



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## TARGET 2018

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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## TARGET 2018

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

#### 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 have 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)

#### Indian Members in the UN

- Soumya Swaminathan, director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was appointed the deputy director general for programmes at the **WHO** very recently.
- An Indian Justice Dalveer Bhandari was re-elected as a judge to the **International Court of Justice** (ICJ).
- International law expert Neeru Chadha was elected to a top UN judicial body, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (**ITLOS**).

#### UN Organs

##### 1.1 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 Assembly 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.
- 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).

#### Recent developments

- Venezuela and Libya have been suspended from voting in the UN General Assembly for the third time in 3 years because of millions of dollars in unpaid dues to the world body.
- Venezuela is mired in an economic and political crisis and Libya has two rival governments, each backed by an array of militias.

## 1.2 United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

- The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of International peace and security.
- 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.
- Present ten non-permanent members (with end of term date) are Bolivia (2018) Côte d'Ivoire (2019), Equatorial Guinea (2019), Ethiopia (2018), Kazakhstan (2018), Kuwait (2019), Netherlands (2018), Peru (2019), Poland (2019), and Sweden (2018).
- 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. They are 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, Malta, San Marino, Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Turkey.
- Despite drastic changes in geopolitics and international relations the Council has not been reformed yet.

### Proposed Reforms in UNSC

- The demands for reform of the UNSC is based on five key issues:
  1. Categories of membership (permanent, non-permanent).
  2. The question of the veto held by the five permanent members.
  3. Regional representation.
  4. The size of an enlarged Council and its working methods.
  5. The relationship between Security Council and General Assembly.
- Notably, any reform of the Security Council would require the agreement of at least two-thirds of UN member states.
- Importantly, the agreement of all the permanent members of the UNSC enjoying the veto right is also required.

## 1.3 Economic and Social Council

- It is the principal organ guides sustainable development policies and coordinates the activities of several UN units and organisations working on development and social and economic issues.
- It is the principle body for the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term.
- Seats in the council are allocated based on geographical representation. 11 of them are allotted to Asian states.
- Each member of the council has one vote and generally voting in the council is by simple majority.
- For the nations to be the elected as members of ECOSOC for a three-year term, it needs two-thirds majority of UN General Assembly votes.
- The president is elected for a one-year term.

### Recent developments

- India was seeking re-election as its current term is set to expire this year and **got re-elected** for another three-year term.

- It received backing of the Asian and Pacific group of nations and secured 183 of the 188 votes to serve again.

#### 1.4 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.

#### 1.5 International Court of Justice

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- Its seat is at the Peace Palace in the Hague (Netherlands). It is the only one of the principal organs of the United Nations not located in New York.
- It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies.
- It hears cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues.
- Presiding over the ICJ, or “World Court” are **fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms** by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- A candidate needs to get an absolute majority in both the chambers i.e. the UNGA and the UNSC, to get elected.
- **Five judges elected every three years** to ensure continuity within the court.
- No two judges may be nationals of the same country.
- Judges are eligible to stand for re-election.
- Of the 15 judges, the composition is mandated to be as follows -
  - i. 3 from Africa
  - ii. 2 from Latin America and the Caribbean
  - iii. 3 from Asia
  - iv. 5 from Western Europe and other states
  - v. 2 from Eastern Europe
- The President and Vice-President are elected by secret ballot to hold office for three years.
- The P5 members of the UNSC (France, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States) always have a judge on the Court.
- The exception was China, which did not have a judge on the Court from 1967 to 1985 because it did not put forward a candidate.
- Judges may deliver joint judgments or give their own separate opinions.
- The Court settles **legal disputes between nations only** and not between individuals, organizations and private enterprises in accordance with international law.
- 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.
- 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.
- Decisions and Advisory Opinions are by majority, and, in the event of an equal division, the President's vote becomes decisive always have a judge on the Court.
- Other existing international thematic courts, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) are not under the umbrella of the ICJ and it is legally and functionally independent from United Nations.

#### Recent developments in ICJ

- An Indian Justice Dalveer Bhandari was re-elected as a judge to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).



- India recently won the plea against Pakistan to grant counsellor access to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav and ICJ has directed to Pakistan to stop carrying out the execution of Jadhav.

### 1.6 Trusteeship Council

- It was formed to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of Member States, and to prepare the territories for self-government and independence.
- By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence, with the last nation being Palau.
- So UN suspended its operation on 1994, and it continues to exist only on paper.
- Its future role and existence remains uncertain.

## Specialised Agencies

### 1.7 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 187 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands (a nation in the South Pacific, with political links to New Zealand).
- 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 nations of “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**”.
- The declaration 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.

### Recent developments

- India** has recently **ratified two key ILO global conventions** - Convention 138 and Convention 182 on combating child labour.
- With this, India has ratified six out of eight core ILO conventions.
- Convention 138 calls for the minimum age for employment to be not less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling. In the case of India, it is 14 years according to the RTE act.
- Convention 182 penalises and prohibits the worst form of child labour.
- Conventions 138 and 182 of the United Nations body leave it to the member-states to determine what constitutes acceptable or unacceptable work for children at different ages.
- The other 4 core conventions which India has ratified are related to abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration and no discrimination between men and women in employment and occupation.
- Countries which ratify any of the ILO conventions have to go through a periodical reporting system every 4 years. The government has to prove they are making progress.
- ILO Recommendations** - ILO at its 106th Session held in Geneva in June, 2015 adopted the Recommendation regarding “The Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience”.

- An ILO Recommendation is a non-binding instrument which seeks to serve as a guiding principle for national policy process.
- The Recommendation provides guidance to member States on the measures to be taken to generate employment and decent work for the purposes of prevention, recovery, peace and resilience with respect to crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters.
- Each member state of ILO is required to submit the instruments so adopted before the competent authority (the Parliament in case of India). India supported the adoption of Recommendation.
- Accordingly, Union Cabinet has recently accorded the approval to place the new instrument of recommendation before the parliament. But it does not create any immediate obligation on the parliament.

### 1.8 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 is an international food standards setting body.
- It 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.
- It facilitates evolving a common standardization process for global trade and availability.
- CAC has recently adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme owing to India's efforts to benchmark global spices trade.
- With the adoption of codex standards, spices have been included for the first time as commodities that will have universal standards.

#### International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

- IPPC aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests.

#### Globefish

- Globefish is an unit within the FAO, responsible for information and analysis on international fish trade and markets.
- Globefish's flagship reports cover over 14 of the most major traded seafood commodities, including shrimp, tuna, salmon, small pelagics and other species with detailed statistics.

### 1.9 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.
- It accorded recognition in 2011 to Palestine as its 195th member.
- It is a global development agency with missions that include promoting sex education, literacy, clean water and equality for women.
- It is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through International cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs.
- It is known for its **World Heritage Mission** which encourages world countries to protect Natural and Cultural Heritage sites.
- It publishes the **Global Education Monitoring report** and **Gender Parity Index**.



- It also leads the **Man and Biosphere Programme** for protecting Biosphere reserves across the world.

## Recent Developments

### Hebron City

- UNESCO has declared a contested shrine in Hebron city as an endangered Palestinian heritage site.
- This has triggered the U.S to withdraw from the UNESCO.
- The actual withdrawal will take effect on December 31, 2018 and until then it will remain a full member of the body.
- Earlier in 1984, the U.S. had withdrawn from the UNESCO, accusing it of favouring the Soviet Union; nevertheless it rejoined the U.N. body in 2002.

### Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

- The convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage was adopted by the UNESCO in the year 2003.
- It acknowledges cultural heritage as encompassing tradition and living expression, in addition to tangible places, monuments and objects.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental committee for the safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage was held at Jeju Island in South Korea.
- In this session, the committee has added “Kumbh Mela” as an intangible heritage.

### Kumbh Mela

- Kumbh Mela is the largest congregation of pilgrims in the planet, held once in every 12 years in 4 places - Haridwar, Allahabad, Ujjain and Nashik.
- Kumbh Mela represents a syncretic set of rituals related to worship, and ritual cleansing in holy rivers in India.
- Kumbh Mela is the third inscription to the heritage list following the addition of “Yoga” and “Norouz” (Iranian New Year/Persian New Year) in 2016.

### Creative Cities Network

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- The 180 cities in 72 countries currently make up this network.
- All the cities work together in placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level.
- Gastronomy, music, crafts and folk art, media arts, design, film and literature are the 7 fields of creativity highlighted by the network.
- **Chennai** has been recently **included in the list of UCCN** for its rich musical tradition.
- **Jaipur** (crafts and folk art) and **Varanasi** (Music) are the other Indian cities that feature on the list.
- Some of the other cities included are Alba (Italy) for gastronomy (the practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food), Almaty (Kazakhstan) for music and Auckland (New Zealand) for music.

### UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, has won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for cultural heritage conservation.
- It has become the first temple in Tamil Nadu to be given the prestigious award from the UN body.
- Mumbai's Christ Church and Royal Bombay Opera House are the other monuments in India that received the Award of Merit this year.

