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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

















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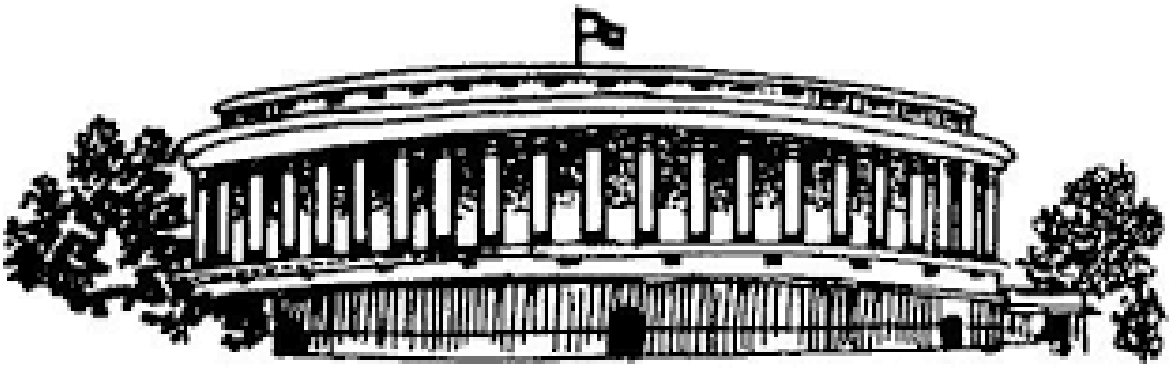
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1. UNITED NATION AND ITS ORGANS

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the World War II.
- Its charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 51 countries has signed the charter.
- Its predecessor, the League of Nations, created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 was disbanded in 1946.
- Its mission is to maintain international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

- Headquarter - New York
- Official Languages - Arabic, English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Russian
- Members - 193 (Latest Member South Sudan)
- Secretary General - Antonio Guterres (Portugal)

UN organs

1. UN-General Assembly

- It is the main deliberative organ and composed of all member states, each of which has one vote.
- General Assembly appoints Secretary General of UN based on the recommendations given by Security Council.
- General Assembly elects Non-Permanent members in Security Council and elects Members for Social and Economic Council.
- Along with Security Council, General Assemble elects Judges to International Court of Justice.
- Decision on important questions such as those on peace and security, UN budget, admission, suspension and expulsion of members to various organs of UN requires special majority.
- Make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security that are under consideration by the Security Council.
- UN budget – United Nation is funded by its member states through compulsory and voluntary contributions.
- The size of each state's compulsory contribution depends mainly on its economic strength, though its state of development and debt situation are also taken into account and member countries can make voluntary contribution to UNESCO, WHO, UN Programmes and Funds such as Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

2. United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

- The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of International peace and security.

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- The council has 15 members : 5 Permanent – US, UK, Russia, France and China and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for 2-year terms.
- While other organs of the UN can only make "recommendations" to member states, the Security Council has the power to make binding decisions on member states.
- All the members have one vote and permanent members have veto power.
- Decisions on procedural matters should have vote of at least 9 of the 15 members and decision on substantive matters require nine votes and the absence of negative vote by any of the 5 permanent members.
- The presidency of the Security Council rotates alphabetically each month.
- **G4 Nations** – 4 countries bids for permanent seats in UNSC. Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.
- **Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club)** – These are group of countries who are opposing the expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council under the leadership of Italy.
- Other Members in Coffee Club - Spain, Malto, San Marino , Pakistan , South Korea, Canada , Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Turkey.

3. Economic and Social Council

- It is the principal organ to coordinate the economic, social and related work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and institutions.
- It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term and Seats in the council are allocated based on geographical representation.
- The president is elected for a one-year term and voting in the Council is by simple majority; each member has one vote.

4. Secretariat

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

5. International Court of Justice

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is located at The Hague, in the Netherlands.
- It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies.
- It is composed of 15 judges appointed by the General assembly with the term of 9 years. Every sitting judge must be from a different nation.
- It hear cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues.
- The Court settles legal disputes between nations only and not between individuals, in accordance with international law. If a country does not wish to take part in a proceeding it does not have to do so, unless required by special treaty provisions. Once a country accepts the Court's jurisdiction, it must comply with its decision.

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- The Court can only hear a dispute when requested to do so by one or more States. It cannot deal with a dispute of its own motion.

6. Specialised Agencies

6.1 International Labour Organisation

- The International Labour Organisation was created in 1919 by the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I.
- After the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the UN.
- The organization has 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO and its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.
- Unlike other United Nations specialized agencies, the International Labour Organization has a tripartite governing structure – representing governments, employers, and workers.
- ILO designates some member countries as "Chief Industrial Importance".
- The designated nations are Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- In 1988, the international labour conference adopted the "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work". It aims to eliminate all forms of forced or compulsory labour, abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.
- The five flagship programs of ILO are Better work, Social Protection Floors for All (SPF's), IPEC+, Global Action for Prevention on Occupational Safety and Health (GAP-OSH programme), Jobs for Peace and Resilience.

6.2 Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- It was established in 1945 with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.
- Its secretariat is located in Rome, Italy.
- Some of the important key programmes of FAO are Food Security Programmes, Codex Alimentarius, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) etc.,

Codex Alimentarius – International Food Standards

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by FAO and WHO develops harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair trade practices in the food trade.
- **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) –** It aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests.

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6.3 UNESCO – UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

- UNESCO is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through International cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs.
- It has 195 member states and is based in Paris, France.
- Major themes under UNESCO:

1. Education – UNESCO leads the global efforts in improving all aspects of education policy, increasing access to learning, expanding early childhood care and ensure that all children are able to access and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality.
2. Natural Science - UNESCO promotes member countries to formulate policies for protecting water and water quality, ocean and promoting technologies for resource management and disaster management.
3. Social and Human science – It promotes basic human rights and focused on global issues like fighting discrimination and racism.
4. Culture - To foster Cultural diversity and protection cultural heritage. UNESCO leads international efforts to safeguard tangible and intangible heritages.
5. Communication and information - To promote Inclusive knowledge.
6. UNESCO's **World Heritage Mission** – Encourage world countries to protect Natural and Cultural Heritage sites. It publishes **Global Education Monitoring report** and Gender Parity Index.
7. It also leads the initiative of **Man and Biosphere Programme**for protecting Biosphere reserves across the world.

6.4 WHO – World Health Organisation

- WHO is the first global health organization absorbing many regional and national health bodies.
- It has 194 member countries and its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It has the authority of directing and coordinating matters related to International health.
- World Health Assembly – It is the supreme decision making body of WHO, attending by delegations from all member states. It meets in Geneva in May each year. 70th World Health Assembly will be held this year in Geneva.
- Executive Board – It is to implement the decision and policies of the World Health Assembly.

6.5 International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

- ICAO was created after the Chicago convention on International Civil Aviation.
- It became a specialized agency of the United Nations linked to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Its secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

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- It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency as well as for aviation environmental protection.
- Recently, ICAO introduced a market based measure for international aviation to measure carbon emission called as "**CORSIA** – Carbon Offsetting and Reporting Scheme for International Aviation".

6.6 International Maritime Organisation

- It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom.
- It is the first ever international organization devoted exclusively to maritime matters.
- The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution.
- One of the important committee under IMO is The Maritime Environment Protection Committee which is responsible for coordinating the Organisation's activities in prevention and control of pollution of the marine environment from ships.

6.7 World Meteorological Organisation

- WMO was created in 1950 as an intergovernmental organization and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- WMO is the UN system's authoritative voice on weather, climate and water.
- Through its members, WMO provides forecasts and early warnings to nations which help prevent and mitigate disasters.
- WMO monitors and forecast the transport of chemical and oil spills, forest fires, volcanic ash, haze and nuclear isotopes. It also draws world attention to the depletion of the ozone layer.
- Indian Meteorological Department, Pune acts as the regional centre for WMO in Asian Region.

6.8 World Intellectual Property Organisation

- The Mission of WIPO is to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries.
- It is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
- WIPO's predecessor was The United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIPRI). It administered two conventions such as Paris convention and Berne convention for the protection of Industrial property and literary & artistic works respectively.
- **Marrakesh Treaty of the WIPO –** It is to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired and print disabled. India was the first country to sign this treaty.

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6.9 International Fund for Agricultural Development

- It is a specialized UN agency dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- It provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects.
- It was setup after "The World Food Conference 1974" which was organized in response to the food crises of 1970s in Sahelian Countries of Africa.
- It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

6.10 United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

- UNIDO is mandated to promote Industrial development and global industrial cooperation.
- Its mission is to promote and accelerate the industrialization of developing countries.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

6.11 United Nations World Tourism Organisation

- It is responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain.
- **Samarkand Declaration –** It is the joint initiative of UNWTO and UNESCO and the declaration is made on Silk Road Tourism to enhance sustainable tourism development along the historic Silk Road route.

6.12 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- It is the specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- It is responsible for the allocation of radio spectrum and satellite orbits, and for the standardization and development of ICTs worldwide.
- The work of ITU covers the whole ICT sector from digital broadcasting to the Internet and from mobile technologies to 3D TV.
- It is unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector membership. ITU currently has a membership of 192 countries and 700 private-sector entities.
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

6.13 World Food Programme (WFP)

- WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
- WFP works from its headquarters at Rome to help people who cannot produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

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- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee.
- The WFP was formally established in 1963 by the FAO and the United Nations General Assembly.
- The WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal in mind of eliminating the need for food aid itself.
- WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations.
- WFP food aid is also directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat disease, including HIV and AIDS.
- Food-for-work programmes help promote environmental and economic stability and agricultural production.
- WFP has coordinated the five-year Purchase for Progress (P4P) pilot project which assists smallholder farmers by offering them opportunities to access agricultural markets and to become competitive players in the market place.
- The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from world governments, corporations and private donors.

6.14 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP, an UN organization formed in 1965 to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development, an approach to economic growth that emphasizes improving the quality of life of all citizens while conserving the environment and natural resources for future generations.



