership since its inception.
- **Economic Benefits for UK**
 - Tariff free trade with a number of countries with which Britain doesn't have FTA.
 - CPTPP doesn't have single market for goods and services, and so regulatory harmonization is not required, unlike the EU, whose trading orbit Britain left at the end of 2020.
- **Other reasons for Britain to Join:**
 - While the economic benefit for Britain may be modest, Britain has geo-political reasons for joining the bloc. Joining CPTPP could enable the UK to enhance ties with like-minded countries to protect a free and open Indo-Pacific Region.
 - » In the context of growing tensions with China, defined as an 'epoch-defining challenge' in the recent refresh of the Integrated Review, strengthening relations with allies in the region has become increasingly important.
- **Note:** China has also applied to join CPTPP

6. APEC (ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION)

- **Introduction**
 - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia Pacific region.
 - **Establishment:** In 1989
 - in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world (EU and North America FTA)
 - In response to fear that highly industrialized Japan (a member of G7) would come to dominate economic activities in the Asia Pacific region;
 - To establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.
- **Member Economies**
 1. Currently has 21 members, including most countries with coastline on the pacific ocean. However, the criterion for membership is that the member is a separate economy, rather than a state. As a result, APEC uses the term member economies rather than member countries to refer to its members.

Member Economies	Observers
1. Russia 2. People's Republic of China 3. Hongkong 4. Republic of China (Taiwan) 5. Japan 6. South Korea 7. Vietnam 8. Thailand 9. Malaysia 10. Singapore 11. Indonesia	22. ASEAN 23. The Pacific Island Forum 24. Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>12. Phillipines
 13. Brunei Darussalam
 14. Papua New Guinea
 15. Australia
 16. New Zealand
 17. Canada
 18. USA
 19. Mexico
 20. Peru
 21. Chile</p> | |
|---|--|



2. Possible Enlargement

1. India has requested membership of APEC, and received initial support from USA, Japan and Australia.
 - But, China has remained opposed to India. And since, the APEC works on a consensus model, even one country opposing India's membership becomes an hindrance.
 - Following reasons are given for not admitting India:
 - **Extra-regional status:** India doesn't border pacific ocean, which all current member do
 - Opposition by some members due to India's record on economic reforms and WTO engagement.
 - India was invited to be an observer for the first time in November 2011.
2. Other countries seeking membership
 - Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Macau, Mongolia, Laos, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador.

7. USMCA

- **Background: North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**
 - » NAFTA was a **trilateral agreement between Canada, USA, and Mexico** for creation of a **trade bloc in North America**. The agreement **came into force in 1994**. It was focused on eliminating barriers of trade and investment between US, Canada, and Mexico.
- » **Impact of NAFTA**
 - Most economic analyst believe that NAFTA has been very **beneficial for North American economies and the average citizen** but harmed a small minority of workers in industries exposed to trade competition.
- » **Contentious Issues - Maquiladoras**
- » Former President Trump in his election campaign in 2016 had criticized NAFTA and had called it "single worst trade deal ever approved in the US". Thus, soon after his election, a renegotiation of NAFTA started.
- » In Dec 2019, a trilateral United States Mexico Canada Agreement was finalized to replace the 25 year old NAFTA.
- **USMCA**
 - » It came into force in 2020.
 - » The new deal gives the **US greater access to the dairy markets of Canada and Mexico**, and allows extra imports of Canadian car.
 - » **Minimum wage provisions for auto workers**
 - 40% of the car parts of vehicles produced in the three countries must be made in North America, paying wages of \$16 an hour.
 - US expects that this will reduce the export of Jobs from US to Mexico where labor cost is less compared to US.
 - » **USMCA put the condition** that for a vehicle to qualify for zero tariff, 75% of its content must be from North America. (Under NAFTA this threshold was 60%)
 - » USMCA also contains **stronger protection for workers**, tough new **environmental rules**, and updates the trade relationship to **cover the digital economy and provides "ground breaking" intellectual property protections**.
 - » There are provisions to prevent manipulation of the trade rules, including covering currency values, and controls over outside countries trying to take advantage of the duty-free market.

8. EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

- **Introduction:**

- EEU is a **political, military and economic union** of states primarily located in northern Eurasia [Eastern Europe, Western Asia and Central Asia]. It consists of **five members**: Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
- In theory, the EEU is an **ambitious project for economic integration** in the former soviet region.
- It has its own institutions, mirroring that of the EU.
 - It includes **Eurasian Economic Commission** in Moscow as its regulatory body, and a **Court of the Eurasian Economic Union** based in Minsk.
- Came into existence on 1st Jan 2015.
- **Aim**
 - **Free movement** of goods, services, capital and people
 - **Common Policy**: Provide common transport and agriculture policy.
 - **Long term aims**: Common currency and common customs like EU.
- **Impact**:
 - Reality of integration between five member states is cumbersome and patchy.



- **India and EEU**

- In Dec 2016, negotiations started for an FTA between India and EEU. However, the talks haven't progressed much.

- **Russia continues to pressure Uzbekistan to Join EEU (2021)**

- In Dec 2020, Uzbekistan got the observer status.
- It plans to commit to half of the EAEU's requirements and technical standards for products exported to the Union market.
 - The government has also directed several agencies to draft national document to align with 26 EAEU technical regulations for common market products.



9. G20

- **Introduction**

- » The Group of Twenty (also known as G-20 or G20) is an international forum for the governments, finance ministers and the central bank governors from 20 major economies.
- » It was **founded in 1999** as an informal forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of its members to meet annually, with the aim of studying, reviewing, and

promoting high level discussion of policy issue pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

- » It's agenda was **expanded in 2008** with the inclusion of the head of government in the meet. After this first summit it replaced the G8 as the main economic council of the wealthy nations.
- » G-20 in the current form is the child of 2008 global financial crisis.
- » Please note that G20 is an informal grouping and thus it doesn't have permanent secretariat/staff. **Rather, G20 presidency rotates annually** among members and is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda, organizing its workings and hosting summits.

- **Members**

- » **19 countries, EU and African Union**
 - Canada, US, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Australia.
 - EU is represented by European Commission and European Central Bank.
 - **Note:** In the 2023 summit in Delhi, inclusion of African Union has been agreed upon.
- » **The UN, IMF and WB** also attend G20 meet.
- » **Spain** is a permanent guest invitee at the summit.

- **Objectives:**

- » Policy Coordination between its member countries in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth.
- » To Promote Financial Regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crisis.
- » To Create a new international financial architecture.

- **Significance of G20**

- » G20 has emerged as the premier forum of international economic cooperation, a sort of mini-UN, towards building an open world economy. G20 got its reputation because of its ability to restore stability in the global financial system after the 2008-09 crisis.
- » Discussions and agreements at G20 helps in reshaping the governance of global finance. It has enabled work towards reform of IMF, WB and United Nations as all the major world economies are represented here.
- » The member countries (before addition of AU) represent 90% of the Gross World Product, 80% of the trade, 2/3rd of the World Population and approximately half of the world land area.
- » When global governance in general are continuing to reflect the power equations at the end of World War - II, the G20 is a recognition of the changed realities and has given a place at the international high table to emerging powers.

16) 2023 G20 SUMMIT: INDIA

- **India's Presidency Theme** was "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which means "the world is one family".
- **Key Outcomes:**

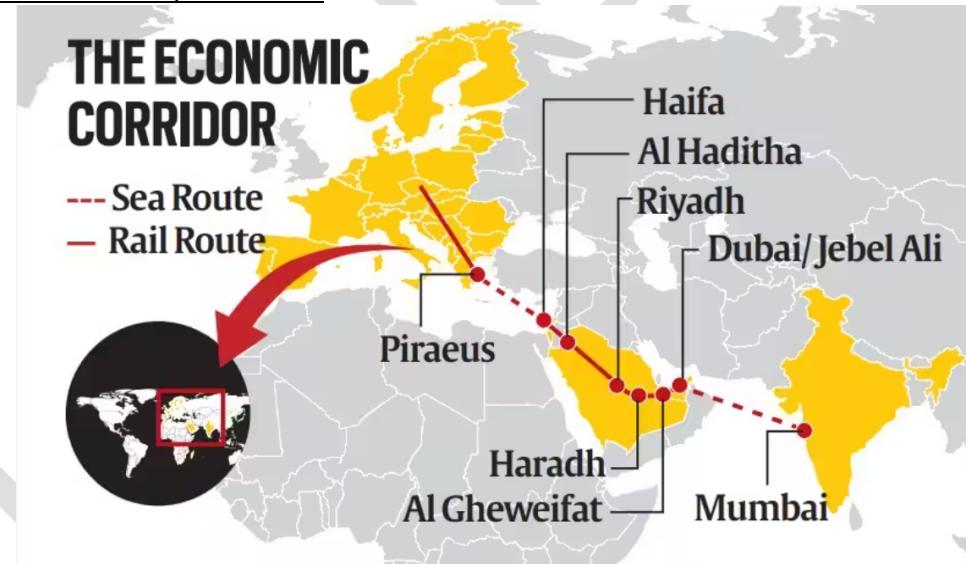
- **New Delhi Declaration:** The G20 has adopted a consensus declaration with following highlights:
 - **On Ukraine War:**
 - All states must act in a manner consistent with purposes and principles of UN charter in its entirety.
 - They must refrain from threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. States must also refrain from use of or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
 - Peaceful resolution of conflicts and efforts to address crisis as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical.
 - "**Today's ERA must not be of war.**"
 - **On Grain/Food/Energy Security:**
 - The declaration calls on Russia and Ukraine to ensure unimpeded delivery of food and fertilizer inputs from Russia and Ukraine.
 - **On Economies and Financial Market:**
 - It endorses financial board's high level recommendations for regulation, supervision and oversight of Crypto-assets, activities..
 - Renew our commitment to ensure a level-playing field and fair competition by discouraging protectionism, market distorting practices.
 - **On Climate Change:**
 - Notes that there is a need to accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power, in line with national circumstances.
 - The declaration noted that \$5.8-5.9 trillion in pre-2030 period is required by developing countries, in particular for their needs to implement their emission targets.
 - **On Global Debt Vulnerability:**
 - It committed to promoting resilient growth by urgently and effectively addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.
 - **Health:** It remains committed to strengthening global health architecture.
 - **Terrorism:** It condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace.
- **Announcement of G-20 decision to include the 55-nation African Union**, the second regional bloc to join the G-20 after the EU.
 - With this, the future summits in Brazil and South Africa is expected to take India's Global South Initiative forward.
 - The move help tilt the balance within G-20 away from Power-11 of the geopolitical powers, the G7, Australia, the EU and the Russia and China combined to the Developing 10 (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, African Union, South Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, India, South Korea and Indonesia) who make up rest of the member.
- **Finance Track of India's G20 Presidency** also paved the way for coordinated global approach to regulating cryptocurrencies, strengthening multilateral development banks' lending capacity and

replicating the use of digital public infrastructure like the India Stack to expand financial inclusion around the world.

