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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ORGANIZATIONS**





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## **INDEX**

1. **India-Gabon bilateral Relation**
2. **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**
3. **Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI)**
4. **30X30 by 2030**
5. **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**
6. **Shimla Agreement**
7. **Mekong - Lancang Cooperation**
8. **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
9. **I2U2**
10. **Gulf Cooperation Council**
11. **International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)**
12. **Bilateral Air Service Agreement**
13. **Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)**
14. **New START Treaty**
15. **UN sanctions**
16. **Universal Postal Union**
17. **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**
18. **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**
19. **Taiwan Strait**
20. **Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)**
21. **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**
22. **Wassenaar Arrangement**
23. **Kushiyara water treaty**
24. **Eastern Economic Forum**
25. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
26. **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**
27. **Crisis in Caucasus**
28. **International Finance Corporation**
29. **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)**
30. **Group of Four (G-4) Countries**
31. **Asian Palm Oil Alliance**
32. **Rotterdam Convention**
33. **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):**
34. **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**
35. **Black Sea Grain initiative**
36. **19th ASEAN-India Summit**

37. Carbon Border Tax
38. Nord stream
39. Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)
40. Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
41. Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2022)
42. India Assumes Presidency Of UN Security Council
43. Lusophone world
44. International Year of Millets
45. India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs
46. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)
47. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
48. International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
49. Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG AnGR)
50. Indus Water Treaty (IWT)
51. Non-Aligned Movement
52. Ukraine's Odesa in UNESCO's World Heritage List
53. Paris Club
54. Operation Dost
55. Official Development Assistance
56. Windsor Framework
57. UN High Seas Treaty
58. India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP)
59. Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement
60. Green Climate Fund
61. Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)
62. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
63. International Criminal Court (ICC)
64. India's G20 Presidency
65. Interpol Red Notice
66. GISAID
67. Bali Peace Clause

## 1. India-Gabon bilateral Relation


### In News

Vice President kick-starts the first ever high-level tour to Gabon.

### About

- India and Gabon have enjoyed warm and friendly relations dating back to pre-independence era of Gabon. Gabon has supported India's candidature at various international forums.
- Gabon has large oil reserves, mineral as well other natural resources. It is the world's second largest producer of manganese.
- Gabon was among the first countries to sign and ratify the International Solar Alliance agreement and that it plans to have 100% clean energy by 2030.



## Gabon



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### Gabon

- Gabon is a country on the west coast of Central Africa.
- Located on the equator.
- Capital - Libreville
- Borders
  - Northwest - Equatorial Guinea
  - North - Cameroon
  - East and South - Republic of the Congo
  - West - Gulf of Guinea
- Topography - There are coastal plains, mountains (the Cristal Mountains and the Chaillu Massif in the centre), and a savanna in the east.
- Language - French
- Ethnicity - Bantu ethnic groups constitute around 95% of the country's population
- International Relations - Member of UN , World Bank , African Union , OPEC, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); the Nonaligned Movement; and the Economic Community of Central African States

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## 2. International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

### In News

India to contest for re-election to International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council.

### What is it?

➤ *The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.*

- Founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, it allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs.

➤ **Role of ITU:**

- **ITU makes phone calls possible:** whether to the office next door or to a friend in another country. ITU standards, protocols and international agreements are the essential elements underpinning the global telecommunication system.
- **ITU coordinates the world's satellites** through the management of spectrum and orbits, bringing you television, vehicle GPS navigation, maritime and aeronautical communications, weather information and online maps, and enabling communications in even the remotest parts of the planet.
- **ITU makes Internet access possible.** The majority of Internet connections are facilitated by ITU standards.
- **ITU helps support communications in the wake of disasters and emergencies** – through on-the-ground assistance, dedicated emergency communications channels, technical standards for early warning systems, and practical help in rebuilding after a catastrophe.
- **ITU works with the industry to define the new technologies** that will support tomorrow's networks and services.
- **ITU powers the mobile revolution**, forging the technical standards and policy frameworks that make mobile and broadband possible.

## 3. Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI)

### In News

Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and Australia for Technical Cooperation for Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI).

### What is it?

➤ The **Australia-India Water Security Initiative** delivers on the commitment to strengthen water security cooperation under the auspices of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, agreed by the respective leaders.

- Australia's funding will support the exchange of the latest tools and technologies for safeguarding water supply to India's fastest growing cities, and will focus on wastewater treatment, recycling and water-sensitive city design.
- The initiative will pair Australia's expertise in water and urban design with Indian counterpart agencies and institutes – known as a “*twinning arrangement*” – to address the increasing challenges associated with providing water and sanitation to cities.
- The partnership will create opportunities for Australia's private sector to develop and implement world-leading water management systems.

#### 4. **30X30 by 2030**

##### **In News**

India assures the world community that it is committed to protect ***at least 30 % of "our" lands, waters and oceans*** and adhere to its commitment of 30X30 by 2030.

