

### **PT 360: 5 Years Current Affairs**

PT 360 is a Course for **5 years Current Affairs for Prelims**. It includes Current Affairs from June 2016 to May 2021.

**Course Duration:** 25 Hours for 5 Years Current Affairs. Number of Pages: Approx. 300.

**Subjects:** 1. Indian Polity. 2. International Relations. 3. Social Issues. 4. Environment, Geography, and Maps. 5. Economy. 6. Art and Culture. 7. Science And Technology. 8. Governance: Ministries, Schemes, Policies, Acts, and Bills.

#### **Approach**

- All the subjects are segregated into topics and Subtopics.
- Eg. Social issues PT is segregated into 9 subtopics: 1. Women. 2. Children. 3. Other Vulnerable Sections. 4. Education. 5. Health. 6. Drug Abuse Issues. 7. Food and Nutrition. 8. Index and Reports. 9. Miscellaneous.
- The Women Topic is again segregated into its related subtopics: 1.1 International Initiatives. 1.2 Marriage, Divorce, and Inheritance. 1.3 Violence and Harassment. 1.4 National Initiatives. 1.5 Motherhood. 1.6 Women Education. 1.7 Women Health. 1.8 Schemes
- Schemes related to women are covered in Governance PT under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Relevance of PT 360 for Mains:** You need to update the analytical part for the Mains. Also, pointers from this course can be used as fodder for Mains. like examples, case studies, court judgements etc.

#### **Note:**

1. Videos are free at YouTube. Content is not part of free videos.
2. Course completion date: 15 days before Prelims.

### **International Relations**

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## 1. India and Neighborhood

### 1.1 India-Nepal

#### Indo Nepal Territorial Dispute

##### News

- Nepal unveiled a new political map.

#### Indo-Nepal Territorial Dispute

- India and Nepal issue - border dispute over the regions, Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura (all three in Uttarakhand) and Susta (Bihar).
- Kalapani - largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India.
  - Tri-junction between India, China, and Nepal.
- Susta (Bihar) – located on banks of River Gandak.
- 1816 Treaty of Sugauli – according to Nepal, the only authentic document on boundary delineation.
  - Nepal lost Sikkim, Kumaon, Garhwal, and Western Terai area.
  - Gandak: international boundary between India and Nepal.
  - Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani: east of the river Kali.
- Indian views - border begins at Kalapani where the river begins.
  - Kali originates in springs below the Lipulekh pass
  - Sugauli treaty does not demarcate the area north of these streams.
  - 19<sup>th</sup> century Administrative and revenue records - Kalapani was on the Indian side, and part of Pithoragarh district (Uttarakhand).
  - China in 2015 - recognized India's sovereignty; agreed expanding trade through Lipulekh pass.

#### India Nepal Border

- India and Nepal - open border (Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950) running along West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Sikkim.
- “open border” - free and unrestricted movement of people from either side.

#### Pancheswar Dam Project (Mahakali Treaty), 1996

- It is an **India- Nepal project for energy production and irrigation**.
- It is on **Mahakali River** (known as **Sharda in India**).
- It forms **international boundary between Nepal- Uttarakhand**.
- It includes **development of Mahakali River, Sharda barrage, Tanakpur barrage etc.**
- News Context:** Revised second detailed project report is prepared for this project.
- Other Important Projects of India-Nepal:**
  - Kamla- Bagmati Multipurpose Projects.
  - Sapta-Kosi High Dam Project.
  - SUN Kosi storage and diversion scheme.
  - Karnali Multipurpose Project.

### 1.2 India-Bangladesh

#### Border Haats

- News Context:** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats was held in Agartala.
- It is a **border trade market organised by India-Nepal**.
- It promotes the **wellbeing of the people dwelling in remote areas** across the borders.
- It establishes **traditional marketing system for local products**.
- Location:**
  - Kalaichar and Balat, Meghalaya.
  - Srinagar and Kamalasagar, Tripura.

#### Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN)

- It would **clarify the interpretation of existing India-Bangladesh agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments**.
- It includes the definition of:**
  - Investor & Investment, exclusion of taxation measures, MFN treatment.
  - Essential security interests, settlement of disputes etc.
- News Context:** India approved this.

### **Indo-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol (IWTTP)**

- It was signed by India-Bangladesh in 1972 and was revised in 2016.
- It is to revive the River Transport system between the two countries.

#### **Project:**

- India would invest in creating infrastructure (Port, Road and Rail) to facilitate the smooth movement of goods to North Eastern states.
- It includes Ashuganj port (Meghna River, Bangladesh), Akhaura Checkpost (Agartala).
- It gives both countries right to use each other's territory for transiting goods to third country.
- **News Context:** An Indian consignment reached Tripura officially via the inland waterways of Bangladesh under this protocol.

### **Akashwani Maitree Channel**

- It is a venture of All India Radio aimed at strengthening ties between India-Bangladesh.

### **1.3 India-Sri Lanka**

#### **India-Sri Lanka Various Deals**

- India to develop Trincomalee port and oil tank farms, LNG terminals in Kerawalapitiya near Colombo.
- India-Japan agreement to develop the East Container Terminal at Colombo harbour.
- Upgradation of Jaffna-Colombo rail track.
- Electricity transmission lines for power imports from India.
- Rebuilding the Kankesanthurai port.
- India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally and Sri Lanka is India's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner in the SAARC.
- **Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement** was signed in 2000.

### **1.4 India-Maldives**

#### **India-Maldives Various Developments**

- **Addu Tourism Zone**
  - India-Maldives signed MoU for establishing this in 5 islands of Addu atoll.

- **Addu Atoll (Seenu Atoll)** is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.
- Atoll: It is a ring-shaped coral reef that surrounds a body of water called a lagoon.

#### **Bottled water plant:**

- It will be set up at Hoarafushi (an inhabited island of the northern-most atoll, Haa Alif Atoll in Maldives).

#### **High Impact Community Development Scheme (HICDP):**

- It develops partnership between India and Maldives.
- The projects under it are driven by needs of communities on the islands.

### **1.5 India-Myanmar**

#### **Rohingyas**

- News Context: Rohingyas were deported to Myanmar via Manipur's Moreh.
- They are Muslim group living in Rakhine State or Arakan Region in Western Myanmar.
- They speak Bengali Dialect, not Myanmar's Burmese language.
- They are considered as migrated during Colonial rule in Myanmar.
- They have not been provided full citizenship.
- India legally deports the Rohingya to Myanmar since it is not party to the 1951 Convention on Refugees and 1967 Protocol.
- **Operation Insaniyat:**
  - It is launched by Foreign Ministry to aid Bangladesh in Rohingya Myanmar Migration case.

#### **Sittwe Port**

- It is built by India in Bay of Bengal as an alternate route to chicken neck for north east.
- It will lower the cost and distance from Kolkata to Mizoram.
- It is the capital of Rakhine State (south-western Myanmar).
- It is located at the mouth of the Kaladan river, flowing into Mizoram.

- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:**
  - It will connect **Kolkata seaport with Sittwe seaport** in Myanmar by sea.
  - Then, it will link **Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar** via Kaladan river and then from **Lashio to Mizoram in India** by road transport.

#### Various Development of India-Myanmar

- Bus service will be started between **Imphal and Mandalay**.
- India's assistance in **Integrated Check Point at Tamu, Myanmar, bordering Manipur**.
- India will provide **medical radiation equipment Bhabhatron II** for treatment of cancer patients.
- **Quick Impact Project (QIP) schemes to Myanmar:**
  - It covers **upgradation of physical infrastructure** such as **roads, local community centres etc.**
  - It **directly benefits locals**, with **immediate and visible results**.
- **e-ID cards:** India will help Myanmar with this, it is as **Aadhaar card project**.
- **India's RuPay Card will be launched in Myanmar**.
- **RuPay card services already exist in:** UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Maldives, Bhutan.
- **Completion of the Paletwa-Zorinpui road:** The final part of Kaladan project.
- **Defence Deals:**
  - Myanmar bought **India's first locally-produced anti-submarine torpedo (TAL Shyena)** in 2017.
  - Myanmar acquired a **diesel-electric Kilo-class submarine, INS Sindhuvir**, in 2019.
- **To continue negotiations on pending treaties like:** Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty etc.
- **Mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT):**
  - It is an **agreement between two or more countries** for gathering and exchanging information.

- It is to **enforce public or criminal laws**.
- It is to **interrogate suspect in a criminal case**, when the suspect resides in a foreign country.

#### 1.6 India-Bhutan

#### 1.7 India-Afghanistan

#### 1.8 India-China

#### Trans-Boundary River Water Management

**News:** A new study highlighted the impact of China's dams on the Mekong River has raised questions on dams being built on Brahmaputra that originate in China.

- Brahmaputra rises from Chemayungdung glacier.

#### River Water Cooperation between India and neighboring countries

- **Indus Water Treaty (1960):** cooperation between **India and Pakistan** providing mechanisms to resolve disputes.
- **Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC):** set up in 1972 by Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace.
- **Ganga Treaty between India and Bangladesh, 1996:** to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border.
- **India and Nepal:** Koshi Agreement (1954), Gandak Agreement (1959), Tanakpur Barrage Agreement (1991) and Mahakali Treaty 1996 were signed.
- **India-Bhutan agreements:** collaboration for the construction of **Chuka Dam on Wangchu River**.
- **India does not have a water-sharing agreement with China.**
- **India-China Water Data Sharing:** In 2006, pact was signed, according to the pact, from May 15 to October 15 every year, China would share hydrological data for Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers.

#### Some international treaties and best practices

- **Berlin Rules on Water Resources:** result of revision of the Helsinki Rules and other International Law Association rules on uses of international water resources.

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, 1997.**
- **Treaty for Amazon Co-operation in 1978:** signed for equitable sharing in South America between Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.
- **Mekong River Commission:** signed by Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

### India China Border Dispute

#### India-China Border Dispute

- Border not clearly demarcated and no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- LAC - demarcation separating Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- India considers LAC to be 3,488 km long. LAC is divided into three sectors – Western, Middle, and Eastern.
  - **Western Sector** (Ladakh) boundary dispute - Johnson Line proposed by the British in 1860s that extended up to the Kunlun Mountains and put Aksai Chin in the then princely state of Jammu & Kashmir.
    - **India used the Johnson Line and claimed Aksai Chin**
    - **China do not recognize it and accepts McDonald Line**
  - **Middle Sector** (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) - alignment to be followed in the Barohoti plains.
    - India and China have exchanged maps on which they agree.
  - **Eastern Sector** (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim) - **McMohan Line** (in Arunachal Pradesh) decided in 1914 in a meeting of China, India, and Tibet in Shimla.
    - China refused to accept it.
    - Tawang tract claimed by China was taken over by India in 1951.

#### Other related facts

- Pangong Tso lake (Ladakh) is world's highest saltwater lake.
- LAC between India-China passes through lake.

### 1.9 India-Pakistan

#### Gilgit Baltistan Issue

##### Gilgit Baltistan (GB) region

- After Kashmir's invasion by tribal militias and Pakistan army - Since November 4, 1947, it has been under Pakistan's control.
- Renamed - '**Northern Areas of Pakistan**'
- **Karachi Agreement, 1949** - under direct control of Pakistan federal government.
- **GB Empowerment and Self-Governance Order in 2009** - 'Northern Areas' were known as Gilgit-Baltistan.
- **Gilgit Baltistan Order, 2018** – replaced 2009 order
  - Aim: to incorporate GB as its fifth province & to integrate GB with the federal structure of Pakistan by legislative, judicial, and administrative measures.
  - Only limited fundamental rights are granted to people of GB
  - No constitutional status is granted to GB region.
- Other four provinces of Pakistan - Baluchistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.
- "Integral part of India" - entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, including areas of Gilgit and Baltistan.
- **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** passes through GB.
- **Siachen Glacier** - located in GB.
- **Accord between China and Pakistan signed** - to construct Diamer-Basher Dam in Gilgit-Baltistan region on river Indus.

#### MFN (Most Favoured Nation) STATUS

- **News Context:** India withdrew MFN status from Pakistan.
- **MFN principle:**
- All WTO member countries should "treat all the other members equally as 'most-favoured' trading partners."
- It includes lower customs duty rates by any country to another one.
- It works on 'Non-Discrimination' theory.
- **Exceptions:**
  - Right to enter Free Trade Agreements
  - Special Access to developing Countries to their markets.

- Raise barriers against unfair trade practices
- **India has given MFN status to all WTO member countries**, from the date of **Marrakesh Treaty**.

#### **Track-II Diplomacy (Back Channel Diplomacy)**

- **News Context:** India and Pakistan held a **Track-II** in Islamabad.
- It was **held on the lines of Neemrana dialogue**.
  - The **oldest Track-II diplomacy** between countries, first held in **1991-92, in Neemrana Fort (Rajasthan)**.
- **Track II Diplomacy:**
  - **Private individuals** (former diplomats, Military veterans etc.), **meet unofficially**.
  - To find **common ground** that official negotiators can't.
- **Track I Diplomacy:** An **official communication between governments**.
- **Track III Diplomacy:** People-to-people or individual communications.

#### **Geneva Convention, 1949**

- **News Context:** Pakistan violated Geneva Convention in case of Indian Airforce Pilot crashing in POK.
- **Geneva Convention, 1949:**
- It is the **principle theory** of '**How soldiers and civilians should be treated**' during the war.
- It was to take account of **2<sup>nd</sup> World War experiences**.
- At present, **4 Geneva Conventions and 3 Protocols** apply, which are **binding**.

### **1.10 INDO-PACIFIC AND INDIANOCEAN REGION**

#### **Indian Ocean Commission**

- Intergovernmental organization created by the Port-Louis Declaration in 1982.
- It was institutionalized in 1984 by the General Agreement for Cooperation (**Victoria Agreement**).
- Mandate – To strengthen the ties and to support its member states in the path towards sustainable development.

- IOC is the only regional organization in Africa composed **exclusively of islands: Comoros, Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles**
- **Observer members** – **India, China, European Union, Malta, International organization of Francophonie, Japan, United Nations**.
- **News:** India has become observer of Indian Ocean Commission.

#### **Information Fusion Centre (IFC)**

- It is a **regional information sharing centre**.
- It **responses to maritime security situations through a collaborative approach**.
- It is **established at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) at Gurugram**.
- **Functions:**
  - To give **strength maritime security** in the region.
  - **Information on white shipping (Commercial non-military shipping)** will be exchanged with countries in the region.
- **IMAC, 2014:**
  - It is an **Air Force Centre** inking **information from the high seas, Indian's coastline, island territories**.