- Announcement of India-Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE EC) to strengthen economic connectivity between India-West Asia and Europe.
- Launch of Global Biofuel Alliance on the sidelines of G20 summit.

17) INDIA MIDDLE EAST EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEE EC)

- It was announced by PM Modi during the G20 Summit in India in 2023
 - India, USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union Commission have signed MoU to establish IMEE EC.
- It entails an ambitious project that could leverage railway tracks and shipping corridors to help physically link up a vast stretch of the Eurasian subcontinent and in the process improve digital connectivity and catalyze trade among countries including energy products including Green Hydrogen.
- It will consist of **two separate corridors:**
 - **East Corridor** connecting India to West Asia/ Middle East
 - **Northern Corridor** connecting West Asia/Middle East to Europe
 - i. It involves laying of a railway link through the Arabian Peninsula that could then link up with shipping passages to India and Europe on both ends.
- The initiative is jointly spearheaded by the US and India, and spans India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and the European Union.



- **Significance:**
 - **Impetus to Economic Development**
 - **Strategic Significance:** ideological alternative to China's BRI.
 - Reduce dependency on Suez Canal
- **Official Timeline and Funds** have not been detailed about.

18) GLOBAL BIOFUEL ALLIANCE

- Launched during the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Delhi in 2023 by PM Modi and a host of global leaders including US President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Lula da Silva, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.
- **Initiating members** include USA, Brazil, Argentina, Italy, South Africa, Mauritius, UAE, India and Bangladesh.
 - **Observer Countries:** Singapore and Canada.
- Other G-20 countries have been urged to join the initiative.
- **The alliance is aimed at facilitating global cooperation in increasing the sustainable production and use of biofuels across the sector.**
 - Its focus is on strengthening market, facilitating global biofuel trade, developing concrete policy lesson-sharing and providing technical support for national biofuel program worldwide.
 - **Target:** Take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20%.
- The Alliance mirrors International Solar Alliance (ISA) which aims to bring clean and affordable solar energy within the reach of all.

10.G7

- **Introduction**
 - » The Group of Seven is a group consisting of Canada, USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. It is an informal forum of leading industrialized nation/ seven major advanced economies as reported by IMF.
 - » The European Union is also represented within the G-7.
- **Beginning**
 - » **World Economic** Summit, which later became the G7, was launched in 1975 by former French President Valery Giscard. Initially there were **6 members (G6)** and heads of government/state of USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy and Japan met for a fireside chat at Rambouillet Castle in France. The participants exchanged ideas on the economic problems of the 1970s.
 - » **In 1976**, Canada joined as the 7th member.
 - » In the 1980s, the interest of G7 expanded to include foreign and security policy issues. The Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was invited to talks on the sidelines of the London Summit in 1991.
 - » **In 1998**, Russia became a member and the **G8** was constituted.
 - » **Russia was thrown out of the group** after its violation of Ukraine's Sovereignty and territorial integrity in 2014.
- Canada became the 7th member in 1976.
- **Purpose**
 - » Discuss the **current world issues** (dominated in 1975 by the oil crisis) in a frank and informal manner -> Economic, foreign and security issues.
- **Criteria**
 - » A very high net national wealth.

- » A very high HDI.
- **Economic Strength**
 - The G7 countries represent more than 64% of the net global wealth; 10% of the world's population; 31T of the global GDP and 21% of the CO2 emissions.

19) 49TH SUMMIT: MAY 2023: HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

- **India, Australia, Brazil** etc. were also invited to the summit.
 - » India gave 10-point action plan to combat challenges associated with food, health, and other development related problems.
- **Major outcomes of the summit:**
 - » **Decision to set up "Coordination Platform on Economic Coercion"** to counter the attempt to "weaponize" trading and economic dependencies in the "critical emerging technologies such as micro-electronics".
 - » **Decision for Development and Adoption of International Technical Standards** for "trustworthy" AI.
 - » **Net Zero by 2050:** Members pledged to achieve net zero by 2050 to fight climate change.
 - » The summit produced Hiroshima Action Statement on Food Security.

20) G7'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION (APRIL 2023)

- » **G7 Climate and Energy Ministers and envoys** have committed to ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and accelerating phase out of coal. The agreement was made at Sapporo, Japan, ahead of the G7 summit in Hiroshima in May 2023.

11.G77

- Group of 77 at the United Nations is a loose coalition of developing countries, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiation capacity in the UN.
- **Membership**
 - There were 77 founding members of the organization, but the membership since expanded to more than 130 member countries.
- **China has never officially joined** but provides consistent political support and financial donation to the G77.

12.SCO

- **Introduction: 9 Members**
 - » The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization which emerged from Sanghai Five (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) that was founded in 1996 after demarcation of China's border with four newly independent states that appeared after collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Shanghai five was supposed to serve as a platform for political, economic, cultural and security cooperation.

- » This was transformed into today's SCO with the induction of **Uzbekistan** as a new member at the Shanghai summit in 2001; **India & Pakistan** in Astana summit in 2017; and **Iran** in 2023 summit.
- **Members**
 - » **Member States (Important for pre):**
 - China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Islamic Republic of Iran.
 - Belarus has also started the process of joining SCO.
 - » **Observers:**
 - Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia
 - » **Headquarter**
 - Beijing, China
 - » **Official Language:** Russian and Chinese
 - » **Objectives**
 - SCO's objectives are centered around **security related concerns**, military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism.
- **Activities**
 - Cooperation on Security
 - Military Activities:
 - Economic Cooperation
 - Connectivity
 - Cultural Cooperation

21) SCO SUMMIT, 2023

- It was hosted by India and was a virtual summit.
- During this summit, Iran officially joined as the 9th member.
- The **theme** of India's chairmanship of SCO is '**Towards a SECURE SCO**', which was an acronym given by PM Modi in 2018 summit in Qingadao.
 - » S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection
- **Key Highlights:**
 - » **New Delhi Declaration** - It calls for international communities to come together to counter the activities of terrorist, separatist, and extremist group.
 - » **Five new pillars of cooperation** has been identified: Startups and Innovation; Traditional Medicine; Youth Empowerment; Digital Inclusion; Shared Buddhist Heritage.

13. QUAD

- QUAD, also known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is a strategic forum comprising of four nations: United States, Japan, India, and Australia.
 - » The idea of the Quad was first proposed by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007 as a response to China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. However, the initiative did not gain much momentum at that time.

- **The Quad was revived in 2017** and has since gained momentum, with the four countries holding regular meetings at various levels, including at the leaders' level. The Quad is primarily focused on security issues in the Indo-Pacific region, such as **maritime security, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity**, as well as economic and humanitarian issues.

22) QUAD SUMMIT, 2023 (FIFTH SUMMIT, HIROSHIMA)

- **Infrastructure:**
 - » **Quad Infrastructure Fellowship:** The program will provide at least 1,800 scholarships, work exchanges, and other executive programs to government officials on best practices surrounding the design, delivery, and management of high-standard infrastructure projects.
 - » **Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience:** It will bring together public and private sector to address gaps in infrastructure and coordinate on future builds.
- **Investment:**
 - » **Quad Investment Network (QUIN):** a network of investors and executives across Quad countries that seeks to foster co-investment in critical technologies. The QUIN will facilitate access to capital and facilitate technology partnerships through the establishment of an Advisory Board of business leaders and expert working groups to advance the prosperity and security of the Indo-Pacific Region.

14. PARIS CLUB

- **Why in news?**
 - » Sri Lanka reaches agreement with India, Paris Club on debt treatment (Nov 2023)
- **Details**

The Paris Club is a **group of mostly western creditor countries** that grew from a 1956 meeting in which Argentina agreed to meet its public creditors in Paris.

- » It describes itself as a **forum where official creditors meet to solve payment difficulties faced by debtor countries.**
- » When debt countries undertake reforms to stabilize and restore their macroeconomic and financial situation, Paris Club Creditor provide an appropriate debt treatment.

There are 22 members to this grouping and all of them are members of OECD.

Members are: Canada, USA, Brazil, Ireland, UK, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark Austria, Norway, Sweden,



Finland, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Israel, and Australia.

Their **objective** is to find sustainable debt relief solutions for countries that are unable to repay their bilateral loans.

» **How many agreements have Paris Club been involved in?**

- Since its beginning, Paris Club has reached 470+ agreements with 102 different debtor countries. Since 1956, the debt treated in the framework of Paris Club Agreements amount to more than \$610 billion.
- **How has Paris Club been involved in debt agreements: Key Features of Paris Club Debt Agreements:**
 - **Principle of Consensus and Solidarity:** Any agreement reached with debtor country will apply equally to all its Paris Club creditors.
 - A debtor country that signs an agreement with its Paris Club Creditors, should not then accept from its non-Paris Club commercial and bilateral creditors such terms of treatment of its debt that are less favorable to the debtor than those agreed with the Paris Club.
- **The role and importance of Paris Club Creditors:**
 - The Paris Club countries dominated bilateral lending in the last century, but their importance has receded over the last two decades or so. This is because of rise of China as the world's largest bilateral lender.
- **Sri Lanka agrees debt restructuring with Paris Club Creditors and India (Nov 2023)**
 - Sri Lanka has reached an "agreement in principle" with India and the Paris Club group of creditors including Japan, on a debt treatment plan that will help the crisis hit island nation tap the next tranche of the IMF's nearly \$3 billion recovery package.

15. SAARC

- **Introduction**

- SAARC is a major Pan-South-Asia economic and geopolitical organization of eight countries located in South Asia. It was found in 1985 with **seven South Asian countries** - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. The membership grew to eight when Afghanistan joined in 2007. It also has 8 observer countries including China.
- It's headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The SAARC countries together consist of only 3% of the world's land area but, 21% of the world's population. Moreover, 40% of the world's poor live in the region.