##### **What is it?**

- ***30 by 30 (or 30x30) is a worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030.***
- To prevent mass extinctions and bolster resilience to climate change, scientists warn that we must protect at least 30 percent of our lands, rivers, lakes, and wetlands by 2030.
- Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) is focused on achieving these goals while protecting diverse habitats, improving access for all people, and identifying and managing these areas in collaboration with Indigenous communities.
- The target was proposed by a 2019 article in Science Advances "A Global Deal for Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets", highlighting the need for expanded nature conservation efforts to mitigate climate change.
- 30 by 30 was promoted at the COP15 meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- \$5b funding called the “**Protecting Our Planet Challenge**” was announced for the initiative in 2021.
- India assured the world community that it is committed to protect at least 30 % of "our" lands, waters and oceans, and thus adhere to its commitment of 30X30 by 2030.
- India joined the **High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People**, which was initiated at the “One Planet Summit” in Paris in January 2021, which aims to promote an international agreement to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030.

#### 5. **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

##### **In News**

Cabinet approves Categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an ‘International Organization’.

### What is it?

- ***The CDRI is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.***
  - The CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on the 23rd September, 2019, at New York.
  - It is the second major global initiative launched by the Government of India and is a demonstration of India's leadership role in climate change and disaster resilience matters, globally.
- It aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.
- CDRI promotes rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals' imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.
- **The CDRI's strategic priorities are:**
  - Technical Support and Capacity-building
  - Research and Knowledge Management
  - Advocacy and Partnerships
- **Since its launch, thirty-one (31) Countries, six (06) International Organizations and two (02) private sector organizations have joined as members of CDRI.**
- The Union Cabinet has approved the categorization of CDRI as an 'International Organization' and signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.
- This will help the CDRI in:
  - Deputing experts to other countries, that are particularly vulnerable to disaster risk and / or require support for post disaster recovery and also bringing in experts from member countries to India, for similar purposes.
  - Deploying funds globally and receive contributions from member countries, for CDRI activities.
  - Making available technical expertise to assist countries to develop resilient infrastructure in accordance with their disaster and climate risks and resources.
  - Imparting assistance to countries in adopting appropriate risk governance arrangements and strategies for resilient infrastructure.
  - Rendering all possible support to member countries in upgrading their systems.

## 6. Shimla Agreement

### In News

The year 2022 marks the **fiftieth anniversary of the Shimla Agreement** that was signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on July 2, 1972.



### What is it?

- The agreement aimed to reverse the consequences of the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.
- Under the agreement, both the countries undertook to abjure conflict and confrontation and to work towards the establishment of durable peace, friendship and cooperation.
- **Key principles of the Agreement are as follows:**
  - A mutual commitment to the peaceful resolution of all issues through direct bilateral approaches.
  - To build the foundations of a cooperative relationship with special focus on people to people contacts.
  - To uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a most important Confidence Building Measure between India and Pakistan, and a key to durable peace.
  - Respect for each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality.
  - Both Governments will take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, the current shape to the Line of Control was given in July 1972 after the ratification of Shimla Agreement by both India and Pakistan.

## 7. Mekong - Lancang Cooperation

### In News

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will join counterparts from *Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam* in a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group in the city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Myanmar.

### What is it?

- It is a multilateral format established in 2016 for cooperation between the riparian states of the ***Lancang River and Mekong River***.
  - The Lancang is the part of the Mekong that flows through China.
  - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand are five downstream countries of the Mekong River.
- The central purpose of the format is for China to manage water flow from its hydropower dams with the other riparian states.
- The grouping is a ***Chinese-led initiative*** that includes the countries of the Mekong Delta, a potential source of regional tensions due to an increasing number of hydroelectric projects that are altering the flow and raising concerns of ecological damage.

### Mekong River

- The Mekong River originates from the glaciers of Tibet and flows through six countries before emptying into the South China Sea.
- The six countries are China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Upper Mekong River, located in Chinese territory, is called in Mandarin as “Lancang Jiang”.
- The Mekong River has been a very important lifeline for the people in South East Asia. It sustains a rich biodiversity and is the eight longest river in the world.
- It also marks the border line between Myanmar-Laos and Thailand-Laos.
- China has built many dams in its part of the Mekong River
- The **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (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 in Vientiane, Lao PDR

## 8. International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

### In News

Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) sign Agreement on commencement of Phase -2 activities of IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC).

### **What is it?**

- *The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world’s premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition through rice science.*
  - It aims to improve the health and welfare of those who depend on rice-based agri-food systems, and promote and protect the environmental sustainability of rice farming for future generations.
- IRRI is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations with support from the Philippine government. The institute has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa.
- **IRRI’s research for development is characterized by its collaborative natures:**
  - Alliances with advanced research institutes;
  - Strong collaborations and capacity development with governments and national agricultural research and extension systems;
  - Partnerships with the development sector and
  - Broker novel delivery channels through the private sector.
- IRRI will purposefully engage with global actors to inform policies and establish standards and benchmarks that transform how food is cultivated, produced, and marketed in rice-based agri-food systems.

