

Prelim Bits 09-12-2017

Wassenaar Arrangement

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- Click [here](#) to know about Wassenaar Arrangement.

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- India has been admitted as the 42nd member of Wassenaar Arrangement.

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- Members are admitted based on the consensus of the existing members.

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- A country must also meet certain criteria such as compliance to a range of global non-proliferation treaties including NPT to get admitted to the arrangement.

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- U.S backed the admission of India in the aftermath of signing of civil nuclear cooperation in 2005.

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- Barring China, all permanent members of UNSC are signatories.

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- Upon becoming the member, India will get access to high technology which will help address the demands of Indian Space and defence sectors.

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- It will also boost India's chances of joining Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

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- Earlier this year, India had updated its export control lists to bring them in line with international standards, including those required by the Wassenaar Arrangement.

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Global Compact for Migration

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- It is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.

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- The agreement was signed in the UNGA by adopting a non-binding political

declaration “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” in 2016.

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- The declaration pledged to uphold the rights of refugees, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education.

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- All the 193 member countries of UNGA became the part global pact for migration.

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- It is framed consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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- Under the agenda, member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

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- United States has recently withdrawn from this pact, saying that the declaration is inconsistent with its policies.

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Trachoma

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- It is a chronic infective disease of the eye and a leading cause of corneal blindness in India, affecting young children.

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- It is caused by poor environmental and personal hygiene and inadequate access to water and sanitation.

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- According to the National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17), India has become free from Trachoma with an overall prevalence found to be only 0.7%, much below the criteria set by WHO.

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- According to WHO, active trachoma is considered eliminated if the prevalence of active infection among children below 10 years is less than 5%.

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- Trachoma is no longer a public health problem in India.

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- The disease is found to be affecting the population in certain pockets of north Indian states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and the Nicobar Islands.

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World's largest free-trade Agreement

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- The **European Union and Japan** concluded negotiations on a free-trade deal to create the world's largest open economic area.

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- It will remove EU tariffs of 10 per cent tariffs on Japanese cars and the 3 per cent rate typically applied to car parts.

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Bodhi Parva

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- It is a BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage held recently in New Delhi.

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- It is celebrated as a part of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC.

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- It involves exhibition of international and Indian Buddhist art and architecture, discourses by eminent scholars of Buddhism, screening of film on Buddhism, dance and music performances etc.

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- It will help in building an awareness of BIMSTEC's rich and common heritage.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB, BusinessLine

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