### **2. International Organizations and Bodies**

#### **2.1 UN Bodies**

#### **The United Nations (UN), 1945**

- It is the **largest intergovernmental organization** of the world.
- It was **established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars**, succeeding the **ineffective League of Nations**.
- **Major Aims of UN:**
  - To maintain **international peace and security, international cooperation**.
  - To develop **friendly relations among nations**.
  - To be a center for **harmonizing the actions of nations**.
  - To **protect human rights, delivering humanitarian aid**.

- To promote sustainable development, upholding international law.
- **Headquarter:** New York City.
- **Other main offices:** Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, Hague.
- **Members:** 193 (Recent is South Sudan, 2011).
- **Founding members:** 51.
- **Official languages:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.
- **Structure of UN:** There are 6 principal organs of UN.

#### **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

- It is the main policy making, representative organ of UN.
- It is the only UN organ where all members have equal representation, each country has one vote.
- Its powers, composition, functions, procedures are set out in **Chapter IV of UN Charter**.
- **Major Functions and Objectives of UNGA:**
  - It decides on the admission of new members, following proposal by the UNSC.
  - To adopts the budget.
  - To elect the non-permanent members of the UNSC; all members of ECOSOC, UN Secretary General, 15 judges of ICJ.
  - To receive reports from other parts of the UN system.
  - To make recommendations through resolutions.
- **Voting process in General Assembly:**
  - 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of present and voting is required:
    - Recommendations on peace and security, budget, election, admission, suspension of members.
  - Other questions are decided by a simple majority.
- The resolutions passed by UNGA are not binding, besides budgetary measures.

#### **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

- It is the **only UN body to issue binding resolutions on member states**.
- **Major Aims and Functions:**
  - To ensuring international peace and security.
  - To recommend the admission of new members to the UNGA.
  - To approve changes to UN Charter.
  - To enact international sanctions, to authorize military action.
- **Members:** 15.
  - **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, UK, USA).
  - **Permanent members can veto any resolution.**
  - **Non-Permanent members:** 10 (Elected on a regional basis with term of 2 years term).

#### **United Nations Secretariat**

- It is an **executive arm of UN**.
- It is the **main source of economic and political analysis for UNGA and UNSC**.
- It sets **agenda for decision-making bodies of the UN** (the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and Security Council), and **implements decision of these bodies**.
- **UN Department of Political Affairs and department of Peace operations** is a part of the secretariat.
- **Secretary-General:** Head of the secretariat (Appointed by UNGA).
- **Functions and Objectives of Secretariat:**
  - To resolve international disputes, to organize international conferences.
  - To administer operations initiated by UN organs and operates political missions.
  - To prepare assessments that precede peacekeeping operations.
  - To appoint the heads of peacekeeping operations.
  - To conducts surveys and research, to publish treaties and international agreements.

#### **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

- It is the central forum to discuss international economic and social issues and to formulate policy recommendations to members.
- It Co-ordinates between UN's numerous specialized agencies.
- **Members:** 54 (Elected by UNGA for 3 years term).

#### **International Court of Justice (ICJ) (World Court), 1946**

- It settles disputes between states in accordance with international law and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues.
- It is the **only international court** that adjudicates general disputes between countries.
- The ICJ is the successor of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was established in 1920 by the League of Nations.
- **ICJ decision in a controversial or debatable case is binding upon the parties.**
- If a State fails to comply with the judgment, the issue may be taken to the UNSC, with the authority to review, recommend, and decide upon enforcement.
- **Member:** All UN members.

- **Headquarter:** Hague, Netherlands.
- **Official Working Languages:** English, French.
- **ICJ Panel:** 15 judges elected by General Assembly and UNSC for 9 years terms.
- **Subject Matter:** Sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation etc.

#### **The Trusteeship Council**

- It was originally designed to manage colonial possessions that were former League of Nations mandates.
- It has been inactive since 1994, when Palau attained independence.

#### **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), 2006**

- It is a **UN body** whose mission is to promote and protect human rights.
- Aim: To engage countries on improving human rights.
  - To advise UN Security Council and International Criminal Court.
  - To address Fundamental Rights.
- **Members:** 47 States, elected with 3 years term.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.

### **UNHRC Seats and Member States by Region**

<b>13</b> <b>AFRICA</b>  Senegal, Tunisia, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Togo, Nigeria, Angola, Cameroon, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Rwanda, Somalia	<b>13</b> <b>ASIA PACIFIC</b>  India, Japan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Afghanistan, Bahrain, China, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia	<b>8</b> <b>LATIN AMERICA CARIBBEAN</b>  Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, Cuba	<b>7</b> <b>WESTERN EUROPE/ OTHERS</b>  Australia, Austria, Denmark, Iceland (US), Italy, Spain, UK
<b>6</b> <b>EASTERN EUROPE</b>  Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine			

### The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1965

- It is a **global UN development network**.
- It came to existence with **merging of Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund**.
- **Headquarter:** New York.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To promote technical and investment cooperation among nations.
  - To provide expert advice, training and grants to developing countries.
  - To achieve SDGs, to reduce poverty and HIV/AIDS.
- **Note:** UNDP publishes **Human Development Report**.
- **UNDP Administrator** is 3<sup>rd</sup> UN highest-ranking official after UN Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 1945

- It is a UN specialized agency to promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.
- It replaced League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.
- **Members:** 193 member and 11 associate members.
- **Headquarter:** Paris, France.
- **53 regional field offices** and 199 national commissions.
- **Parent organization:** UN Economic and Social Council.
- **It covers 5 major program areas:**
  - Education, Natural sciences, Social sciences, Culture, Communication or information.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To advance peace, sustainable development, human rights.
  - To improve literacy, technical training, advance science, independent media, cultural diversity.
  - To preserve regional and cultural history, to translate world literature.

- To establish international cooperation agreements to secure World Heritage Sites of cultural and natural importance.

### Governance:

- **General Conference:** It is the governing body of UNESCO.
  - It is composed of member states and associate members.
- **Executive Board:** It manages UNESCO's work.
  - Its members are elected by General conference.
- **Director General:** It is UNESCO's chief administrator.
- **Note:** UNESCO is a member of UN Sustainable Development Group.

### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 1946

- It is a UN agency to provide humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- UNICEF is the successor of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), created by U.N. Relief Rehabilitation Administration to provide immediate relief to children and mothers affected by World War II.
- It became a part of UN System in 1953.
- **Member:** 192
- **Headquarter:** New York.
- **Regional Offices:** Americas and Caribbean: Panama City, Panama
  - Europe and Central Asia: Geneva, Switzerland
  - East Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand
  - Eastern and Southern Africa: Nairobi, Kenya
  - Middle East and North Africa: Amman, Jordan
    - South Asia: Kathmandu, Nepal
- **West and Central Africa:** Senegal
- **Parent organization:** UN General Assembly and UN Economic and Social Council.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To provide immunizations and disease prevention.

- To administer treatment for children and mothers with HIV.
- To enhance childhood and maternal nutrition.
- To improve sanitation, promote education, provide emergency relief in disasters.
- To address the long-term needs of children and women, particularly in developing countries.

#### Governance:

- **Executive Board:** It makes and approves policies, programs, administration, financial plans.
  - It has 36 members (3 years term), including government representatives.
  - They are elected by the UN Economic and Social Council.
- **UNICEF national committees**
  - There are national committees in 36 developed countries.
  - Each is established as independent local NGOs.
  - It raises funds from the private sector, as UNICEF is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions.

#### UN Women (UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), 2001

- It is a UN entity working for women empowerment and member of the UN Development Group.
- **Headquarter:** New York City.
- **Official languages:** English, French.
- **Structure and Functioning:**
  - Resolution 64/289 determined that the entity should be headed by an Under Secretary General.
  - Under Secretary general is appointed by Secretary general, in consultation with member states.
- **Governance structure that decides policy guiding principles is constituted by:**
  - **General Assembly:** It approves the budget.
  - **Economic and Social Council.**

- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- **UN Women's main thematic areas of work include:**
  - Leadership and political participation, Economic empowerment.
  - To end violence against women, Humanitarian action.
  - Peace and security, Governance and national planning.
  - **2030 Agenda for SDG, HIV and AIDS.**

#### Major Goals of UN Women:

- **UN Women is empowered to:**
  - To support intergovernmental bodies, in formulation of policies, global standards, norms.
  - To provide suitable technical and financial support to UN members.
  - To hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality.

#### UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), 1950

- It was established by UN General Assembly after World War II Crisis.
- **Aim:** To protect refugees and resolve their problems worldwide.
  - To safeguard the rights of refugees and stateless people.
  - To provide shelter, healthcare and emergency relief etc. to refugees.
- **Members:** India has not signed any convention.
- **1951 Refugee Convention:** It is the key legal document forming the basis of its work.
- **1967 Refugee Convention Protocol:**
  - It expanded the geographic and temporal scope of refugee assistance
- It defines as 'refugee' as outlines the rights of the displaced.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, in 1954 and 1981.

### UN Habitat (UN Human Settlement Programme), 1978

- It works for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- It is as an outcome of 1<sup>st</sup> UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.
- It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- It is a member of the UN Development Group.
- The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996.
- Headquarter: UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya.
- News Context: India is elected as UN-Habitat President.
  - India is elected 3<sup>rd</sup> time after 2007 and 1988.

### United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

- Created in 1949 by the UN, as a relief and human development agency.
- Provides shelter, basic food supplies, medical aid, education, and work opportunities for Palestine refugees
- Five fields of operations – Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza Strip, and West Bank including East of Jerusalem.
- Funding - voluntary contributions from UN Members States.

## 2.2 Global Bodies

### World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 1950

- It is a UN specialized agency to promote international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.
- It was originated from the International Meteorological Organization (NGO founded in 1873).
- It was established by the WMO convention signed in 1947.

- **Members:** 193 (187 member states and 6 member territories).
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Parent organization:** UN Economic and Social Council.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To facilitates "free and unrestricted" exchange of data, information, research between meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members.
  - To collaborate with NGOs and other international organizations on matters related to environmental protection, climate change etc.
  - To provide details of global, regional and national temperatures and extreme weather events.
  - To provide information on long-term climate change indicators including atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, sea level rise, sea ice extent etc.
  - Disaster risk reduction, capacity development.

### Governance:

- **World Meteorological Congress:** It is the supreme body of WMO.
  - It determines its policy and governs WMO.
  - It elects: President and Vice-Presidents of WMO, members of the Executive Council.
  - It also appoints Secretary-General.
  - It is composed of members states and led by an executive council.
- **The Executive Council (EC):** It implements Congress decisions.
- **Note: World Meteorological Day:** March 23.

### World Trade Organization (WTO), 1995

- It is world's largest economic organization regulating international trade between nations.
- It was established after 1994 Marrakesh Agreement.

- It replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1948.
- Aim: To provide a framework for negotiating trade agreements.
  - To eliminate tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions.
  - To resolve independent trade disputes among members.
- Members: 164 states, India is founding member.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Ministerial Conference: Highest decision-making body.
- General Council: Day-to-day functions.

#### **World Health Organization (WHO), 1948**

- It is a UN specialized agency responsible for international public health.
- The WHO Constitution says the main objective is:
  - “The attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Regional offices: 6 (150 field offices worldwide).
  - Africa: Brazzaville (Republic of Congo)
  - Western Pacific: Manila (Philippines).
  - Eastern Mediterranean: Cairo, (Egypt)
  - South East Asia: New Delhi.
  - Europe: Copenhagen (Denmark).
  - Americas: Washington DC (USA).
- Parent Organization: UN Economic and Social Council.
- Members: 194 (Including Cook Islands and Niue).
- Mandate of WHO includes:
  - Universal healthcare, to monitor public health risks,
  - To coordinate responses to health emergencies,
  - To promote human health and wellbeing.
  - To provide technical assistance to countries.
  - To set international health standards and guidelines

- To collect data on global health issues through World Health Survey.

#### **Policies and Objectives:**

- To act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
- To assist Governments in strengthening health services.
- To furnish appropriate technical assistance and, necessary aid.
- To stimulate and advance work to eradicate epidemic, endemic and other diseases.
- To improve nutrition, housing, sanitation, economic or working conditions, environmental hygiene.

#### **Most successful Operations held by WHO:**

- 1955: Malaria eradication programme
- 1967: Global smallpox eradication campaign.
- 1967: Special Programme for Research and Training for Tropical Diseases.
- 1977: 1<sup>st</sup> essential medicines list was drawn up.
- 1986: Global programme on HIV/AIDS.
- 1988: Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- 2001: The Measles initiative.
- 2002: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- 2006: World's 1<sup>st</sup> official HIV/AIDS Toolkit for Zimbabwe.

• Note: World Health Day: April 7.

Do visit PT 360 Social Issues (Health) for more details of WHO.

#### **Group of Twenty (G 20), 1999**

- It is an international forum for Governments and Central Bank Governors.
- It includes 19 countries and European Union (EU).
- It was founded aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

- Aim:
  - Policy coordination, global economic stability, sustainable growth,
  - To promote financial regulations and prevent future financial crises.
- The host country sets the agenda and but



### G20 members



Note: The European Union is also a member

BBC

- To create a new international financial architecture.
- For the first time, India will host the annual G-20 Summit in 2022.
- The EU is represented by the European Commission and European Central Bank.

holds the G7 presidency.

#### Group of 7 (G-7), 1975

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation**.
- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA.
- It **discusses issues of global economic governance, international security, and energy policy**.
- The **G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters**.
- The **decisions** taken by leaders during annual Summits are **non-binding**.
- **Note:**
- **G7 was known as G8** for several years after it was joined by Russia in 1997.
- Then it became **G7 again**, as Russia was **expelled** in 2014.

#### Group of Seven (G7)

- It is an **international forum** consisting of the 7 nations with the **largest advanced economies**.
- **Aim:** To address the **challenges affecting the growth of world economy**.
- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA.
- **Head Quarter:** Taormina, Italy.
- The **location of the summit rotates** among the member countries.

### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), 1957

- It is world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.
- It is an autonomous international organization within UN.
- Aim:** To promote peaceful use of nuclear Energy, Science, Technology
- Members:** 35 members, including India.
- Head Quarter:** Vienna, Austria
- It reports to both the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

### Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization)

- It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation and crime control making it the world's largest police organization.
- It was founded in 1923 as International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).
- Later, ICPC adopted a new constitution and was renamed as INTERPOL in 1956.
- Members:** 192 countries, India joined in 1949.
- Headquarter:** Lyon, France
- Aim:**
  - To provides investigative support, expertise, training to law enforcement worldwide.
  - To focus on 3 major areas: Terrorism, Cybercrime, Organized Crime.
  - To investigate crimes like, child pornography, drug trafficking, political corruption, white-collar crime etc.
- INTERPOL is not a law enforcement agency.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM), 1951

- It is the principal intergovernmental organization working in the field of migration.
- It became a part of UN in 2016.