## 9. I2U2

### In News

India to give land for I2U2-backed food parks.

### **What is it?**

- ***I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE, and the US, and was also referred to as the 'West Asian Quad'.***
  - In October 2021, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries had taken place, at that time, the grouping was called the '*International Forum for Economic Cooperation*'.
- Its aim is to discuss common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the *economic partnership in trade and investment* in our respective regions and beyond.
- Six areas of cooperation have been identified by the countries mutually, and the aim is to encourage joint investments in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
- With the help of "private sector capital and expertise", the countries will look to modernize infrastructure, explore low carbon development avenues for industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.
- The first Leaders' Summit of I2U2 was held virtually in 2022.
- India will provide appropriate land for food parks across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.
  - The food parks aimed at cutting down food waste and spoilage are a few of the collaborations that the four countries declared after the summit.
  - The UAE will invest \$2 billion in India to create the food parks.

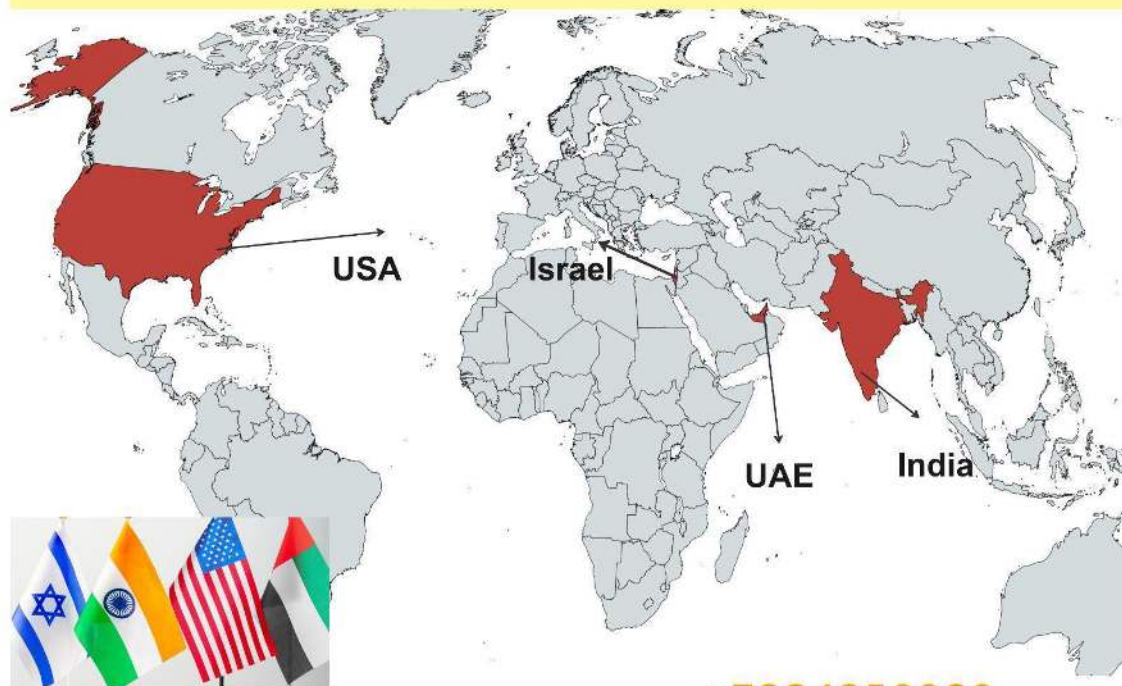
## I2U2 Initiative



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### I2U2 Initiative

- I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE, and the US, and was also referred to as the 'West Asian Quad'.
- Its stated aim is to discuss common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond.
- Six areas of cooperation have been identified by the countries mutually, and the aim is to encourage joint investments in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
- With the help of private sector capital and expertise, the countries will look to modernise infrastructure, explore low carbon development avenues for industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.



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## 10. Gulf Cooperation Council

### In News

Bilateral Trade between India and GCC grew from US\$ 87.35 billion in FY 2020-21 to US\$ 154.66 billion in FY 2021-22.