- The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly.
- UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change.
- UNDP also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programs.

- The UNDP Human Development Report Office also publishes an annual Human Development Report (since 1990) to measure and analyze developmental progress. In addition to a global Report, UNDP publishes regional, national, and local Human Development Reports.
- The UNDP is one of the main UN agencies involved in the development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda widely known as the sustainable development goals.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

6.15 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- UNHRC is a UN System inter-governmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- The UN General Assembly elects the members who occupy the UNHRC's 47 seats for 3 years period and no member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms.
- The UNHRC is the successor to the UN Commission on Human Rights and is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly.
- The council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and engages the United Nations' special procedures.
- The General Assembly, via a two-thirds majority, can suspend the rights and privileges of any Council member that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership.
- The Universal Periodic Review of the UNHRC assesses the human rights situations in all 193 UN Member States.
- The Universal Periodic Review takes into account information's from different sources, one of them NGOs.

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2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Bank

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries for capital programs.
- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The IBRD and the International Development Association, IBRD's concessional lending arm, are collectively known as the World Bank.
- The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system
- The aim of World Bank is to
    1. End extreme poverty - reducing share of global population that lives in extreme poverty to 3 percent by 2030,
    2. Promote shared prosperity - by increasing the incomes of the poorest 40 percent of people in every country and
    3. Provide sustainable development.
- All decisions of World Bank will be guided to the promotion of foreign investment and international trade and to the facilitation of capital investment.
- The World Bank Group engages with middle-income countries (MICs) both as clients and shareholders.
- The World Bank is an essential partner to MICs, which represent more than 60% of IBRD's portfolio.
- Together with the World Health Organization, the World Bank administers the International Health Partnership (IHP+).
- IHP+ is a group of partners committed to improving the health of citizens in developing countries.
- Clean Air Initiative (CAI) is a World Bank initiative to advance innovative ways to improve air quality in cities through partnerships in selected regions of the world by sharing knowledge and experiences.
- Reports released - Commodity markets outlook, Doing business report, Global economic prospects, Global financial development report, International debt statistics, World development report, World development indicators, Poverty and shared prosperity.

2. World Bank group

- The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of five international organizations that make leveraged loans to developing countries.
- The organizations are,
    1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
    2. International Development Association (IDA).

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3. International Finance Corporation (IFC).
4. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
5. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

- While five institutions have their own country membership, governing boards, and articles of agreement, they work as one to serve our partner countries.
- The IBRD and IDA provide loans at preferential rates to member countries, as well as grants to the poorest countries.
- IFC, MIGA, and ICSID focus on strengthening the private sector in developing countries by providing financing, technical assistance, political risk insurance, and settlement of disputes to private enterprises, including financial institutions.
- IFC established in 1956, provides various forms of financing without sovereign guarantees, primarily to the private sector.
- ICSID, established in 1965, works with governments to reduce investment risk.
- MIGA, established in 1988, provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector.

3. International Bank for Reconstruction and development

- IBRD is a global development cooperative owned by 189 member countries and it is the largest development bank in the world.
- It is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- It was established in 1944 with the mission of financing the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.
- It supports the World Bank Group's mission by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
- IBRD finances investments across all sectors and provides technical support and expertise at each stage of a project.
- IBRD places special emphasis on supporting lower-middle-income countries as they move up the economic chain, graduating from IDA to become clients of IBRD.
- It will also help coordinating responses to regional and global challenges.
- The Bank's member governments are shareholders which contribute paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters.
- In addition to these contributions, the IBRD acquires most of its capital by borrowing on international capital markets through bond issues.
- Each member state of IBRD should be also a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and only members of IBRD are allowed to join other institutions within the Bank (such as IDA).

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4. International monetary Fund

- IMF, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, , in July 1944.
- The 44 countries at that conference sought to build a framework for economic cooperation to avoid a repetition of the competitive devaluations that had contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- With the membership of 189 countries, the Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.
- A core responsibility of the IMF is to provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems.
- Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects.
- The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.
- Gold remains an important asset in the reserve holdings of several countries, and the IMF is still one of the world's largest official holders of gold.
- Unlike the General Assembly of the United Nations, where each country has one vote, decision making at the IMF was designed to reflect the relative positions of its member countries in the global economy.
- Reports released - World economic outlook, Global Financial stability report.

5. Bank for International Settlements

- Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, BIS is a bank for central banks.
- The mission of the BIS is to serve central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, to foster international cooperation in those areas and to act as a bank for central banks.
- The BIS has 60 member central banks, representing countries from around the world that together make up about 95% of world GDP.

6. Asian Development Bank

- The Asian Development Bank was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world with its headquarters at Manila, Philippines.
- ADB now has 67 members of which 48 from within Asia and Pacific while remaining 19 from outside.
- The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and non-regional developed countries.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ADB operations are designed to support the three complementary agendas of inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- In India projects taken care by ADB are solar transmission sector project, transmission improvement projects in Odisha and Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh Skill Development Project etc.

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7. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- AIIB is a new multilateral financial institution founded to bring countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.
- The bank has 52 member states while another 18 are prospective members with its headquarters at Beijing, China.
- United States and Japan are not its members.
- It aims to stimulate growth and improve access to basic services by furthering interconnectivity and economic development in the region through advancements in infrastructure.
- AIIB offer sovereign and non-sovereign finance for projects in energy and power, transportation and telecommunications, rural infrastructure and agriculture development, water supply and sanitation, environmental protection, urban development and logistics.
- The loans will have an interest rate of London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 1.15 % and a repayment period of 25 years with 5 years in grace period.
- It has authorized capital of US 100 billion dollars and subscribed capital of USD 50 billion.
- China, India and Russia are the three largest shareholders of AIIB, taking 30.34%, 8.52%, 6.66% stake respectively.
- Their voting shares are 26.06%, 7.5% and 5.92% respectively.

8. New Development Bank

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- The Bank supports public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.
- It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- The first regional office of the NDB will be opened in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The idea for setting up the bank was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in Delhi.
- Bank's Articles of Agreement specify that all members of the United Nations could be members of the bank; however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.
- The Agreement on the NDB specifies that the voting power of each member will be equal to the number of its subscribed shares in the capital stock of the bank
- The initial authorized capital of the bank is $100 billion and initial subscribed capital of the NDB is $50 billion.
- The bank aims to contribute to development plans established nationally through projects that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
- The bank's primary focus of lending will be infrastructure and sustained development projects.
- Recently the bank's President said 60% of the funding will go to renewable.\

9. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

- UNCITRAL is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, specializing in commercial law reform.

- UNCITRAL's business is the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.

- UNCITRAL does the following -

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1. Conventions, model laws and rules which are acceptable worldwide.
2. Legal and legislative guides and recommendations of great practical value.
3. Updated information on case law and enactments of uniform commercial law.
4. Technical assistance in law reform projects.
5. Regional and national seminars on uniform commercial law.

10. World Trade Organization (WTO)

- WTO is the only intergovernmental organization which regulates international trade.
- The WTO officially commenced under the Marrakesh Agreement, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- The WTO deals with regulation of trade between participating countries by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements and a dispute resolution process,
- These agreements are signed by representatives of member governments and ratified by their parliaments.
- The WTO has 164 members and 22 observer governments, with Afghanistan the latest to join.
- WTO members do not have to be fully independent states; they need only be a customs territory with full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations eg: Hong Kong.
- The WTO is attempting to complete negotiations on the Doha Development Round, which was launched in 2001 with an explicit focus on developing countries.
- Due to various obstacles it impossible to launch new WTO negotiations beyond the Doha Development Round.
- The highest decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years.
- Five principles which WTO follows are non-discrimination, reciprocity, binding and enforceable commitments, transparency, safety values.
- The operation of the WTO dispute settlement process involves case-specific panels appointed by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), the Appellate Body, The Director-General and the WTO Secretariat, arbitrators, and advisory experts.

11 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- FATF is an inter-governmental "policy making" body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the headquarters of the OECD in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- The FATF has developed a series of Recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- FATF released recommendations like "Forty plus Nine", “Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs), commonly called the FATF Blacklist.

12. International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.

IAS PARLIAMENT

- ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, crime of aggression and war crimes.
- ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
- ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met.
- States which become party to the Rome Statute becomes member of ICC, thus totaling 124 members.
- However, Burundi has given formal notice that it will withdraw from the Rome Statute.
- The co-operation of the non-party states with the ICC is of voluntary nature.
- But when a case is referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council all UN member states are obliged to co-operate, since its decisions are binding for all of them.
- India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute.

Difference between ICJ and ICC

- International Criminal Court set up under the Rome Statute. It was established as an independent international organization in 2002 and is not governed by the UN.
- All the member states of UN automatically become members of ICJ whereas nations must individually become members to ICC by signing Rome Statute.
- The International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. The ICC tries individual people for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression, according to the Rome Statute.
- ICJ is not a criminal court; it does not have a prosecutor able to initiate proceedings and settles disputes between member states, with their consent, on issues of sovereignty, trade, natural resources, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, and etc.

13. Permanent Court Of Arbitration (PCA)

- PCA is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The PCA is not a court "in the traditional sense", but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements.
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- PCA has no sitting judges; instead parties themselves select the arbitrators.
- The organization is not a United Nations agency but has observer status in the UN General Assembly.
- The rulings of PCA are binding but the tribunal has no powers for enforcement.
- This is evident from recent South China Sea Dispute.

14. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons and materials.

IAS PARLIAMENT

- It was established as an autonomous organization which is not under direct control of the UN, but reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- It is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization.
- It is headquartered at Vienna with 168 member nations.
- North Korea has withdrawn its candidature from IAEA.
- Unlike most other specialized international agencies, the IAEA does much of its work with the Security Council, and not with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- The IAEA developed a Program of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) which responds to the needs of developing countries to establish, to improve, or to expand radiotherapy treatment programs.