### Srirangam Temple

- The temple, considered the foremost of the 108 divyadesams, is situated on an islet between the Cauvery and the Coleroon rivers.
- Divya Desams" are the “premium temples of Vishnu”. These 108 Vishnu temples are mentioned in the works of the Tamil Alvars who are said to be the 12 supreme devotees of Vishnu.

- The massive renovation and restoration effort at the temple executed through the public-private partnership model since 2014 was the main reason to win this award.
- The hundred-pillar and thousand-pillar mandapams and various other mandapams, some of which were out of the public view for long, have been restored.

#### 1.10 WHO – World Health Organisation

- WHO is the first global health organization, replacing 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 is the supreme decision making body of WHO, attended by delegations from all member states. It meets in Geneva in May each year.
- The free walk/run event, titled "Walk the Talk: The Health for All Challenge" will be part of World Health Organization's 70th anniversary in 2018.
- The Executive Board of WHO implements the decisions and policies of the World Health Assembly.

#### 1.11 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP, an UN organization formed in 1965, is to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.
- Sustainable human development is 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 programmes.
- 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 also publishes regional, national, and local Human Development Reports.

#### Sustainable Development Goals

- 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 end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



### 1.12 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system. It is 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. No member may occupy a seat for more than 2 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 Human Rights Council is a separate entity from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), but the council works closely with the OHCHR.
- OHCHR provides substantive support for the meetings of the Human Rights Council and follow-up to the Council's deliberations.
- 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 Review takes into account information from different sources, one of them being the NGOs.

### 1.13 International Maritime Organisation

- IMO is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- 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.
- IMO measures cover all aspects of international shipping including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation and disposal.
- It covers accidental and operational oil pollution along with different types of pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air 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.
- The IMO council consists of 40 members in which category A consists of 10 members, category B 10 members and category C 20 members -
  - i. Category-A has countries which have interest in providing international shipping services
  - ii. Category-B has large nations with interest in international seaborne trade
  - iii. Category-C has States, not elected under A or B, that have special interests in maritime transport or navigation
- Observer status is granted to qualified non-governmental organisations.

### Recent Developments

- India has had the privilege of being elected to and serving the council of the IMO, ever since it started functioning, except for two years during 1983-1984.
- In the 30<sup>th</sup> session of IMO held in London, **India has been re-elected to the council of IMO under "Category B"**.
- India is currently in the advanced stage of ratifying Ballast Water Convention and Bunker Convention.



- **Ballast water management convention** was adopted in IMO in 2004 and came into force in September, 2017.
- The convention aims to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another.
- It establishes standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments.
- All ships in international traffic are required to manage their ballast water and sediments to a certain standard according to the management plan.
- The **Bunker convention** was adopted in 2001 and came into force in 2008.
- Its aim is to ensure that adequate, prompt, and effective compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by oil spills, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers.
- It applies to damage caused on the territory, including the territorial sea, and in exclusive economic zones of States Parties.
- It is modelled on the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969.
- In India's case, it applies to an Indian vessel, wherever it is situated, and to a foreign flag vessel while it is within Indian jurisdiction.

#### **Ballast Water**

- Ballast water is water carried in ships' ballast tanks to improve stability, balance and trim.
- It is taken up or discharged when cargo is unloaded or loaded, or when a ship needs extra stability in foul weather.
- When ships take on ballast water, plants and animals that live in the ocean are also picked up. Discharging this ballast water releases these organisms into new areas where they can become marine pests.

#### **1.14 UNCTAD**

- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and part of the UN Secretariat.
- It is a part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).
- It was formed specifically to handle the problems of developing countries dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- **Reports published by UNCTAD** include Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report, and Commodities and Development Report.

#### **1.15 UN-DESA**

- UN-DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) is based at UN Headquarters in New York.
- It is an entity of the UN Secretariat responsible for economic, social and environmental issues.
- It promotes international cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development.
- It helps countries individually and regionally to formulate and implement national development strategies.
- Its in-depth policy analysis has helped resolve many of the world's most pressing socio-economic issues.
- Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 was prepared by the UN DESA based on latest available data on selected indicators of the global SDG indicator framework, with inputs from a large number of international and regional organizations.
- The Report is the annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals.

#### **1.16 UN-Habitat**

- It is the UN programme working towards a better urban future.
- Its mission is to **promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development** and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

- UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.
- The theme of the 26th Meeting of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat is “Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”.
- India has recently been unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat.
- Since the UN-Habitat came into being in 1978, it is only the third time that India is elected to lead this important organization, after 1988 and 2007.

#### 1.17 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.
- In order to increase trade opportunities worldwide, UNCITRAL is formulating modern, fair, and harmonized rules on commercial transactions. These include:
  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

#### 1.18 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.
- 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”.

##### **CORSIA**

- The CORSIA is a global market-based measure adopted by the 191 member states of the ICAO.
- It is a landmark scheme intended to offset annual increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international civil aviation above 2020 levels.
- CORSIA will be implemented in the following phases:
  - i. pilot phase 2021 to 2023
  - ii. first phase 2024 to 2026
  - iii. second phase 2027 to 2035

#### 1.19 World Meteorological Organisation

- WMO was created in 1950 as an intergovernmental organization.
- It became a specialized agency of the United Nations, in 1951, for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- WMO is the UN system's authoritative voice on weather, climate and water.
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland and is headed by the Secretary-General.
- 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.
- The Climate Centre at Indian Meteorological Department, Pune has recently been recognized as the Regional Climate Centre by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for providing regional climate services to South Asian countries.



### 1.20 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 is designed to promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property (inventions, trademarks, and designs) and copyrighted materials (literary, musical, photographic, and other artistic works).
- WIPO's predecessor was The United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIPRI).
- BIPRI administered two conventions such as the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. BIRPI is thus transformed to become WIPO.

#### 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.

### 1.21 International Fund for Agricultural Development

- IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub.
- 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.
- IFAD is 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.

### 1.22 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.

### 1.23 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 on Silk Road Tourism (1994) was adopted by the 19 countries attending the First International Silk Road Meeting in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.
- The further declarations on Silk Road Tourism are to enhance sustainable tourism development along the historic Silk Road route.
- It is the joint initiative of UNWTO and UNESCO.

### 1.24 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 more than 700 private-sector entities.
- Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.



### 1.25 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.
- The WFP was formally established in 1963 by the **FAO and the United Nations General Assembly**.
- WFP works from its headquarters at Rome. The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from world governments, corporations and private donors.
- It is a member of the **United Nations Development Group** and part of its Executive Committee.
- The WFP strives to eradicate **hunger and malnutrition**, with the ultimate goal 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 diseases, 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.

### 1.26 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN migration agency was established in 1951.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
- IOM has 169 member states and 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries.
- IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:
  1. Migration and development
  2. Facilitating migration
  3. Regulating migration
  4. Forced migration
- IOM works to help ensure the humane management of migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants, promote international cooperation on migration issues.
- It aims to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

#### Recent developments

- IOM has recently published the **"World Migration Report 2018"** in the IOM council held at Geneva.
- This report is the ninth in IOM's World Migration Report (WMR) series and the first since IOM became the UN Migration Agency.

### Other UN-Related Initiatives

#### 1.27 Global Compact for Migration

- It is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.
- It is framed consistent with one of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which member States have committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

- In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants.
- These commitments are known as the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, a **non-binding** political declaration.
- All the 193 member countries of UNGA became part of the global pact for migration. The declaration pledged to uphold the rights of refugees, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education.
- The United States has recently withdrawn from this pact, saying the declaration is inconsistent with its policies.

### 1.28 United Nations Global Compact

- The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is a voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goals.
- The UN Global Compact enjoys the support of the United Nations General Assembly and has additionally been recognized in a number of other inter-governmental contexts, including by the G8.
- Under the Global Compact, companies are brought together with UN agencies, labour groups and civil society to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals, such as MDGs and SDGs.
- UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) hosted the 1st ever Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit on the theme of “Leveraging CSR for achieving SDGs: The way forward”, in December, 2017 at Mumbai.
- India is said to have the potential to generate \$1 trillion worth of business opportunities and 72 million jobs by 2030 for companies working in the sustainable sectors such as food and agriculture, energy, construction and healthcare.

### 1.29 UN Ocean conference

- The UN Ocean Conference was held in June 2017 at UN headquarters in New York.
- It is a high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.
- SDG 14 advocates conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Many voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation were made by governments during the conference.
- To follow-up on the implementation of these voluntary commitments, United Nations has recently launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### 2.1 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 - Doing business report, Global economic prospects, Global financial development report, International debt statistics, World development report, World development indicators, Poverty and shared prosperity.

## 2.2 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).
  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 1966, 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.

## 2.3 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 also be 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).