### **What is it?**

- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** was established by an agreement concluded on 25 May 1981 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives.
  - It encompasses a total area of 2,672,700 sq.km.
  - The official language is Arabic.
- The GCC Charter states that the basic objectives are to have coordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields, strengthening ties between their peoples, formulating similar regulations in various fields.
- The structure of the GCC consists of the Supreme Council, the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat General. The Secretariat is located in the city of Riyadh.
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a collective entity has tremendous significance for India. The Gulf constitutes the “immediate” neighborhood of India separated only by the Arabian Sea. India, therefore, has a vital stake in the stability, security and economic well-being of the Gulf.
- The GCC has emerged as a major trading partner for India; it has vast potential as India’s investment partner for the future. The GCC’s substantial oil and gas reserves are of vital importance for India's energy needs.
  - The GCC countries are collectively host to a large Indian expatriate community.
  - Bilateral Trade between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council grew from US\$ 87.35 billion in FY 2020-21 to US\$ 154.66 billion in FY 2021-22, registering an increase of 77.06% on a year-on-year basis.



## **11. International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)**

### **In News**

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya chairs the seminar on Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace; MoU with ILO on International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) signed.

### **What is it?**

- ***The International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) are data sheets intended to provide essential safety and health information on chemicals concisely.***
  - The primary aim of the Cards is to promote the safe use of chemicals in the workplace. The main users are workers and those responsible for occupational safety and health.
- The International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) will be used by the department to disseminate the appropriate hazard information on chemicals at the workplace in a comprehensible and easy manner.

- To date, 1784 Chemicals Safety Cards are available.
- The ICSCs are *developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO)* with cooperation of the European Commission and are regularly updated to take account of the latest scientific developments.
  - These cards are helpful for dissemination of the appropriate hazard information on chemicals to industry associations to promote safe use of chemicals in the workplace.
  - The international standards developed by ILO are adopted by India as this will not only mitigate industrial accidents but also ensure further alignment with global best practices.

## **12. Bilateral Air Service Agreement**

### **In News**

India has signed Bilateral Air Service Agreement with 116 countries.

### **What is it?**

- *A bilateral air service agreement is concluded between two contracting countries and liberalizes commercial civil aviation services between those countries.*
- The bilateral air services agreements allow to the designated airlines of those countries to operate commercial flight that covers the transport of passengers and cargoes between that two countries.
- The agreement decides how many flights (or seats) per week can be allowed to fly from one country to the other.
  - Once such an agreement is signed, each country is free to allocate the bilateral rights to its respective airlines.
  - Even after such flying rights are allocated to an airline, it must have slots at both the airports in order to start flight operations
  - A slot is a date and time at which an airline's aircraft is permitted to depart or arrive at an airport.
  - The slots are allocated by a committee that consists of civil aviation ministry and regulatory officials, airport operators and airlines, among others.
- The bilateral system has its basis under the **Convention on International Civil Aviation [Chicago Convention]**
  - The Chicago Convention determined that no scheduled international air service may be operated over or into the territory of a contracting state without their permission.
- The 116 countries with which India signed the agreement includes China, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan etc

### 13. Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)

#### In News

There is growing concern in the Government over *India not finding a place in the Minerals Security Partnership.*

#### **About the Partnership**

- **Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) is a US-led partnership initiative that aims to bolster critical mineral supply chains.**
  - The new grouping is aimed at catalyzing investment from governments and the private sector to develop strategic opportunities.
  - The new grouping could focus on the supply chains of minerals such as **Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium** and also the 17 “rare earth” minerals
- **Partners:** *Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission*
- The alliance is seen as primarily focused on evolving an alternative to China, which has created a processing infrastructure in rare earth minerals and has acquired mines in Africa for elements such as Cobalt.

*Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions.*

*These minerals are now used everywhere from making mobile phones, computers to batteries, electric vehicles and green technologies like and wind turbines.*

*Major Critical Minerals: **Graphite, Lithium and Cobalt** are used for making EV batteries.*

*Aerospace, communications and defence industries also rely on several such minerals as they are used in manufacturing fighter jets, drones, radio sets and other critical equipment.*

*While Cobalt, Nickel and Lithium are required for batteries used in electric vehicles, rare earth minerals are critical, in trace amounts, in the semiconductors and high-end electronics manufacturing*

### 14. New START Treaty

#### In News

The New START treaty on pause

#### **What is New START nuclear treaty?**

- The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by former U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.
  - It came into force in 2011.



- It was extended for five years in 2021.
- **Conditions of the Treaty**
  - Under the Treaty, America and Russia cannot deploy more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and more than 700 long-range missiles and bombers.
  - It limits each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and delivery vehicles.
  - It allows each side to carry out up to 18 short-notice (32 hours) on-site inspections of strategic nuclear weapons sites annually.
  - Both countries exchange data twice a year on ballistic missiles, bombers, test sites, nuclear bases etc.
  - It mandates the two parties to send notifications within five days if they change or update something in their stockpile.
- Russian President suspended the New START in Feb 2023.

## New START Treaty



**Why in news?**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Moscow was suspending its participation in the New START treaty — the last remaining nuclear arms control pact with the U.S. — sharply upping the ante amid tensions with Washington over the fighting in Ukraine

**New START Treaty**

- The New START treaty is formally known as the Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- It is the last remaining arms control treaty between the world's two main nuclear powers, US and Russia.
- It is one of the key controls on the superpower deployment of nuclear weapons.
- Signed by: Barack Obama in 2010 and extended by Joe Biden till 2026.
- It took effect in February 2011.
- The treaty will remain in force till 4 February, 2026.