15. International Energy Agency (IEA)

- IEA is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- Founded in 1974, the IEA was initially designed to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil.
- Only OECD member states can become members of the IEA.
- Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, Slovenia all OECD member states are members of the IEA.
- In 2014, Estonia joined the IEA and became its 29th member.
- China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore and Thailand are the associate members of IEA.
- The IEA examines the full spectrum of energy issues including oil, gas and coal supply and demand, renewable energy technologies, electricity markets, energy efficiency, access to energy, demand side management etc.
- The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia.
- Its flagship releases areWorld Energy Outlook and KeyWorld Energy Statistics.
- IEA member countries are required to maintain total oil stock levels equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year's net imports.

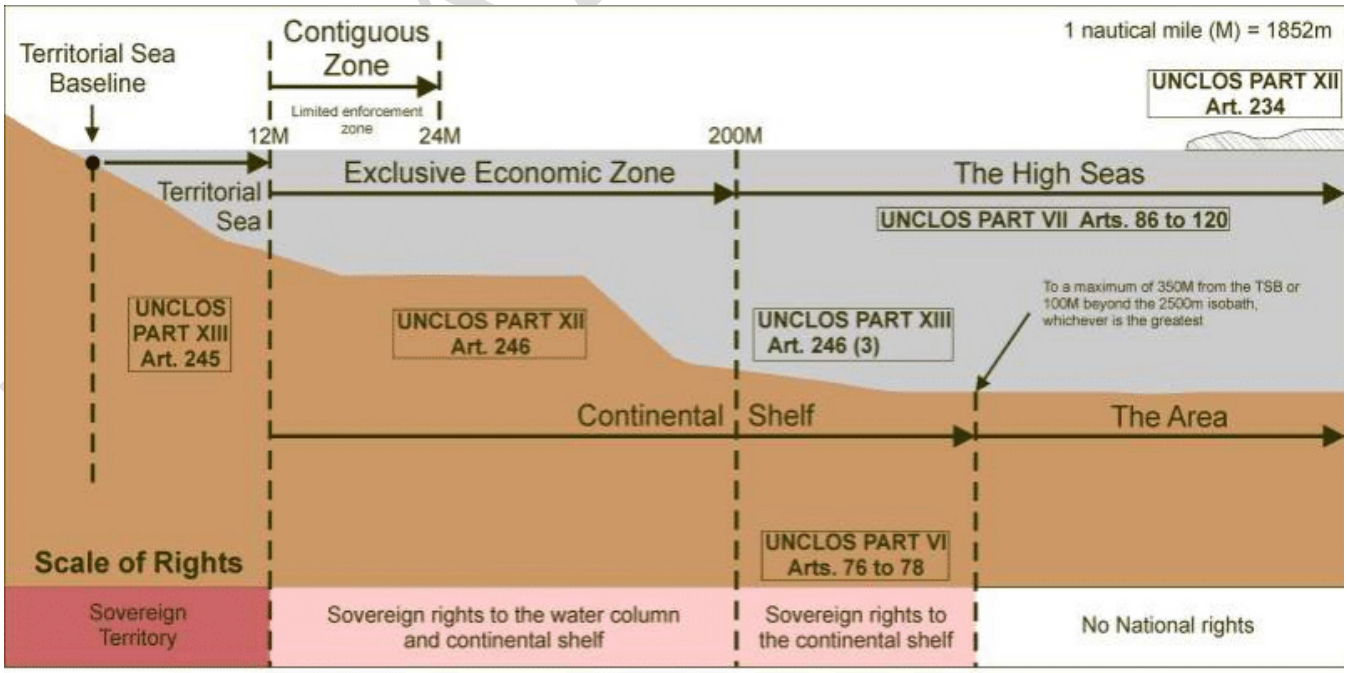
16. International Astronomical Union (IAU)

- It is an international association of professional astronomers, at the PhD level and beyond, active in professional research and education in astronomy headquartered at Paris
- It acts as the internationally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies (stars, planets, asteroids, etc.) and any surface features on them.
- The IAU is a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU).
- Its main objective is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation.
- The Indian National Science Academy is a member of this group.

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17. UN Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS)

- UNCLOS is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III).
- An international treaty that provides a regulatory framework for the use of the world's seas and oceans, to ensure the conservation and equitable usage of resources and the marine environment and to ensure the protection and preservation of the living resources of the sea.
- 167 countries plus the UN Observer state Palestine, as well as the Cook Islands, Niue and the European Union have joined in the Convention.
- UN has no direct operational role in the implementation of the Convention.
- However, there is a role played by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Whaling Commission, and the International Seabed Authority (ISA).
- The most significant issues covered by convention were setting limits, navigation, archipelagic status and transit regimes, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), continental shelf jurisdiction, deep seabed mining, the exploitation regime, protection of the marine environment, scientific research, and settlement of disputes.
- The convention gives a clear definition on Internal Waters, Territorial Waters, Archipelagic Waters, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone, and Continental Shelf.
- Mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction is regulated through an International Seabed Authority and the Common heritage of mankind principle.
- According to UNCLOS, Landlocked states are given a right of access to and from the sea, without taxation of traffic through transit states.



- According to convention, Ships and aircraft of all countries are allowed "transit passage" through straits used for international navigation.
- Coastal States have sovereign rights in a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with respect to natural resources and certain economic activities, and exercise jurisdiction over marine science research and environmental protection.
- All other States have freedom of navigation and over flight in the EEZ, as well as freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines.
- Land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States have the right to participate on an equitable basis in exploitation of an appropriate part of the surplus of the living resources of the EEZ's of coastal States of the same region or sub-region.
- All marine scientific research in the EEZ and on the continental shelf is subject to the consent of the coastal State, but in most cases they are obliged to grant consent to other States when the research is for peaceful purposes.
- Disputes can be submitted to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea established under the Convention, to the International Court of Justice, or to arbitration.
- The Tribunal has exclusive jurisdiction over deep seabed mining disputes.

18. International Maritime Organisation

- IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- IMO is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping by creating a regulatory framework for the shipping industry.
- Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, the IMO has 172 Member States and three Associate Members.
- Observer status is granted to qualified non-governmental organisations.
- IMO's role is to create a level playing-field so that ship operators cannot address their financial issues by simply cutting corners and compromising on safety, security and environmental performance.
- IMO measures cover all aspects of international shipping including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation and disposal.
- The most significant outcome of IMO was the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973.
- It covers not only accidental and operational oil pollution but also different types of pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution.
- The IMO has also enacted a Port State Control (PSC) authority, allowing domestic maritime authorities such as coast guards to inspect foreign-flag ships calling at ports of the many port states.

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- The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) adopted by IMO helps a ship that is in distress anywhere in the world can be virtually guaranteed assistance.

19. International Sea Bed Authority (ISA)

- ISA is an intergovernmental body based in Kingston, Jamaica, that was established to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- UNCLOS defines the international seabed area—the part under ISA jurisdiction—as "the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction".
- It was established by the Law of the Sea Convention.
- It has obtained its observer status in the United Nations.
- The Authority operates by contracting with private and public corporations and other entities authorizing them to explore, and eventually exploit, specified areas on the deep seabed for mineral resources essential for building most technological products.
- The Convention also established a body called the Enterprise which is to serve as the Authority's own mining operator, but no concrete steps have been taken to bring this into being.
- With a 15 year contract period ISA has allowed 8 players to exploit sea bed for polymetallic nodules.
- The 8 contractors are India, Germany, Russian Federation, Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) (Bulgaria, Cuba, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Russian Federation), Republic of South Korea, China, Japan, and France.
- In 2008, the Authority received two new applications coming for the first time from private firms in developing island nations of the Pacific like Nauru and Tonga.
- India is exploiting polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Basin of the Indian Ocean.

20. International Tribunal for the Law of the sea (ITLOS)

- ITLOS is an independent judicial body established by the UNCLOS to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS Convention.
- The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.
- The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention (i.e. States and international organisations which are parties to the Convention).
- It is also open to entities other than States Parties, i.e., States or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention and to state enterprises and private entities.
- The tribunal is based in Hamburg, Germany.
- The convention which created this tribunal also helped create International Sea Bed Authority with responsibility for the regulation of seabed mining beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

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- UNCLOS Convention requires States Parties to settle their disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by peaceful means.
- However, if parties to a dispute fail to reach a settlement by peaceful means of their own choice, they are obliged to resort to the compulsory dispute settlement procedures entailing binding decisions, subject to limitations and exceptions contained in the Convention.
- Unless the parties otherwise agree, the jurisdiction of the Tribunal is mandatory in cases relating to the prompt release of vessels and crews.

21. International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- IWC was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.
- An integral part of the Convention is legally binding Schedule which sets out specific measures.
- These measures include catch limits (which may be zero as it the case for commercial whaling) by species and area, designating specified areas as whale sanctuaries, protection of calves and females accompanied by calves, prescribe open and closed seasons and areas for whaling and restrictions on hunting methods.
- The Commission also co-ordinates and funds conservation work on many species of cetacean.
- In addition to research, this includes building an international entanglement response capacity, working to prevent ship strikes, and establishment of Conservation Management Plans for key species and populations.
- In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling.
- Currently, Japan, Russia, and a number of other nations oppose this moratorium.
- The IWC allows non-zero whaling quotas for aboriginal subsistence and also member nations may issue 'Scientific Permits' to their citizens.
- In 1994, the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary was created by the IWC 88 members.
- Membership of the IWC is open to any country in the world.
- The IWC has no ability to enforce any of its decisions through penalty imposition.
- The headquarters of the IWC is in Impington, near Cambridge, England.
- India is a member of IWC.