## 2.4 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.

## 2.5 World Economic Forum

- The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests.
- It strives in all its efforts to **demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest** while upholding the highest standards of governance.
- The forum members are world's 1,000 leading companies
- It provides a platform for the world's 1,000 leading companies to shape a better future.
- It focuses on three key strategic challenges
  1. Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution
  2. Solving the problems of the Global Commons
  3. Addressing global security issues.
- It established the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in **San Francisco** to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of science and technology.
- It is known for its annual meeting of global political and business elites in **Davos, Switzerland**.
- It releases Global Information Technology Report, Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report, Global Competitiveness Report (GCR), Global Human Capital Report, Global Risks Report.



## 2.6 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.

## 2.7 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.
- The 11th biennial ministerial conference was recently held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## 2.8 The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

- The OIE is the **intergovernmental organisation** responsible for improving animal health worldwide.
- It is headquartered in Paris.
- It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in 2017 has a total of 181 Member Countries.
- The OIE maintains permanent relations with 71 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional Offices on every continent.

## 2.9 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.
- It is headquartered 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.
- India is a founding member and the fourth largest shareholder.
- India is planning to set up a ADB's regional hub at New Delhi.
- In India, ADB finances projects such as East coast economic corridor, solar rooftop investment program, Mechi river bridge project in Indo-Nepal border, TAPI gas pipeline, South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program, supporting fiscal reforms in West Bengal State.

## **2.10 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

- AIIB is a multilateral financial institution which brings 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.
- 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 with voting shares are 26.06%, 7.5% and 5.92% respectively.
- 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.
- It offers sovereign and non-sovereign finance for projects in various sectors with 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.
- The various sectors energy and power, transportation and telecommunications, rural infrastructure and agriculture development, water supply and sanitation, environmental protection, urban development and logistics.

### **Recent developments**

- India is set to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of AIIB at Mumbai in 2018.
- The theme of the meeting will be 'Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'.

## **2.11 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 five member nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have an equal shareholding in the NDB.
- The initial authorized capital of the bank is \$100 billion and initial subscribed capital is \$50 billion which is equally distributed amongst the founding members.



- The bank's primary focus of lending will be infrastructure and sustained development projects.
- The bank aims to contribute to development plans established nationally through projects that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable with majority of the funding will go to renewable.

### Recent Developments

- The NDB has signed MoU with World Bank and Asian Development Bank as well as leading commercial banks from the NDB member states.
- NDB finances Madhya Pradesh district road construction project and Renewable energy generation projects in India.

### 2.12 Contingent Reserves Arrangement (CRA)

- CRA was set-up by BRICS nations to counter IMF.
- It has the goal of promoting mutual support amongst the BRICS members in situations of instability in the balance of payments.
- Unlike the pool of contributed capital to the BRICS bank, which is equally shared, CRA is being funded 41% by China, 18% from Brazil, India, and Russia, and 5% from South Africa.

### 2.13 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan has recently become members of SCO in its 2017 meeting held at Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.
- Observer status is 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, except for China, India & Pakistan, 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.



### 2.14 International Criminal Court (ICC)

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

- 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 totalling 123 members.
- 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.

### Rome Statute

- The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as ICC's foundational and governing document.
- ICC began functioning on 1st July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.
- States becomes party to the Rome Statute by signing it and subsequently becomes member of ICC by ratifying it.
- While Russia had withdrawn its signature to the initial statute last year, it was never a member of ICC as it never ratified the statute.
- USA, Israel, UAE and several other countries are also signatories to the 'Rome Statute' but haven't ratified it as yet.

### Recent Developments

- Burundi has become the first country to officially quit the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Gambia and South Africa were also threatening to pull out.
- Under the Rome Statute, crimes in non-member states can still be referred for investigation by the UNSC.
- Though Philippines became a member of ICC in 2011 it recently submitted its letter of withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

### 2.15 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.

#### 2.16 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.
- 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.

#### 2.17 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, Latvia, Slovenia all OECD member states are members of the IEA.
- In 2014, Estonia joined the IEA and became its 29th member.
- Brazil, 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 are World Energy Outlook and Key World 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.

#### Recent Developments

- International Energy Agency-Ocean Energy Systems Collaboration Programme (IEA-OES) executive committee meeting was recently held.
- Ocean Energy Systems Technology Collaboration Programme is an intergovernmental collaboration between countries.
- It operates under the framework established by the International Energy Agency.

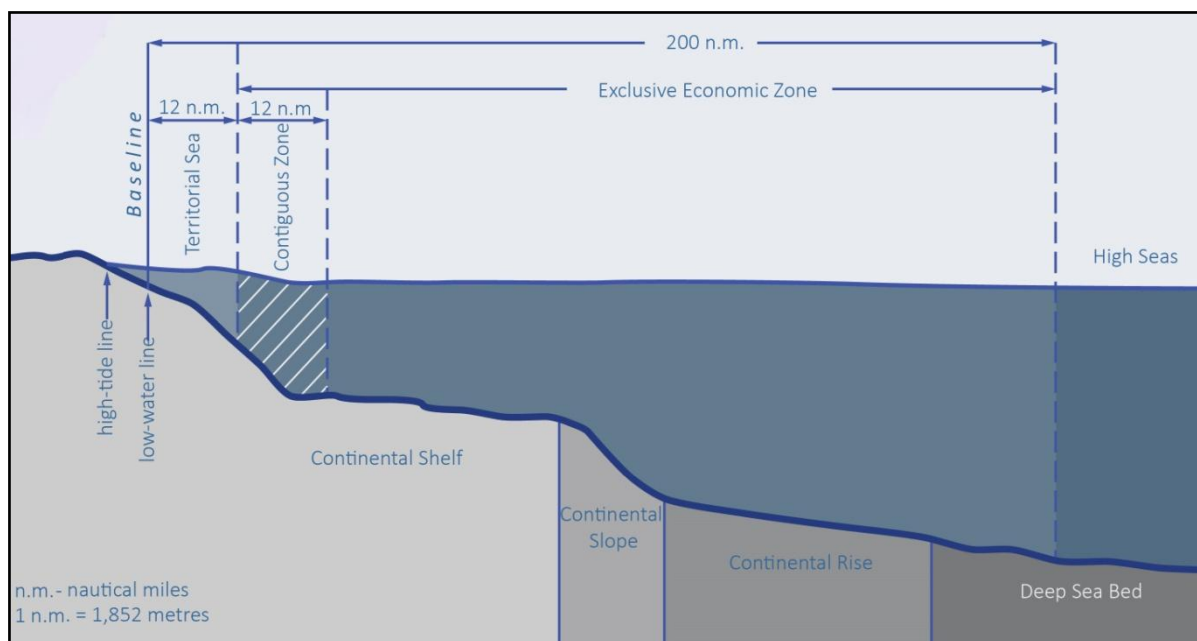
- India became an associate member of the forum in April 2017, by this India would have access to advanced research and development teams, technologies and data in the area of ocean energy across the world.

## 2.18 International Solar Alliance

- The ISA is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by India and France in Paris, on the sidelines of COP-21, the UN Climate Conference held at Paris.
- It is instituted to connect 121 solar-resource-rich nations for research, low-cost financing and rapid deployment of clean energy.
- The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurgaon.
- It aims to channel \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy projects under a global mega fund for clean energy.
- Further, ISA has also been developing a Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM) for de-risking and reducing the financial cost of solar projects in the ISA member countries.
- ISA needs ratification of its framework agreement by 15 member countries to be recognised as inter-governmental and multilateral agency under the United Nations charter.
- The first 15 countries who ratified the agreement would then be founding members of ISA.
- The framework agreement was opened for signatures in the 22nd session of the UN Climate Change Conference held at Marrakech, Morocco in 2016.
- It has recently become a **treaty-based international intergovernmental organization** with the ratification by Guinea as the 15th country.
- Founding ceremony of the ISA was recently held in New Delhi.
- So far, 61 countries have signed and 32 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA.

## 2.19 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.

## 2.20 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 based in Hamburg, Germany.
- There are currently 167 signatories, 166 states plus the European Union.
- 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 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.



- 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.
- **Dr. Neeru Chadha** has become the first Indian woman to be elected as a judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS).

## 2.21 International Sea Bed Authority (ISA)

- ISA is an intergovernmental body established by the Law of the Sea Convention to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- It helps in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”.
- It is based in Kingston, Jamaica.
- 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 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.

### Recent developments

- Last year, India was re-elected as a member of the Council of ISA.
- India’s exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed in Central Indian Ocean Basin have been extended by five years.
- India’s rights have been approved unanimously in the 23rd session of the ISA concluded at Kingston, Jamaica.
- India is implementing a long-term programme on exploration and utilization of Polymetallic nodules through the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- This includes survey and exploration, environmental studies, technology development in mining and extractive metallurgy.