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## 15. UN sanctions

### In News

Credibility of UN sanctions regime at all-time low.

### **What is it?**

- ***Sanctions measures, under Article 41 of UN encompass a broad range of enforcement options that do not involve the use of armed force.***
  - Since 1966, the UN Security Council has established **30 sanctions regimes**, in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia (2), Haiti, Iraq (2), Angola, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Eritrea, Eritrea and Ethiopia,

Liberia (3), DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Lebanon, DPRK, Iran, Libya (2), Guinea-Bissau, CAR, Yemen, South Sudan and Mali, as well as against ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

- Security Council sanctions have taken a number of different forms, in pursuit of a variety of goals.
  - The measures have ranged from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restrictions.
  - The Security Council has applied sanctions to support peaceful transitions, deter non-constitutional changes, constrain terrorism, protect human rights and promote non-proliferation.
- The measures are most effective at maintaining or restoring international peace and security when applied as part of a comprehensive strategy encompassing peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace-making.
- Contrary to the assumption that sanctions are punitive, many regimes are designed to support governments and regions working towards peaceful transition. The Libyan and Guinea-Bissau sanctions regimes all exemplify this approach.
- There are 14 ongoing sanctions regimes which focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation, and counter-terrorism.
  - Each regime is administered by a sanctions committee *chaired by a non-permanent member of the Security Council*. There are 10 monitoring groups, teams and panels that support the work of 11 of the 14 sanctions committees.

## **16. Universal Postal Union**

### **In News**

Cabinet approves ratification of the eleventh Additional protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union.

### **What is it?**

- The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** was established in 1874 with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, it is the *second oldest international organization worldwide*.
  - The UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. It has 192 member countries.
  - The organization fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed.
  - It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve quality of service for customers.
  - Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU. Any non-member country of the United Nations may become a UPU member

provided that its request is *approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU.*

## **17. United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**

### **In News**

Guillermo Rios is new leader of UNMOGIP.

### **What is it?**

- The group of United Nations military observers, under the command of the Military Adviser appointed by the UN Secretary-General, formed the nucleus of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
  - The first group of United Nations military observers arrived in the mission area on 24 January of 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - The Karachi Agreement of July 1949 firmed up the role of UN-level military observers and permitted supervision of the Ceasefire Line established in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - India officially maintains that the UNMOGIP's role was "overtaken" by the *Simla Agreement of 1972* that established the Line of Control or the LoC which with "minor deviations" followed the earlier Ceasefire Line.
  - India has not officially gone to the UNMOGIP since 1972 with complaints against Pakistan.
  - Pakistan did not accept the Indian argument and continued to seek cooperation from the UNMOGIP. As a result of this divergent policies, Pakistan continues to lodge complaints with the UNMOGIP against alleged Indian ceasefire violations.
- In view of the difference of opinion between India and Pakistan, the UN has maintained that the UNMOGIP could be dissolved only with a decision from the UN Security Council.

## **18. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

### **In News**

Indian team deliberating on ocean diversity pact.

### **What is it?**

- The *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* was adopted in 1982. It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- It embodies in one instrument traditional rules for the uses of the oceans and at the same time introduces new legal concepts and regimes and addresses new concerns.

- The Convention provides the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea.
- The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations serves as the secretariat of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- The Division monitors all developments relating to the Convention, the law of the sea and ocean affairs and reports annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on those developments.
- It also assists the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea in reviewing such developments.
- The United Nations General Assembly decided, in 2015, to develop an *international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS* on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

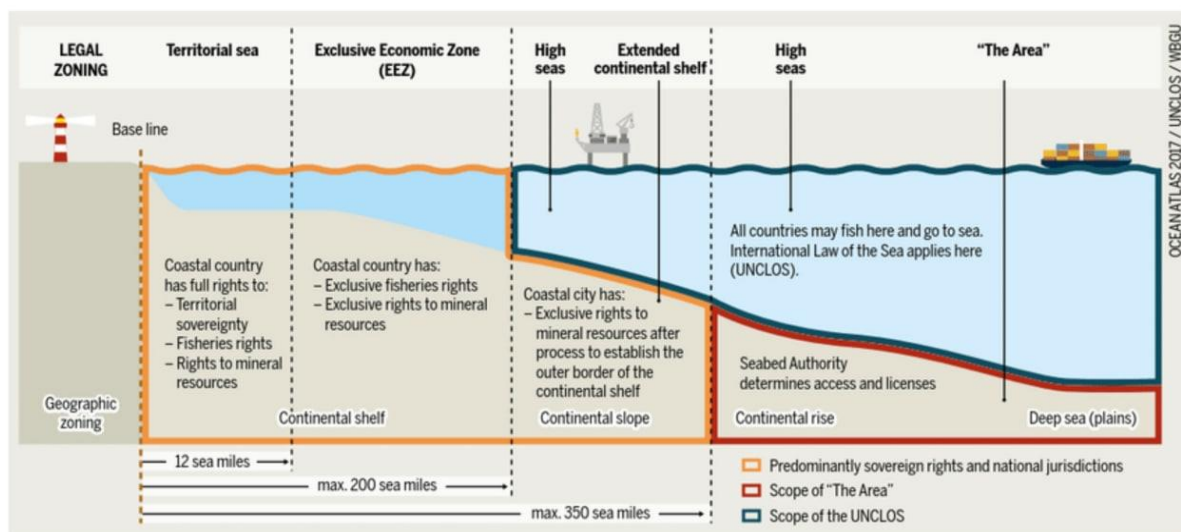
## UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)