- **The SAARC is aimed at achieving two set of goals:**

- i. First, the immediate and non-political aims such as promoting welfare of people; accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development; and strengthening collective self-reliance to contribute to mutual trust and understanding among member nations.

ii. **Second**, relates to the long term, political objective of creating a durable, stable and peaceful regional order, strengthening cooperation with other developing countries and cooperating with international and regional organizations.

- **Summits**

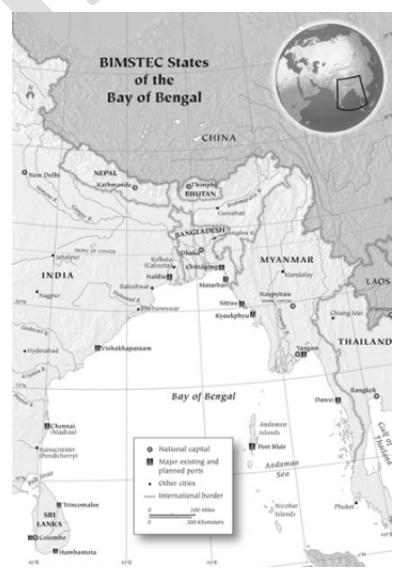
- The first SAARC Summit took place in Dhaka in 1985, and there have been 18 summits since then.
- However, the organization hasn't had a smooth sail, with many summits getting postponed for political reasons, either bilateral or internal.
 - **18th SAARC summit** was held in Kathmandu in November 2014
 - **19th summit** was supposed to be held in 2016 in Pakistan, but the summit was boycotted by India and other SAARC countries on grounds of increasing cross border terrorism from Pak. Since then, the SAARC summit has not been held.

16. BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BIMSTEC)

- **Introduction:**

- BIMSTEC is a regional organization of 7 member states (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar) from South Asia and Southeast Asia that lie in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal.
- **Basic details (Important for Prelims)**
 - It came into being on June 6, 1997 (as BIST-EC - Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka - Thailand Economic Cooperation) through the **Bangkok declaration**. It was later rechristened as BIMSTEC.
 - It is headquartered in Dhaka.

- **The Objective** of the alliance is to harness accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interest by mitigating onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.



- It has based on two basic principles.

- To respect the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful-coexistence, and mutual benefits.
- **Constitute an addition to and not be a substitute** for bilateral, regional, or multilateral cooperation involving member states.

- **Key Areas of Cooperation**

- Unlike many other regional groupings, **BIMSTEC is a sector driven cooperative organization.**
 - It has identified **15 priority sectors** such as Transport and Communication, Tourism, Trade, Environment & Disaster Management, Public Health Agriculture etc. and focus on cooperating here.
 - Each sector is led by a member country. (For e.g., India leads transport and communication, tourism, counterterrorism, and trans-national crimes, environment and disaster management.)

- **BIMTEC's growth was hindered in the beginning because of:**

- Lack of political will and collective effort.
- South Asia's focus on SAARC
- But, with the decline of SAARC, BIMSTEC has emerged as a very important grouping for regional connectivity in the region

1) 5TH BIMSTEC SUMMIT

- The 5th BIMSTEC summit was hosted by Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in and from Colombo in hybrid mode on 30th March 2022.
 - » It was preceded by 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting and the 22nd BIMSTEC Senior Officials' meetings.
 - » It was held under the **theme "BIMSTEC - Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People"**.
- **Key outcomes:**
 - » BIMSTEC Leaders signed the **BIMSTEC Charter** and witnessed the signing of the **BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters**, the MoU on the Establishment of the **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility**, and the **MoU on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies/ Training Institutions of BIMSTEC Member States**.
 - » The summit saw considerable progress being achieved in the BIMSTEC connectivity agenda with the adoption of the '**Master Plan for Transport Connectivity**'.
 - » The summit also adopted the **BIMSTEC Masterplan on Transport Connectivity**, and the **Rationalized Areas of Cooperation under BIMSTEC**.
 - The **14 areas of cooperation under BIMSTEC have been rationalized to 7 areas of cooperation**.
- **The Chairmanship of BIMSTEC was handed over to Thailand from Sri Lanka at the Summit.**

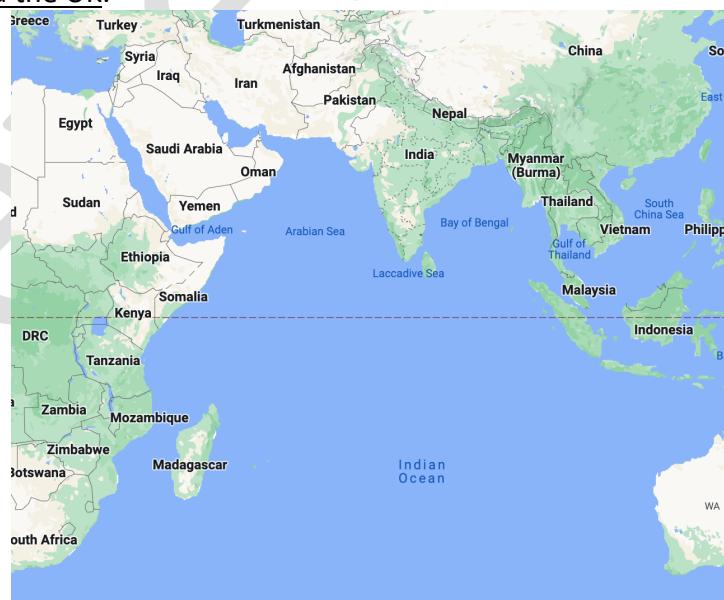
17. INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

- Introduction

- The IORA, formerly known as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organization consisting of coastal states bordering Indian Ocean.
- Formally launched in 1997.
- The coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at **Ebene, Mauritius**.
- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia for promoting cooperation and closer interaction among them.
- It is based on the principles of Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as social development of the region.
- IORA became an observer to the UN General Assembly and the African Union in 2015.
- Decisions of IORA are reached by consensus and the commitments are undertaken on voluntary basis.

- Members

- **Member nations (23)**: South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Madagascar, Mauritius (became member in 2014), Seychelles, Comoros, Yemen, Oman, UAE, Iran, India, Maldives (became member in 2018), Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, and France (became member in 2021).
- **Dialogue Partners (10)**: The USA, China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, Russia, South Korea, and the UK.



- Significance of IORA

- **Economic Growth:**
- **Maritime Security**

18. ASEAN (ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS)

- **Introduction**
 - ASEAN is a political and economic organization of 10 South East Asian countries which promotes Pan-Asianism.
 - Formed in 1967 by - Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillipines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam have joined.
- Headquarter: **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- **Vision:** "One Vision, One Identity, One Community"
- **Various Institutional Mechanisms**
 - **ASEAN Summit:** This is the highest decision and policy making body of ASEAN.
- **Various ASEAN led forums.**
 - **ASEAN plus 3**
 - This was created to improve ties with China, Japan and South Korea.
 - **EAST ASIA Summit**
 - It promotes the security and prosperity in the region. Other than ASEAN leaders it is attended by heads of the states of the important players in the region.
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 - It started with 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, and Oceanian regions, based on **ASEAN Plus Six mechanism**. Six countries were China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and NewZealand
 - **Membership expanded to 18 countries** when USA and Russia joined at sixth EAS in 2011.
- **FREE TRADE Agreements**
 - » ASEAN has concluded free trade agreements with China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and India

19. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

- Introduction

- RCEP is an FTA between 10 member states of ASEAN and the six five states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs (Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea). **India has decided to stay out of the agreement.**
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in Nov 2012 at the ASEAN summit in Cambodia and **concluded in Nov 2020**.
- Its **areas of negotiation** included trade in goods, services, and investment; intellectual property rights; and special and differential treatment to less developed ASEAN members.
- **Key Provisions of the Agreement**
 - It simplifies the custom provisions and rules of origin laws between countries - implying reduced potential regulatory frictions



- India's decision to stay out of RCEP:

Threat of increasing Trade Deficit: India's trade deficit with RCEP members is still the highest (\$108 billion in 2018-19).

India's Key Concerns were not being taken care of

- Protection against sudden surge in imports was not looked into by member countries.
- India's request of exemption from the Ratchet Obligations was ignored.
- Addressing non-tariff barriers which have hindered India's exports. Issues such as environmental and labor laws were used to prevent India's export.
- India's request for country-specific tariff schedule was also rejected at the beginning of the negotiations.
- Dealing with possible circumvention of the rules of origin required stronger provisions, but it couldn't pass the muster.
- Securing better access in service sector couldn't be fructified
- Movement of professionals was also not being liberalized.

Even after hard negotiation by India the other member countries were not ready to budge. **Domestic Slowdown** has also played a role in forcing the government to withdraw from the negotiation.

- **Domestic slowdown intensified the political opposition of India's participation in RCEP.**

Ongoing tensions with China also became an important factor in India staying away from RCEP.

20. MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION (MGC)

- Introduction

- The Mekong-Ganga cooperation (MGC), established in the year **2000**, is a sub-regional initiative, focusing on expanding project-based cooperation between India and Mekong countries (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam).

- Key areas of cooperation under MGC are tourism, culture, education, public health and traditional medicines, agriculture and allied sectors, transport, and communication, and MSMEs. During the Aug 2019 MM, three new areas of cooperation i.e., Water Resource Management, Science and Technology, and Skill Development & Capacity Building were added. These are aimed at strengthening people to people contact in the region.