## 2.22 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## 2.23 European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)

- EBRD is an international financial institution founded in 1991 and headquartered in London.
- It was set up after the fall of the Berlin wall to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe.
- The EBRD is not to be confused with the European Investment Bank (EIB) which is owned by EU member states and used to support EU policy.
- EBRD is owned by 66 countries and two EU institutions i.e EU & EIB.
- US is the biggest shareholder.
- Besides Europe, member countries of the EBRD are also from other continents - North America (Canada and US), Africa (Morocco), Asia (Japan, China, South Korea) and Australia.
- EBRD's core operations pertain to **private sector development** in their countries of operation.
- The minimum initial investment towards the membership of EBRD will be approximately one million Euros.

### Recent developments

- The Union Cabinet has approved India's membership for EBRD and shareholders of EBRD also voted for India's full membership.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has recently signed a pact for cooperation on energy projects.

## 2.24 International Vaccine Institute

- IVI, an International Organisation is headquartered at Seoul, South Korea and established based on the initiatives of UNDP.
- It is devoted to developing and introducing new and improved vaccines to protect the people against infectious diseases.
- India is a long-term collaborator and stakeholder of IVI since 2007.
- With the change in governance structure in 2012, India becomes a full member of its governing council with the cabinet approval.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed a MoU with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for collaborating on vaccine research and development.
- One of the most successful collaborations of IVI with India was on the development of Shanchol, the world's first low-cost oral cholera vaccine.
- The vaccine was licensed in India in 2009 and WHO-prequalified in 2011.

## 2.25 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.

## 2.26 RIMES

- Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an intergovernmental institution for the generation and application of early warning information.
- It was established in 2009, evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.
- It works with a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.
- It operates from its regional early warning center in Thailand.
- Recently, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ministerial meeting of RIMES, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) inaugurated the Ocean Forecasting System for Comoros, Madagascar, and Mozambique.
- The meeting was held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

## 2.27 Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

- It is a regional Inter – Governmental and autonomous institution which came into existence in 1979 at the initiative of the countries of Asia Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) with support from several other UN bodies and donors.
- India is one of the key founder members of this Organization.
- Its Headquarters is located at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The objective of CIRDAP is to promote regional cooperation and act as a serving institution for its member countries for promotion of integrated rural development through research action, training, information dissemination etc.
- Recently, Union cabinet has approved an agreement between Ministry of Rural Development and CIRDAP for establishment of CIRDAP Centre at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad.

## 3. INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

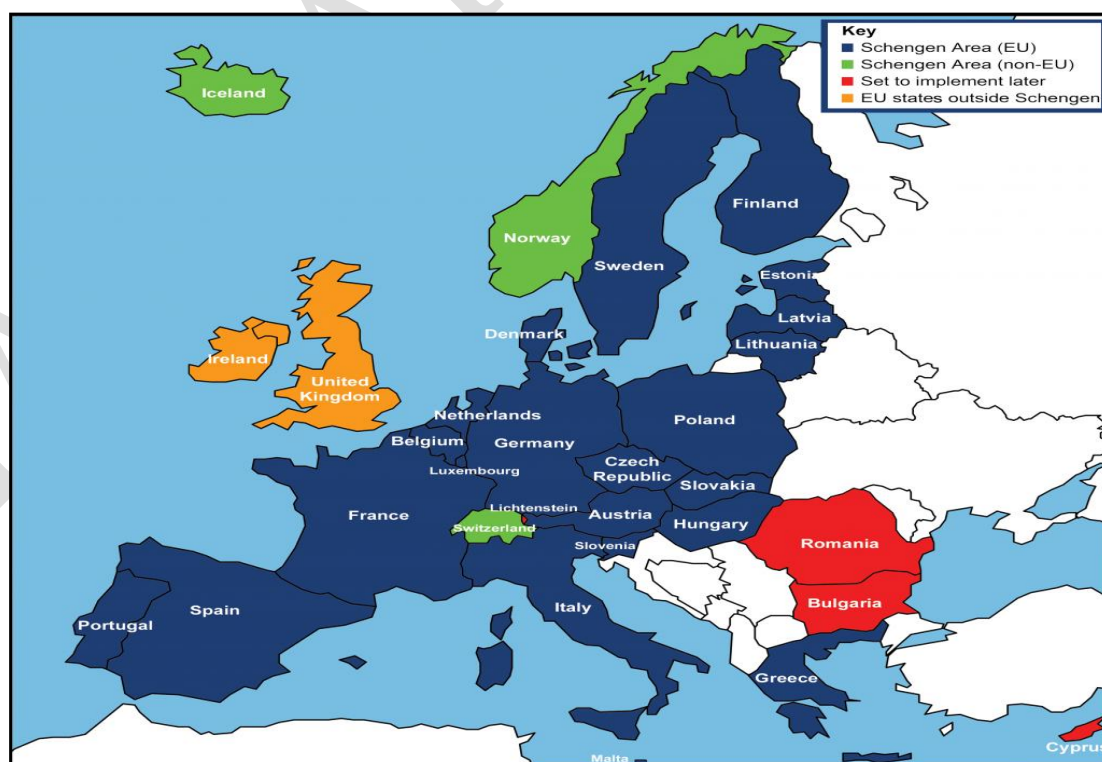
### 3.1 Common Wealth of Nations

- 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 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.

### 3.2 European Union

- The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe.
- Even after the BREXIT, for the time being, the United Kingdom remains a full member of the EU and rights and obligations continue to fully apply in and to the UK.
- 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.
- The Union reached its current size of 28 member countries with the accession of Croatia on 1 July 2013.
- 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.



### European Commission

- The European Commission (EC) is an institution of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU
- The Commission was to act as an independent supranational authority separate from governments.
- The Commission's Headquarters is in Brussels.

- The commission consists of a President and commissioners from the 28-member nations.
- European commission will publish a paper setting out the prospects of giving membership to six countries by 2025
- The countries are Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia.

### 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.
- The headquarters of the Council of Europe are in Strasbourg, France.
- It has 47 member states and is distinct from the European Union (EU).
- Some of the outside EU members in Council of Europe are Russia, Iceland, Switzerland, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Canada, U.S, Mexico, Israel.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- Recently, the court has ruled against the Russian government, that it violated the Article 2 of the convention in its planning and use of lethal force to tackle the hostage crisis in Beslan region.

### European Court of Human Rights

- The European Court of Human Rights is an international court set up in Strasbourg, France in 1959.
- It rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.
- It is a full-time court and individuals can apply to it directly and its judgments are binding on the countries concerned.
- The Court monitors respect for the human rights in the 47 Council of Europe member States that have ratified the Convention.

### 3.3 Eurasia Economic Union

- India is set to formalize a free trade agreement with Eurasia Economic Union.
- The Eurasian Economic Union comprises Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
- The treaty on the Eurasian Economic union was signed in 2015.





## Institutions of EAEU

- **Eurasian Economic Council** is the supreme body of the union consisting of all Head of the member states. It is similar to European Council.
- **Eurasian Intergovernmental Council** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of intergovernmental institution consisting of the Prime Ministers of member states.
- **Eurasian Economic Commission** is the executive body similar to European Commission and day to day work is done by this body and **Court of the EAEU** is the judicial organ.

### 3.4 EFTA

- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a bloc comprising of four countries - Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- The four EFTA countries are not part of the European Union.
- **India – EFTA pact** - India and EFTA started negotiating a free trade pact in 2008, shortly after India started FTA talks with the European Union.
- The agreement is expected to promote economic ties between the countries.
- The talks resumed last year in Geneva but hit a rough patch after the Switzerland insists on stringent IPR regime in India.
- This is mainly due to number of Swiss pharmaceutical MNCs, including Novartis and Roche, having been aggressively fighting for their patent rights in India over the past few years.
- The other areas covered by the proposed FTA include market access in goods, services, investments and public procurement

### 3.5 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- NATO is an intergovernmental political and military alliance between several North American and European states.
- NATO is committed to the principle that an attack against one or several of its members is considered as an attack against all. This is the **principle of collective defence**, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the **Washington Treaty**.
- NATO's cores tasks as: collective defence, crisis-management and cooperative security.
- NATO Headquarters is the political and administrative centre of the Alliance. It is located in Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO is an Alliance that consists of 28 independent member countries across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and Croatia.

### 3.6 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.
- 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.
- 2018 meet scheduled to be held at Quebec, Canada. 2017 meeting was held in Italy.