IAS PARLIAMENT

3. INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

1. Common Wealth of Nations

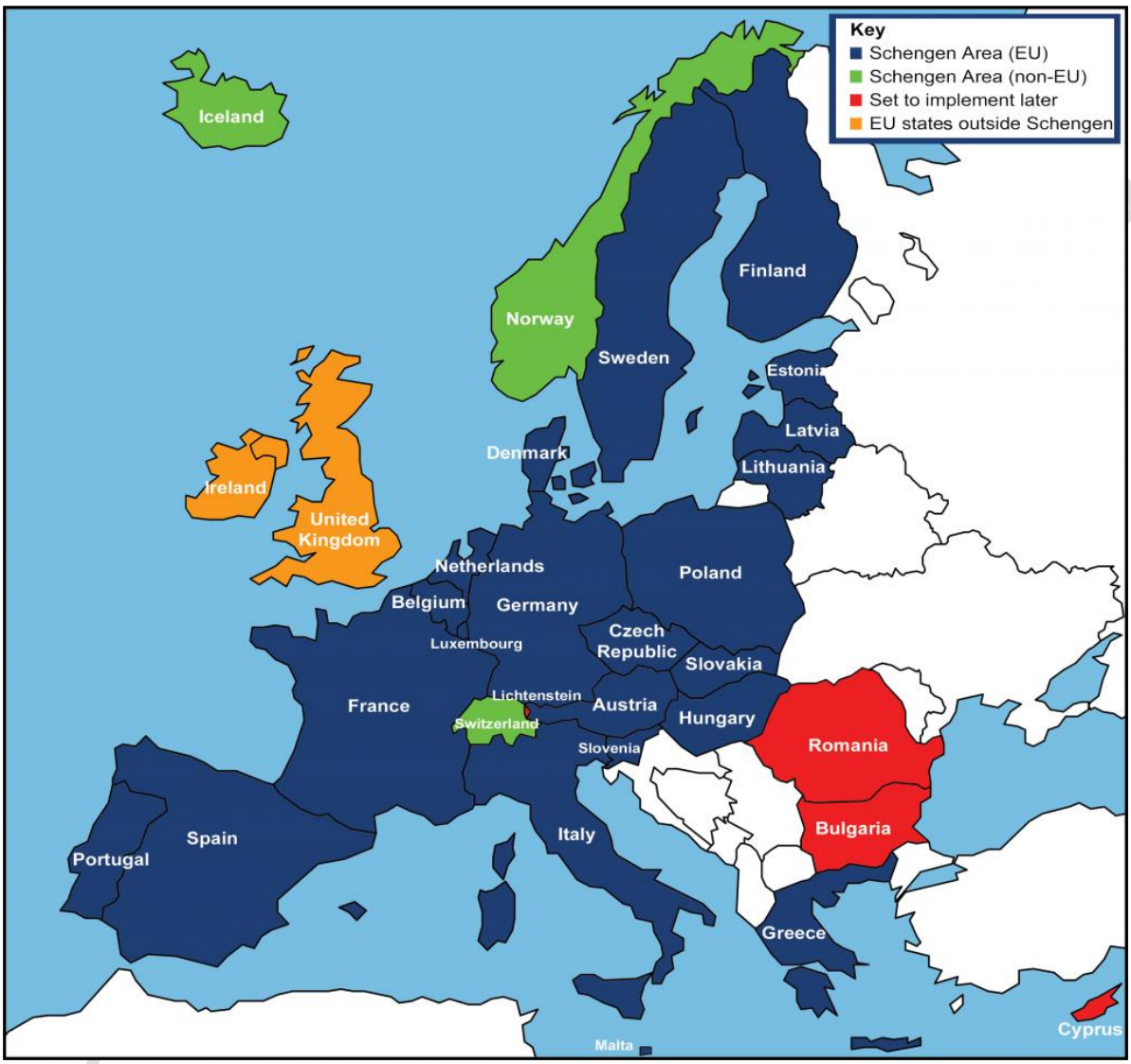
- Common wealth nations or British Commonwealth is an intergovernmental organisation of 52 member states that are mostly former territories of the British Empire.
- The Commonwealth operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organised through the Commonwealth Secretariat and non-governmental organisations, organised through the Commonwealth Foundation.
- Queen Elizabeth II who is the Head of the Commonwealth and also the monarch of 16 members of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth realms.
- Member states have no legal obligation to one another.
- Instead, they are united by language, history, culture and their shared values of democracy, free speech, human rights, and the rule of law.
- The Commonwealth of Nations is represented in the United Nations General Assembly by the secretariat as an observer.
- In addition, some members treat resident citizens of other Commonwealth countries preferentially to citizens of non-Commonwealth countries.
- Britain and several others, mostly in the Caribbean, grant the right to vote to Commonwealth citizens who reside in those countries.
- In non-Commonwealth countries in which their own country is not represented, Commonwealth citizens may seek consular assistance at the British embassy.
- The first member to be admitted without having any constitutional link to the British Empire or a Commonwealth member was Mozambique
- In 2009, Rwanda became the second member admitted not to have any such constitutional links.

2. European Union

- The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe.
- The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship.
- The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009.
- The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system of laws that apply in all member states.

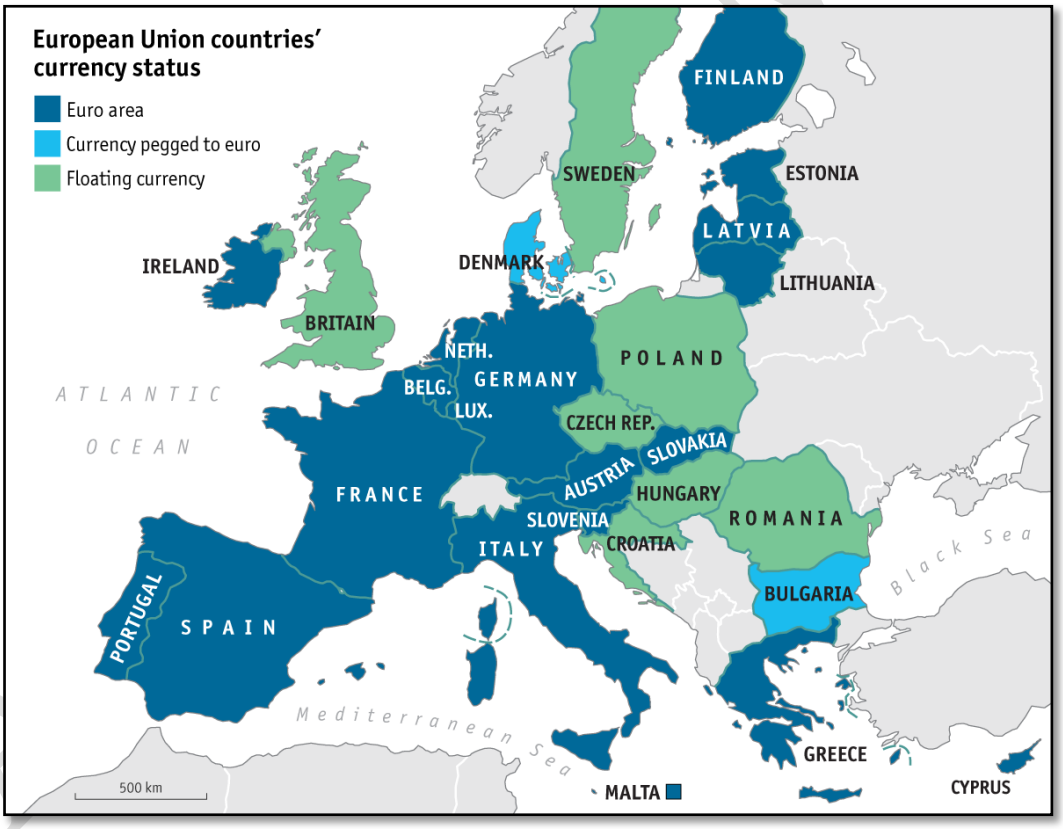
IAS PARLIAMENT

- EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the internal market, enact legislation in justice and home affairs, and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries, and regional development.
- Within the Schengen Area, passport controls have been abolished.



- A monetary union has been established within union but lacks common Fiscal union.
- EU is composed of 28 member states but only 19 EU member states use the euro currency.
- The Lisbon Treaty now contains a clause under Article 50, providing for a member to leave the EU.
- United Kingdom enacted the result of a membership referendum in June 2016 and is currently negotiating its withdrawal.
- The EU as a whole is the largest economy in the world.
- EU has a common foreign and security policy, thus developing a coordinated external relations and defence.

- The membership of EU entails a partial delegation of sovereignty to the institutions in return for representation within those institutions, a practice often referred to as "pooling of sovereignty".
- To become a member, a country must meet the Copenhagen criteria, of the European Council which requires a stable democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law; a functioning market economy; and the acceptance of the obligations of membership, including EU law.
- The four countries that are not EU members have partly committed to EU's economy and regulations - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
- The European Council gives political direction to the EU.
- Council of European Union acts together with European Parliament as a legislature.
- European Commission is the Executive arm.
- Court of Justice Of European Union ensures uniform application and interpretation of European Law.
- European Central Bank together with national central bank determines monetary policy.



3. Council of Europe

- The Council of Europe is an international organisation whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy, and rule of law in Europe and promote European culture.
- It has 47 member states and is distinct from the European Union (EU).
- No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe.

- Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states on various topics.
- The best known body of the Council of Europe is the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The Council's two statutory bodies are the Committee of Ministers, comprising the foreign ministers of each member state, and the Parliamentary Assembly, composed of members of the national parliaments of each member state.
- The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states.
- The headquarters of the Council of Europe are in Strasbourg, France.
- The Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress also use German, Italian, Russian, and Turkish for some of their work.
- Turkey is also a member.
- The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members by safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress.
- Council of Europe conventions/treaties are also open for signature to non-member states, thus facilitating equal co-operation with countries outside Europe.
- Nearly all European states have acceded to the Council of Europe, with the exceptions of Belarus (human rights concerns), Kazakhstan (human rights concerns), and the Vatican City (a theocracy), as well as some of the territories with limited recognition.