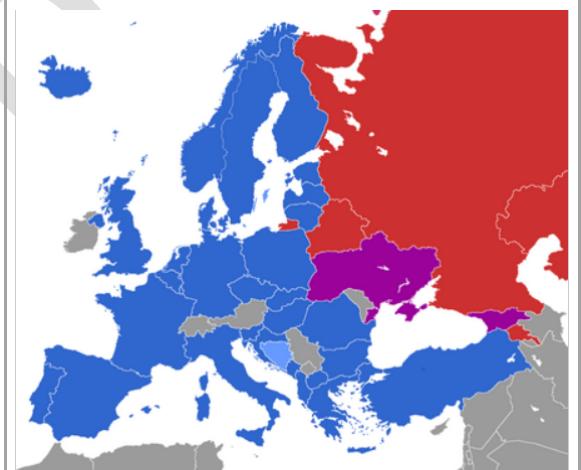


21. NATO

- NATO is a political and Military alliance established in 1949. Its primary purpose is to provide collective defense against potential military aggression from outside alliance. Since the end of cold war, NATO has expanded its membership and taken on new roles, including peacekeeping and counter terrorism operations.
- Headquarter: Brussels

Members: Currently (March 2024) there are 32 members

USA, Canada, UK, Portugal, Spain, France, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Norway, Sweden (joined in March 2024), Finland (joined in 2023), Iceland, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia



Map of NATO in Europe:

- Current members
- Membership Action Plan
- Countries seeking membership
- Countries where membership is not a goal
- Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

- Note: EU countries not part of NATO: Ireland, Austria, Malta, Cyprus
- Note: Non EU countries part of NATO: USA, Canada, UK, Iceland, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey and Norway

22. EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

- European Union (EU) is a **politico - economic union** of 27 member states (UK withdrew from the group in 31st Jan 2020) that are located primarily in Europe.
 - EU has **developed an internal single market** through a standardized system of law that apply to all member states in those matters, and only those matters, where members have agreed to act as one.
 - The Policies of EU aim to achieve:
 - **free movement of goods, services, people and capital** across the EU market.
 - Enact common legislations in justice and home affairs.
 - Maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development.
 - The **Maastricht** Treaty (Maastricht is a place in south-east Netherlands) established the **European Union** under its current name in **1993** and introduced the **European citizenship**.
 - The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the **treaty of Lisbon**, came into force in 2009. It amended Maastricht treaty and Treaty of Rome to form European Union on Constitutional Basis.
 - In 2012, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Prize** for having "contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy, and human rights in Europe."

27 MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Ireland,
Portugal,
Spain,
France,
Luxemburg,
Belgium,
Netherlands,
Germany,
Poland,
Czechia,
Slovakia,
Austria,
Hungary,
Slovenia,
Croatia,
Italy,
Malta,
Romania,
Bulgaria,
Greece,
Cyprus,
Denmark,



Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania	
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- Its members have a **combined area** of 4.2 million sq km and an **estimated total population** of about 447 million.
- The EU operates through a system of **supernational institutions** and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member states.
 - The Institutions of European Union are the **seven-principal decision-making bodies** of the European Union. Their function include:
 - Competencies in **scrutinizing and amending legislation** are divided between **European Parliament** and the **Council of European Union** while **executive tasks** are carried out by the **European commissions** and in a limited capacity by **European Council**. The **Monetary Policy** of the Euro zone is governed by **European Central Bank**. The **interpretation and application of EU law and the treaties** are ensured by the **Court of Justice of European Union**. The **EU budget is scrutinized** by the **European Court of Auditors**. There are also a number of ancillary bodies which advise the EU or operate in a specific area.

1) SCHENGEN AREA

- The Schengen area is the area comprising **27 European countries** that have **abolished passport** and any other type of border control at their common borders, also referred to as internal borders. It mostly functions as single country for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy. Countries in Schengen Area have eliminated border controls with the other Schengen members and strengthened border controls with non-Schengen states.
- **Schengen Agreement (1985)** is the treaty which led to creation of Europe's borderless Schengen Area. It proposed the gradual abolition of border checks at the signatory's common borders.
- Relation with EU
 - Originally, the Schengen treaties and the rules adopted under them operated independently from the EU.
 - However, in 1999 they were incorporated into European Union law by **Amsterdam treaty**, while providing opt-outs for the only two EU member states which had remained outside the area: **United Kingdom and Ireland**. (Note: UK has left EU in Jan 2020)



Map of the Schengen area

- Schengen is now a core part of EU law, and all EU member states without an opt-out which have not already joined the Schengen area are legally obliged to do so when technical requirements have been met.
 - Several non-EU countries are included in the area.
- Within the **Schengen Area** (27 countries), passport controls have been abolished.
 - Out of 27 EU members - 23 participate in the Schengen Area.
 - EU member - Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus - are legally obliged to join in future.
 - EU Member - Ireland maintains an opt-out, and instead operates its own visa policy.
 - Non-EU members who are part of Schengen Area include Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
 - Some countries like Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican City also maintain an open border for passenger traffic with other Schengen member countries and thus are de-facto part of Schengen area.
- Note:
 - Croatia joined the Schengen Zone in 1st Jan 2023.
 - » It also switched to the shared European Currency - the EURO and removed dozens of border check post to join the world's largest passport-free travel area, completing a dream conceived 30 years ago when it fought a war for independence from Yugoslavia.
 - Croatia joined the Schengen Zone on 1st Jan 2023, but didn't lift its air borders to Schengen countries until 26th March 2023

2) EUROZONE

- The Monetary Union (Euro zone) was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002. It is currently composed of 20 member (Croatia joined in 2023) states that use the Euro as their legal tender.

3) OTHER FACTS ABOUT EU

- Through, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the EU has developed a role in external relations and defence.
- The Union maintains permanent diplomatic missions throughout the world and represents itself at the United Nations, the WTO, the G8, and the G-20.

23.BREXIT

- Brexit Withdrawal Agreement (officially titled "Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community")

- It is a treaty between EU, Euratom and United Kingdom signed on Jan 24, 2020 which set up **terms of withdrawal of the UK from the EU and Euratom**. The text of the treaty was first published in Oct 2019.
- This agreement was approved by the British parliament by enactment of **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020**.
- The **Council of European Union** ratified the agreement on 30 Jan 2020 following the consent of European Parliament on 29th Jan 2020.

- Key Features of the BREXIT Withdrawal Agreement

- The whole of UK will leave EU, but Northern Ireland will stay in the EU's single market for goods.
- The U.K. can impose tariff on goods entering Northern Ireland from third countries as long as they are not at risk of entering EU single market
- For the goods that are at risk of entering the single market from third countries via Northern Island, EU tariffs will apply.
- Practically, there would be custom border between Great Britain and the island of Ireland, with goods being checked at Northern Irish Ports.
- The agreement replaced the contentious "Irish Backstop" plan in Theresa May's deal with new arrangement which would prevent the return of the 'hard' border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



ON JAN 31, 2020, THE UNITED KINGDOM LEFT THE EUROPEAN UNION

- UK has become the first country to leave the EU which was set up to forge unity among nations after the horrors of World War - II.
 - Had any nation state ever left the EU before UK?**
 - No, but Greenland one of the Denmark's overseas territories, held a referendum in 1982, after gaining a greater degree of self-government and duly left after a period of negotiation.
- UK had a **11-month transition period** till 31st Dec 2020. During this Britons were able to work in the EU and trade freely - and vice versa, though Britain would not be represented in Bloc's institutions i.e. legally, Britain was out.
- From **1st Jan 2021**, **EU nationals will no longer be able to live and work in Britain without visas** - though it doesn't apply to more than 3 million already doing so - and **Britons can no longer automatically work or retire in EU nations**.

24. ECOWAS (ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WESTERN AFRICAN STATES)

- Why in news?

- » ECOWAS orders to standby force to deploy in Niger (Aug 2023)
 - This is an attempt to restore democratic forces in ECOWAS.

- About ECOWAS:

- » It is a regional political and economic union of 15 countries located in Western Africa. It was established in 1975 through the Lagos Treaty.
- » Its mandate is to promote economic integration among its members. Its **larger aim** is to have a single common currency and create a single trading bloc in areas of industry, transport, telecommunication, energy, financial issues, and social and cultural matters.
- » According to the website, the Vision of ECOWAS is the creation of a "borderless region" that is well-integrated.
- » It is meant to be a region governed by principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

- Membership:

As of Aug 2023, there are 15 members to this grouping:

Cabo Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.



Following coups in some of the biggest countries in the bloc - namely **Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso** - it suspended the three members and refused to recognize their new governments.

- Organizational Structure:

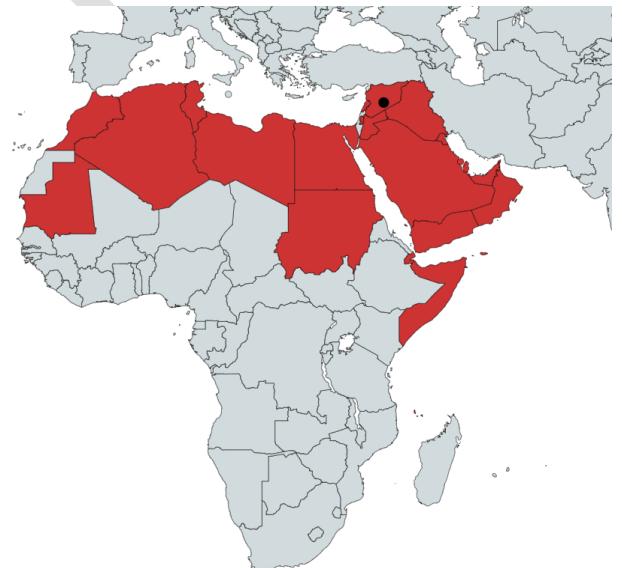
- At the helm of the organizational structure is the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.
 - The Chairman is the current head of state and government and is appointed by other Heads of State and Government to oversee its affairs for one year.

- What kind of role has ECOWAS played in the region so far?

- Economic Cooperation
- Promoting peace by quelling military conflict.
 - ECOWAS has operated a regional peacekeeping operation known as ECOMOG, led by Nigeria in 1990s and early 200s.
 - For e.g. in Liberia when forces were deployed in 1990 during the deadly civil war and in Sierra Leone in 1997 when a democratically elected government was overthrown.
- **What might ECOWAS do in Niger?**
 - Its response so far has indicated military intervention.
 - But this would face many challenges. For e.g. both Mali and Burkina Faso, both neighbours of Nigeria, run by Military juntas, were sending a delegation of officials to Niger to show support and would consider an attack as an attack on them as well.
 - **Economic Sanctions:**
 - But, there is a question of whether the longstanding measures of economic sanctions - such as those imposed by ECOWAS - can work, as these countries are also leading with low economic growth prospects at the moment.

25. ARAB LEAGUE

- **Basics:**
 - The Arab League, the League of Arab States, is a voluntary regional organization of Arabic speaking countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Arabia. It was formed in Cairo on 22nd March 1945 with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (Jordan), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
 - **Membership: 22 countries**, although Syria's participation has been suspended since 2011, as a result of government's repression during the ongoing uprising and the civil war. (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Comoros, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon)
- **Main Goal** is to "draw closer relation between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries".
- **How are decisions made?**
 - Decisions are made on the basis of majority, but there is no mechanism to compel members to comply with resolutions.