- Aim:** To provide service and advice related to migration to governments and migrants.
  - It includes internally displaced persons, refugees too.
  - Facilitating, Regulating, addressing forced migration.
- Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- Members:** 173 member states and 9 observer states.
- India became a member state in 2008.
- IOM has often organized elections for refugees out of their home country.
- Eg: 2004 Afghan elections and the 2005 Iraqi elections.

### International Energy Agency, 1974

- It is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation.
- It was established because of sharp increase in oil prices by OPEC cartel in 1970s.
- Aim:** Energy Security, Economic development, Environmental awareness, Engagement worldwide.
- Members:** 29 member States and 8 Associate members.
  - India joined as Associate member.
  - Only Organization of Economic Cooperation Development members can become the IEA members.



- **Exceptions:** Chile, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, and Slovenia are OECD member but not IEA's.
- **Headquarter:** Paris.
- It publishes **Annual World Energy Outlook**.
- All IEA member countries have signed the **Paris Climate Agreement**.

#### European Union (EU), 1993

- It is a **political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe**.
- **Headquarter: Brussels, Belgium**.
- The EU and European citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993.
- The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system



of laws that apply to member states.

- **Major Objectives:**
  - To ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital within the internal market.
  - To develop role in external relations and defence, through the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
  - To maintain permanent diplomatic missions throughout the world and represents itself at the UN, WTO, G7, G20 etc.

- It has its own currency, the euro, which is used by 19 of the member countries (called eurozone).
- It has its own parliament and other institutions.
- European Parliament members (751) are directly elected by voters in all Member States.
- **Note:**
  - UK became the 1<sup>st</sup> member state to leave the EU.
  - EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012.
  - Article 50 of Lisbon Treaty provides for exit of member countries from

#### World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), 1967-1970

- It is one of the 15 UN specialized agencies, established by 1967 Convention.
- It was created to promote and protect intellectual property (IP) across the world by cooperating with countries and international organizations.
- It became a specialized agency of the UN in 1974.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
  - **Regional offices:** Algiers (Algeria), Rio de Janeiro, Beijing, Tokyo, Moscow, Singapore.
- **Members:** 193 (190 UN member and Cook Islands, Holy See and Niue)
  - Palestine has permanent observer status.
  - Only non-members: Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and South Sudan.
- **Parent organization:** UN Economic and Social Council.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To discuss and shape international IP rules and policies.
  - To provide global services that register and protect IP in different countries.

- To resolve transboundary IP disputes, to connect IP systems through uniform standards.
- To provide reports and statistics on the state of IP protection.

#### Governance:

- **General Assembly and the Coordination Committee:** They govern WIPO.
  - They set policy and are the main decision-making bodies.
  - General Assembly elects WIPO's chief administrator, Director-General.
- **WIPO is Secretariat:** It administers WIPO with day-to-day activities.
- **Economics and Statistics Division:**
  - It gathers data on IP activity worldwide and publishes statistics to the public.
  - It also conducts economic analysis on how government IP and innovation policies affect economic performance.
- **Funds:** WIPO's 95% budget comes from fees related to its global services (Unlike most UN organizations).
- **Note: World Intellectual Property Day:** April 26.
  - WIPO publishes "World Intellectual Property Indicators", since 2009.

#### International Maritime Organization (IMO), 1948

- It is a specialized UN agency, established under UN Conference Geneva.
- It was also known as Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization until 1982.
- **Aim:**
  - To develop and maintain a regulatory framework for fair, effective shipping.
  - To be committed towards safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean ocean.
  - **Environmental Concerns**, Legal Matters, Technical Co-operation, **Maritime Security**.
- **Members:** 174 Member and 3 Associate Members.
- **Headquarter:** London, UK.

- **Governance:**
  - IMO is governed by an assembly of members.
  - It is financially administered by a council of members elected from the assembly.
  - The work of IMO is conducted through 5 committees.
- **Secretariat:** It has a Secretary-General, elected by the assembly.

#### Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), 1997

- It is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1997.
- **Aim:**
  - To achieve a world permanently free of chemical weapons.
  - To bring international security, stability, general and complete disarmament, global economic development.
  - To promote and verify the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction.
- **Headquarter:** Hague, Netherlands.
- **Members:** 193, India is a member.
- **Note:** OPCW was awarded Nobel Peace Prize 2013.
  - For its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.
  - OPCW has destroyed over 90% of the stockpile of the chemical weapons.
- **News Context:** OPCW has been granted new powers to assign blame for attacks using banned toxic materials.
- **Until now, OPCW had limited powers, as:**
  - To only send teams to places to collect samples and draw conclusions whether the chemical weapons attack had happened or not.
  - It did not have powers to identify the perpetrator (country or non-state actors) of the chemical weapons' attacks.

### Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- Implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- Headquarters in Hague, Netherlands.
- Convention on Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons, and on their Destruction (the Chemical Weapons Convention or CWC) entered into force on 29 April 1997.
- Aim - to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.
  - Four provisions:
    1. Destroying all existing chemical weapons
    2. Monitoring chemical industry
    3. Providing assistance, and protection to States Parties against chemical threats.
    4. Fostering international cooperation.
- CWC was signed and ratified by 193 countries, including India.
  - Israel has signed but not ratified the Convention.
  - Non-signatory states are: Egypt, North Korea, and South Sudan.
- ‘challenge inspection’ - any State Party in doubt about another State Party’s compliance can request a surprise inspection.

News: for the first time, OPCW explicitly blamed Syria for toxic attacks.

### Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987

- It is a **multilateral export control regime, formed by G-7 industrialized countries.**
- **Aim:** To limit the proliferation of missiles and **missile technology.**
- To limit the proliferation of **weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** by controlling exports.
- **Members:** India became the 35<sup>th</sup> member.
- **China, Israel and Pakistan are not members** of MTCR.

- It is **neither a treaty nor its legally binding** on members.

- **About Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), 2002:**

- It is an **International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.**



- India became **HCOC member in 2016** with 138 total members.

### 2.3 Regional Bodies

#### Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), 1997

- It is a **regional organization** lying in the **region of the Bay of Bengal.**
- It was founded through **Bangkok Declaration.**
- **Aim:**
  - To accelerate the **economic growth and social progress** in the region.
  - To promote **mutual assistance** in **economic, social and scientific fields.**
- **Member:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **Head Quarter:** Dhaka.
- **Chairmanship is rotated** in alphabetical order of country names.



### SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP



### Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- It is a **political and economic organization** of South East Asian Nations.
- **Aim:**
  - To promote **economic growth and regional stability**.
  - To **Engage** other countries in the **Asia-Pacific region and beyond**.
- It was founded in **1967**.
- **Member:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- **Head Quarter:** Jakarta (Indonesia).
- ASEAN Moto: One Vision, One Identity, One Community.

■ MEMBER STATES ■ OBSERVER STATES

Source: Shanghai Cooperation Organization

■ DIALOGUE PARTNERS ■ ACCEDED MEMBERS

Credits: Eleanor Alberti, Julia Ro

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

### ASEAN Member Countries



### Shanghai Corporation Association, 2001

- It is an **Eurasian political, economic and security organization**.
- **Aim:**

### BRICS

- To **ensure security** and maintain **stability** across the vast Eurasian region.



**BRICS**

- To **join forces** for **emerging challenges** and threats.
- To enhance **trade, cultural and humanitarian cooperation**.
- **Members:** India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **Head Quartered:** Beijing.
- **India**, along with Pakistan, became **full-time member** during the **Astana summit** in **Kazakhstan** in 2017.

- To promote peace, security, development and cooperation.
- To develop humanity and to establish a more equitable and fair world.
- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
  - They are known for their influence on regional affairs.
- **Head Quarter:** Shanghai.
- Its first summit took place at Russia in 2009.
- South Africa became the 5<sup>th</sup> member in 2010.
- **National Development Bank (NDB)** was established in 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit in Fortaleza in 2014.

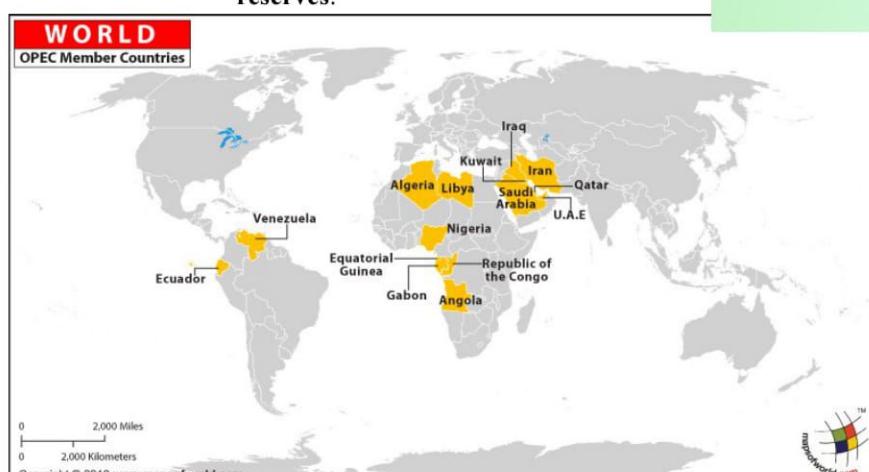
#### **Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**

- It is an intergovernmental organisation of 13 members, set up at the 1960 Baghdad Conference.
- **Aim:**
  - To Co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries.
  - To secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
  - To ensure regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations.
- **Headquarter:** Vienna, Austria.
- It accounts 44% of global oil production and 81.5% of the world's "proven" oil reserves.

- **Members:** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia,



Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.



- **OPEC+**
  - The Non-OPEC countries which export crude oil.

### Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- It is an **intergovernmental forum** for 21 Pacific Rim member economies, established in 1989.
- **Aims:**
  - To promote free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
  - **Regional economic integration** to promote balanced, inclusive, sustainable growth.
  - To establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.
- **Head Quarter:** Singapore.
- India was allowed in APEC summit in 2011 as an observer state.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949

- It is an **intergovernmental military alliance** between US, France, UK and 26 other North American and European countries.
- **Aim:**
  - To constitute collective defence system.
  - **Mutual Defence** among members in response to an attack by any external party.
- **Members:** 30 members, India is not the member.
- **Headquarter:** Brussels, Belgium.

### Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), 1969

- It is an **inter-governmental Islamic organization.**
- **Aim:** To safeguard and protect the interests of Muslims.
  - To promote **international peace and harmony.**
- **Organization Moto:** The collective voice of the Muslim world.

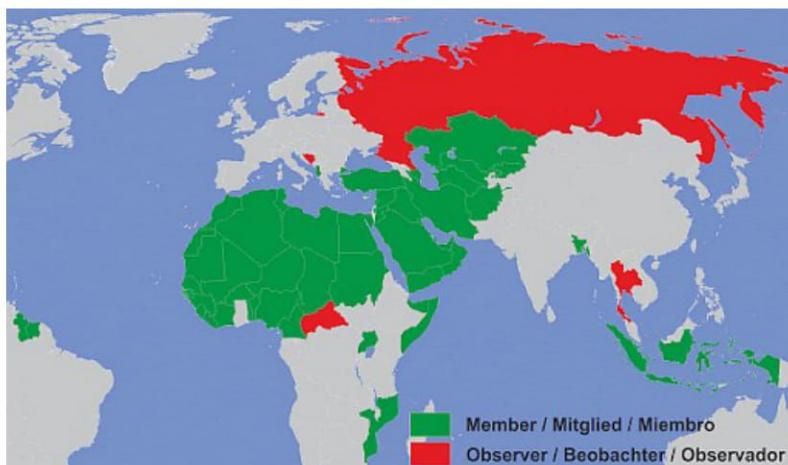
- **Members:** 57 states, India is not a member.
- **Headquarter:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- The OIC has permanent delegations to the UN and EU.

### Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC), 1989

- It is an **intergovernmental forum** of Pacific Rim members.
- **Aim:** To promote free trade and independent economy throughout the region.
- To establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.
- **It has three official observers:**
  - Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariate.
  - Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.
  - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
- **Members:** 21 States, India is not the member.
- **Headquarters:** Singapore

### Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- It is also known as **Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).**
- **Members:** 23 states (bordering Indian Ocean) and 9 Dialogue partners.
- **Coordinating Secretariat:** Ebene, Mauritius.
- **Aim:**
  - To promote **economic and other co-operation, closer interaction, sustainable development.**
  - To promote **liberalisation, lower barriers, free flow of goods, services, investment, technology.**
- **IORA has 6 priority areas:**
  - **Maritime security, Trade and investment facilitation.**
  - **Fisheries management, Disaster risk reduction.**

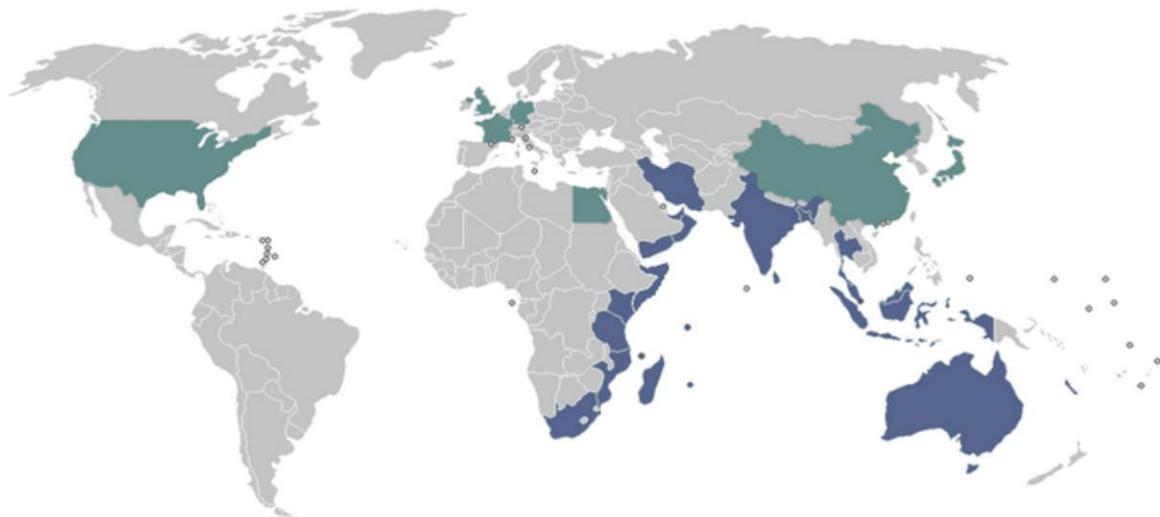


- Academic and scientific cooperation, **tourism promotion and cultural exchanges.**
- **Other major focus areas:** Blue Economy, Women's Economic Empowerment.
- **Members:** Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA.
- **India became observer for the first time in 2013.**
- **Aim:** To promote cooperation,

## Six priority areas

1. Maritime safety and security	2. Trade and investment facilitation	3. Fisheries management	4. Disaster risk management	5. Academic science and technology cooperation	6. Tourism and cultural exchanges
Empowerment of women and girls is a cross cutting issue					

## IORA Membership



The Association comprises 21 member states:

- |                              |                              |                                |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| › <a href="#">Australia</a>  | › <a href="#">Kenya</a>      | › <a href="#">Oman</a>         | › <a href="#">Sri Lanka</a>            |
| › <a href="#">Bangladesh</a> | › <a href="#">Madagascar</a> | › <a href="#">Seychelles</a>   | › <a href="#">Tanzania</a>             |
| › <a href="#">Comoros</a>    | › <a href="#">Malaysia</a>   | › <a href="#">Singapore</a>    | › <a href="#">Thailand</a>             |
| › <a href="#">India</a>      | › <a href="#">Mauritius</a>  | › <a href="#">Somalia</a>      | › <a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a> |
| › <a href="#">Indonesia</a>  | › <a href="#">Mozambique</a> | › <a href="#">South Africa</a> | › <a href="#">Yemen</a>                |
| › <a href="#">Iran</a>       |                              |                                |  |

[China](#), [Egypt](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Japan](#), [United Kingdom](#), [United States](#) are dialogue partners.

The Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation, and the Indian Ocean Research Group hold observer status.

coordination, and interaction among the Arctic states.

## Arctic Council, 1996

- It was established by the 8 Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration.

- To develop scientific research, peaceful and sustainable use of resources in the region.
- **Headquarters:** Tromso, Norway (since 2012).
- **News Context:** India was re-elected as an Observer to the Arctic Council.



#### African Union (AU), 2002

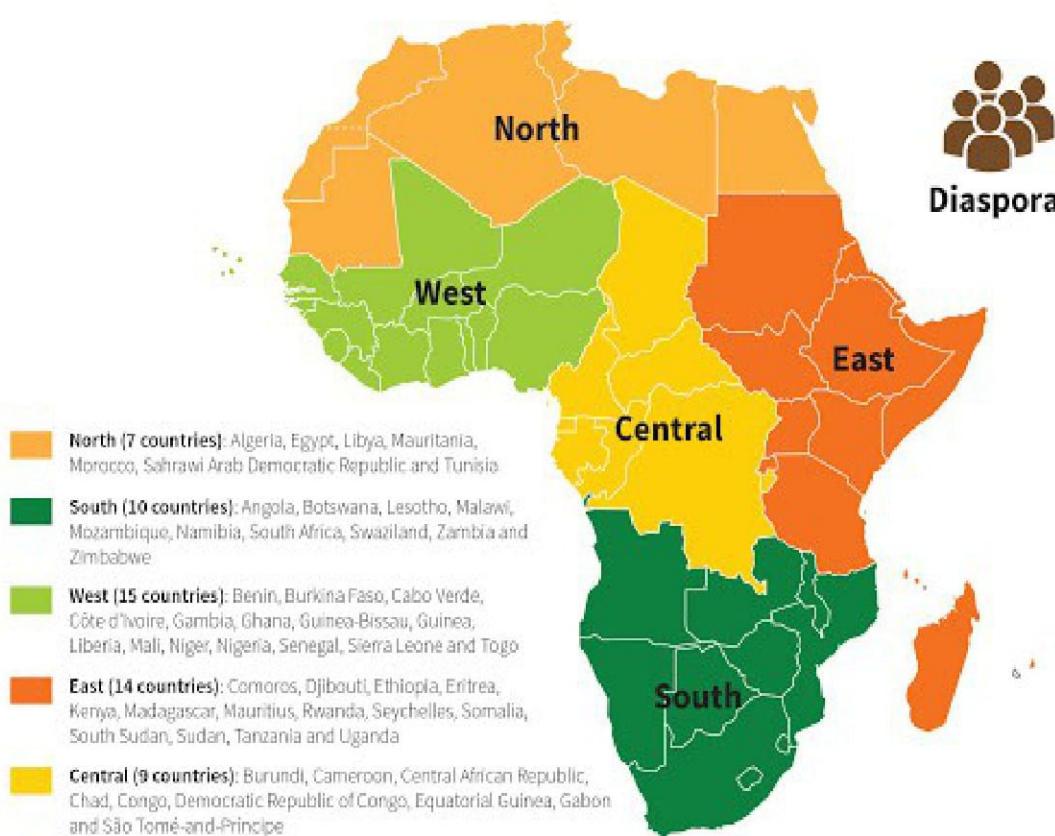
- It replaces the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

- **Members:** 55, countries of the African Continent.
- **Secretariat:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **Primary working languages:** Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese.
- **African Union Assembly:** It takes the most important decisions.
- **Vision of AU:** An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

#### Major Objectives of AU:

- To achieve greater unity, to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States.
- Political and social-economic integration of the continent.
- To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples.
- To encourage international cooperation, peace, security, stability on the continent.
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, human rights.
- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural level, integration of African economies.

## THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION



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Diaspora (- 170 million people): "People of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union", Definition of the African Union.

isisias

16040

#### Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), 1981

- It is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union.
- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE.
- All of them have similar geographic proximity, political systems and common sociocultural stances.
- **Headquarter:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Objectives:**
  - The immediate goal, for these countries, was to protect themselves from threats after the Iran-Iraq War.
  - To reduce their dependence on oil, to pursue economic structural reform.
  - To formulate similar regulations in various fields such as religion, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, and administration.
  - To promote scientific, technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources, private sector.
  - To set up joint ventures, Unified military (Peninsula Shield Force).



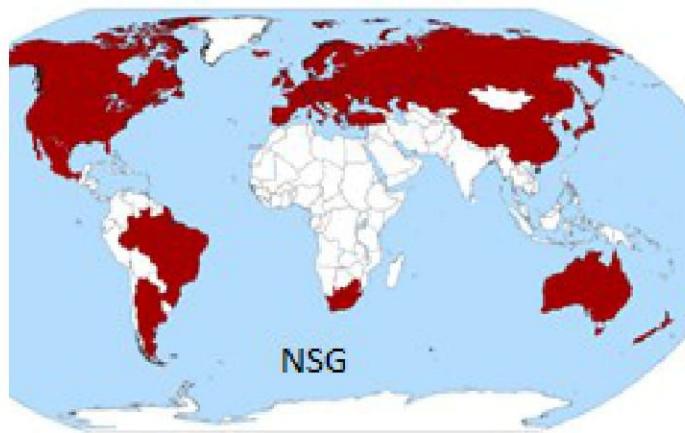
#### The IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil, South Africa), 2003

- It is an international tripartite grouping to promote international cooperation among these countries.

- It was established by the Brasilia Declaration.
- **Headquarter:** Lugano, Switzerland
- **Objectives:**
  - To create better understanding between 3 important continents: Africa, Asia, South America.
  - To provide platform to 3 countries to discuss cooperation in agriculture, trade, culture, defence etc.
  - To improve foreign policies of India, Brazil and South Africa.
  - To execute human development projects to fight against poverty and hunger.
- **IBSA Fund:** It is managed by UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

#### Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), 1974

- It is a group of nuclear supplier countries to prevent nuclear proliferation.
- It controls export of materials, equipment, technology that is used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- NSG was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in 1974.
- The nuclear powers were convinced that Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) alone cannot halt the spread of nuclear weapons, so NSG was formed.
- **Members:** 48, India is not a member.
- It implements 2 sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- The guidelines contain "Non-Proliferation Principle," adopted in 1994.
- **The current guideline of NSG:** Non-NPT state cannot become NSG member, which keeps India out of the group.
- A supplier authorises a transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



#### The World Trade Organization (WTO), 1995

- It is world's largest economic intergovernmental organization to regulate and facilitate international trade between member nations.
- It was established through **1994 Marrakesh Agreement**.
- It replaced **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, which was established in 1948.
- **Members:** 164 (Recent, Afghanistan in 2016) and **25 Observer governments**.
- It represents over **98% of global trade and global GDP**.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Official Language:** English, French, Spanish.
- **Functions and Objectives:**
  - To provide a forum for negotiations and for settling disputes.
  - To review and propagate the national trade policies.
  - To assist developing, least developed and low-income countries.
  - To achieve greater coherence in global economic policy making.
  - To cooperate with IMF and IBRD etc.
  - To facilitate trade in goods, services and intellectual property.
  - To negotiating trade agreements, to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions.

- To prohibit discrimination between trading partners, provide environmental protection, national security.
- **Note:** Goal 10 of UN-SDG is related to WTO agreements to reduce inequality.
- **Organizational structure**
  - Ministerial Conference is the highest authority and decision-making body of WTO.
- **There are more 3 bodies:**
  - **The General Council:** It is made up of representatives from all members.
  - It manages day-to-day functions.
  - **The Dispute Settlement Body**
  - **The Trade Policy Review Body**
- **Budget**
  - Maximum portion of annual budget is derived from its members.
  - The shares are decided according based on member's share of international trade.
- **Highest Contribution by the nations in their budget:**
  - USA (11.59%), China (10.10%), Germany (7.10%), Japan (4.04%), UK (3.81%).

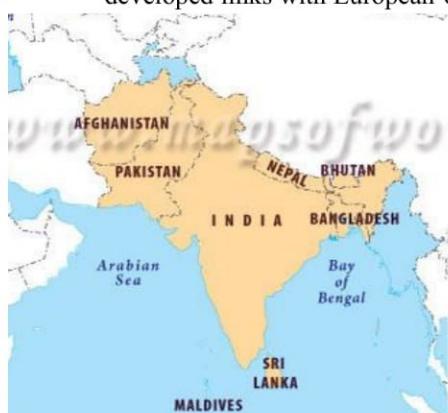
#### World Economic Forum (WEF), 1971

- It is an **international NGO**.
- It was also known as European management Forum till 1987.
- **Mission:** Committed to improve the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- **Headquarter:** Colongy, Switzerland.
- **Regional Office:** New York, Beijing, Tokyo.
- **Official Language:** English.
- **Function and Objectives:**
  - To provides platform for leaders around the world, including government and civil society, to collaborate on multiple projects and initiatives.

- To produces a series of reports and engages its members in sector-specific initiatives.
- Major Reports and Indexes published by WEF:
  - Global Risks Report, Regional Risks for Doing Business.
  - Social Mobility Index, Global gender Gap Report.
  - Travel and tourism competitiveness report.
  - Global competitiveness report, Global risk report.

#### South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), 1885

- It is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia, founded in Dhaka.
- Members: 8 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan Sri Lanka).
  - 10 observers: Australia, China, EU, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea, UK, USA.
- Headquarter: Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Official languages: English.
- It promotes development of economic and regional integration.
- It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006.
- The SAARC maintains (used to maintain) permanent diplomatic relations at UN as an observer and has developed links with European Union.



#### Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), 2000

- It is an initiative by 6 countries, launched in Vientiane (Laos):

- India and five ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).
- Mekong river passes through these 5 countries along with China.
- It encourages tourism, culture, education, transport and communications.
- Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers.
- This initiative facilitates closer contacts among the people inhabiting these 2 major river basins.
- News Context: 10<sup>th</sup> MGC Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Mekong River:
  - It is a trans-boundary river in East Asia and Southeast Asia.
  - It originates from Tibetan Plateau.
  - It is the world's 10<sup>th</sup> and Asia's 6<sup>th</sup> longest river.

### 3. Treaty and Agreements

#### Arms Trade Treaty

- First legally binding international agreement
- Aim: to regulate the global trade in conventional arms by establishing common international standards for member countries.
- Countries who neither signed nor ratified: Russia, China, India, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Syria.
- Endorsed: UNGA in April 2013
  - Entered into force: December 23, 2014.
- Regulates ammunition or munitions: fired, launched, or delivered by the conventional arms covered under the treaty.
- States to monitor their arms exports
  - To ensure their weapons sales do not break existing arms embargoes.
- To ensure the weapons they export do not end up being used for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or terrorist acts.
  - They need to stop the transfer if their arms are used for any of these.

#### Conventional Arms which ATT covers:

- Battle tanks

- Armoured combat vehicles
- Large-calibre artillery systems
- Combat aircraft
- Attack Helicopters
- Warships
- Missiles and missile launchers
- Small arms and light weapons

**News:** China said it will join UN arms trade treaty.

#### Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- Objectives:
  - To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
  - to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and
  - to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament & general and complete disarmament.
- Represents: the only binding commitment to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
- Nuclear-weapon states: that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967;
  - United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China.
  - Four other states believed to possess nuclear weapons – India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea; they are not party to NPT.
- NPT Review Conference held every five years
  - To review the operation of the treaty and consider means to strengthen it.

#### Open Skies Treaty

- Agreement permitting each state-party to conduct short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over others' territories to collect data on military forces and activities.
- Aim: building confidence and familiarity among state-parties.
- OST was signed in 1992 and came into effect in 2002.
- Total states: 34
- India, China are not members to the treaty.
- Treaty determines specific points of entry and exit.
- Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC): representatives of all state-

parties, responsible for implementation of OST.

#### Biological Weapons Convention

- 1st multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production, and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- It entered into force on March 26, 1975.
- Total states-parties: 183
- India signed the convention in 1973 and ratified it in 1974.
- BWC bans The development, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, and production of
  - Biological agents and toxins, that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.
  - Weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.
  - Transfer of or assistance with acquiring the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles.
- BWC does not ban the use of biological and toxin weapons.
  - It reaffirms the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits such use.
- It also does not ban bio-defense programs.

#### Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- It is a **free trade agreement (FTA)** involving **10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India**.
- **Aim:** To **decrease trade barriers and to secure improved market access for goods and services** for businesses in the region.
- **News Context:** India has decided not to join RCEP.

#### India-South Korea Agreements

- **Naval logistics sharing pact:** To extend logistical support to each other's navies.
- **Defence Educational Exchanges Agreement:**
  - It will take special strategic partnership between two countries forward.
- **Forward looking roadmap:**

- To take India-South Korea defence relations to next level.
- It listed areas of co-operation in sectors of Land Systems, Aero Systems, Naval Systems, R&D co-operation and collaboration in Testing, Certification and Quality Assurance.
- This will enhance Korea's participation in India.
- As: K9 Vajra mobile artillery guns are made by L&T with Hanwha Land Systems.
- New Southern Policy (NSP)
  - It is part of South Korean strategy to promote a 'Northeast Asia Plus Community for Responsibility-sharing' (NEAPC).
  - It builds stronger economic linkages with other countries.
- New Northern Policy (NNP):
  - It focuses on countries to Korea's north including Russia, Mongolia and Central Asian countries.