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### UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- The UNCLOS, 1982 is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- It is also known as Law of the Sea.
- It divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- India ratified the UNCLOS in 1995.
- Significance
  - It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
  - It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.
  - It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.
  - It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.



## 19. Taiwan Strait

### In News

India refers to Taiwan Strait militarisation.

U.S. warships sail through Taiwan Strait.

### What is it?



- Taiwan Strait, also called Formosa Strait is an arm of the Pacific Ocean
  - The strait was named **Formosa** (“Beautiful”) by Portuguese navigators in the late 16th century; although it is still known in the West by its European name, the Chinese and now most Westerners use the name Taiwan Strait.
- The strategic importance of the islands in the Taiwan Strait was rooted in their geographic proximity to China and Taiwan and their role in the Chinese Civil War.

## 20. Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)

### In News


India to host Quad senior officials’ meeting.

### What is it?

- **Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely -- United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan.**
  - The objective of Quad is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

- The motive behind the Quad is to keep the strategic sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any military or political influence.
- It is basically seen as a strategic grouping to reduce Chinese domination.
- The core objective of the Quad is to *secure a rules-based global order, freedom of navigation and a liberal trading system.*
- The coalition also aims to offer alternative debt financing for nations in the Indo-Pacific region.
- First meeting was in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Since its establishment in 2007, the representatives for the four-member nations have met periodically.
- *Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe* was the first to pitch the idea for the formation of Quad in 2007.
- Its origins can be traced back to the evolution of ***Exercise Malabar*** and the 2004 Tsunami when India conducted relief and rescue operations for itself and neighbouring countries and was later joined by the US, Japan and Australia.
  - Australia withdrew from the forum due to the political pressure from the Chinese government and in the wake of the growing conflict between the US and China in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - In 2010, enhanced military cooperation between the US and Australia was resumed, leading to Australia's comeback to the Quad's naval exercises.
  - In the 2012 meeting of Quad the Japan emphasised the idea of '*Democratic Security Diamond*' comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia.

## Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)

  
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**Why in news?**

- The Quad launched a public campaign, 'Quad Cyber Challenge' to improve cyber security across their nations.

**Quad Cyber Challenge**

- Under the challenge, QUAD has invited Internet users across the Indo-Pacific and beyond to become part of the challenge and practice "safe and responsible cyber habits."
- The challenge provides resources, including basic cybersecurity information and training for all users, from corporations to educational institutions, small businesses and individuals.
- The action in India is being coordinated by the office of the National Cyber Coordinator with the National Security Council Secretariat.

**QUAD**

- QUAD is an informal group of India, the US, Japan and Australia.
- It is a strategic dialogue with the objective to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo Pacific.

**Timeline of QUAD**

2007


Japanese PM Shinzo Abe mooted the idea of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue


2012

Shinzo Abe again initiated a concept of Asia's Democratic Security Diamond, involving Australia, India, Japan and the US.

2017

QUAD Coalition was finally given a present-day form with the active participation of India, the US, Australia and Japan.





Common Values Upheld by QUAD

- Political democracies
- Market economies
- Pluralistic societies

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## 21. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

### What is it?

- *The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.*
  - The Treaty represents the *only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.*
  - It was opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970.
  - On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely.
  - A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States.
  - More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament.
- The NPT was negotiated during the 1960s to reconcile three competing objectives:
  - Controlling the further spread of nuclear weapons beyond the P-5 countries (the U.S., the U.S.S.R., the U.K, France and China) that had already tested
  - Committing to negotiating reductions of nuclear arsenals leading to their elimination
  - Sharing benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology
- The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.
- *The Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA, which also plays a central role under the Treaty in areas of technology transfer for peaceful purposes.*
- **Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT, three of which possess or are thought to possess nuclear weapons: India, Israel, and Pakistan.**

## 22. Wassenaar Arrangement

### In News

India will assume the *chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)*, a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1 January 2023, for a period of one year.