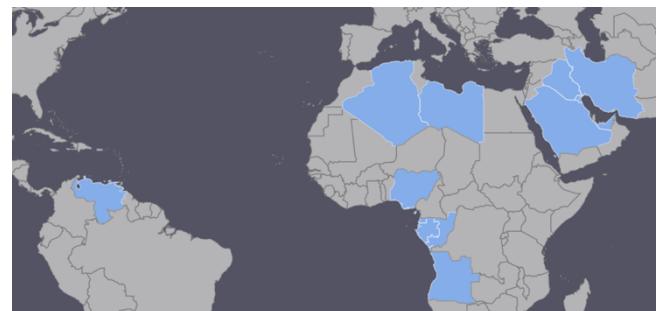
26. GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)

- Member states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman.
 - » **Note:** Iraq is the only Arab country bordering Persian gulf that is not a member of the GCC.
- Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq.
 - » **Note:** All current members are **Monarchies**, including three constitutional monarchies (Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain).
- **Formed in 1981**, after signing of Charter of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- **Objectives**
 - » Formulating similar regulations in various fields such as religion, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, and administration
 - » Fostering scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources
 - » Establishing scientific research centers
 - » Setting up joint ventures
 - » Unified military (Peninsula Shield Force)
 - » Encouraging cooperation of the private sector
 - » Strengthening ties between their people
 - » Establishing a common currency



27. OPEC (ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES) AND OPEC+

- **Introduction**
 - » It is an intergovernmental organization founded in Baghdad, in **1960** by five countries - **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**. Since 1965, it is headquartered in Vienna.
- **Membership:**
 - » Currently, the group consists of **13 oil exporting countries** (March 2021).
 - **Five Founding Members:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela
 - **Other 8 members:** Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Eq Guinea, Gabon, REPUBLIC OF Congo, Angola and UAE.
- **OPEC differentiates between founding members, full members and Associate Members**
 - **How can someone become full member of OPEC:** The statute stipulates that "any country with a substantial net export of crude petroleum, which has fundamentally similar interests to those



- of Member countries, may become a Full Member of the Organization, if accepted by a majority of three-fourth of Full Members, including the concurring votes of all Founder Members.
- **Associate Members:** The statute further provides for Associate members which are those countries that don't qualify for full membership, but are nevertheless admitted under such special conditions as may be prescribed by the Conference.
- **Members who have left recently:**
 - Qatar (1st Jan 2019)
 - Ecuador (1st Jan 2020)
- **OPEC aims to regulate** the supply of oil in order to set the prices on the world market.
- **Influence on world economy**
 - OPEC decisions have come to play a **prominent role in the global oil market and international relations**.
 - The 13 OPEC countries account for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5% of the world's "proven" oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices.
 - They have started to come to play an important role in global oil market and international relations.
 - The effect can be really strong when wars or civil disorders lead to extended interruptions in supply.
 - E.g.
 - 1970s restriction in oil production led to a dramatic rise in oil prices and OPEC revenue and wealth.
 - Although their influence on international trade is periodically challenged by the expansion of non-OPEC energy sources, and by the recurring temptation for individual OPEC members to exceed production ceiling. Further, **new technologies** like **fracking** in the USA, has had a major effect on worldwide oil prices and has lessened OPEC's influence on the markets.

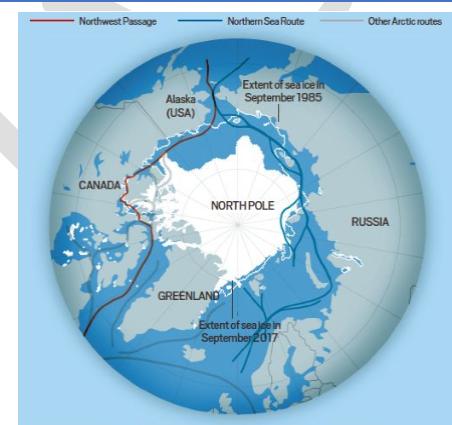
4) OPEC+ (I.E. OPEC AND ITS ALLIES)

- **Background:**
 - After 2014 "glut" diplomacy which brought down prices below \$30-barrel, Saudi Arabia and Russia came together to cut output and steady prices. This is known as **OPEC+** arrangement (Note: Russia is not a member of OPEC) and include Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan etc.
 - This alliance kept production lower and pumped up the prices.
- **OPEC+ collapsed in March 2020**, after Russia rejected a Saudi request to affect more cuts in output given the fall in demand due to COVID-19 outbreak.
 - But later, in **April 2020**, OPEC and its allies agreed to historic 10 million barrel per day production cut.
 - **OPEC+ has decided not to increase supply in April** as they await a more substantial recovery in demand amid COVID-19 pandemic. (March 2021)
 - Crude Prices rose after the announcement and are up 33% this year.
 - India have said that the OPEC+ decision to extend the output cuts may hurt some economies.

- In April 2023, OPEC+ announced a surprise cut in oil production.
 - The Group of Oil producing nations say cut of 1.5 million barrels a day is aimed at supporting market stability.
- ~~OPEC+ has decided to increase overall production by 4,00,000 barrels per day every month till the remaining portion of the group's 10 million barrel per day every month production cut announced in April 2020 is completely phased out. (July 2021)~~
 - ~~The decision also ends a standoff between UAE and other OPEC+ countries~~ on trying an extension of the supply agreement to increase production.

28. ARCTIC REGION

- **Introduction**
 - The region around the north pole is known as arctic region. It is usually understood as the area within the arctic circle (parallel of latitude - 66 degree 33 minutes 39 seconds).
 - Climate change and melting of ice in the arctic region has led to opening up of two main sailing routes through Arctic:
 - **The Northwestern Trail** runs along the Canadian coast
 - **The Northeast Passage** through Siberia, which is also the shortest route connecting the far east to the western Europe.
 - It stretches from Murmansk in the west (north west part of Russia) to the Bering Strait in the east and has become the focal point of both Russia and China's Arctic Strategy.
 - This route will be 1/3rd quicker from Asia to Europe than going the long way via Suez Canal and offers a way to rejuvenate the depressed part of Russia.
 - **Some experts believe that Shipping through the Arctic don't make much sense today and likely won't for decades to come:**
 - 1) Even though the routes are shorter, ships have to go slow through the still icy waters.
 - Transit times are still very unpredictable.
 - 2) Most vessels needs to be ice-classed to operate in the route which will lead to extra cost.
 - 3) Shallow waters along Russia rule out the big container ships that dominate cross-ocean traffic.
 - 4) Further, the route bypasses the markets like the Mediterranean sea and Southeast Asia, key hubs in big shipper's global network.
 - 5) This with increased cost due to insurance, and safety consideration are other deterrents.
 - These limitations explain why, despite all the hype, shipping companies are hesitant to dip a toe in the chilly waters.



1) CHINA AND ARCTIC REGION

- China is increasingly active in the polar region despite being a non-Arctic country. It became an observer member of the Arctic Council in 2013.

- Among its increasing interests in the region is its **major stake in Russia's Yamal liquified natural gas project** which is expected to supply China with 4 million tonnes of LNG a year. It has invested **in mining in Greenland** and also seeks to negotiate an FTA with Iceland.
- In fact, the **North Sea route** has become the focal point of both **Russia and China's Arctic Strategy**.

A) CHINA'S OFFICIAL ARCTIC POLICY (ANNOUNCED IN JAN 2018)

- It highlights Beijing's **linking the "Polar Silk Road"** to **Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative**.
- China has **self-identified itself as a "Near Arctic Country"** while keeping its economic and strategic interest in mind.
- China has narrowed down its **interest in two categories**:
 - i. Firstly, Beijing is closely involved in **activities in the areas like scientific research, resource exploration and exploitation, shipping and security**.
 - ii. Secondly, **Climate change** and its potential consequences on the region are expected to affect much of the world, so China is naturally concerned.
- China has outlined its ambitions **to extend President Xi Jingping's BRI to the Arctic** by developing shipping lanes opened up by global warming. China has said that it would **encourage enterprises to build infrastructure and conduct commercial trial voyages**, paving the way **for Arctic Shipping routes that would form a "Polar Silk Road"**.

A) INDIA'S PRESENCE IN ARCTIC

Currently, India has a **single station, Himadri**, in **Ny-Alesund**, Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, where research personnel are **usually present for 180 days**. India is in the process of procuring ice-breaker research vessel that can navigate the region

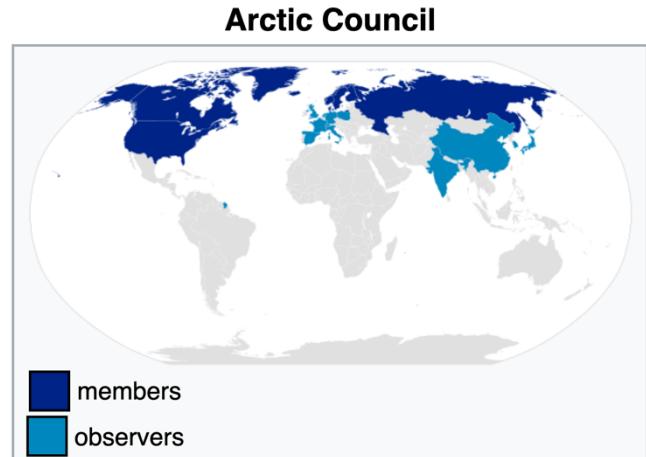
29. ARCTIC COUNCIL

- **Introduction**
 - Arctic Council is a **high-level intergovernmental forum** that addresses **issues faced by Arctic governments and the indigenous people of Arctic**.
 - It acts as **forum for promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the arctic states**, with the involvement of the arctic indigenous communities and other arctic inhabitants on issues such as **sustainable development** and **environment protection**.
 - It was **established in 1996 through the 1996 Ottawa declaration**.
- **Membership**
 - **Members:**
 - Only states with territory in the Arctic can be members of the Council. It has **eight member countries** : Canada, USA, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.
 - **Observer states**

- United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, **India**, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore.

- Importance of the Region

- Vast natural resources
 - Oil, Gas and Minerals
 - Commercial fishing opportunities
- Shortened shipping routes that are now accessible because of global warming.
- Scientific research opportunities
- Climate Change studies
- Strategic significance



- India and Arctic Council

- India was first given observer status in 2013 for five years. This was then renewed in 2018 for another five-year term.
- According to MEA India's interests in the Arctic region are scientific, environmental, commercial as well as strategic.
 - This is also visible from the Draft Arctic Policy released by India recently.