#### Strategic Partnership Council (SPC), India-Saudi Arabia

- The council serves as an institutional mechanism to monitor progress in the bilateral strategic partnership.
- It cooperates in energy security, defence and security, information-sharing for counterterrorism.
- This will include single largest greenfield refinery to be built at Raigarh, Maharashtra with Aramco of Saudi Arabia and Adnoc of the UAE.
- India is 4<sup>th</sup> country to sign this with Saudi Arabia.
- It has 2 parallel tracks:
  - Political, security, culture and society, headed by Foreign Ministers of both the countries.
  - Economy and investment, headed by India's Commerce Minister and Saudi's Energy Minister.
- Saudi Arabia identified India as one of the Kingdom's 8 Strategic Partner Countries under 'Vision 2030'.

- Vision 230: To reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil and diversify its economy.

#### The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), 2018

- It was created by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.
- Secretariat of AfCFTA: Accra, Ghana.
- The agreement was brokered by the African Union (AU) in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Initial aim of this agreement:
  - To remove tariffs from 90% of goods.
  - To allow free access to commodities, goods, and services across the continent.
- Objectives of the agreement:
  - To create a single market, deepening the economic integration of the continent.
  - To establish a liberalised market.
  - Sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic development, gender equality.
  - To enhance competitiveness of member states within Africa and in the global market.
  - Industrial and agricultural development, food security.

#### Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

- It is one of the 4 foundational agreements with U.S. meant to improve interoperability between the militaries and allow transfer of high-end military platforms.
- It is related to geospatial intelligence, sharing information on maps and satellite images for defence.
- BECA will provide Indian military, a high-quality GPS to navigate and missiles.
- It will give access to topographical and aeronautical data to aid navigation and targeting.

#### BECA follows three other agreements:

- The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), 2002:
  - It aims to protect the military information shared by the US.

- The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**), 2016:
  - It aims to provide **mutual logistics support around the world**.
- The Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**), 2018:
  - It aims to facilitate **communication between the weapons platforms** of the two armed forces.

#### **India – UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO), 2005**

- It provides a **forum to UK companies to develop partnerships with Indian business and decision-makers**.
- It would encourage **Government to Government negotiations**.
- It is to address issues of market liberalization and market access.
- In recent meet 3 bilateral working groups are set up to tackle barriers to trade in:
  - Food and Drink, Healthcare and Data Services.

#### **Some other developments in India-UK relations**

- Access India Programme (AIP), 2017:
  - To encourage companies to investing in India.
  - To set up manufacturing facilities as part of the ‘Make in India’.
- Varanasi Smart City Development Plan:
  - Technical assistance for the redevelopment of Varanasi railway station.
- Supporting the Start-up India initiative:
  - UK will invest £160 million across 75 start-up enterprises.
- First bond index series:
  - It is launched by SBI for overseas investors at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) in 2017.

#### **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), 1968**

- It was adopted by UN General Assembly.

- It is a **multilateral treaty to ban all nuclear explosions**, for both **civilian and military purposes, in all environments**.
- 184 countries have signed it and 168 have ratified it, recently Ghana in 2011.
- India never supported this treaty because of its discriminatory nature.
- China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, US have signed but not ratified the treaty.

**Measures taken to build trust among the states and to operationalize the treaty:**

- The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, 1997:
  - Its been working towards bringing the Treaty into force.
- Why India is against the treaty:
  - It divides the world into nuclear "haves and have-nots", as it favours the nuclear power states.
  - There is no time frame mentioned to dismantle existing nuclear weapons.
  - It doesn't say anything on complete nuclear disarmament.
  - It does not address India's security concerns: threats from neighbourhood.
  - It would hinder India's strategic nuclear program development scientifically and energy wise.
- News Context: India has been invited to join CTBTO as an observer.

#### **Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan**

- It is a **US-Taliban agreement signed in Doha, Qatar**.

#### **Major features of the Agreement**

- **Withdrawal of foreign forces:** US to reduce troops.
  - US and other foreign troops will leave Afghanistan within 14 months if Taliban follows all its commitments.
- **Release of prisoners (Prisoner Swap)**
- **Recognition to Taliban:**
  - US will move to the UNSC to remove Taliban members from the sanctions list.
- **Counter terror measures:**

- Taliban would stop all the terror groups from using Afghanistan to threaten the security of US and its allies.
- **Intra-Afghan talks:** Taliban agreed to talk to Afghan government.
- **Permanent and Comprehensive Ceasefire.**

#### **UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982- 1994**

- It is also known as **Law of the Sea Convention or Law of the Sea treaty.**
- It replaces **1958 Convention** on the High Seas.
- It is an **international agreement that resulted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III): 1973-1982.**
- **Members:** 168, India is a member. (USA has not ratified it yet).
- It defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans.
- It establishes guidelines for businesses, environment, management of marine natural resources.
- This Convention has created 3 new institutions:
  - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
  - International Seabed Authority.
  - Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
- In 1956, UN held its 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS I) at Geneva, which resulted in 4 treaties concluded in 1958:
  - Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, 1964.
  - Convention on the Continental Shelf, 1964.
  - Convention on the High Seas, 1962.
  - Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas, 1966.
- **UNCLOS III: It covered issues like:**
  - Exclusive economic zones (EEZs), Continental shelf jurisdiction.

- Deep seabed mining, protection of the marine environment, scientific research etc.

#### **The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangkok Agreement), 1975**

- It is an **initiative of UNESCAP** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).
- It is the **oldest preferential trade agreement between countries in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- It is the **only operational trade agreement linking China and India.**
- **Members:** Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Korea, Sri Lanka.
- **Major objective:**
  - **Economic development** among member states.
  - To **promote trade and investment liberalization, free flow of technology transfers.**
- APTA is open to all members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which serves as the APTA Secretariat.

#### **The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, 1987-88**

- It is a **formal Treaty Between USA and Soviet Union** for the elimination of their **Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.**
- Under this treaty, **both agreed not to develop, produce, possess or deploy any ground-based ballistic or cruise missiles** or missile launcher that have a range between 500 and 5,500 km.
- It did not include air-launched and sea-based missile systems in the same range.
- The deal says **to destroy all such existing weapons within 3 years of the signing of the treaty.**
- **News Context:** USA (and then Russia) suspended its obligations under INF Treaty.

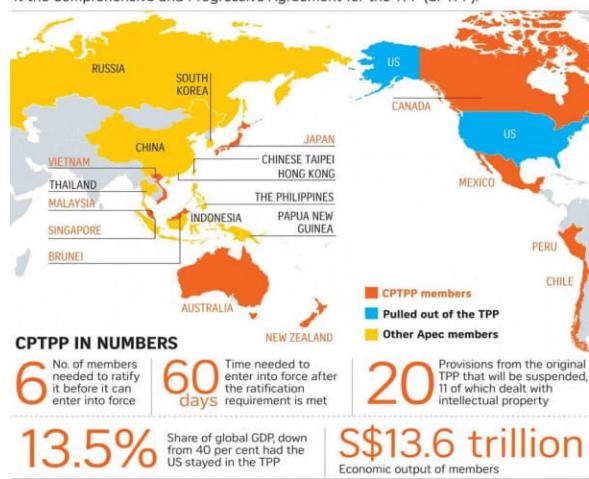
#### **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**

- This trade agreement is also known as **TPP11 or TPP-11.**
- **Members:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

- It includes sectors of agriculture, sea food products, forest products, industrial products, etc.
- It evolved from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which never entered into force due to the withdrawal of USA.
- The formal signing ceremony was held in 2018 in Santiago, Chile.
- Most tariff lines will become duty-free as the Agreement enters into force for each CPTPP country.
- Tariffs on other goods will be eliminated gradually over “phase-out” periods (up to 20 years).
- It includes detailed standards for intellectual property of any trade agreement.
- **News Context:** CPTPP entered into force for 6 countries which had ratified the deal.

#### TPP-11 to move forward on trade deal

The 11 remaining members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), all of them in Apec, will push ahead on their free trade deal without the United States. They have renamed it the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the TPP (CPTPP).



#### Caspian Sea Breakthrough Treaty

- This treaty declares 15 Nautical Miles from the coastline as Sovereign waters.
- A further 10 nautical miles as Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond this would be common waters.
- This treaty ends a conflict, whether Caspian is a sea or a lake, providing it a special legal status and clarifying the maritime boundaries of each surrounding country.

#### Major Conclusions or provisions:

- It allows each member nation to lay pipelines with consent only from the neighbouring states affected.

- The development of seabed reserves will be regulated by separate deals between Caspian Nations, in line with international laws.
- It prevents the Caspian nations from opening their borders to third party.
  - Eg: US and NATO or allowing any foreign military presence on Caspian waters.
- **Major Concern:** If it is a sea, it would be governed by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and outside powers would have access to these waters.
- **News Context:** 5 Caspian Sea States, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan signed agreement on Caspian Sea's legal status.



#### Wassenaar Arrangement, 1996

- It is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.
- It replaces the Cold War Era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM).
- It is less strict than COCOM, focusing on the transparency of MECR.
- It does not grant veto power to individual members over organizational decisions.
- **Headquarter:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Member:** 42, India is a member.

- It works according to Wassenaar Control List under which members agree to exchange information on sensitive technologies.
- It reports on such transfers and denials of controlled items to non-participants.
- The members ensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development of military capabilities which undermine these goals.

#### Control lists

- The outline of the arrangement is set out in a document entitled "Guidelines & Procedures, including the Initial Elements".
- The list of restricted technologies is broken into two parts:
  - List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (Basic List): It has 10 categories.
  - Munitions List: It has 22 categories, which are not labelled.
- Basic List has 2 subsections: Sensitive and Very Sensitive.
  - Very Sensitive List: Materials for stealth technology i.e., equipment that could be used for submarine detection, advanced radar, and jet engine technologies.

#### Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), 2002

- It is also known as International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.
- It is an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.
- The HCOC does not ban ballistic missiles, but it does call for restraint in their production, testing, and export.
- Members: 138, India is a member.
- HCOC is voluntary, legally non-binding.

#### Nuclear Weapon Prohibition Treaty (NWPT), 2017-2021

- It is also known as Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.
- It is the first legally binding international agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons aiming total elimination.

- It prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.
- News Context: Over 120 countries in UN voted to adopt this treaty.

#### 4. Transport, Corridors and Pipelines

##### Motihari-Amlekhganj Oil Pipeline

- It's a petroleum pipeline from Motihari (Bihar) to Amelkhganj (Nepal), constructed by India.
- It will be executed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC).
- It is the 1<sup>st</sup> transnational petroleum pipeline from India.
- It is the 1<sup>st</sup> South Asian oil pipeline corridor and 1<sup>st</sup> oil pipeline in Nepal.



##### Air Freight Corridor Service

- It passes through Pakistan airspace and will provide Afghanistan access to Indian markets.
- Other Initiatives from India:
  - India allowed Afghan Trucks to enter India through Attari land Checkpost in 2015.
  - A trilateral transport and transit agreement was signed with Afghanistan and Iran, using Chabahar 2016.
- Indian projects in Afghanistan under Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)
  - Salma Dam, New Afghan Parliament building, Doshi & Charikar substations, etc.

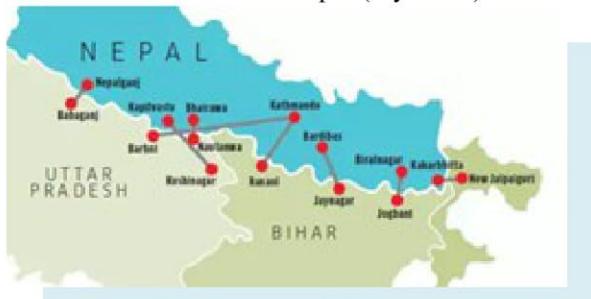
##### Land Border Crossing Agreement

- It facilitates regulation of free movement for people ordinarily residing at the border areas of India and Myanmar.

- It will be on the basis of **valid passports and visas**.
  - It **ends the special land entry permission** which was required for visitors entering the country via land routes.
  - At present, there are **2 crossing points: Moreh (Manipur) and Zokhawthar (Mizoram)**.

## **Jogbani-Biratnagar Checkpost**

- It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> integrated check post between India-Nepal.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> check post between two countries was at Raxaul (Bihar).
  - Integrated Check Post (ICP):
    - It is a trade center for facilitation of bilateral trade between countries, movement of passengers across the border.
    - It generates employment opportunities and improves economy.
    - It provides all the facilities for cross-border movement of individuals, vehicles and goods.
  - Already Operational ICPs:
    - Attari in Punjab (Pakistan border), Petrapole in West Bengal (Bangladesh border).
    - Akhaura in Tripura (Bangladesh), Raxaul in Bihar (Nepal).
    - Jogbani in Bihar (Nepal), Moreh in Manipur (Myanmar).



## **Integrated Check Posts (ICP)**

- **News Context:** India and Bangladesh agreed to operate Petrapole-Benapole ICP.
  - **Integrated Check Posts:**
    - It secures country's borders against hostile elements.
    - It also facilitates trade and commerce and boosts revenue.
  - There are 5 major functional ICP at present:
    - Attari in Punjab (Pakistan border)

- Petrapole in West Bengal (Bangladesh border).
  - Akhaura in Tripura (Bangladesh).
  - Raxaul in Bihar (Nepal).
  - Jogbani in Bihar (Nepal).

- Petrapole-Benapole ICP:

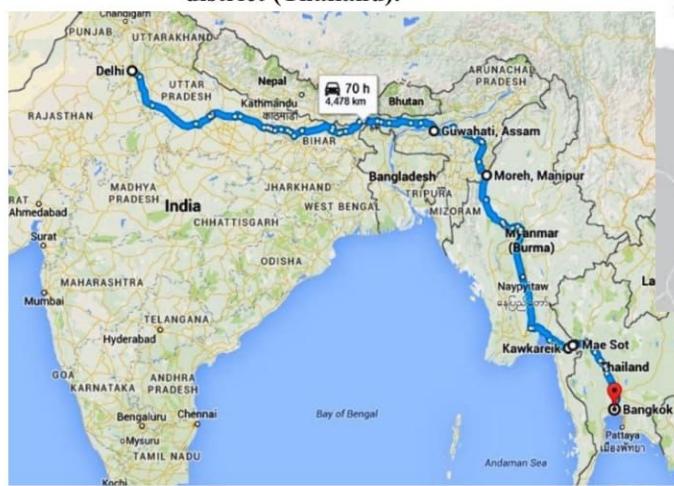
- It conducts 60% of India-Bangladesh trade.
  - It is Asia's largest land customs station.
  - A separate body, **Land Port Authority of India (LPAI)** was constituted to boost trade via land ports.
  - LPAI:
    - It is a statuary body established under Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010.
    - It functions administration under Border Management Department, Home Ministry.
    - It plans, develops, constructs, manages, and maintains ICP.