### 3.7 Financial Action Task Force

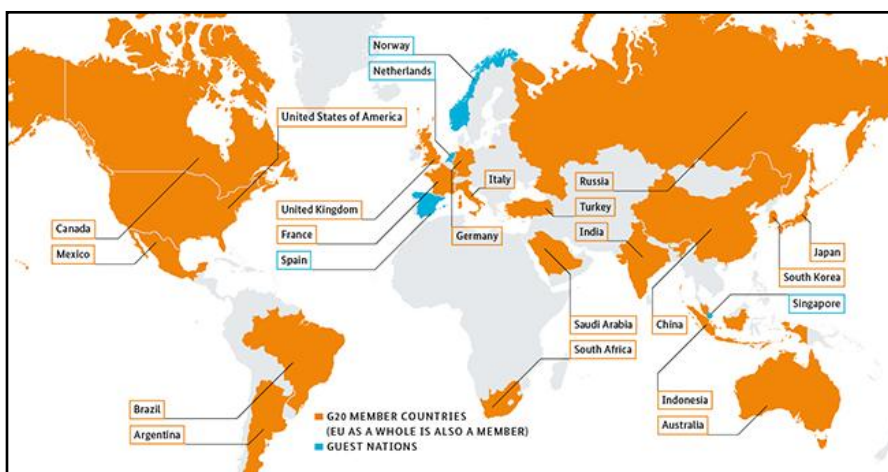
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was set up in 1989 by the western G7 countries, with headquarters in Paris.
- The objectives are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for **combating money laundering, terrorist financing** and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- It is therefore a “**policy-making body**” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- It is empowered to curtail financing of UN-designated terrorist groups.
- It can publicly sensor countries that are not abiding by its norms.
- FATF has 37 members that include all 5 permanent members of the Security Council, and other countries with economic influence.
- Two regional organisations, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Commission (EC) are also its members.
- Saudi Arabia and Israel are “observer countries” (partial membership).
- India became a full member in 2010.

#### Recent Developments

- FATF has grey listed Pakistan for its alleged laxity in curtailing finances of terrorist groups within its soil.
- The move was initiated by the U.S. and will now place Pakistan under international scrutiny to prove its compliance with FATF norms.

### 3.8 G20

- The G20 is an international forum that brings together **the world's 20 leading industrialised and emerging economies**.
- It acts as a 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.
- The G20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff.
- 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.
- 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.

- Though the G20's primary focus is global economic governance, the themes of its summits vary from year to year.
- 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 IMF, 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.

### Recent developments

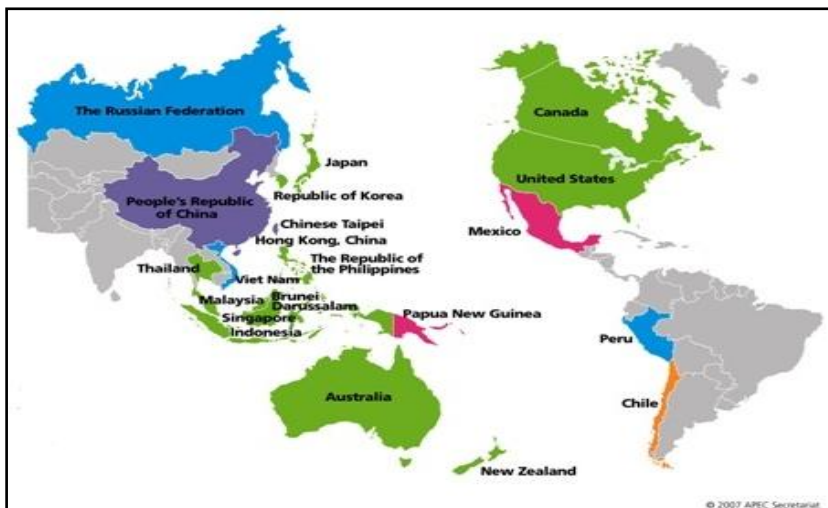
- 2017 summit was held at Hamburg, Germany and its outcome G20 Hamburg Action Plan.
- It laid out the group's strategy for achieving strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
- It was the first-ever G20 "digital ministers" meeting.

### 3.9 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.

### 3.10 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- It is 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.
- India is not in the grouping.



### Recent developments

- APEC 2017 summit was recently held in the city of Danang, Vietnam.

- At the summit, Ministers from 11 Asia-Pacific countries have decided to go ahead with the trade deal “Trans-pacific partnership” without the United States.

### 3.11 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.

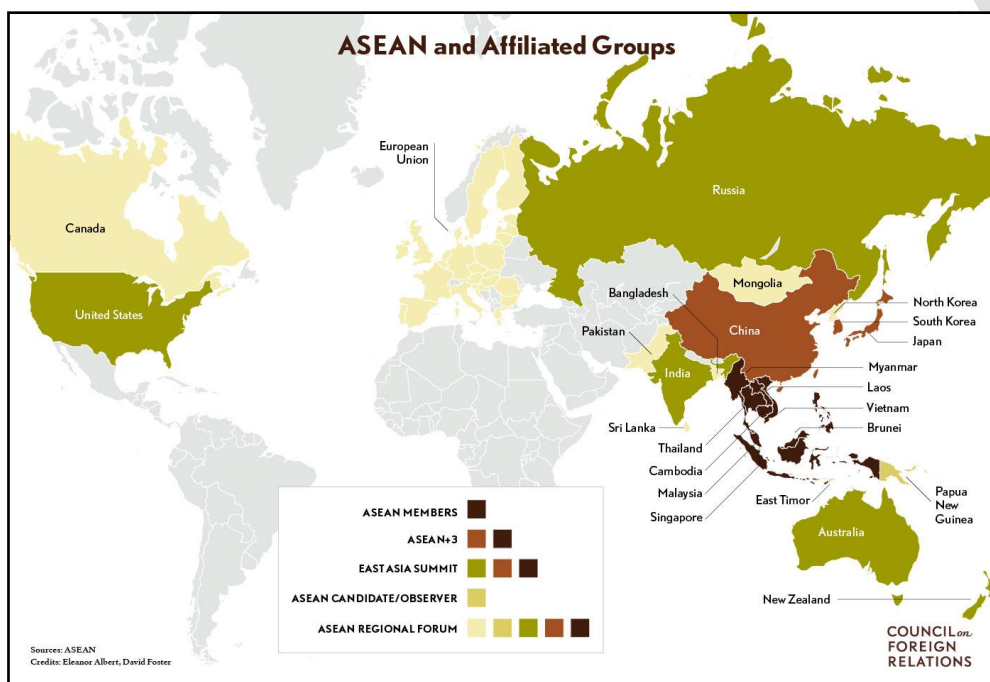
#### Recent Developments

- Philippines recently hosted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia summits (EAS) in 2017, which commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN.
- ASEAN – INDIA Connectivity Summit** - It is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The summit with the theme “Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century” was held in New Delhi.
- Vietnam and Cambodia has participated from the ASEAN side.
- India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit** was held recently, marking 25 years of India-ASEAN ties.
- The ‘**Delhi Declaration**’ was released after the summit.
- The declaration urges countries to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in combating transnational crimes, including people smuggling, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime.

#### Key mentions in Delhi Declaration

- MARITIME** - ASEAN-India **cooperation in the maritime domain** was one of the key focus areas.
- Growth and development for the **Indo-Pacific region** was the prime objective behind this agenda.
- Shared vision for peace and prosperity through a **rules-based order for the oceans and seas** was emphasized.
- Respect for international law, notably **UNCLOS** (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) was stressed as critical.
- The reference to **freedom of navigation** and UNCLOS came in the backdrop of China’s position on the disputed South China Sea.
- Humanitarian and disaster relief, and security cooperation were also agreed as areas of cooperation.
- Support for the implementation of Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the **South China Sea (DOC)** was expressed.

- **TERRORISM** - Close cooperation among countries for combating terrorism, especially **cross border movement** of terrorists found mention.
- **ECONOMY** - The declaration called upon the states to intensify efforts towards finalising the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.
- India proposed a framework to ASEAN for cooperation in the **blue economy** sector.
- It offered to set up **digital villages** in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- This would be by utilising the \$1 billion line of credit for connectivity.
- **Besides**, 2019 will be marked as the **year of India-ASEAN tourism** by both the sides.



### 3.12 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).

### 3.13 Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- The Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an exclusively Asian–European forum, established in 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It currently has 51 nations from the European Union and South Asia and 2 regional organisations (ASEAN, EU) as partners.
- India is also a member.
- 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.
- The grouping is a platform for non-binding discussion on economic and trade issues.
- 7th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting was recently held in Seoul.
- ASEM summits, attended by the Heads of State and Government of member countries have been once in two years.
- Last year, Ulaanbaatar declaration to resolve fight against terrorism was signed in the summit.

### 3.14 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.

### Recent Developments

- **National Knowledge Network** is a project initiated by India aims to connect all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across the country to provide secure and reliable connectivity.
- Recently, India decided to extend it to SAARC countries for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- India excluded Pakistan from this initiative and it is the only SAARC nation to be left out from this.
- It started the process of expansion by appointing a telecom company for each of the 6 SAARC nations that will connect and extend the NKN to research and education networks.



- The leading mission oriented agencies in the fields of nuclear, space and defence research are also part of NKN.

### 3.15 Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative

- It is the regional sub-grouping India had planned for **ease of access among the four countries**.
- It was an alternative proposed by the government after Pakistan rejected the Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) at the SAARC summit in Kathmandu in 2014.
- It seeks to allow trucks and other commercial vehicles to ply on one another's highways to facilitate trade.
- 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.
- Of the other SAARC members, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are not connected by land, and Afghanistan could only be connected if Pakistan was on board.
- 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.