- India Scientific work in Arctic Region

- India now maintains a permanent presence in the region through a **research base Himadri** and **two observatories**, in Kongsfjorden and Ny Alesund.
- **Note:**
 - Himadri is India's first permanent Arctic Research base located at Spitsbergenu, Svalbard, Norway. It is located at the International Arctic Research Base, **Ny-Alesund**. It was set up during India's second Arctic Expedition in June 2008.

30. BRICS

- BASICS

- BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies (BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA, and SOUTH AFRICA) that are becoming the key driver of globalization. Their cooperation has been driven by not only economic and political factors, but also because of failure of existing global governance framework to satisfy the real needs of these countries.
- Originally the first four were called BRIC before induction of South Africa in 2010.
 - **Note:** Term **BRIC** was coined in 2001 by the then chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management **Jim O'Neil**, in his publication "*Building Better Global Economic BRICs*". On the basis of economic analysis, he claimed that the four economies would individually and collectively occupy far greater economic space and become **among the world's largest economies in the next 50 years**.



- BRICS members are all developing and newly industrialized countries, but they are distinguished by their large and fast-growing economies and significant influence on regional and global affairs.
- All five are G20 members.
- The first summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009 and since then the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits.

- **AIMS and Objective**

- Promoting a more legitimate international system including UNSC and IMF/WB reforms
 - Promote South-South Cooperation and regional cooperation.
 - Act as a bridge between developed and developing countries
 - Present a united front of developing countries in climate change negotiations
 - Embrace cultural diversity and promote people to people contact among BRICS countries
- In Recent years BRICS has diversified its objectives and is also working towards fighting protectionism and promoting & protecting multilateralism. Focus on counterterrorism has also increased.

31. NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

- US\$100 billion New Development Bank (formerly known as the "BRICS Development Bank") is a multilateral development bank operated by BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- **History**
 - New Development Bank was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
 - In 2014, at the 6th Summit held at Fortaleza, Brazil, the group of emerging economies signed the long-anticipated document to create the \$100 billion BRICS development bank and a reserve currency pool worth over another \$100 billion.
 - **Headquarter:** The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. A regional headquarter will be set up in Johannesburg.
 - The first President will be from India, the inaugural Chairman of the Board of Directors will come from Brazil and the inaugural chairman of the board of Governors will be Russia.
 - On May 11, 2015: K.V. Kamath was appointed as president of the bank. (He completed his five year term in 2020).
 - On March 24, 2023 , the NDB announced Dilma Rousseff as its new President.
- **Voting Powers:** Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power.
- **Why BRICS bank was born -> Lack of Reforms in Bretton Woods Institutions**
- **Objectives and Total Capital**
 - Development Capital

- The bank's primary focus of lending will be infrastructure projects with authorized lending of upto \$34 billion annually. The bank will have starting capital of \$50 billion, with capital increase to \$100 billion overtime.
- **Contribution and voting rights**
 - Each member's contribution will be equal with equal voting rights.
- Each member cannot increase its capital share without all other 4 members agreeing. This was primary requirement of India.
- The bank will allow new members to join but the BRICS capital share cannot fall below 55%.

- **Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA)**

- The CRA is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual potential short term balance of payment pressure.
- **Objective** of this capital is to provide protection against the global liquidity pressure. This include currency issues where member's national currencies are being adversely affected by global financial pressures. The bank would also provide assistance to other countries suffering from the economic volatility in the wake of US exit from its expansionary monitoring policy.
- **Contribution By Each Country**
 - Out of the total initial capital of \$100 billion, China will contribute \$41 billion, Brazil, Russia and India would give \$18 billion each, and South Africa would contribute \$5 billion.

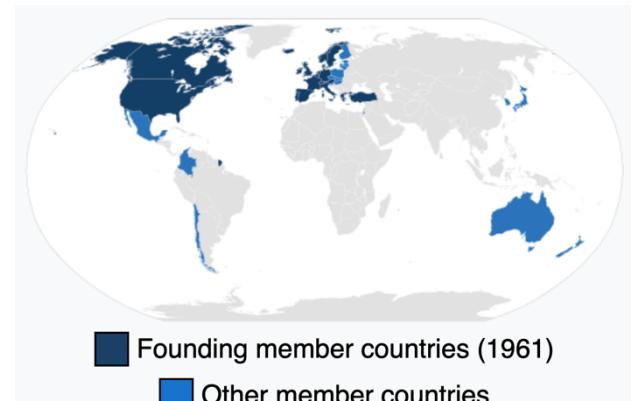
Initial Subscribed Capital	\$50 billion (each member gave 10 billion)
Initial Authorized Capital	\$100 billion
Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA)	\$100 billion

- **Update:** New Development Bank has announced the launch of its Indian Regional Office in GIFT City.

32. OECD (ORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

- **About OECD**

- OECD is an international economic organization for 37 countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- It is a forum of countries describing themselves as committed to democracy and the market economy, providing a platform to compare policy experiences, seeking answers to common problems, identify good practices and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members.
- **Origin in 1948** OEC which was formed to help administer Marshall plan.
- **Headquarter:** Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France
- **Members:** The OECD's 37 members are: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland,



■ Founding member countries (1961)

■ Other member countries

Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

33. FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF)

- **Intro**
 - Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) is an intergovernmental organization **founded in 1989** on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001, the purpose expanded to act on **terrorism financing**.
 - It **monitors countries' progress** in implementing the FATF Recommendations by the '**peer review**' ('**mutual evaluations**') of member countries.
 - FATF **secretariat** is housed at the headquarters of the OECD in Paris.
- **Members and Observers**
 - **For being a member**, a country must be considered **strategically important** (large population, large GDP, developed banking and insurance sector, etc.), must adhere to **globally accepted financial standards**, and be a **participant in other important organizations**.
 - **Responsibilities of a member:**
 - » The country or organization must endorse and support the most recent FATF recommendations, commit to being evaluated by (and evaluating) other members, and work with the FATF in the development of future recommendations.
- **Every year there are three plenary meeting** of the inter-governmental body.
- What are **Blacklist** and **Grey List**?
 - These two terms **don't exist in FATF's official terminology**. The group identifies "**jurisdictions with weak measures**" through two documents issued at the end of the plenary held thrice a year.
 - The first document (Colloquially known as the **blacklist**) has the **two set of countries ("Call for action")**
 - A. Countries or jurisdictions with such **serious strategic deficiencies** that the FATF calls its members and nonmembers to apply counter measures.
 - **North Korea** falls in this category.
 - B. Countries for which FATF calls on its members to **apply enhanced due diligence measures** proportionate to the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with the country.
 - **Iran** falls in this category.
 - C. Blacklist is also known as **non-cooperative countries / Territories [NCCTs]**
 - The **second document** is called "**Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: On Going Process**". It consists of "**Other Monitored Jurisdiction**". This is colloquially known as the **grey list**.

- A. These countries have shown strategic weakness in preventing money laundering and terror financing, but they **will get a second chance** as they "provided a high-level commitment to an action plan developed with the FATF".
- B. **Pakistan** is listed in this list. It has been on the Grey List from **2008-2015**, after which it was taken off the watch list until 2018. In 2018 it was again added on the list and given a 27 point action plan. It was removed from the list in Oct 2022.
- C. A **country in grey list** may face following limitations:
 - Economic Sanctions from IMF, World Bank, ADB
 - Problem in getting loans from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other countries
 - Reduction in international trade
 - International boycott.

FATF SUSPENDED THE MEMBERSHIP OF RUSSIA FEDERATION (FEB 2023)

Reason: Ukraine War: The Russian Federation's actions unacceptably run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system. They also represent a gross violation of the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed to implement and support the FATF Standards

34. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a regional development bank established 1966. It was conceived as a financial institution that will be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions of the world.
 - **Mission:** Achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable **Asia and the Pacific**, while sustaining our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- **Headquarter:** Metro Manila, Philippines
- **Objective:** To facilitate social and economic development in Asia.
 - **80% of ADB's lending** have been concentrated in Public sector with focus on **five operational areas**:
 - i. **Education**
 - ii. **Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction**
 - iii. **Financial Sector development**
 - iv. **Infrastructure** including transport, communication, energy, water supply and sanitation, and Urban development.
 - v. **Regional cooperation and integration**
- **Voting** =: Modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with member's capital subscription.
- **Observer at UN:** ADB is an official UN observer.
- **Members:**
 - The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific Region (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.
 - ADB presently (Feb 2020) has **68 members** of which **49** are from within Asia Pacific and 19 outside.

Country	Shares	Voting Power
---------	--------	--------------

Japan	15.571%	12.756%
US	15.571%	12.756%
China	6.429%	5.442%
India	6.317%	5.352
Australia	5.773%	4.917

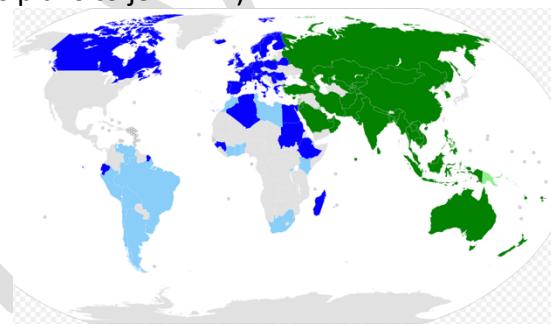
35. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS: ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

- Introduction

- » The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to **improve social and economic outcomes in Asia**. It aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia Pacific Region.
- » On **29th June 2015** countries from five continents formally signed in Beijing the **Articles of Association** (also called **60 article agreement**), the legal framework that begun the existence of the Bank.
 - The agreement entered into force on 25th Dec 2015 when ratification was received from 10 member states holding a total of 50% of initial subscription of the authorized capital stock.
- » It is regarded by some as rival to IMF, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which are dominated by developed countries like the USA, EU and Japan.

- Members and Founding Members

- » The institution currently has **103 members** (Regional members: 46, Non-regional members: 39, Prospective Members: 18).
 - All of Europe, Canada, Australia, NewZealand are also members.
- » **Major economies that are not members** of AIIB are **USA, Japan, Mexico and Nigeria** (Nigeria has plans to join AIIB).



- Objectives

- To provide finance to infrastructure projects in Asia region.
- Fostering Long Term Economic Development
- Infrastructure as regional integration and foreign policy tool.