India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export control regime, in 2017 and became its 42<sup>nd</sup> member.

### About Wassenaar Arrangement

- *The Wassenaar Arrangement is a voluntary export control regime.*
- The Arrangement, formally established in July 1996, has 42 members who exchange information on transfers of *conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies.*

- Dual-use refers to the ability of a good or technology to be used for multiple purposes - usually peaceful and military.
- Wassenaar Arrangement's Secretariat is in Vienna, Austria.
- **Members:** It has 42 member states comprising mostly *NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and EU states.*
  - Participating States are required to report their arms transfers and transfers/denials of certain dual-use goods and technologies to destinations outside the Arrangement on a six-monthly basis.
  - ***India became a member of the Arrangement in 2017.***
- **Objectives:**
  - The group works by regularly exchanging information in respect of technology, both conventional and nuclear-capable, that is sold to, or denied to countries outside the grouping.
  - This is done through *maintenance and updating of detailed lists of chemicals, technologies, processes and products that are considered militarily significant.*
  - It aims at controlling the movement of technology, material or components to countries or entities which undermine international security and stability.
- **Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary:**
  - It is the decision-making body of the Arrangement.
  - It is composed of representatives of all Participating States and normally meets once a year, usually in December.
  - The position of Plenary Chair is subject to annual rotation among Participating States.
  - In 2018 the Plenary Chair was held by the United Kingdom, and in 2019 the Chair is held by Greece.
  - *All Plenary decisions are taken by consensus.*
  - 26th annual plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement in Vienna, Ireland handed over the chairmanship to India and India will officially assume the chairmanship from 1st January, 2023.



## Wassenaar Arrangement

### Why in news?

- India assumed Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Plenary starting from January 1, 2023. India will hold the Chairmanship for one year.

### About

- Established in 1996
- Its predecessor was the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM), which was created to restrict exports to the former Soviet Union and Eastern bloc.
- Headquarters - Vienna, Austria

### Aim and Objectives

- To promote "greater responsibility" and transparency among its members in exports of weapons and dual-use goods.
- Controlling the movement of technology, material or components to countries or entities which undermine international security and stability.
- To prevent "destabilizing accumulations"

### Nature

- It is a voluntary multilateral export control regime.
- Member states exchange information on various issues like transfer of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

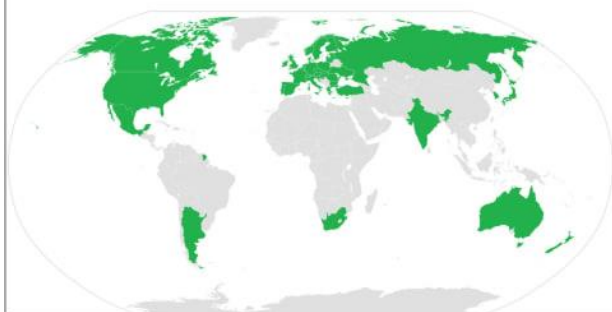
### Membership

**42** members mostly NATO and EU states

**P5** (except China) of UNSC

### Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary

- The primary is a decision-making body and is chaired on a rotation basis annually.
- The decisions of the plenary are taken by consensus.



## 23. Kushiyara water treaty

### In News

Bangladesh PM favours early solution for Teesta.



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**Anjali Surendranathan IFS**  
Second Secretary (Political) &  
Special Assistant to Ambassador  
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Team Enlite has an excellent Civil Service preparation program with personalized guidance. I am sure that no other institute can have an amazing mentor like Mahesh sir who can make the preparation simple and enjoyable for the students.

**Anandu Suresh Govind IAS**  
Assistant Collector & SDM, Pardi  
UPSC 2018 AIR 127



I have done my complete preparation in general studies papers as well as optional subject (Philosophy) at Enlite IAS. I have also attended the current affairs classes and the Interview program there. I owe my success largely to the guidance and support I received from team Enlite and especially Mahesh Sir. I'm glad that I made the right choice in choosing the best institute.

**Arjun Mohan IAS**  
Additional District Magistrate (HQ)  
– Central Islands & Minicoy  
UPSC 2018 AIR 66



I cannot quantify in words the support provided by Team Enlite in helping me secure 66th rank in Civil Services Examination 2018. Personal care provided by the mentors - Abhilash sir, Mahesh Sir, Abu Sir helped me complete the syllabus in an efficient manner in less than seven months. True to their motto team Enlite enlightens anyone who associate with them and I owe my success completely to ENLITE IAS

**Dr. Aswathy Srinivas IAS**  
Subcollector, Thiruvananthapuram  
UPSC 2019 AIR 40



My decision to join and learn with Enlite IAS Academy was the turning point in my life. Words can't explain, the amount of sincere concerted efforts Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir put into everyone of us, including me. The learner centric environment at Enlite gave me the strength and confidence which ensured my overall success, stands testimony to their incredible way of work. This success is synonymous with Enlite for me. ENLITE IS LIGHT!!!