#### Recent developments

- Bhutan recently announced that it is unable to proceed with the **Motor Vehicles Agreement** with Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- The upper house of Bhutan parliament has refused to ratify the MVA that was originally signed by all four BBIN countries in 2015.
- The main concern expressed by Bhutanese citizen groups and politicians is over **increased vehicular and air pollution**.

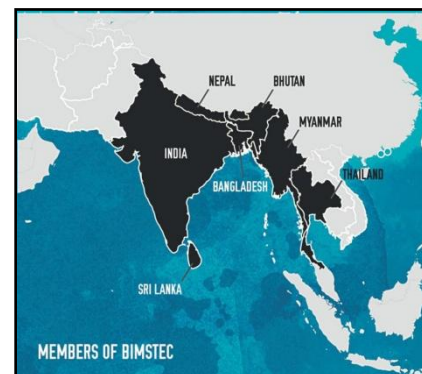
### 3.16 Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM)

- 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 and Manipur 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.



### 3.17 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.



- 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. Accordingly, 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.

### Recent Developments

- Recently, the first phase of the First '**BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017**' is being organized by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of India.
- It was decided in the 17th BIMSTEC meeting held in Kathmandu in February 2017 that India would organize the first annual Disaster Management Exercise for the region.
- The exercise is seen as a platform for sharing best practices of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Disaster management among all 7 nations of BIMSTEC.
- **Coastal Shipping Agreement** – It is drafted by the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India.
- It would apply to coastal shipping (i.e) shipping within 20 nautical miles of the coastline.
- The objective is to facilitate coastal shipping by promoting lot of cargo movement between the member countries through the cost effective, environment friendly and faster coastal shipping routing.
- It is expected to give a boost to trade between the member countries.
- Coastal ship movements require smaller vessels and lesser draft, and therefore, involve lower costs.
- **Bodhi Parva** - It is a BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage held recently in New Delhi.
- It is celebrated as a part of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BIMSTEC.
- 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.
- It will help in building an awareness of BIMSTEC's rich and common heritage.

### 3.18 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 has hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit at Xiamen province.
- 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.

### Recent Developments

- **Xiamen Declaration** of BRICS forum was recently adopted in its 9<sup>th</sup> summit.
- It explicitly called out several Pakistan-based terror organisations and expressed concern on the security situation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

- It also referred to violence caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and its affiliates, including the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement Haqqani network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan etc.
- **Local Currency Credit Line Agreement** – Indian government has recently given its approval to EXIM Bank for signing Interbank
- With this agreement, the bank can now enter into bilateral agreement for co-financing with large developmental institutions to ensure lending in single currency.
- Bank also signed MoU related to credit ratings, which would enable sharing of credit ratings amongst BRICS member banks.
- The agreement and the MoU have been highlighted in the BRICS leaders Xiamen Declaration adopted in BRICS summit, 2017.
- **Beijing Declaration on Education** was adopted in the 5th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education held in Beijing, China.
- The declaration calls for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (**SDG4**)-**Education 2030**.
- SDG4 - “Ensure inclusive and equitable, quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”.



### 3.19 IBSA

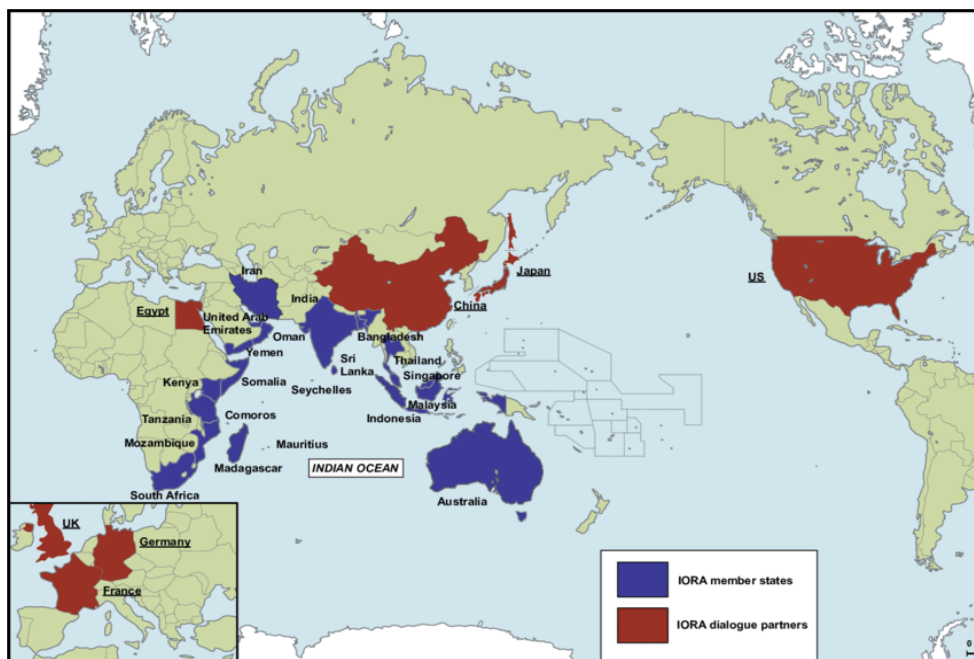
- The IBSA Dialogue Forum is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among India, Brazil, and South Africa.
- The IBSA Dialogue forum was formalized through the adoption of the "**Brasilia Declaration**".
- The IBSA Dialogue forum facilitates regular consultations 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.
- 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.

#### Recent developments

- 8th IBSA Ministerial Trilateral Commission meeting was held in Durban, South Africa.
- In the meeting, the countries have signed the **IBSA Trust Fund Agreement** that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries.
- Each country contributes USD 1 million annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

### 3.20 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, Somalal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.
- Neither Pakistan nor Myanmar are member of IORA.

### 3.21 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.

### 3.22 South Asia Sub-regional economic cooperation (SASEC)

- SASEC is a project based partnership established in 2001 with founder member countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal.
- Maldives and Sri Lanka joined SASEC in 2014.
- Recently, Myanmar becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> member of SASEC.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the Secretariat for the SASEC member countries.
- It aims to promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity, boosting trade among member countries, and strengthening regional economic cooperation.
- It seeks to strengthen multimodal cross-border transport networks that boost intraregional trade and open up trade opportunities with East and Southeast Asia.
- **SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program** aims at upgradation of road infrastructure in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India (BBIN).
- The project corridor is also a part of the Asian Highway No. 01 (AH01) and acts as India's Gateway to the East.



- 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.

### 3.23 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.

### 3.24 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.
- Russia is not a member of OPEC.
- 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.
- 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.



### 3.25 International Energy Forum

- It consists of 72 member countries, aiming to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of **common energy interests** among its members.
- Its member countries are accounting for around 90% of global supply and demand for oil and gas.
- It is unique because it comprises not only countries of the IEA and OPEC, but also other major players outside of IEA and OPEC, including Argentina, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa.
- The Forum's biennial Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers.
- It is promoting the Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER) which is a biennial event bringing together Energy Ministers and experts from Asian countries.
- The seventh AMER is going to be held in Bangkok.
- India is the current Chair of IEF and will host the 16th Ministerial Conference of the IEF in April 2018.

### 3.26 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.
- 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.

### 3.27 TPP

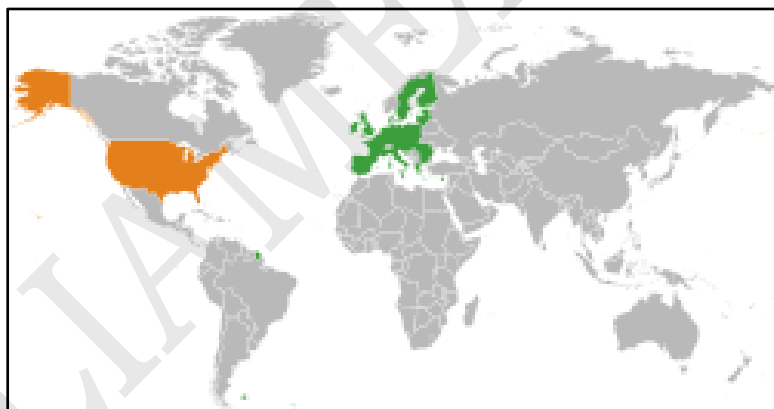
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.
- But United States has come out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) after Trump's election.
- The finalized proposal 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 is 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.

### 3.28 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.



### 3.29 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.

### 3.30 MERCOSUR

- It is sub regional bloc with members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.
- Venezuela was suspended from membership in 2016.



- 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.
- India and the Mercosur bloc have stepped up efforts to expand their preferential trade agreement (PTA) to make greater inroads into the other's market.