- Reasons for Formation - Slow pace of reforms and governance in **global financial institutions** such as IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Banks

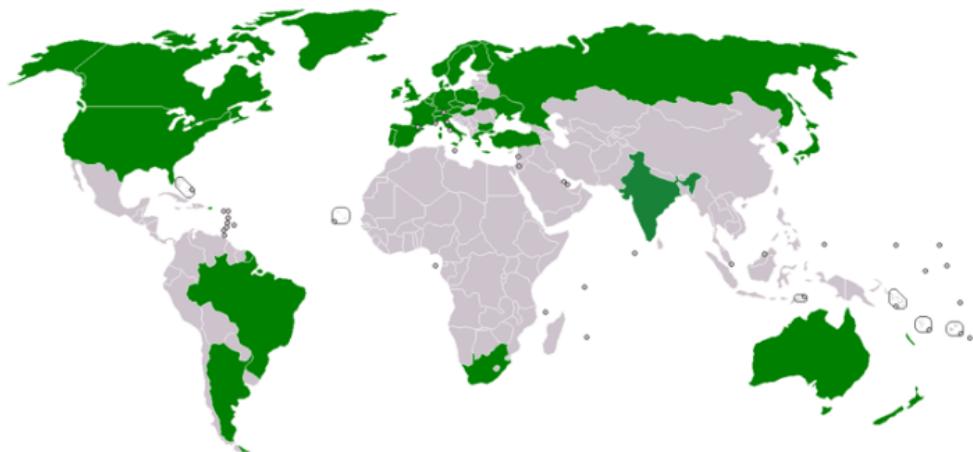
- **Capital**
 - The bank has an authorized capital of \$100 billion (around 2/3rd the capital of ADB, and half that of World Bank)
- **Regional Character of the Bank:** The bank's regional members will be holding around 75% shares i.e.; they will be majority shareholders.
- **Shareholding structure and Voting Right**
 - Voting share: It is based on the size of the economy and not on authorized capital share of the Bank.

Country	Share	Voting Rights
China	30.79%	26.52
India	8.65%	7.604
Russia	6.75%	5.98
Germany	4.63%	4.17

- **India and China** are the only countries to have a permanent seat on AIIB's Board of Directors.
- **China also holds veto power** for certain key decisions.
- **India and AIIB**
 - **Biggest Beneficiary:** India has been the biggest beneficiary of the bank. Out of \$20 billion in loans issued by the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), about \$6 billion has gone to India.
 - **Overlooking China's de-facto veto:**
 - **Projects funded in partnership:**
 - **Easy terms of loans:**

36. WEAPON CONTROL REGIMES: MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

- MTCR is an informal and voluntary partnership between 35 countries (India became a member in June 2016) to prevent the proliferation of missile, complex rocket systems, unmanned aerial vehicles and related technology capable of carrying a 500 Kg payload for atleast 300 kms, as well as systems intended for delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
- **Established**
 - In 1987 by Canada, USA, United Kingdom, France Germany, Italy, and Japan.
 - It was created to curb the spread of unmanned delivery systems for nuclear weapons, specially delivery systems that could carry a minimum payload of 500 Kg a minimum of 300 km.
- **Membership**
 - **Participating states: 35**
 - **Note:** China, Israel and Pakistan are not members of MTCR



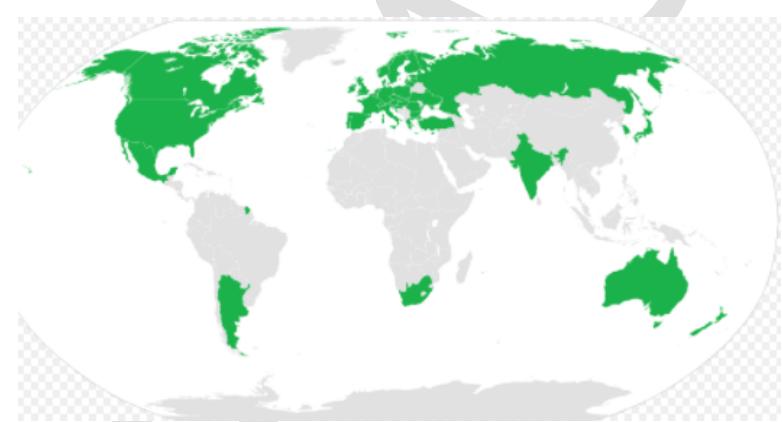
- In 2002, the MTCR was supplemented by the International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC), also known as Hague Code of conduct, which calls for restraint and care in the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, and has 119 members, thus working parallel to MTCR will less specific restrictions but with greater memberships.

37. WEAPON CONTROL REGIMES: NUCLEAR SUPPLIER GROUP (NSG)

- **Introduction**
 - NSG is a multinational body concerned with reducing nuclear proliferation by controlling the export and re-transfer of material that may be applicable to nuclear weapon development and by improving safeguards and protection on existing materials. In short NSG was established **to prevent the civilian nuclear trade from being used for military purpose**.
- **Background**
 - India's Nuclear Test, May 1974.
 - The test demonstrated that certain non-weapons specific nuclear technology could be readily turned to weapons development. Nations already signatories of Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty saw the need to further limit the export of nuclear equipment, materials, or technology.
 - Another advantage of forming NSG was that the Non-NPT nations, then specifically France (France and China acceded to NPT in 1992), could be brought in.
- **First met in 1975**
- **Membership**
 - As of March 2023: NSG has 48 members (**India isn't a member**).
- **Future Indian Participation in NSG**
 - NSG has been opened to admitting new members, but it has been stringent in opening its doors only to those countries that are part of the NPT or CTBP. India is neither signed the NPT nor the CTBT.
 - In 2008, NSG issued an India-specific waiver allowing it to engage in Nuclear trade. India got its exemption on the basis of certain non-proliferation commitments to which it agreed under the India-US Nuclear Agreement.
 - The commitments included

- Separating its civilian and military nuclear facilities in phased manner
- Placing civil nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards
- Signing and adhering to IAEA's additional protocol
- Continuing unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing
- Working with the US for the conclusion of Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)
- Refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technology to states that do not have them and supporting international efforts to limit their spread.
- US has shown its support in 2010 and 2015, president visit to India. UK, France and Russia are also in favour, only China opposes.

38. WEAPON CONTROL REGIMES: WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

- **Introduction:** The Wassenaar arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual Use Good and Technologies is a multilateral export control regime with 42 participating states including many former COMECON(Warsaw) countries.
 - **Establishment**
 - July 1996
 - Wassenaar, Netherlands
 - **Secretariat: Vienna**
 - **Aim:** The Wassenaar Arrangement was established to contribute to regional and international security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual use goods and technologies, thus preventing established accumulation.
 - Member countries are required to ensure that transfers of these items don't contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine the goals of security and stability.
 - **Membership**
 - **42 Participating Members**
 - In Dec 2017, India became the 42 members
 - China is not a member of this grouping.
 - Admission requires states to
 - Be a producer or exporter of arms or sensitive industrial equipment
 - Maintain non-proliferation policies and appropriate national policies, including adherence to
 - NSG, MTCR, Australian Group
 - NPT, Biological Weapon Convention, Chemical Weapon Convention
- 

39. WEAPON CONTROL REGIME: AUSTRALIA GROUP

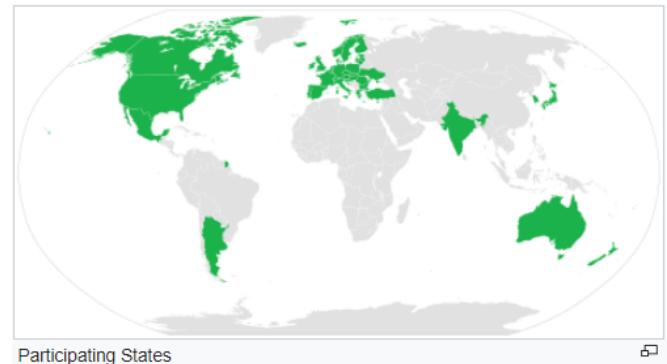
- **Introduction:** It is an informal group of countries (now joined by the European Commission) established in 1985 (after the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in 1984) to help member countries to identify those exports which need to be controlled so as not to contribute to the spread of chemical and biological weapons. So, it is one of the multilateral export control regimes (MECR).

- **Naming:** The group has been so named because of Australia's initiative to create the group. Australia also manages the secretariat.

- **Membership**

- **Member countries:**

- The group consists of 43 countries including all 28 members of EU, Ukraine and Argentina.



- **India became the 43rd Member** in January 2018.
- **Note: China, Russia and Pakistan** are not members of the group.
- **Meeting:** Delegations representing the members meet every year in Paris, France.

- **Control**

- Members of the group maintain **export controls on a uniform list of 54 compounds**, including several that are not prohibited for export under the Chemical Weapons Convention, but can be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

- **Significance of India's membership**

- India's membership shows that our export controls and safeguards for biological and chemical agents, equipment, technologies meet the benchmark established by the international community.
 - It is understood that India's membership of AG will also boost India's membership bid for the NSG, which is being opposed by China.

40. NON PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) – INDIA NOT A SIGNATORY

- **Introduction:** The Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as NPT, is an international treaty whose **objective** is to
 - Prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology (non-proliferation)
 - Promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (peaceful uses)
 - Further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament (disarmament)
- **Dates**
 - Open for signature in 1968, the treaty entered into force in 1970.
 - On 11 May 1995, the treaty was extended indefinitely.
- **Membership**
 - A total of 191 states have joined NPT
 - North Korea, acceded in 1985 but never came into compliance, announced its withdrawal in 2003.
 - **Four UN member states who have never joined.**
 - India
 - Pakistan

- Israel
- South Sudan
- **Nuclear Weapon States**
 - The treaty recognizes five states as nuclear weapon states
 - The USA
 - Russia
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - China
 - Four other states known or believed to possess nuclear weapons
 - India
 - Pakistan
 - North Korea
 - Israel
- **Central Bargain of the treaty**
 - The NPT is often seen to be based on the central bargain: "The NPT non-nuclear weapon states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons and the NPT nuclear weapon states in exchange agree to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and to pursue nuclear disarmament aimed at ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals".
- **Achievements**
 - At the time NPT was proposed, there were predictions of 25-30 nuclear weapon states in next 20 years.
 - Today only 5 states are not party and 4 of them are nuclear weapon states.
 - Several additional measures
 - NSG
 - IAEA Additional Protocol
- **Limitations**
 - Failed in disarmament
 - 5 recognized nuclear weapon states have a stockpile of 22,000 warheads. Article VI of the treaty "obligates the nuclear weapon states to liquidate their nuclear stockpiles and pursue complete disarmament". There is no sign of this happening.
- **Why India has not joined**
 - **Haves and Have nots**
 - **NPT Is flawed:** it did not recognize the need for universal, non-discriminatory verification and treatment.
 - **India's own security concerns**
 - **Nuclear weapons as active tools of international diplomacy**
 - **India also remains a strong proponent of universal disarmament.**

41. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

- **Introduction**
 - CTBT is a multilateral treaty by which states agree to **ban all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes**.
 - **Need:** Between 1945 and 1996, over 2,000 nuclear test were conducted – mainly by the US (over 1,000), Soviet Union (700) and France (200) – the treaty was brought to bring this to halt.