4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

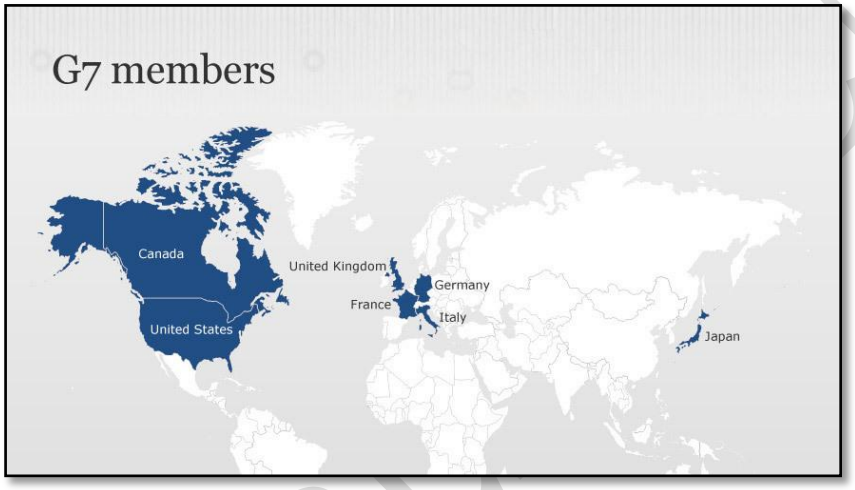
- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance between several North American and European states.
- The organization constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- NATO's headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons.
- NATO is an Alliance that consists of 28 independent member countries across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and Croatia.

5. G7

- G7 is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The European Union is also represented within the G7.

IAS PARLIAMENT

- These countries are the seven major advanced economies as reported by the International Monetary Fund.
- Formally called G8 with Russia in it, but due to Crimean crisis Russia was ejected from the group.
- The organization was founded to facilitate shared macroeconomic initiatives by its members in response to the collapse of the exchange rate 1971, during the time of the Nixon Shock, the 1970s energy crisis and the ensuing recession.
- The group meets annually on summit site to discuss economic policies, while the G7 finance ministers have met at least semi-annually, up to 4 times a year at stand-alone meetings.
- 2017 meet scheduled to be held at Sicily, Italy.



6. G20

- G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies.
- Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, Russia, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China and Indonesia.
- It was founded with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization.
- The G20 heads of government or heads of state have annually met at summits, and the group also hosts separate meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors.
- G8 nation leaders said that G20 would replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations.
- Though the G20's primary focus is global economic governance, the themes of its summits vary from year to year.
- The G20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff.
- In addition to these 20 members, the chief executive officers of several other international forums and institutions participate in meetings of the G20.

- These include the managing director and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund, the President of the World Bank, the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee.

- Singapore formed the Global Governance Group (3G), an informal grouping of 28 non-G20 countries (including several microstates and many Third World countries) with the aim of collectively channelling their views into the G20 process more effectively.



7. G4

- The G4 nations comprising Brazil, Germany, India and Japan are four countries which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

- The G4's bids are often opposed by the Uniting for Consensus movement, and particularly their economic competitors or political rivals.

- Uniting for Consensus or coffee table countries are Italy, South Korea, Canada, Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, Malta, Costa Rica, Colombia and San Marino.

- The United Kingdom and France have backed the G4's bid for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

- The G4 suggested that two African nations, in addition to themselves, be included in the enlarged UNSC.

8. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region headquartered at Singapore.

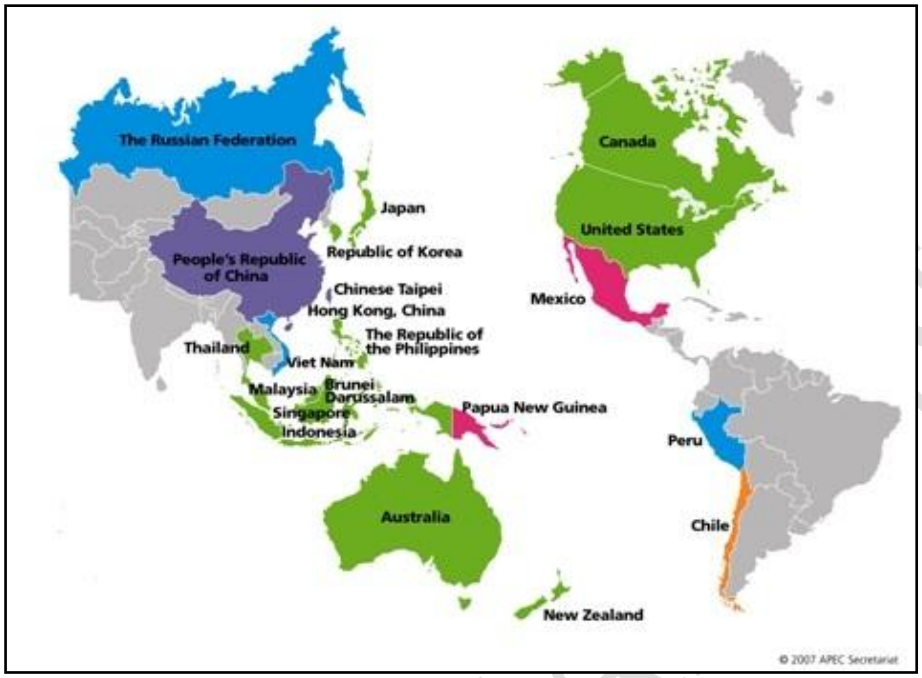
- APEC was established due to growing inter dependence among Asia Pacific regions, increasing regional trade blocs, to diffuse growing power of Japan; establish agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.

- The criterion for membership is that the member is a separate economy, rather than a state and the result of it is the inclusion of Taiwan.

- APEC also includes three official observers: ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.

IAS PARLIAMENT

- India is not in the grouping.
- 2017 meeting is scheduled to happen in Vietnam.



9. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ASEAN is a regional organisation comprising 10 Southeast Asian states which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members.
- Its principal aim is to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and socio cultural evolution, promote Southeast Asian studies, alongside the protection of regional stability.
- Member nations are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- ASEAN shares land borders with India, China, Bangladesh, East Timor, and Papua New Guinea, and maritime borders with India, China, Palau, and Australia.
- ASEAN plus Three was created to improve existing ties with the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea.
- ASEAN became ASEAN Plus Six with additional countries: Australia, New Zealand and India



- Even larger East Asia Summit (EAS), included ASEAN plus Three countries as well as India, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Russia.

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

10. Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- ASEM is an exclusively Asian–European forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners.
- The 3 pillars of ASEM are Political, Economic, Socio Cultural and Educational.
- ASEM involves biennial meetings of Heads of State and Government, alternately in Europe and Asia, and biennial meetings of Foreign Ministers as well as political, economic, and socio-cultural meetings and events at various levels.
- ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organisations (ASEAN, EU).
- India is also part of this initiative.

11. SAARC

- It is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are its members.
- Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The organization promotes development of economic and regional integration.
- It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) in 2006.
- SAFTA was envisaged primarily as the first step towards the transition to a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) leading subsequently towards a Customs Union, Common Market and the Economic Union.
- SAARC maintains permanent diplomatic relations at the United Nations as an observer and has developed links with multilateral entities, including the European Union.
- States with observer status include Australia, China, European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and United States.

12. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative

- BBIN is a sub-regional architecture of countries in South Asia.
- It meets through official representation of member states to formulate, implement and review quadrilateral agreements across areas such as water resources management, connectivity of power, transport, and infrastructure.
- India proposed a SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement during the SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in November 2014.
- Due to objections from Pakistan, an agreement could not be reached.

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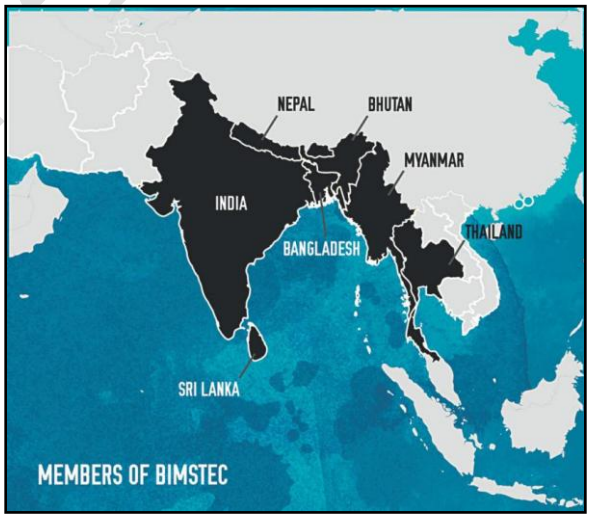
- India instead pursued a similar motor vehicle agreement with the BBIN.
- The agreement will permit the member states to ply their vehicles in each other's territory for transportation of cargo and passengers, including third country transport and personal vehicles.
- India approved $1.08 Billion for construction and upgradation of 558 km long roads that join Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.
- The project will receive 50% funding from Asian Development Bank.

13. Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM)

- BCIM is a sub-regional organisation of Asian nations aimed at greater integration of trade and investment between the four countries.
- The multi-modal corridor will be the first expressway between India and China and will pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- The advantages are envisaged to accrue from greater market access for goods, services and energy, elimination of non-tariff barriers, better trade facilitation, investment in infrastructure development, joint exploration and development of mineral, water, and other natural resources.
- BCIM covers China's Yunnan province, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and West Bengal in Eastern India through the combination of road, rail, water and air linkages in the region.
- The Kunming initiative developed into the current form of BCIM Forum.

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

- BIMSTEC is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia.



- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal are its members.
- Its headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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- The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic co-operation among south Asian and south east Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal.
- Commerce, investment, technology, tourism, human resource development, agriculture, fisheries, transport and communication, textiles, leather etc. have been included in it.
- BIMSTEC uses the alphabetical order for the Chairmanship; Nepal formally took over the new Chairmanship as on 2014.
- The ADB has become BIMSTEC's development partner to undertake, promote and improve transport infrastructure and logistic among the BIMSTEC countries.

15. BRICS

- BRICS is an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The BRICS members are all leading developing or newly industrialized countries, but they are distinguished by their large, sometimes fast-growing economies and significant influence on regional affairs.
- All five are G-20 members.
- Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits. China will host the 9th BRICS summit in Xiamen on September 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2017.
- Bilateral relations among BRICS nations have mainly been conducted on the basis of non-interference, equality, and mutual benefit.
- BRICS developed New Development Bank (NDB) which will have capital of US$50 billion with each country contributing US$10 billion, while the monetary fund will have US$100 billion at its disposal.
- Since 2012, the BRICS group of countries have been planning an optical fibre submarine communications cable system to carry telecommunications between the BRICS countries, known as the BRICS Cable.

16. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



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- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members at Tashkent, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members.
- The acceptance process will take some months, by which they are expected to become full members by the next meeting at Astana in 2017.
- The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.
- Observer status is given given to Iran, Mongolia, Belarus, Afghanistan.
- Members agreed to "oppose intervention in other countries' internal affairs on the pretexts of 'humanitarianism' and 'protecting human rights;' and support the efforts of one another in safeguarding the five countries' national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and social stability.
- With observer states included, its affiliates account for about half of the world's population.
- The Council of Heads of State is the top decision-making body in the SCO.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- All SCO members but China are also members of the Eurasian Economic Community.
- The original purpose of the SCO was to serve as a counterbalance to NATO and in particular to avoid conflicts that would allow the United States to intervene in areas bordering both Russia and China.

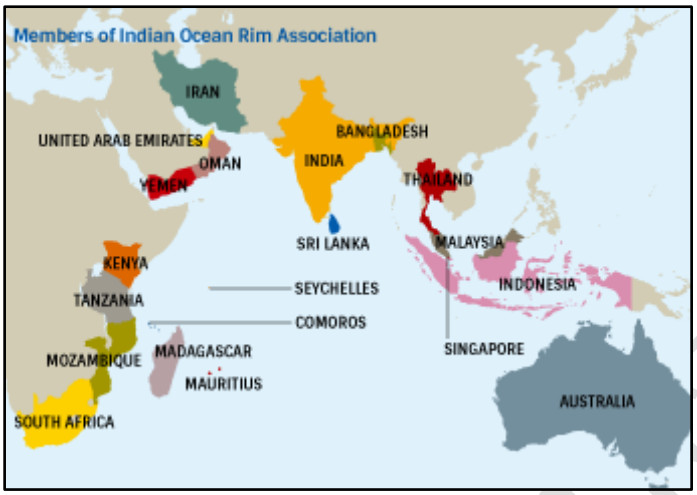
17. IBSA

- The IBSA Dialogue Forum is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among India, Brazil, and South Africa.
- The forum helps to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others.
- It also aims at increasing the trade opportunities among the three countries, as well as facilitates the trilateral exchange of information, technologies and skills to complement each other strengths.
- Subsequently, it promotes the international poverty alleviation and social development with main focus being on equitable development.
- 2017 summit planned in India.
- The IBSA Dialogue forum was formalized through the adoption of the "Brasilia Declaration".
- The IBSA Dialogue forum facilitates regular consultations at senior official level, government (summit) levels as well as amongst academics, intellectuals and other members of the civil society.
- IBSA asked for reforms in the United Nations, especially the Security Council.

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18. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- IORA is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.



- The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.
- It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.
- The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius.
- The apex body is the Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM).
- The Association comprises 21 member states and 7 dialogue partners, the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation and the Indian Ocean Research Group has observer status.
- IORA became an observer to the UN General Assembly and the African Union in 2015.
- Member are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalai, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.

19. Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

- MGC is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.
- It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- At the 6th meet Ministers agreed to widen collaboration into newer areas, such as SME cooperation, conservation of Rice Germplasm, setting up a Working Group on Health, establishment of a Common Archival Resource Centre (CARC) at the Nalanda University.
- India will be hosting the 8th MGC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in New Delhi on April 2017.

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20. South Asia Sub-regional economic cooperation (SASEC)

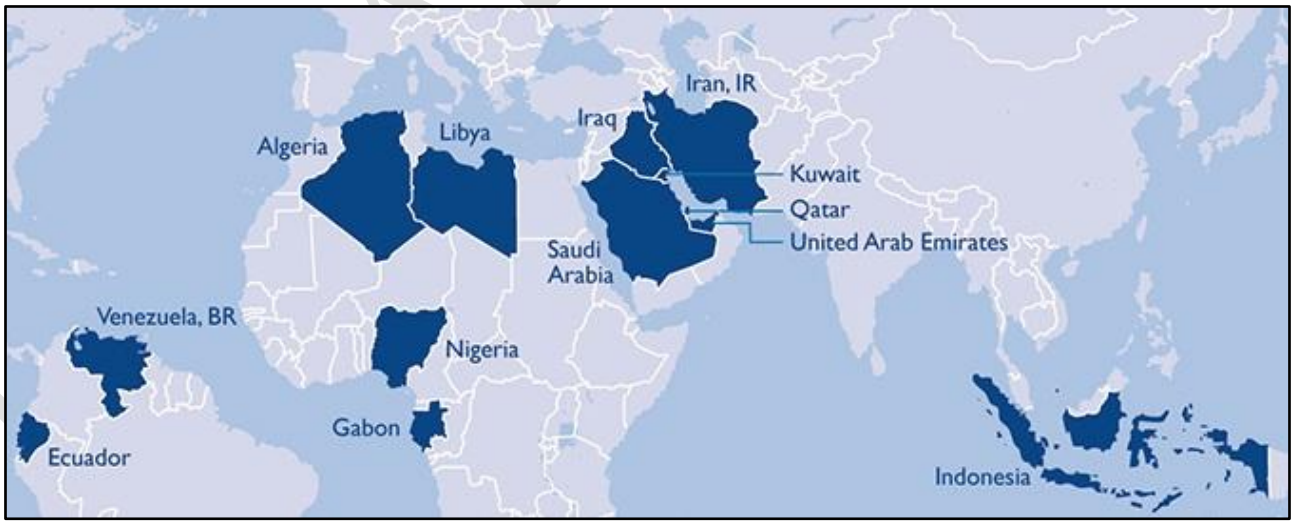
- SASEC program of Asian Development Bank brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in a project-based partnership that aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunities, and build a better quality of life for the people of the subregion.
- It seeks to strengthen multimodal cross-border transport networks that boost intraregional trade and open up trade opportunities with East and Southeast Asia.
- The program helps build modern and effective customs administration that speeds up the time and reduces the costs of moving goods, vehicles, and people across borders.
- SASEC also assists member countries in improving energy security by developing infrastructure and promoting intraregional power trade to reduce costs and import dependence.

21. India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

- IAFS is the official platform for the African-Indian relations.
- It was the first such meeting between the heads of state and government of India and 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union.
- The topics discussed varied from rising oil and food prices to agriculture, trade, industry and investment, peace and security, promotion of good governance, ICT.
- The first summit held in New Delhi, 2nd in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, New Delhi on rotational basis.

22. Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations with headquarters in Vienna.



- Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela are its members.
- The 13 countries accounted for an estimated 42% of global oil production and 73% of the world's "proven" oil reserves.

- OPEC's stated mission is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to have regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.
- Two-thirds of OPEC's oil production and reserves are in its six Middle Eastern countries that surround the oil-rich Persian Gulf.
- Gabon recently rejoined OPEC.
- The OPEC Conference ordinarily meets at least twice a year and in additional extraordinary sessions when necessary.
- OPEC collaborated with five other international organizations (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OLADE (es), UNSD) to improve the availability and reliability of oil data.
- They launched the Joint Oil Data Exercise, which in 2005 was joined by IEF and renamed the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), covering more than 90 percent of the global oil market.
- GECF joined as an eighth partner in 2014, enabling JODI also to cover nearly 90 percent of the global market for natural gas.
- Since 2007, OPEC has published the "World Oil Outlook" (WOO) annually, in which it presents a comprehensive analysis of the global oil industry including medium- and long-term projections for supply and demand.

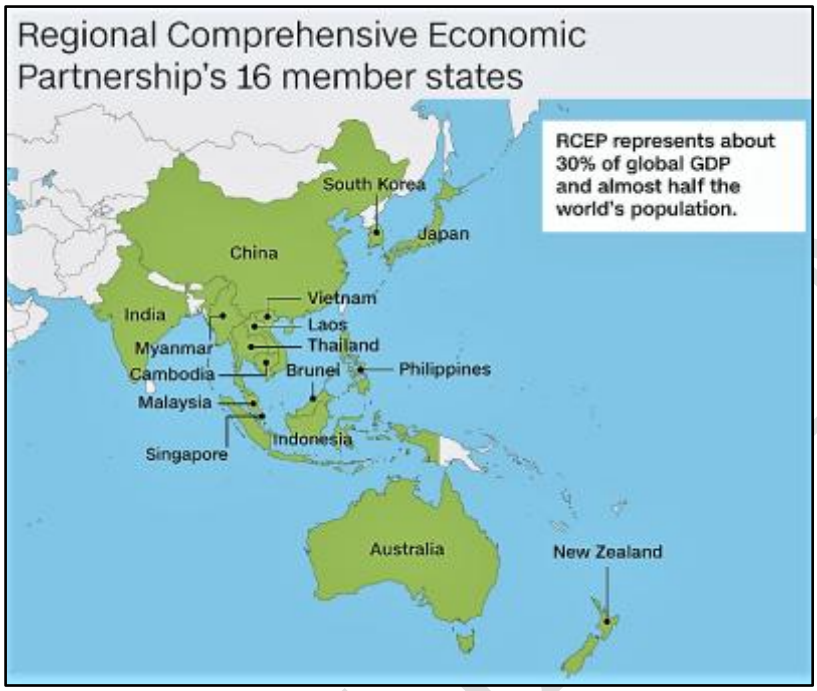
23. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 35 member countries, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- OECD nations are committed to democracy and the market economy, providing a platform to compare policy experiences, seeking answers to common problems, identify good practices and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members.
- It has created agencies such as the OECD Development Centre, International Energy Agency, and Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.
- OECD mandate covers economic, environmental, and social issues.
- It acts by peer pressure to improve policy and implement "soft law"—non-binding instruments that can occasionally lead to binding treaties.
- OECD administers and publishes the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which is a regular assessment of the attainment of 15-year-olds in three areas of knowledge thus measuring the performance of educational systems across countries.
- India is also a signatory of this policy.

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24. RCEP

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the ASEAN and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements - Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.



- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam are ASEAN members.
- RCEP is viewed as an alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed trade agreement which includes several Asian and American nations but excludes China and India.
- The arrangement is also open to any other external economic partners, such as nations in Central Asia and remaining nations in South Asia and Oceania.
- In 2017, US President Trump signed a memorandum that stated withdrawal of the US from the TPP, a move which is seen to improve the chances of success for RCEP.
- RCEP will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical co-operation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues.
- Negotiations of RCEP will aim to achieve the high level of tariff liberalisation, through building upon the existing liberalisation levels between participating countries.
- The RCEP takes into account the East Asia Free Trade Agreement (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) initiatives, with the difference that the RCEP is not working on a pre-determined membership.
- Instead, it is based on open accession which enables participation of any of the ASEAN FTA partners (China, Korea, Japan, India and Australia-New Zealand).

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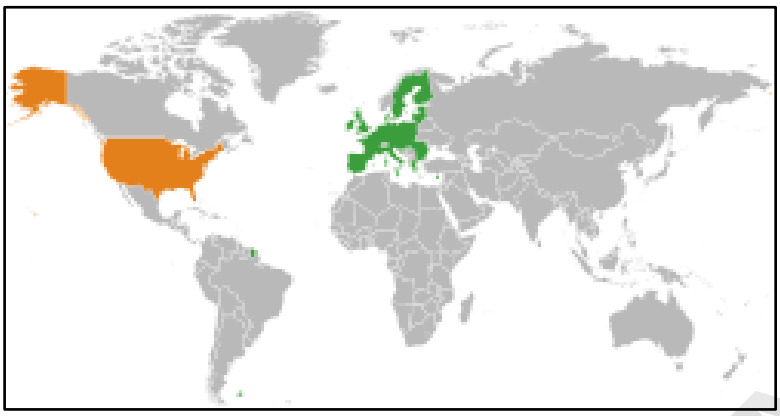
25. TPP

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.



- The finalized proposal was signed on 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand, concluding seven years of negotiations.
- The TPP contains measures to lower both non-tariff and tariff barriers to trade, and establish an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism.
- Current trade agreements between participating countries, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, will be reduced to those provisions that do not conflict with the TPP or provide greater trade liberalization than the TPP.
- TPP a companion agreement to the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a broadly similar agreement between the U.S. and the European Union.
- The largest economy in the Pacific Rim not involved in the negotiations is China.
- Sri Lanka has announced interest of joining the TPP and is currently studying its feasibility.
- TPP lays out a minimum level of protection parties to the Agreement must grant for trademarks, copyright, and patents.
- US administration recently withdrew its candidature from the organisation.

26. TTIP



- It is a proposed trade agreement between the European Union and the United States, with the aim of promoting trade and multilateral economic growth.
- Its main three broad areas are market access, specific regulation, and broader rules and principles and modes of co-operation.
- Common criticisms of TTIP contains "reducing the regulatory barriers to trade for big business, things like food safety law, environmental legislation, banking regulations and the sovereign powers of individual nations", or more critically as an "assault on European and US societies by transnational corporations".
- The twenty-eight European Union-member governments will have to approve of the partnership, via unanimous voting.
- The European Parliament is empowered to approve or reject the agreement.

27. NAFTA

- The North American Free Trade Agreement is an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America.
- The goal of NAFTA was to eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
- NAFTA also sought to eliminate non-tariff trade barriers and to protect the intellectual property rights on traded products.
- NAFTA established the CANAMEX Corridor for road transport between Canada and Mexico, also proposed for use by rail, pipeline and fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure.
- This became a High Priority Corridor under the U.S. Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.
- If the Trans-Pacific Partnership comes into effect, existing agreements like NAFTA will be reduced to those provisions that do not conflict with the TPP or that require greater trade liberalization than the TPP.

28. MERCOSUR

- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (which was suspended on December 2016) are its full members.

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- It is sub regional bloc.
- Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Suriname are its associate members.
- Observer countries are New Zealand and Mexico.
- Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency.
- It is now a full customs union and a trading bloc.



29. Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- SADC is an inter-governmental organization with a goal to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 15 Southern African states.

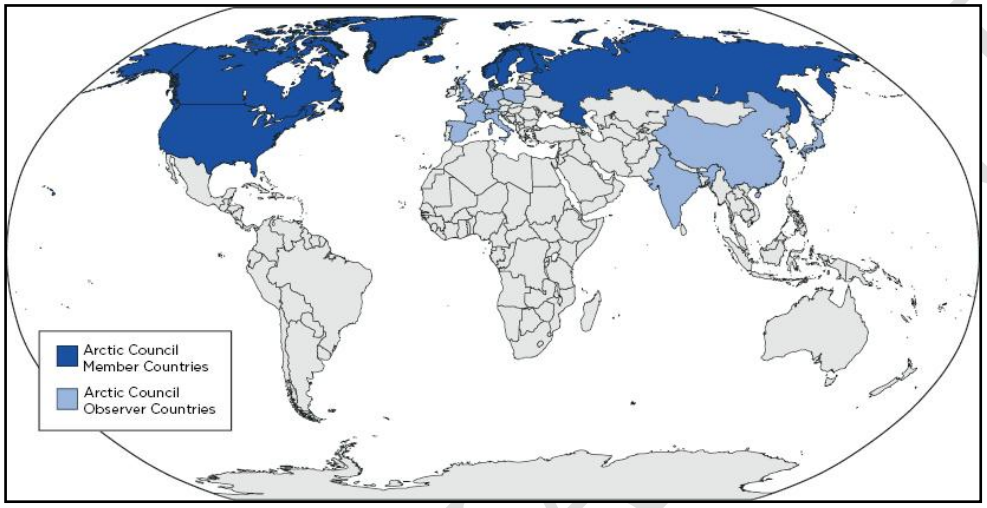


- They are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar (currently suspended after the coup) and is headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana.
- The formation of SADC was the culmination of a long process of consultations by the leaders of Southern Africa with the broader objective of pursuing economic and social development in the region.
- The organization has eight principal bodies - The Summit, comprising heads of states or heads of government, Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, Council of Ministers, Tribunal, SADC National Committees (SNCs), Secretariat.
- Except for the Tribunal, SNCs and Secretariat, decision making is by consensus. SADC summit is the supreme policy making institutions.

- As a follow up to the MOU signed in 1997, the First India SADC Forum meeting was held in Windhoek in 2006.

30. Arctic council

- The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.



- The Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council - Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.
- In addition, six organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants.
- The Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to Non-Arctic States. Observers primarily contribute through their engagement in the Council at the level of Working Groups.
- Observer countries are - China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, and the United Kingdom.
- The Arctic Council regularly produces comprehensive, cutting-edge environmental, ecological and social assessments through its Working Groups.
- The Council has also provided a forum for the negotiation of two important legally binding agreements among the eight Arctic States.
- The Chairmanship of the Arctic Council rotates every two years among the Arctic States.
- It has no programming budget. All projects or initiatives are sponsored by one or more Arctic States. Some projects also receive support from other entities.
- The Arctic Council does not and cannot implement or enforce its guidelines, assessments or recommendations. That responsibility belongs to each individual Arctic State.

31. Antarctic treaty system

- The Antarctic Treaty was signed in Washington on 1959 by 12 countries and entered into force in 1961 and has since been acceded to by many other nations. The total number of Parties to the Treaty is now 53.
- The primary purpose of the Antarctic Treaty is to ensure "in the interests of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord."
- It prohibits military activity, except in support of science; prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste; promotes scientific research and the exchange of data; and holds all territorial claims in abeyance.
- India officially acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System in 1983. In 1983, the country became the fifteenth Consultative Member of the Antarctic Treaty.

32. Outer space treaty

- It is an international treaty binding the parties to use outer space only for peaceful purposes.
- The treaty came into force in 1967, after being ratified by the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and several other countries.
- It represents the basic legal framework of international space law. Among its principles, it bars states party to the treaty from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit of Earth, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise stationing them in outer space.
- However, the Treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit and thus some highly destructive attack strategies such as kinetic bombardment are still potentially allowable.
- The treaty explicitly forbids any government from claiming a celestial resource such as the Moon or a planet.

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4. TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

1. Nuclear Security Group (NSG)

- NSG is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- The NSG was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in May 1974.
- Nations already signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) saw the need to further limit the export of nuclear equipment, materials or technology.
- As of 2016 the NSG has 48 members with European Commission and the Zangger Committee Chair participates as observers.
- The NSG Chair for 2015-2016 is Argentina.
- China, New Zealand, Ireland, Turkey and Austria are opposing India's membership to NSG.
- Pakistan's position on a need for a non-discriminatory criteria based approach for all non-NPT states is supported by several countries including New Zealand, Austria, Ireland, Switzerland, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, Kazakhstan and Belarus.
- In 2008, the NSG participating governments agreed to grant India a "clean waiver" from its existing rules, which forbid nuclear trade with a country which has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

2. Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)

- MTCR is a multilateral export control regime.
- It is an informal and voluntary partnership among 35 countries to prevent the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying above 500 kg payload for more than 300 km.
- G7 countries founded MTCR.
- Prohibited materials are divided into two Categories, which are outlined in the MTCR Equipment, Software, and Technology Annex.
- Membership has grown to 35 nations, with 4 additional nations, including Israel.
- India also joined in 2016 adhering to the MTCR Guidelines unilaterally.
- The People's Republic of China is not a member of the MTCR.

3. The Australian Group

- The Australia Group is an informal group to help member countries identify those exports which need to be controlled so as not to contribute to the spread of chemical and biological weapons.
- It has 42 members including the European Commission, all 28 member states of the European Union, Ukraine, and Argentina.

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- Members of the group maintain export controls on a uniform list of 54 compounds, including several that are not prohibited for export under the Chemical Weapons Convention, but can be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.
- The group follows two policies- “no undercut” and “catch all”.
- The "no-undercut" requirement, states that any member of the group considering making an export to another state that had already been denied an export by any other member of the group must first consult with that member state before approving the export.
- "Catch-all" provision, which requires member states to halt all exports that could be used by importers in chemical or biological weapons programs, regardless of whether the export is on the group's control lists.
- Members meet every year in Paris.