### 3.31 Gulf Cooperation Council

- The Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional political and economic alliance of six Gulf States.
- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are the member countries.
- It is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Its aim is to achieve ever closer union between the energy rich Gulf countries.
- The UAE has recently announced that it has formed a new economic and partnership group with Saudi Arabia, separate from the GCC.
- This move could undermine the popularity of GCC.

### 3.32 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- OIC is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states.
- Its administrative centre is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Turkey currently holds the chairmanship of the organization.
- India is not a member to this organisation.
- The organisation works to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.
- At the recently held summit in Turkey, it has declared "East Jerusalem" as the capital of Palestine, rejecting the US stance as "dangerous".

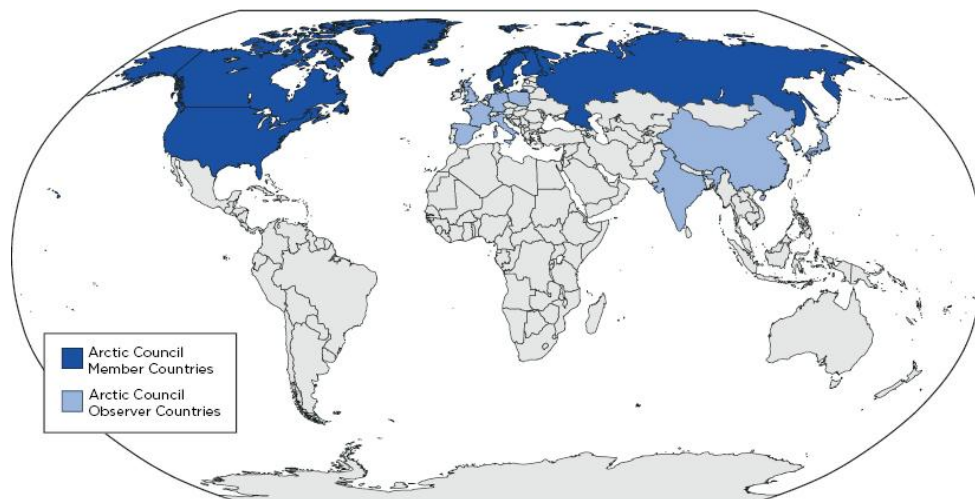
### 3.33 Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- 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.



### 3.34 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.

### 3.35 World Petroleum Congress

- World Petroleum Congress is widely recognized as the '**Olympics**' of the oil and gas industry.
- It is conducted tri-annually and various countries in World Petroleum Council bid to host the session in their country.
- Turkey has won the bid to host 22<sup>nd</sup> World Petroleum Congress – 2017.
- It attracts Ministers, CEOs of Oil and Gas MNCs, experts and academics from the hydrocarbon sectors, and provides an ideal forum to showcase the potential of hydrocarbon sector in various countries.
- **World Petroleum council** – It is a non-advocacy, non-political organisation with charitable status in the U.K. and has accreditation as a Non-Governmental Organization from the United Nations.
- The WPC is dedicated to the promotion of sustainable management and use of world's petroleum resources for the benefit of all.

### 3.36 World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

- WTTC, a forum for the travel and tourism industry, is made up of members from the global business community and works with governments to raise awareness about the industry.

- It is headquartered in London and it organises global summit every year.
- It is known for being the only forum to represent the private sector in all parts of the travel and tourism industry worldwide.
- It publishes research in conjunction with Oxford Economics on the economic and social impact of the industry.
- In its recent report on the Caribbean region, it states that the hurricanes Irma and Maria which struck Dominica, Puerto Rico has caused widespread devastation in its tourism potential.
- In the Caribbean region, travel and tourism account for a higher share of the GDP than in any other region of the world.

### 3.37 Nuclear Security Group (NSG)

- It 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.
- 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).

### 3.38 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)

- 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.

### 3.39 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.
- 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.



## Recent Developments

- Recently the Australia Group decided to admit India as its 43rd participant.
- India's entry would contribute to international security and non-proliferation objectives.

### 3.40 Wassenaar Arrangement

- Wassenaar arrangement focuses on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.
- It is a **multilateral export control regime** which became operational in 1996.
- It was composed of 41 countries. India has been admitted as the 42<sup>nd</sup> member of Wassenaar Arrangement.
- The Secretariat is located in Vienna (Austria).
- Export controls are implemented by each individual participating State based on the Wassenaar arrangement list.
- All decisions are taken by consensus and the deliberations are kept in confidence.
- It is not a treaty, and therefore is not legally binding.
- Members are admitted based on the consensus of the existing members.
- 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.
- U.S backed the admission of India in the aftermath of signing of civil nuclear cooperation in 2005.
- Barring China, all permanent members of UNSC are signatories.
- Israel is also not a member, but both the countries have aligned their export controls with Wassenaar lists.
- Upon becoming the member, India will get access to high technology which will help address the demands of Indian Space and defence sectors.
- It will also boost India's chances of joining Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- 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.

### 3.41 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, where as India is not.

## 4. TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

### 4.1 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.

#### 4.2 Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted recently in the United Nations
- Nuclear weapons – unlike chemical weapons, biological weapons, landmines and cluster munitions – are not prohibited in a comprehensive and universal manner.
- Even the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 and nuclear-weapon-free zone contains only partial prohibitions.
- This treaty is the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament.
- It prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon related activities, such as undertaking to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
- It also prohibits the use or threat of use of these weapons as well.
- It will serve as an "unambiguous political commitment" to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world and act as a moral pressure.
- It was hoped that the new treaty will promote inclusive dialogue and renewed international cooperation aimed at achieving the long overdue objective of nuclear disarmament.
- 122 of the 124 nations that participated in the negotiations had voted in favour of the treaty.
- The treaty will enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by at least 50 countries.
- The eight nuclear weapon states i.e US, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan and North Korea along with Israel had not participated in the negotiations.
- India maintained that it recognises the 'Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament'-(CD) as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum & it is not convinced of the potential of the current treaty to address the disarmament issue.
- The Permanent Representatives of the US, UK and France are of the view that the treaty does not recognize the importance of nuclear deterrence.
- In the backdrop of the grave threat posed by North Korea's nuclear programme, they feel that the treaty could ruin peace and stability.



#### 4.3 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.
- 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).

#### 4.4 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.
- An additional six states have signed the BWC but have yet to ratify the treaty.
- However, the absence of any formal verification regime to monitor compliance has limited the effectiveness of the Convention.
- Permitted purposes under the BWC are defined as prophylactic, protective and other peaceful purposes.

#### 4.5 BIO International Convention

- The BIO International Convention is hosted by the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO).
- Recently, BIO 2017 was held in San Diego and India is represented by Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.
- The key benefits of attending the BIO International Convention are access to global biotech and pharma leaders via BIO One-on-One Partnering, exposure to industry thought-leaders and networking opportunities.
- BIO is the largest trade organization in the world that represents the biotechnology industry.
- The organization was found in 1993 and its members include companies that make Pharmaceutical drugs, biofuels, industrial enzymes, and genetically modified crops.
- The **Biotechnology Heritage Award** presented annually at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO).
- The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of biotechnology through discovery, innovation, and public understanding.

#### 4.6 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.
- The core principle is **non-refoulement**, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.
- UNHCR serves as the 'guardian' of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
- The 1967 Protocol broadens the applicability of the 1951 Convention. The 1967 Protocol removes the geographical and time limits that were part of the 1951 Convention.
- 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.
- The convention also asks the contracting states not to,
  1. Discriminate against refugees,
  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.

#### 4.7 Bali Declaration

- Indian parliamentary delegation refused to be a part of the Bali declaration adopted recently in Indonesia.
- The declaration was adopted at the 'World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development', in Indonesia.
- It went on to "call on all parties to contribute to the restoration of stability and security, exercise maximum self-restraint from using violent means.
- It claimed to respect the human rights of all people in Rakhine State regardless of their faith and ethnicity, as well as facilitate safe access for humanitarian assistance.
- The declaration adopted carried "inappropriate" reference to the violence in Rakhine State from where 1,25,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh.
- India repeated its stance that the purpose of convening the parliamentary forum was to arrive at a mutual consensus for implementation of SDGs.
- The proposed reference to the violence in Rakhine State in the declaration was considered as not consensus-based and inappropriate.
- India senses that the conclusion of the Forum was not in line with the agreed global principles of 'sustainable development.
- India objected forum's view on Myanmar, as never before country specific issues have been included in the declaration, because doing so dilutes the objective of these forums.

#### 4.8 UN Convention on Torture

- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the "Torture Convention") was adopted by UNGA in 1984.
- The Convention entered into force in 1987 after it had been ratified by 20 States.
- India has signed the convention in 1997 but yet to ratify it.
- It is ratified by 161 nations including Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.
- India is among the only nine countries worldwide which are yet to ratify this crucial convention.
- It requires amendment to Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to accommodate provisions regarding compensation and burden of proof.
- This UN convention will help to tide over difficulties in extraditing criminals from foreign countries due to the absence of a law preventing harsh treatment by authorities.
- Some of the key provisions are,
  - i. Prohibition against torture shall be absolute and be upheld even in a state of War.
  - ii. Each State party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture and consider it as a criminal offence within the legal system.
  - iii. Each State party shall ensure to victims of torture an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation
  - iv. No expel or extradition of a person to a State where there are substantial grounds for danger and being subjected to torture.
  - v. State shall ensure that that an individual who alleges that he has been subjected to torture will have his case examined by the competent authorities.

vi. State shall take a person suspected of the offence of torture into custody and initiate investigation or extradite that person.