- The treaty was negotiated at the **Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva and **adopted by the UNGA in 1996**. But, the treaty **has not entered into force yet, due to the non-ratification of the 8 specific nations**.
- **When would the treaty come in force?**
 - The treaty would enter into force 180 days after the 44 states listed in Annex-2 of the treaty ratify it. These annex-2 states are those states which participated in the CTBT's negotiation between 1994 and 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or research reactors at that time.
 - **As of March 2020, 8 annex-2 states have not ratified**
 - USA, China, Egypt, Iran and Israel have signed but not ratified
 - India, North Korea and Pakistan have not signed the treaty.
 - Total 184 countries have signed the treaty (16 without ratification) - As of March 2020.

- **Significance of CTBT**
 - **Prevents Nuclear Proliferation:** CTBT is the last barrier on the way to develop nuclear weapons. It not only curbs the development of new weapons, but also prevents the improvement of existing designs. When in force, it will provide a legally binding prohibition on nuclear testing.
 - **Prevents environmental damage** that occurs due to nuclear testing.
 - It's **non-discriminatory** as under this treaty everyone has the same obligation -> never to conduct nuclear explosion.
- **Why has India not signed the treaty yet?**
 - **CTBT doesn't deal with India's stand of Complete disarmament** in a time bound manner. It is just restricting the new tests.
 - **Discriminatory**
 - For countries who **already have large stockpiles** of nuclear weapons, this is advantageous as it prevents others from getting it. For India, this pact will act as a hindrance in testing new technologies
 - **Technology difference between P-5 countries and India**
 - P-5 countries no longer need to go for testing to enhance their stockpiles as they have developed laboratory stimulated testing mechanism which will not require nuclear explosions.
 - **India's vulnerable neighborhood** makes it mandatory for India to keep the option of future tests open. China already has a huge stockpile and as per CTBT (and NPT) it will be able to retain its arsenal but prevent India from developing more. This will give China an upper hand.

42. OPEN SKIES TREATY

- **Why in news?**
 - IN NOV 2020, **USA formally withdrew from OPEN Skies Treaty**.
 - In Jan 2021, Russia also withdrew from OST.
- **What is Open Skies Treaty?**
 - It is an **accord** that allows participants to fly unarmed reconnaissance flights over any part of their fellow member states.

- The treaty was proposed for the first time in 1955 by the former US President Dwight Eisenhower as a means to deescalate tensions during the Cold War. But it could eventually be signed only in 1992 between the NATO members and the former WARSAW Pact countries following the disintegration of USSR. It came into force in 2002.
 - A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 72 hours before, and sharing its exact flight path 24 hours before.
 - The **information gathered** such as on troop movement, military exercises, and missile deployment has to be shared with all the member states.
 - **Only approved imaging equipment** is allowed on the surveillance flights, and officials from the host state can also be on board throughout the planned journey.
- **Significance of OST**
 - **Openness and transparency** building confidence among the member countries. It thus reduces the chances of accidental war.
 - It gives **key information** which advanced satellite imagery can't provide till now.
 - **Why has US withdrawn?**
 - Many experts in USA have, for over a decade, accused Russia of non-compliance with the OST protocols and have blamed them for obstructing surveillance flights on its territory, while misusing its own missions for gathering key tactical data.
 - USA has **advanced its satellite imagery capabilities** like no other country. At the same time, it has **not advanced its surveillance aircrafts** while **Russia has gained an unfair technical advantage under the OST** by introduction of a new digital electro-optical sensor to its Tupolev Tu-154 aircraft used for Open Skies Flight. So, remaining in this treaty may not be useful for USA.

43. IMPORTANT REPORTS

A) DEMOCRACY INDEX, 2021

- Released by **the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** which is a UK-based private company which publishes the weekly newspaper ***The Economist***.
- It ranks 167 countries based on 60 indicators divided into **5 parameters**
 1. Electoral Process and Pluralism
 2. Functioning of Government
 3. Political Participation
 4. Political Culture
 5. Civil Liberties.

B) VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY REPORT

- **About V-Dem**
 - » Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a **new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy**.

- It provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the **concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections**.
 - It not only takes into account the electoral dimension (free and fair elections), but also the liberal principle that a democracy must protect "individual minority rights against both the tyranny of the state and the tyranny of the majority".
 - The report **classifies countries into four regime types** based on their score in the **Liberal Democracy Index (LDI)**:
 - **Liberal Democracy**
 - **Electoral Democracy**
 - **Electoral Autocracy**
 - **Closed Autocracy**
 - The **Liberal Democracy Index (LDI)** captures both liberal and electoral aspects of a democracy based on 71 indicators that make up the **Liberal Component Index (LCI)** and **Electoral Democracy Index (EDI)**.
 - The **LCI measures** aspects such as protection of individual liberties and legislative constraints on the executive;
 - The **EDI considers** indicators that guarantee free and fair elections such as freedom of expression and freedom of association.
 - In addition, **LDI also uses Egalitarian Component Index** (to what extent different social groups are equal), **Participatory Component Index** (health of citizen groups, civil society organizations), and **Deliberative Component Index** (whether political decisions are taken through public reasoning focused on common good or through emotional appeals, solidarity attachments, co-ercion).
- » It is a monumental study from the **University of Gothenburg, Sweden**. The report is backed by EU, and funded by a multitude of different institutions and think tanks, ensuring a robust access to data.

C) FREEDOM HOUSE'S REPORT: FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

- **Details**
 - **Freedom House** is a US based human rights watchdog.
 - It publishes an annual report - Freedom in the World - which **assesses the political and civil liberties** around the world.

2) TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

- **About Transparency International**
 - It is an international not for profit NGO which works towards combating global corruption and preventing criminal activities arising from corruption.
 - It was founded in 1993 and is based in Berlin, Germany.

A) CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX

- It ranks **180** countries and territories based on how corruption in their public sector is perceived to be.
It is a composite index i.e., it draws upon corruption related data by a variety of reputable institutions.
It uses a scale of 0 to 100 (0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean)
- **Some limitations of the CPI**
 1. Experts argue that CPI is not a reflection of the corruption environment of a country and it fails to highlight the pressure points.
 2. It is **not truly representative** - It only uses expert assessments and surveys of business people, excluding surveys of public. This generates **sample bias** as business elites are generally less negative about forms of corruption that favor their own group.

B) GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER

- It is the largest survey in the world tracking public opinion on corruption

3) GLOBAL PRESS FREEDOM INDEX (PFI)

- Published by **Reporters without Borders** (RSF): It is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. It is headquartered in Paris and has consultative status with the UN.
- The **objective of the World Press Freedom Index**, which it releases every year, “is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories” in the previous calendar year
- **RSF defines Press Freedom** as “the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety”
- **Method Used:**
 - Countries are ranked after being assigned a score from 0 to 100, with 100 representing the highest possible level of freedom and 0 the worst.
 - The scoring has **two components**:
 - **A quantitative one**: It tallies abuses against journalists and media outlets
 - **A qualitative analysis** based on the responses of press freedom specialists (journalists, researchers, human right defenders) to an RSF questionnaires.
- **2022 World Press Freedom Index:**
 - India's ranking has fallen to 150/180 countries (from 142 last year)
 - The **top three positions** have been given to **Nordic trio** – Norway (92.65 score), Denmark (90.27) and Sweden (88.84).
 - **Norway** has topped for the fifth year in running.

4) WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT – OPEN GOVERNMENT INDEX AND RULE OF LAW INDEX

- WJP is an international civil society organization with the stated mission of "working to advance the rule of law around the world".
 - It works through **three programs:**
 - Research and Scholarship
 - The WJP Rule of Law Index
 - Engagement
 - It seeks to increase public awareness about the foundational importance of rule of Law, stimulate government reforms and develop practical programs at community level.
 - It was released first in 2015

A) ABOUT THE OPEN GOVERNMENT INDEX

- WJP's **Open Government Index** is the first effort to measure government openness based on general public experience and perception worldwide.
- Open government index is based on the following dimensions:
 - Publicized Laws and government data
 - Right to Information
 - Civil Participation
 - Complaint Mechanism
- The index was first released in 2015.

B) ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW INDEX

- It is the world's leading source for original, dependent data on the rule of law.
- It measures rule of Law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country legal practitioners and experts worldwide.

44. NOT VERY IMPORTANT INDICES AND REPORTS

1) ACADEMIC FREEDOM INDEX – GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

2) OXFAM

- It is an international confederation of 20 NGOs focusing on alleviating global poverty. It was formed in 1995 by a few NGOs to share knowledge and resources and combine their efforts in fighting against poverty and injustice.
 - » The name "Oxfam" comes from the oxford committee of famine relief, founded in Britain in 1942. The group campaigned for food supplies to be sent through an allied naval blockade to starve women and children in enemy occupied Greece during the WW-II.

3) FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT – BY UNEP AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

4) HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

5) GLOBAL CHILDHOOD REPORT AND END OF CHILDHOOD RANKING 2021 – BY SAVE THE CHILDREN (A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

- 6) WORLD COMPETITIVENESS INDEX BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IMD)
- 7) IMD WORLD TALENT RANKING
- 8) GLOBAL TALENT COMPETITIVENESS INDEX (GTCI) BY INSEAD BUSINESS SCHOOL
- 9) GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX – ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (EIU)
- 10) WORLDWIDE COST OF LIVING SURVEY, 2020 – BY ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (EIU)
- 11) GLOBAL PEACE INDEX (GPI) BY THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS AND PEACE
- 12) GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX BY THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND PEACE
- 13) GLOBAL ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX – BY FRASER INSTITUTE CANADA
- 14) GLOBAL SMART CITY INDEX BY (THE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY)




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