### **Multiple Projects in Bangladesh**

- **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project:**
    - It is for **transportation** of oil, connecting **Siliguri** (India) and **Parbatipur** (**Bangladesh**).
  - **Rooppur project:**
    - It is the **first initiative under Indo-Russian deal** to undertake atomic energy projects in Bangladesh.
    - **India will provide personnel training**, consultation support etc.
  - **Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT):**
    - **India to assist Bangladesh to capture the potential of waterways** for both inter and intra border connectivity of Bangladesh.
  - **National Knowledge Network:** It is for **digital connectivity** of education with Bangladesh.

### India- Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway, 1990

- It connects India with the ASEAN region with the total distance of 3200 km.
- It will link Moreh (Manipur), via Mandalay city (Myanmar), to Mae Sot district (Thailand).



### International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

- It is a multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight.
- It is extended between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, Europe.
- Major Objective:**
  - To increase trade connectivity between major cities as, Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan etc.
  - To reduce costs in terms of time and money over the traditional route currently being used.
- News Context: India wants Chabahar port of Iran to be included in INSTC.**
- Benefits for India:**
  - It will help India to cut down on costs and time taken for transfer of goods from India to Russia and Europe via Iran.

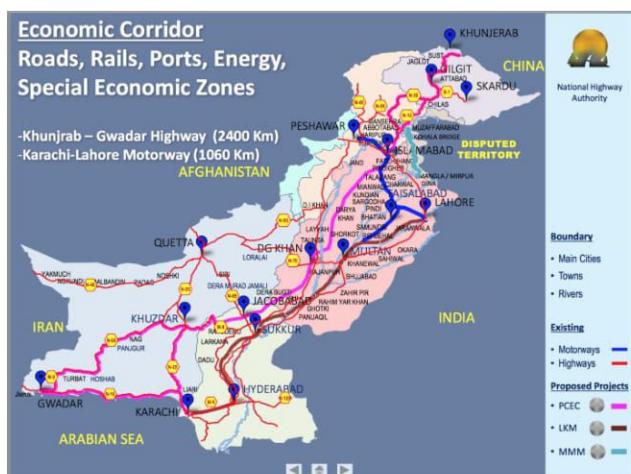


### Power of Siberia Project

- It is also known as:**
  - Yakutia-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok pipeline.**
  - China-Russia East-Route Natural Gas pipeline.**

### China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), 2013

- It is a collection of infrastructure projects to upgrade Pakistan's required infrastructure by construction of modern transportation networks.
- It includes: Energy projects, SEZ etc.



- Location:**
  - Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh & POK.
  - China: Xinjiang
- Budget:** China Development Bank, AIIB, ADB, Silk Road Fund etc.
- Major Projects under CPEC:**

- Highways and Railways network.
- To link seaports in Gwadar and Karachi with northern Pakistan, Western China, Central Asia.
- Motorway expansion between Karachi and Lahore.
- Karakoram Highway** from Hasan Abdal to the Chinese border.

### Belt and Road Initiative (One Belt One Road or OBOR or BRI), 2013

- It is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by China.
- It includes investing in 70 countries and international organizations.
- It proposes overland routes for road and rail transportation through landlocked Central Asia and western Region.
- It includes: Ports, Skyscrapers, Railroads, Roads, Airports, Dams, Tunnels.
- Mission:** A bid to enhance regional connectivity and embrace a brighter future.
- Financing:** AIIB, Silk Road funding.



Source: CSIS Reconnecting Asia Project, U.S. Global Investors

### Maritime Silk Road (MSR)

- It is the **sea route part** of the **Belt and Road Initiative**.
- It is a **Chinese strategic initiative** to increase investment and foster collaboration across the historic Silk Road.
- **Major Routes:**
- **From Chinese coast to south via Hanoi to Jakarta, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur through the Strait of Malacca.**
- Then, via the Sri Lankan Colombo towards the southern tip of India via Malé, to the East African Mombasa.
- Now, from there to Djibouti, then through Red Sea via the Suez Canal to the Mediterranean, and goes on.
- It coincides with theory of China's **String of Pearls** strategy.

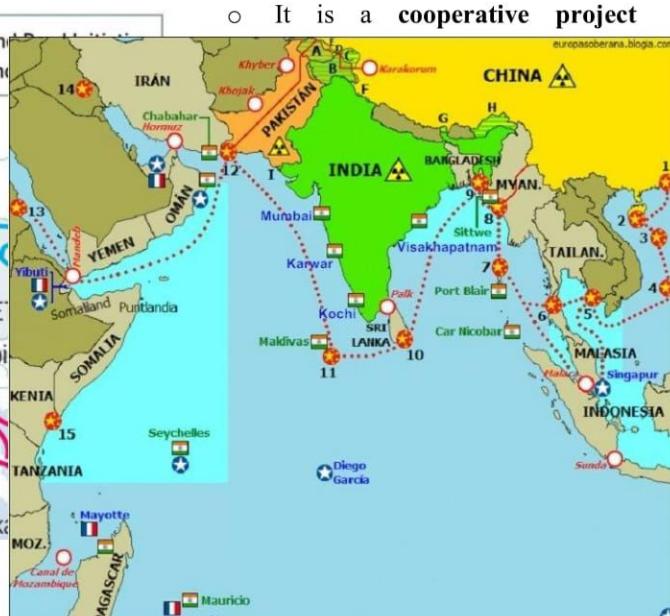


### String of Pearls

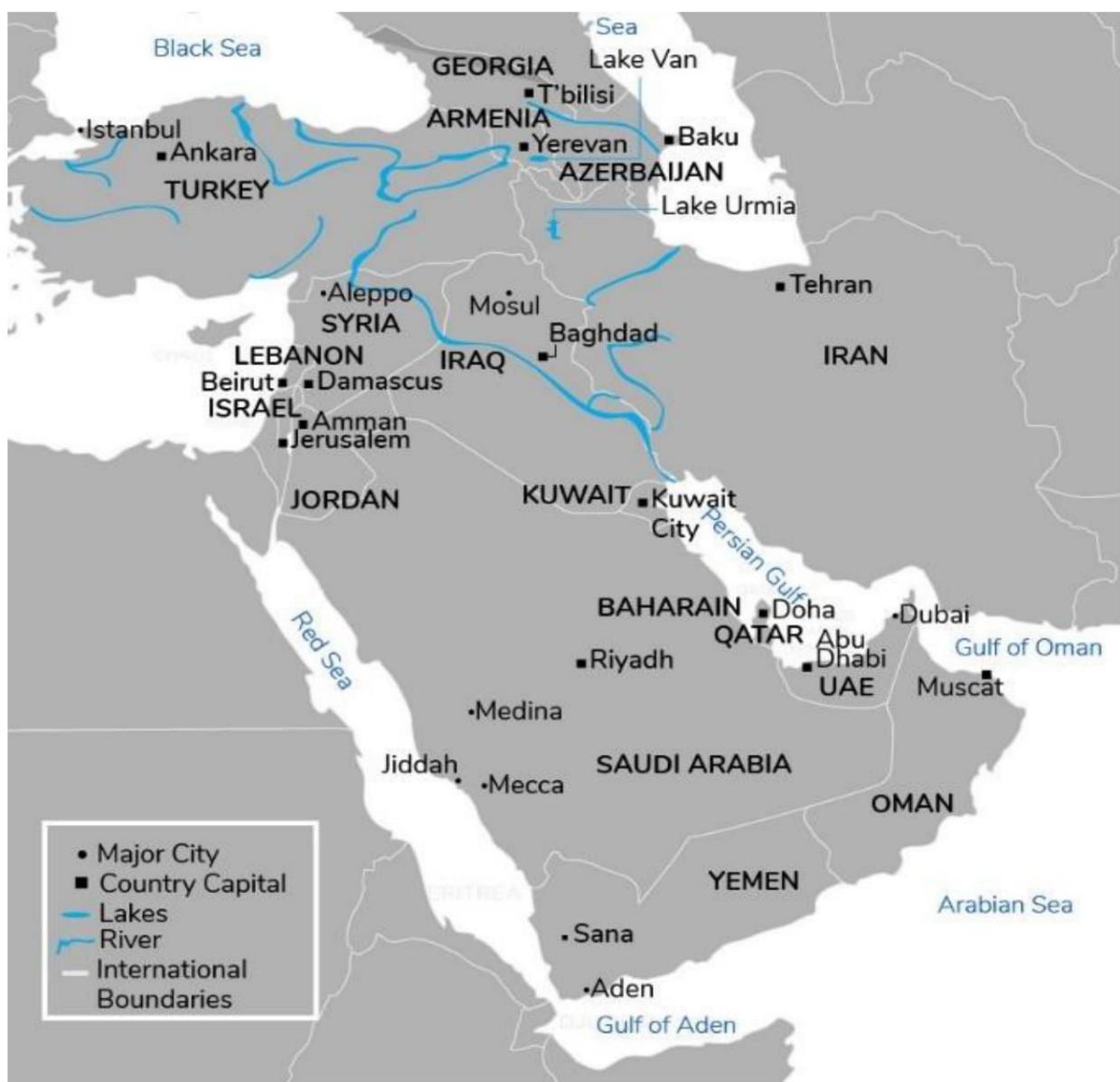
- It is a **geopolitical theory covering Indian Ocean region (IOR)**.
- It refers to **Chinese military network and commercial facilities**.
- **Route:** It extends from China mainland to Port Sudan in the Horn of Africa.
- **The sea lines run through maritime choke points:** Strait of Mandeb, Strait of Malacca, Strait of Hormuz, Lombok Strait.
- **Other strategic maritime centres:** Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Somalia.

### South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Investment Programme, 2001

- It is a **part of the Asian Highway No. 01 (AH01)** and acts as **India's Gateway to the East**.
- It was **formed by** India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
- **Object:** To increase commerce, tourism and economic growth by building cross-border connectivity.
- **ADB provides** technical, advisory, and financial support to the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India- Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement initiative as **part of SASEC programme**.
- **Asian Highway Network (Great Asian Highway):**



## 5. West Asia



### Kurds (Kurdish), Iranian Ethnic Group

- They are the world's largest stateless ethnic group.
- They live in the areas of Southern and Eastern Turkey, Northern Iraq, North-Eastern Syria, North-Western Iran, South Armenia.
- Language:** Kurdish, Zaza-Gorani.
- It belongs to Western Iranian branch of Iranian languages in the Indo-European language family.
- Kurdish Population:** 30-45 million.

### Historical Background

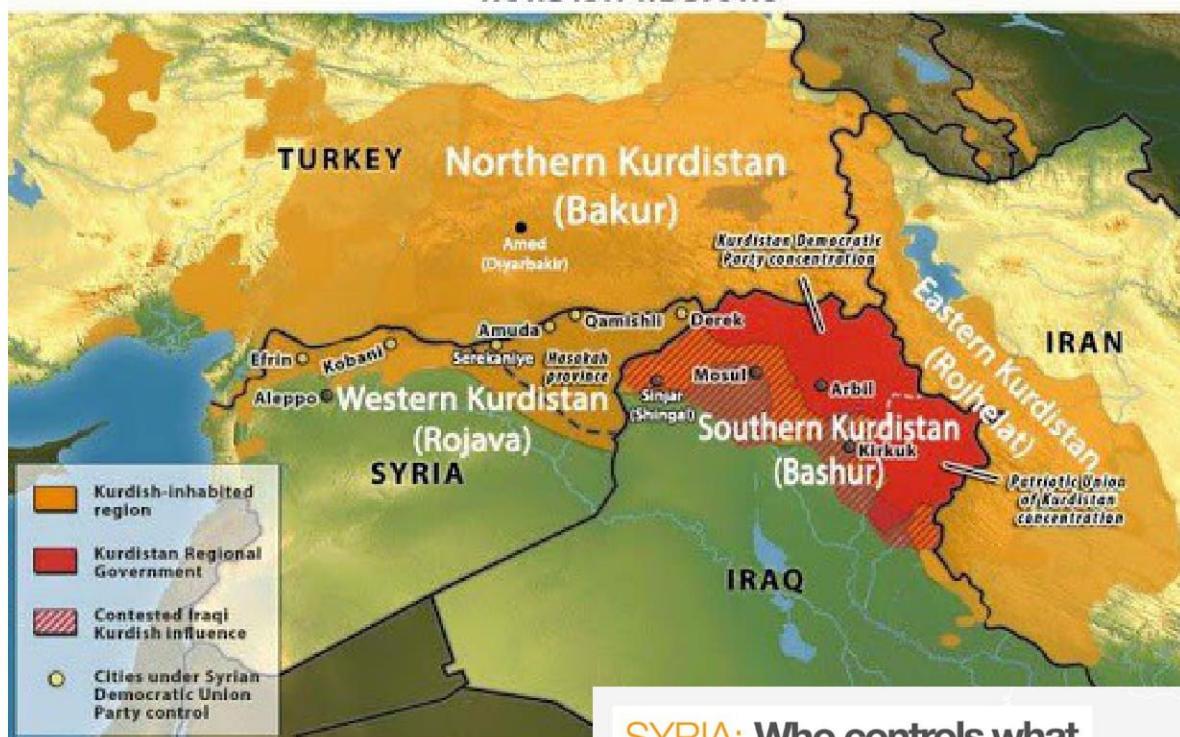
#### Treaty of Sevres, 1920

- It was signed between the Allies of World War I and the Ottoman Empire.
- It ceded large parts of Ottoman territory to France, UK, Greece, Italy.
- Under this, victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state.

#### Treaty of Lausanne, 1923

- It cancelled Treaty of Sevres provisions.
- It set the boundaries of modern Turkey.
- It made no provision for a Kurdish state and left Kurds with minority status in their respective countries.

## KURDISH REGIONS



- Recent History: Ongoing armed conflicts in Turkish, Iranian, Syrian, and Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Kurds in Iraq and Syria have autonomous regions, while Kurdish movements continue to grow.