4. Wassenaar Arrangement

- The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) with 41 participating states.
- It was established to contribute to regional and international security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
- It focuses primarily on the transparency of national export control regimes and not granting veto power to individual members over organizational decisions.
- A Secretariat for administering the agreement is located in Vienna, Austria.
- It is not a treaty, and therefore is not legally binding.
- Every six months member countries exchange information on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar members that fall under eight broad weapons categories: battle tanks, armored combat vehicles (ACVs), large-caliber artillery, military aircraft, military helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, and small arms and light weapons.
- The People's Republic of China and Israel are not members, but they have aligned their export controls with Wassenaar lists.
- The Arrangement is open on a global and non-discriminatory basis to prospective adherents that comply with the agreed criteria.
- Admission of new members requires the consensus of all members.
- In December 2013, the list of export restricted technologies was amended to include internet-based surveillance systems.
- New technologies placed under the export control regime include "intrusion software"—software designed to defeat a computer or network's protective measures so as to extract data or information.

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5. Zangger Committee

- The Zangger Committee, also known as the Nuclear Exporters Committee came due to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which entered into force in 1970.
- Under the terms International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards must be applied to nuclear exports.
- Each State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to provide: (a) source or special fissionable material, or (b) equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material, to any non-nuclear-weapon State for peaceful purposes, unless the source or special fissionable material shall be subject to the safeguards required by this Article.
- The Committee (a) maintains and updates a list of equipment that may only be exported if safeguards are applied to the recipient facility (called the "Trigger List" because such exports trigger the requirement for safeguards); and (b) allows members to coordinate on nuclear export issues.
- The People's Republic of China is a member of the Zangger Committee.

6. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

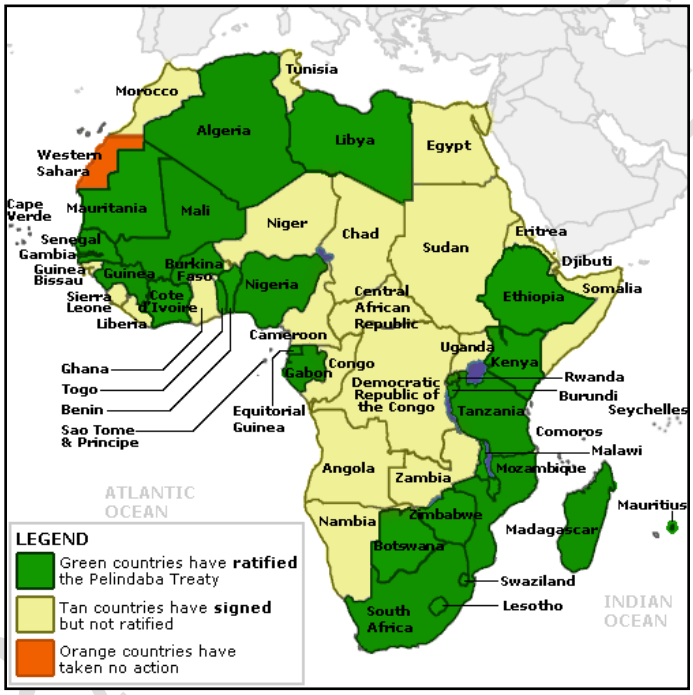
- CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.
- It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but has not entered into force as eight specific states have not ratified the treaty.
- 166 states have ratified the CTBT and another 17 states have signed but not ratified it.
- China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty.
- India, North Korea and Pakistan have not signed it.
- According to CTBT each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.
- The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), an international organization headquartered in Vienna, Austria, was created.
- It is built for the verification regime, including establishment and provisional operation of the network of monitoring stations, the creation of an international data centre, and development of the On Site Inspection capability.

7. Pelindaba Treaty

- The African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba named after South Africa's main Nuclear Research Centre.
- It establishes a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa.

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- The Treaty prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear explosive devices in the territory of parties to the Treaty and the dumping of radioactive wastes in the African zone by Treaty parties.
- It also prohibits any attack against nuclear installations in the zone by Treaty parties.
- The Treaty requires all parties to apply full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards to all their peaceful nuclear activities.
- A mechanism to verify compliance, including the establishment of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, has been established by the Treaty.
- Its office will be in South Africa.



- The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (ANWFZ) covers the entire African continent as well as the following islands: Cabo Verde, Canary Islands, Chagos Archipelago Diego Garcia, Comoros, Europa Island, Madagascar, Mauritius, Prince Edward & Marion Islands, Réunion, Rodrigues Island, Seychelles, Tromelin Island, and Zanzibar and Pemba Islands.
- South Sudan is not a signatory to this treaty.
- Other Nuclear Free zone Treaties- Antarctica, Tlatelolco (Latin American and Caribbean), Rarotonga (South Pacific), Bangkok (ASEAN).

8. Sendai Framework

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is an international document which was adopted by UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.
- It is the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015).

- It sets four specific priorities for action:
    1. Understanding disaster risk;
    2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
    3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
    4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

9. Biological weapons convention

- It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.
- The Geneva Protocol prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.
- It commits the 178 states to prohibit the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.
- However, the absence of any formal verification regime to monitor compliance has limited the effectiveness of the Convention.
- An additional six states have signed the BWC but have yet to ratify the treaty.
- Subsequent Review Conferences have reaffirmed that the general purpose criterion encompasses all future scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention.
- Permitted purposes under the BWC are defined as prophylactic, protective and other peaceful purposes.

10. Refugee Convention

- The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention, is a United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who is a refugee, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.
- The Convention also sets out which people do not qualify as refugees, such as war criminals.
- The Convention also provides for some visa-free travel for holders of travel documents issued under the convention.
- The Refugee Convention builds on Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.
- There were 145 parties to the Convention, and 146 to the Protocol.
- The United States of America and Venezuela are parties only to the Protocol.
- Countries that have ratified the Refugee Convention are obliged to protect refugees that are on their territory, in accordance with its terms.
- India is not a member to this convention.

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- The convention asks the contracting states to do the following,
    1. Respect a refugee's personal status and the rights that come with it, particularly rights related to marriage; provide free access to courts for refugees.
    2. Provide administrative assistance for refugees, provide identity papers for refugees, and provide travel documents for refugees.
    3. Allow refugees to transfer their assets, provide the possibility of assimilation and naturalization to refugees
    4. Cooperate with the UNHCR in the exercise of its functions and to help UNHCR supervise the implementation of the provisions in the Convention.
- The convention also asks the contracting states not to,
    1. discriminate against refugees, take exceptional measures against a refugee solely on account of his or her nationality , expect refugees to pay taxes and fiscal charges that are different to those of nationals.
    2. impose penalties on refugees who entered illegally in search of asylum if they present themselves
    3. expel refugees.
    4. Forcibly return or "refoul" refugees to the country they've fled from.

11. Convention on Supplementary Compensation for nuclear Damage (CSC)

- CSC an important multilateral treaty relating to liability and compensation for damage caused by a nuclear incident.
- The CSC was adopted in 1997 aiming at increasing the amount of compensation available in the event of a nuclear incident through public funds.
- The fund is to be made available by the Contracting Parties on the basis of their installed nuclear capacity and UN rate of assessment.
- It also aims at establishing treaty relations among States that belong to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy or neither of them
- India had also passed its own domestic nuclear liability law, the Civil Law for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act in 2010.
- Countries such as the U.S. have said that the Indian law's provisions are violative of the CSC, but this has been denied by India.

12. Hague Code of Conduct

- The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), was established in 2002 as an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.
- It is the only normative instrument to verify the spread of ballistic missiles.

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- The HCOC does not ban ballistic missiles, but it does call for restraint in their production, testing, and export.
- As agreed by the conference in The Hague, Austria serves as the Immediate Central Contact (Executive Secretariat) and therefore coordinates the information exchange of the HCOC.
- India joined the HCOC in 2016.
- While the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has a similar mission, it is an export group with only 35 members.
- Total members in the conduct 138.

13. International Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

- CWC is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- It is administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Any chemical used for warfare is considered a chemical weapon by the Convention.
- The parties' main obligation under the convention is to effect this prohibition, as well as the destruction of all current chemical weapons.
- 192 states have given their consent to be bound by the CWC.
- Israel has signed but not ratified the agreement, while three other UN member states (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan) have neither signed nor acceded to the treaty.
- Most recently, Angola deposited its instrument of accession to the CWC.
- The convention has provisions for systematic evaluation of chemical production facilities, as well as for investigations of allegations of use and production of chemical weapons based on intelligence of other state parties.
- Some chemicals which have been used extensively in warfare but have numerous large-scale industrial uses such as phosgene are highly regulated, however certain notable exceptions exist.
- Chlorine gas is highly toxic, but being widely used for peaceful purposes, is **not** officially listed as a chemical weapon.
- Certain state-powers (eg. the Assad regime of Syria) continue to regularly manufacture and implement such chemicals in combat ammunitions.
- Although these chemicals are not specifically listed as controlled by the CWC, the use of any toxic chemical as a weapon is in-and-of itself forbidden by the treaty.
- Other chemicals, such as white phosphorous, are highly toxic but are legal under the CWC when they are used by military forces for reasons other than their toxicity.

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- Chemicals have few or no uses outside chemical weapons may be produced or used for research, medical, pharmaceutical or chemical weapon defence testing purposes but production above 100 grams per year must be declared to the OPCW.
- A country is limited to possessing a maximum of 1 tonne of these materials.
- Examples are sulfur mustard and nerve agents.
- Chemicals which have legitimate small-scale applications can be manufactured must be declared and there are restrictions on export to countries that are not CWC signatories.
- An example is thiodiglycol which can be used in the manufacture of mustard agents, but is also used as a solvent in inks.

14. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 is an international treaty that defines a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries.
- It specifies the privileges of a diplomatic mission that enable diplomats to perform their function without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country.
- The convention forms the legal basis for diplomatic immunity.
- It is ratified by 191 countries.

15. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

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

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