- The Law Commission of India recommended that the government should ratify a UN convention on torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.
- Law Commission also recommended life in jail for public servants convicted of torture.

#### 4.9 Warsaw Convention

- It refers to an international agreement that defines the rules and regulations that govern civil aviation.
- It defines the potential liability that an international carrier faces with regards to the air transport of people and luggage of various kinds.
- It helps provide a common framework for dispute resolution between parties belonging to different countries.
- **Montreal Convention** is a multilateral treaty adopted by member states of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- It amended important provisions of the Warsaw Convention's regime concerning compensation for the victims of air disasters.

#### 4.10 Convention on Supplementary Compensation for nuclear Damage (CSC)

- CSC is 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.

#### 4.11 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.
- 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 and the total membership is 138.
- While MTCR has a similar mission, it is an export group with only 35 members.

#### 4.12 International Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

- CWC is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- 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.



- 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.
- Chlorine gas is highly toxic, but being widely used for peaceful purposes, is **not** officially listed as a chemical weapon.
- 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.
- 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.
- e.g Thiodiglycol which can be used in the manufacture of mustard agents, but is also used as a solvent in inks.

#### 4.13 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

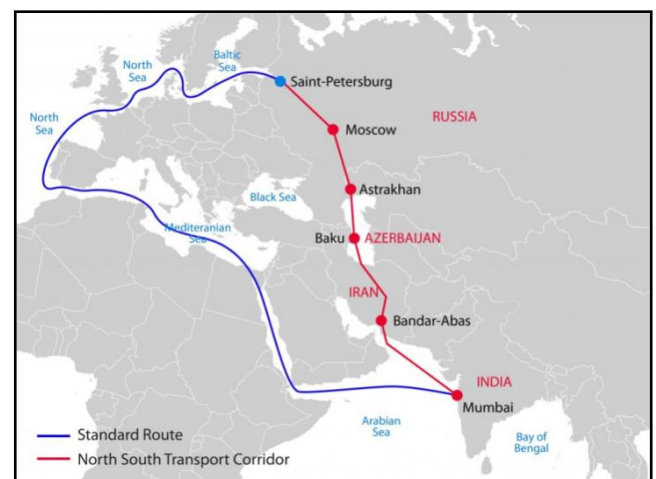
- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 is an international treaty that defines a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries.
- It specifies the privileges of a diplomatic mission that enable diplomats to perform their function without fear of coercion or harassment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

#### 4.14 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.

#### 4.15 TIR Convention

- India became the 71st country to ratify the United Nations TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention.
- TIR Convention is an international transit system under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It came into force from 1975.
- The TIR Convention facilitates the international carriage



of goods from one or more customs offices of departure to one or more customs offices of destination (up to a total of four customs offices departure and destination) and through as many countries as necessary.

- It would enable India to move goods seamlessly along the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and also boosting trade with the Central Asian Republics and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

#### 4.16 Ashgabat agreement

- The Ashgabat Agreement aims to create multi modal international transport transit corridor.
- It has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members. Kazakhstan has also joined this arrangement subsequently.
- Pakistan joined Ashgabat agreement in 2016.
- India decided to accede to Ashgabat agreement in 2016.
- Recently India has received the consent of the founding members of the agreement and it India has become member of the agreement.
- Accession to the Agreement would enable India to utilize this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region.
- Further, this would synchronise with our efforts to implement the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for enhanced connectivity.
- The Lapis Lazuli Corridor is an agreement between Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey seeking to foster transit and trade cooperation by reducing barriers facing transit trade.

#### 4.17 India's Law on Antarctica

- In future, Antarctica might see more tourists, over-exploited fisheries, disputes and crime.
- India is also expanding its infrastructure development in Antarctica.
- Dakshin Gangotri, the first Indian base established in 1984, has weakened and become just a supply base.
- The government is rebuilding its station, Maitri, to make it bigger and long lasting.
- India also acceded to the Antarctica Treaty.
- Keeping these in mind, India is drafting a dedicated Antarctica policy and a law.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences is tasked with drafting the law.
- Countries like South Africa and Australia already have specific laws.
- **Antarctic Treaty** is framed to ensure that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene of international conflict.
- It prohibits military activity, except in support of science.
- It also prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste.
- It promotes scientific research and the exchange of data and suspends all territorial claims.
- **Signing a treaty** means of authentication and expresses just the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty-making process.
- **Ratification** indicates the state's consent to be bound to a treaty if the parties intended to show their consent by such an act.
- **Accession** is the act whereby a state accepts the offer to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states.
- It has the same legal effect as ratification except that it occurs after the treaty has entered into force.

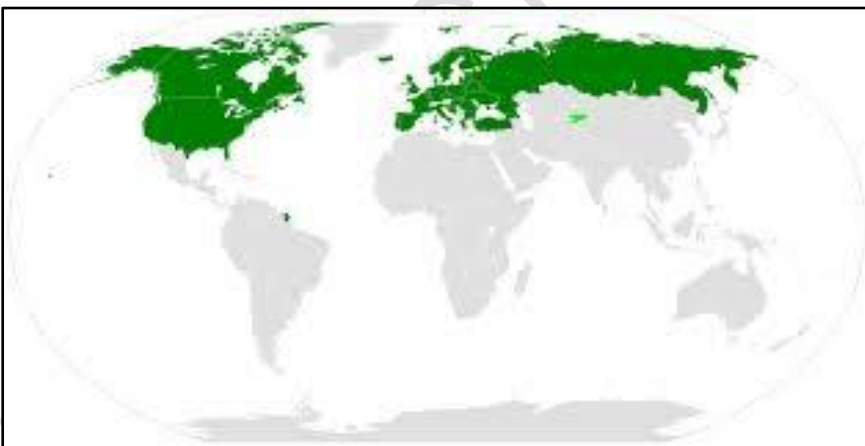
#### 4.18 U.S withdrew from Paris Agreement

- U.S withdrew from the 2015 Paris climate agreement.
- The new U.S administration is of the view that the Paris agreement as a deal is aimed to disadvantage and impoverish the US.
- U.S said that it would cost the US \$3tn in lost GDP and 6.5 million jobs while rival economies like China and India were treated more favourably.

- The 'domino effect' might force a few other countries to follow suit.
- US payments to the UN Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries cope with the effects of climate change, will stop.
- During 2010-15, the US significantly increased its climate-related spending and outward investment in developing countries.
- It committed nearly \$15.6 billion on bilateral programmes for promoting clean energy, sustainable infrastructure and land use.
- This by itself is a threat to keeping global warming within safe levels.
- U.S. is also not likely to fulfil its obligation to provide support for the implementation of NDCs by other countries.

#### 4.19 Open Skies Treaty

- The Treaty on Open Skies establishes a regime of **unarmed aerial observation flights** over the territories of its signatories.
- The Treaty is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants, a direct role in gathering information through aerial imaging on military forces and activities of concern to them.
- The treaty is one of the most wide-ranging international arms control efforts to date to promote openness and transparency in military forces and activities.
- Currently, it has 34 member states. Russia and U.S. are signatories to the treaty.



#### 4.20 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.
- 107 countries are parties to this treaty, including India.
- It was formulated to bar its signatory countries from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit of the Earth, on the Moon or any other celestial body or the 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.

#### 4.21 Raisina Dialogue

- It is India's flagship conference of Geopolitics and geo-economics held annually in New Delhi.
- It is organized by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank in India.
- The conference is committed to address the most challenging issues facing the global community.
- The first inaugural session was held in March 2016 with the theme "Connecting Asia".
- The theme of the dialogue this year (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) is Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was inaugurated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



#### **4.22 World Future Energy Summit**

- The World Future Energy Summit (WFES) is an annual event, dedicated to advancing future energy, energy efficiency and clean technologies.
- It will be held in Abu Dhabi every year and it includes a summit, an exhibition, Round Table Discussions, the Young Future Energy Leaders program, corporate meetings and social events.
- International policy makers, industry leaders, investors, experts, academia, intellectuals and journalists will be participating the summit.
- International Solar Alliance participated in the recently held WFES.

#### **4.23 World Government Summit**

- The World Government Summit is an annual event held in Dubai, UAE.
- It brings together leaders in government for a global dialogue about governmental process and policies with a focus on the issues of futurism, technology and innovation.
- The first World Government Summit was held in Dubai in 2013, and has been held annually since then.
- In 2017, the World Government Summit held the first Global Dialogue for Happiness, a one-day event prior to the summit.

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