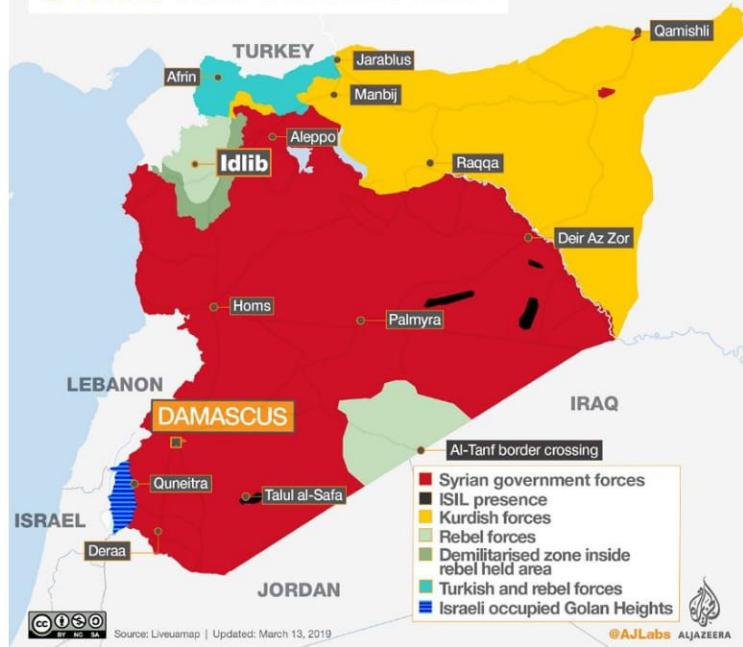
### Idlib (Edlib or Idleb)

- It is a city in North-Western Syria (Bordering Turkey) and is the capital of the Idlib Governorate.
- The city was taken over by Syrian rebel militias at the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011.
- It is one of the last remaining strongholds controlled by forces opposed to Syrian Government.
- It became the seat of Syrian Salvation Government by 2017.

### Chabahar Port, 1983

- It is a seaport located in South-Eastern Iran, on Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
- It is also known as Golden Gate:
  - Being close to Afghanistan, Central Asian countries of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and

### SYRIA: Who controls what



others (All the landlock countries).

- It is Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of 2 separate ports:
  - Shahid Kalantari.
  - Shahid Beheshti
- The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the port was opened in 1983 during the Iran-Iraq War.
- As, Iran began shifting trade east towards the Pakistani border to decrease

**dependency on Persian Gulf** which were **vulnerable to attack by Iraq.**

- **India-Iran Agreement, May 2016**

- India would refurbish Shahid Beheshti port.
- It would provide an alternative for trade between India-Afghanistan.
- It is **jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan** for multi-modal transport of goods and passengers.



#### Zahedan, Iran

- It is a city and **capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province.**
- It is a **part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport and trade corridor.**

#### Zaranj and Delaram, Afghanistan

- These 2 cities of Afghanistan are **part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor.**

#### PROJECT ROADMAP



Strategic cargo route from Gwadar Port to western China



### Gwadar Port, Pakistan (Balochistan Province)

- It is the **deepest seaport in the world**, situated on Arabian Sea at Gwadar.
- This port features 3 different projects:
  - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan.
  - Belt and Road Initiative.
  - Maritime Silk Road project.
- It will be site of a floating liquefied natural gas facility, built as part of the Gwadar-Nawabshah segment of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.



### Hajigak Mine, Afghanistan

- It is the **largest iron oxide deposit in Afghanistan**, located near Hajigak Pass.
- Its area divided between Maidan Wardak and Bamyan provinces.
- It has the **biggest untapped iron ore deposits of Asia**.
- Note:** India can export the iron ore extracted from the Hajigak mines.

- It is part of **India's maritime strategy** to counter Chinese influence and activities in the region.
- Historical Background:**
  - Duqm was a **small fishing settlement** of the Janubah tribe.
- News Context:** India got access to this port for military use.

### Staking a Claim

India has joined China in the push to develop Afghanistan's mineral wealth

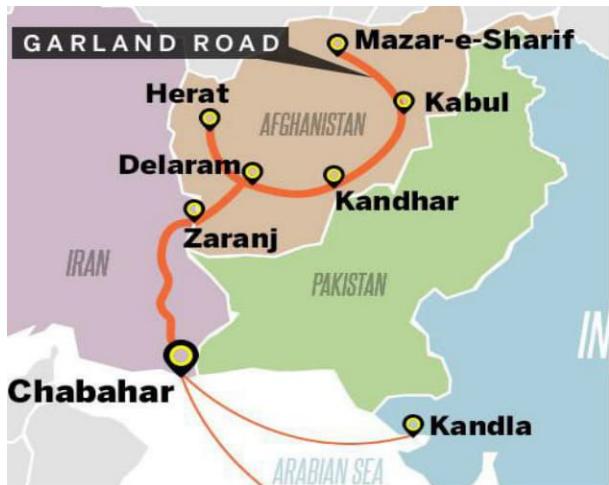


### Garland road (Route 606 or Delaram-Zaranj Highway or A71)

- It is in Nimruz Province (Afghanistan) connecting the Delaram District in Afghanistan to the border of Iran.
- It provides an important trade route between Iran and the rest of Asia.
- It provides land-locked Afghanistan an alternative way to access Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, instead of relying on unstable Pakistani routes.
- From Zaranj, highway connects to Zabol across the border in Iran.
- Zabol is connected by road to Chabahar Port.
- Note:** It is developed by India's Border Roads Organisation.

### Duqm port, Oman

- It is a **port town** situated on South-Eastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- It is **strategically located**, in close proximity to Chabahar port.



## 6. International Financial institution

- An IFI is a financial institution that has been **established by more than one country**, and hence is **subject to international law**.
- Its owners or shareholders are **generally national governments**.

### Multilateral Development Bank (MDB)

- It is an international financial institution chartered by two or more countries for the purpose of encouraging **economic development in poorer nations**.
- These consist of **member nations from developed and developing countries**.

### Major MDBs (ranked by total assets)

- **European Investment Bank:** \$606.5 billion
- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), World Bank Group:** \$283 billion
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** \$191.9 billion
- **International Development Association (IDA), World Bank Group:** \$188.5 billion
- Inter-American Development Bank: \$129.5 billion
- **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD):** €61.9 billion (\$67.7 billion)
- **African Development Bank (AfDB):** 33.8 billion UA
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):** \$19.6 billion
- **Islamic Development Bank:** 22 billion Islamic dinars (\$18.5 billion)

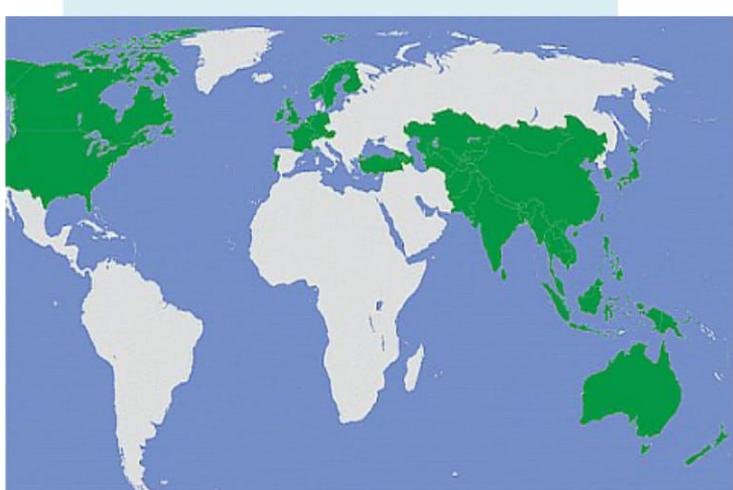
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration: \$10.9 bn
- **New Development Bank:** \$10.4 billion

### Regional Development Banks (RDBs)

- These have **functions similar to the World Bank group's activities**, but with particular focus on a specific region.
- Shareholders usually consist of the regional countries plus the major donor countries.

### 1. Asian Development Bank (ADB), 1966

- It is a **regional development bank** to promote social and economic **development in Asia**.
- **Headquarter:** Manila, Philippines.
- ADB is an **official United Nations Observer**.



### Members

- **Total 68 members:** 9 members from the Asian and Pacific Region, 19 members from Other Regions.
- The bank admits
  - the members of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** and
  - **non-regional developed countries**.

### Voting and Shareholding

- It has a **similar weighted voting system** as **World Bank** where votes are distributed **in proportion with members' capital subscriptions**.
- **Largest Shareholders:**
  - Japan and USA: 15.571%, China: 6.429%.

- India: 6.317%, Australia: 5.773%.

#### **Organization of ADB**

- **Board of Governors:** It is the highest policy-making body
- It is composed of one representative from each member state.
- The president has a term of 5 years, and may be re-elected.
  - Traditionally, and because Japan is one of the largest shareholders of the bank, the president has always been Japanese.

#### **Objectives**

- To reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth.
- Sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- To implement investments in the form of loans, grants in infrastructure, health care services, financial and public administration systems etc.
- Major Focus areas:
  - Education, Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.
  - Finance Sector Development.
  - Infrastructure, including transport, communications, energy, water supply and sanitation, urban development.
  - Regional Cooperation and Integration, Private Sector Lending.

#### **News**

- **ADB-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP):** 300 students annually in academic institutions located in 10 countries within the Region.

#### **2. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), 2015-16**

- It is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- **Region served:** Asia and Oceania
- The bank was proposed by China in 2013 and was established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement, 2015.

- The bank started operating when 10 members holding 50% initial shares ratified it in 2015.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China. **Official language:** English.

#### **Members**

- 103 members, India is a member.
- **Founding members:** 57



#### **Voting Structure**

It is divided into 3 categories

- **Basic votes:** These are equal for all members and constitute 12% of the total votes.
- **Share votes:** These are equal to the number of shares.
- **Founding Member votes:** Each Founding Member furthermore gets 600 votes.

#### **Shareholding structure**

- The Authorized Capital Stock of the bank is 100 billion US Dollars.
- It is divided into 1 million shares of \$1 lakh each.
- **Largest share of voting power:**
  - **China** (26.5%), **India** (7.6%), **Russia** (6.0%).
  - **Among non-regional shareholders:** **Germany** (4.2%), **France** (3.2%), **UK** (2.9%).

#### **3. New Development Bank (NDB) (BRICS Development Bank), 2015**

- It is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states.
- India proposed the establishment of this bank at 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit in 2012, Delhi.
- **Membership:**
  - **Members:** BRICS Nations.
  - All UN members could be members of NDB.

- **Headquarter:** Shanghai, China.
- **Regional Office:** Johannesburg (South Africa), São Paulo (Brazil), Moscow, (Russia).
- **Official Language:** English.

#### **Voting and Shareholding**

- Equal share of five member states.
- It has equal vote sharing. No-one has been provided veto powers.

#### **Major Objectives**

- To support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation, other financial instruments.
- To cooperate with international organizations and other financial entities; and to provide technical assistance.
- To promote infrastructure and sustainable development projects.
- To establish a network of global partnerships with other multilateral development institutions and banks.

#### **Structure of the Bank**

- Board of Governors and Board of Directors.
- President and Vice-Presidents.
- The NDB President is elected on a rotational basis from one of the founding members.
- There are 4 Vice Presidents from each of the other 4 founding members.
- Note: K.V. Kamath was 1<sup>st</sup> elected president of the NDB.

#### **4. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), 1991**

- It is a Multilateral Development Investment Bank established after the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- Aim:
  - To use investment as a tool to build market economies.
  - To promote private and entrepreneurial initiative.
- Despite its public sector shareholders, it invests in private enterprises, together with commercial partners.
- Headquarter: London.
- Eligibility for EBRD funding:
  - A project must be located in an EBRD country.
  - It must have strong commercial prospects.

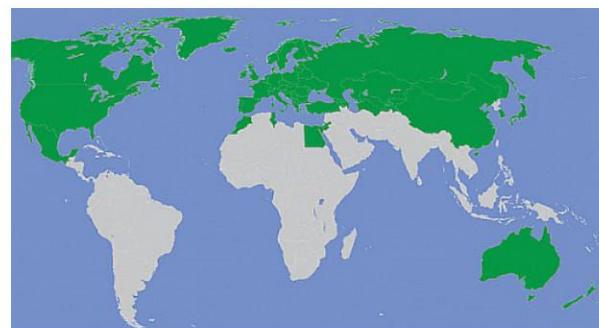
- Must be beneficial for the local economy.

- EBRD is unique among development banks for few reasons:

- It is the first multilateral development bank to have an explicit environmental mandate in its charter (since 1995).
- It does not finance thermal coal mining and coal-fired electricity generation.
- It follows Green Economy Transition (GET) approach, in support of the Paris climate goals.

#### **Members**

- It is owned by EU members to support EU policy.
- India is 69<sup>th</sup> Shareholder of EBRD.
- Biggest shareholder of EBRD: USA.



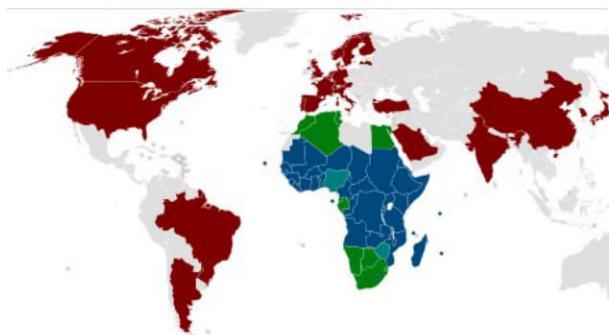
#### **Governance of EBRD**

- Each shareholder is represented individually on the Board of Governors of the EBRD.
- It has overall authority over the Bank.
- It is responsible for approving its overall strategic direction.

#### **5. African Development Bank (AfDB), 1964**

- It provides finance to African governments and private companies investing in the regional member countries.
- It comprises 3 entities:
  - The African Development Bank (AfDB).
  - African Development Fund.
  - Nigeria Trust Fund.
- Headquarter: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Aim:
  - To fight poverty, improve living conditions in Africa.

- To promote public and private capital investment.
- Members:
  - 53 Regional and 24 Non-Regional.
  - India became a non-regional member in 1983.



#### African Development Fund (ADF), 1972-74

- It provides finance to low-income members, which are unable to borrow on the non-concessional terms of the AfDB.
- Poverty reduction is the main aim of ADF activities.
- Largest ADF shareholder: UK (14%), USA (6.5%), Japan (5.4%).
- 6 members are appointed by the non-African member states.

#### Nigeria Trust Fund, 1976

- It was established by Nigerian government with an initial capital of \$80 million.
- It aims at assisting in the development efforts of the poorest AfDB members.
- It finances projects of national or regional importance.

#### 6. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), 1973-75

- It is among the leading multilateral development banks.
- It focuses on Islamic finance.
- Headquarter: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- It was founded in 1973 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).
- IDB is an observer at the UN General Assembly.

#### Members

- 57 member countries are spread over Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

- It is the only multilateral development bank after the World Bank that is global in terms of membership.
- Its members should be a member of the OIC.
- Largest single shareholder: Saudi Arabia (25% of paid up)
  - Algeria (10.66%), Iran (9.32%), Egypt (9.22%), Turkey (8.41%).



#### Structure of IDB

IDB has evolved into a group of five Entities:

- Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
- Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI).
- Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD).
- Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC).
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

#### Bretton Woods institutions

- These were established after World War II to assist in the reconstruction of Europe and provide mechanisms for international cooperation in managing the global financial system.
- They include the World Bank, the IMF, and the International Finance Corporation.
- These were created at the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944.

#### 1. International Monetary Fund (IMF), 1944-45

- It is an international financial institution, formed at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.
- It was the primary idea of Harry Dexter White and John Maynard Keynes.
- Headquarter: Washington DC, USA.
- Members: 190

#### Objectives

- To reconstruct the international monetary system.

- To manage balance of payments difficulties and international financial crises.
- To foster global monetary cooperation.
- To secure financial stability. To reduce poverty.
- To promote high employment and sustainable economic growth.
- To facilitate international trade.

#### **IMF Funds**

- It comes from 2 major sources: Loans and Quotas.
- **Quotas:** These are pooled funds of member nations, generate most IMF funds.
- The size of a member's quota depends on its economic and financial importance in the world.
- The quotas are increased periodically in the form of special drawing rights (SDR).
- India's quota is 2.76% and China's is

Member	Quota (Millions, SDR)	Quota Share (%)	Votes	Vote Share (%)
United States	82994.2	17.46	831407	16.52
Japan	30820.5	6.48	309670	6.15
China	30482.9	6.41	306294	6.09
Germany	26634.4	5.6	267809	5.32
France	20155.1	4.24	203016	4.03
United Kingdom	20155.1	4.24	203016	4.03
Italy	15070	3.17	152165	3.02
India	13114.4	2.76	132609	2.64
Russian Federation	12903.7	2.71	130502	2.59
Brazil	11042	2.32	111885	2.22

- 6.41%, while the U.S.'s quota is 17.46 % (translates to a vote share of 16.52%).
- It gives USA a unique veto power over crucial decisions at the IMF, many of which require a **supermajority of 85%**.
  - **SDR:** Unit of account of the IMF and represents a claim to currency.

#### **Voting power**

- Voting power in the IMF is based on a quota system.
- Vote share
  - Each member has a number of basic votes. Basic votes equal to 5.502% of the total votes.

- One additional vote for each SDR of 100,000 of a member country's quota.
- Changes in the voting shares require approval by a super-majority of **85% of voting power**.

#### **2. World Bank, 1944**

##### **Objectives**

- Providing loans and grants to the governments of low and middle-income countries for pursuing capital projects.
- To provide temporary loans to low-income countries that could not obtain loans commercially.

##### **Other Major objectives of world Bank**

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, Achieve Universal Primary Education.
- Promote Gender Equality, Reduce Child Mortality.
- Improve Maternal Health, Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases.
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability.
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

##### **Organisation and Members**

- It majorly comprises two institutions:
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
  - International Development Association (IDA).
- World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group.
- Headquarter: Washington DC, USA.
- Members: 189 countries (IBRD), 173 countries (IDA).

##### **Voting power**

- The countries with most voting power are:
  - USA (15.85%), Japan (6.84%), China (4.42%), Germany (4.00%), UK (3.75%).
  - France (3.75%), India (2.91%), Russia (2.77%), Saudi Arabia (2.77%) and Italy (2.64%).
- 'Voice Reform – Phase 2': In 2010, voting powers were revised to increase the voice of developing countries, especially China.

- Countries with significant gains: South Korea, Turkey, Mexico, Singapore, Greece, Brazil, India, and Spain.
- Voting powers unchanged: USA, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

### 3. World Bank Group

- World Bank Group is an **extended family of 5 international organizations**.
- It is the parent organization of the World Bank.

**1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), 1944:** It offers concessional loans and grants to middle-income developing countries.

**2. International Development Association (IDA), 1960:** It offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.

**World Bank = IBRD + IDA**

**3. International Finance Corporation (IFC), 1956:** For private-sector development in less developed countries.

**4. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), 1966:** It is an international arbitration institution.

- Besides ICSID, India is member of other 4.

**5. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), 1988:** It is an investment insurance facility to safeguard investment in developing countries.

#### 3.1 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), 1944

- Its initial mission was to finance the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.
- Following the reconstruction of Europe, its mandate expanded to advancing worldwide economic development and eradicating poverty.
- It is the lending arm of World Bank Group and provides credits and grants.
- It offers loans to middle-income developing countries.
- Since 1959, IBRD has a triple-A credit rating, which allows it to borrow capital at lower rates.
- It invests to improve transportation, infrastructure, education, environment, energy, healthcare, access to food, water, sanitation etc.

#### Governance of IBRD

- It is governed by World Bank's Board of Governors which meets annually.
- It consists of 1 governor per member country (Country's Finance Minister or Treasury Secretary).
- The Board of Directors: 25 executive directors.
  - Chairman: President of World Bank Group.
- **IBRD has its own executive leadership** and staff which conduct its normal business operations.

#### 3.2 International Development Association (IDA), 1960

- It is an international financial institution which offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.
- It was established to complement IBRD.
- IDA is the single largest provider of funds to development projects in the world's poorest nations.
- IBRD and IDA follow the same executive leadership and operate with the same staff.

#### Major Objectives

- To reduce poverty.
- To provide affordable development financing to the world's poorest developing countries.

#### Members

- Members: 173. (Most recent, Samoa)
- They pay contributions in every 3 years as replenishments of its capital.
- IDA membership is available only to IBRD members.

#### 3.3 International Finance Corporation (IFC), 1956

- It offers investment, advisory, asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.
- It is a private-sector arm of the World Bank Group.
- Originally, it was more financially integrated with the World Bank Group.
  - However, eventually it became authorized to operate as a financially autonomous entity and make independent investment decisions.

### Objectives

- To reduce poverty, achieve better living standards by mobilizing financial resources for private enterprise.
- To promote accessible and competitive markets.
- To increase sustainable agriculture opportunities, improve healthcare and education.

### Governance of IFC

- It is owned and governed by its member countries.
- It has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations.

### 3.4 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), 1966

- It is an international arbitration institution.
- It was established for legal dispute resolution and conciliation between international investors and States.
- It is funded by the World Bank Group.
- Members: 162 (UN members and Kosovo).
- Note: Besides ICSID, India is member of other 4.
- ICSID does not conduct arbitration or conciliation proceedings itself.
  - However, it offers institutional and procedural support to conciliation commissions, tribunals etc.
- It has 2 sets of rules that determine how cases will be initiated and conducted:
- ICSID Convention, Regulations and Rules:
  - A legal dispute of contracting member states.
  - It must be of a legal nature and should relate directly to an investment.
- ICSID Additional Facility Rules:
  - If one of the parties to the dispute is not a contracting member state.
  - However, most cases are arbitrated under the ICSID Convention.

### 3.5 Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), 1988

- It is an investment insurance facility to encourage confident investment in developing countries.
- It offers political risk insurance and credit enhancement guarantees.
- These guarantees help investors protect FDIs against political and non-commercial risks.
- It insures contracts with long-term periods.
- Members: 181 (180 UN Members and Kosovo).

### Governance of MIGA

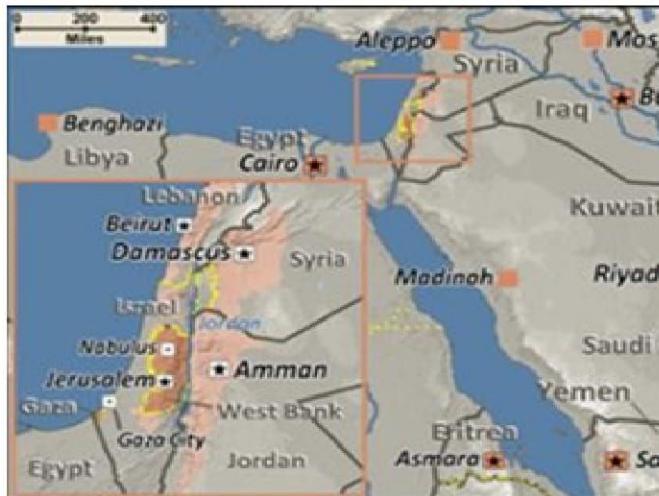
- It is owned and governed by its member states.
- It has its own executive leadership and staff which carry out its daily operations.
- Its shareholders are member governments that provide paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters.

### 7. Miscellaneous

#### UN75

- UN75 - 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, UN launched global conservation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want.
- It can be joined by anyone in all 193 UN Member States, online, and offline, or in formal and informal dialogues.
- UN75 3 big questions:
  - What kind of future do we want to create?
  - Are we on track?
  - What action is needed to bridge the gap?
- 3 components:
  - Connecting people
  - Amplify their voices by creating open channels for people
  - Inspire action
- News: UN75 Initiative released Findings from first three months of Global Dialogue titled 'Resolved to Combine Our Efforts'.

#### Israel and United Arab Emirates Diplomatic Agreement



### Arab, Palestinian in Gaza/West Bank

- Diplomatic Agreement signed between Israel and United Arab Emirates (UAE): **Abraham Accord**
- Full normalization of relations in exchange for Israel's suspension of annexation of occupied West Bank territory.
- UAE: 1st Gulf country** to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Israel.
- Jordan and Egypt: Arab states** to have diplomatic ties with Israel.
- Endorsed: UNGA in April 2013
  - Entered into force: December 23, 2014.

### Permanent Commission for Serving Women in Navy

- SC ruled in favor of Permanent Commission to female officers in Indian Navy
  - Government to treat men & women equally in armed forces.
- SC has already ruled in favor of PC for women in Army.
- PC: entitles an officer to serve in Navy till he or she retires.
- Short Service Commission: officer serve for limited time period (14 years).

### Vande Bharat Mission

- Evacuation exercise
- Aim: to bring home Indian nationals stranded abroad due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- People are brought back in flights by Air India and also by Indian Navy.

### Stranded in India Portal

- Launched by: Ministry of Tourism
- Aim: to help foreign tourists who are stuck in various parts of the country.
  - to be a single window solution that grants foreign tourists' access to all the information they may need and the services that they can avail to continue to live in India, safely.

### Mission Sagar

- Aim: INS Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros for providing food items & medicines related to COVID-19.
- PM vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)
- Strengthens India's relationship with neighbouring countries.

### Operation Samudra Setu (Sea Bridge)

- Launched by Indian Navy
- To repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.

### Tsar Bomba nuke test

- Bomb - officially named RDS-220 and later nick-named Tsar Bomba.
  - largest nuclear weapon ever constructed.
- Weapon was set off over Novaya Zemlya (island in Arctic Ocean) on October 30, 1961.

### 75th anniversary of world's first atomic bombing

- World War-II - US dropped its 1st atomic bomb named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima (Japan).
- The US dropped a second atom bomb named "Fat Man" on Nagasaki (Japan) in 1945.

### Demilitarised zone (DMZ)

- North Korea threatened to send troops to DMZ.
- DMZ - region on the Korean peninsula demarcating North Korea from South Korea.
  - 2 km-wide buffer, stretching coast to coast across the peninsula.
- Latitude 38° N (the 38th parallel) is followed
  - Original demarcation line between North Korea and South Korea at the end of World War II.
- Established: part of ceasefire negotiated between UN and communist forces.

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process

- **3<sup>rd</sup> round of UPR process:** recommendations related to universal basic income, child rights etc. given by NHRC.
- UPR involves a **review of human rights records of all UN Member States.**
  - UPR process is under support of Human Rights Council (HRC).
  - HRC - inter-governmental body within UN system responsible for promotion and protection of all human rights.
- **Aim: to improve human rights situation** in all countries and **address human rights violations.**

### Cairns Group

- **Coalition of 19 agricultural exporting nations** lobbying for agricultural trade liberalization.
  - Accounts for **more than 25% of the world's agricultural exports.**
  - Formation: 1986 in Cairns, Australia.
  - India is not a member.
- Initiative launched to support global agricultural and food system during COVID-19 pandemic,** limiting impact of emergency measures on global food security and fair trade.

### Toman

- Iran's **monetary unit changed from 'Rial' to the popularly used 'Toman'.**
  - Each 'Toman' = 10,000 Rials.
- Significance:** Iran has reportedly decided to change its currency to offset the fallout from **inflation triggered by US sanctions.**

### Three Seas Initiative

- Launched: 2015.
- Members: 12 EU Member States located between Adriatic, Baltic, and Black Seas.
- Known as: Baltic, Adriatic, Black Sea (BABS) Initiative.
- Aim: to accelerate development of energy, transport, and digital infrastructure.

### Trinity Test

- July 16, 1945 - **scientists tested Gadget-world's first atomic bomb.**
  - **It was known as the Trinity Test.**
  - Developed: US-led **Manhattan Project.**
- **Atomic bomb uses either uranium or plutonium and relies on fission.**
  - Fission: a nuclear reaction in which a

nucleus or an atom breaks apart into two pieces.

### Uighur

- Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020: sanctions on Chinese officials deemed responsible for oppression of Uighur Muslims.
- Uighurs: Muslim, Turkic ethnicity who live in China's Xinjiang Province.
- Culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.

### Global Vaccine Summit 2020, UK

- Aim: to raise funds for **Gavi, a global Vaccine Alliance.**
- **Gavi:** international organisation, brings together public and private sectors with **shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines** for children living in world's poorest countries.
- India's commitment: **\$15 million** to Gavi over next five years.

### Global Soft Power Index

- Released by: UK based Brand Finance.
- Three parameters: familiarity, reputation, and influence.
- Top four nations: US, Germany, the UK, and Japan.
- India ranked 27<sup>th</sup> – below China, the UAE, and even Saudi Arabia.

### NAFTA is now the USMCA

- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): renegotiated by **United States, Mexico, and Canada in 2018.**
- New deal: United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
  - Aim: **created in 1994**, to generate economic growth and helping to raise the standard of living for the people of all three member countries.
- Enters into force: 1 July 2020.

### Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

- Preferential Trade Agreement: discussion revived between India and SACU.
- SACU: customs union comprising **Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa & Eswatini (Swaziland).**
  - **Customs union:** agreement between two or more neighboring countries to remove trade barriers, reduce or abolish customs duty.

- **World's oldest custom union**, formed in 1910.

#### Future Investment Initiative (FII), 2017

- It is an **annual investment forum** and initiative by Saudi Arabia, to discuss **trends in the world economy and investment environment**.
- It is to **diversify kingdom's economy** and **reduce its dependence on petroleum products**.
- FII brings together policymakers, investors and global experts, to discuss the role of investment in driving global prosperity and development.
- It is **hosted by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF)**.
- **FII is described as "Davos in the desert".**
  - **Davos here is a reference:** Annual **WEF meeting** held in **Davos**.
- **News Context:** India's P.M. attended FII held in Riyadh.
- A **Strategic Partnership Council (SPC)** will be established.
- **India** will be the **4<sup>th</sup> nation to sign** such an agreement with Saudi Arabia.
- **SPC will have two parallel tracks:**
  - Political, security, culture and society.
  - Economy and investment.
- **Saudi Arabia identifies India** as one of the Kingdom's **8 Strategic Partner Countries under 'Vision 2030'**.

**Vision 2030:** To reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil and diversify its economy.