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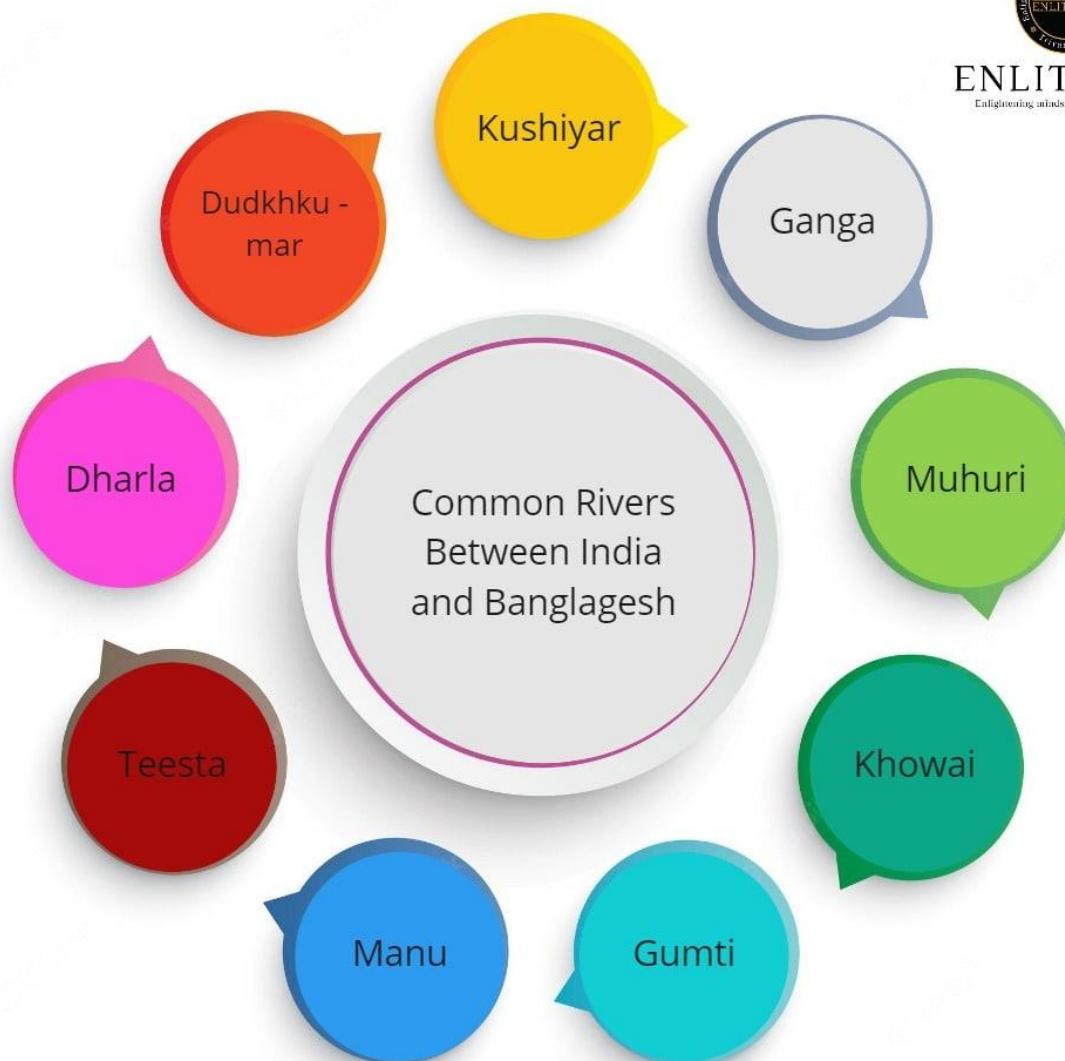
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### What is it?

- **India and Bangladesh signed interim water sharing agreement for the Kushiara river.**
  - It is a pact that will benefit people residing in southern Assam and the Sylhet division of Bangladesh.
- **The Kushiara River is a distributary river in Sylhet, Bangladesh and Assam, India. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the *Barak River*, when the Barak separates into the *Kushiara and Surma*.**
  - It originates at the mouth of the Barak River which is also known as the Amlshid bifurcation point, the Kushiara flows westward forming the boundary between Assam, India, and the Sylhet District of Bangladesh.
- **The pact over the Kushiara was the first river-related agreement that the two sides reached 28 years after the conclusion of the Ganga Waters Agreement of 1996.**
- **Indo-Bangladesh River relation:**
  - There are 54 rivers that pass through the Indo-Bangladesh border that are linked to the livelihood of the people of both countries for centuries.
  - The *Farakka barrage* was constructed across Ganga by the end of 1975 by India.
  - It was agreed to run it with specified discharges for a period of 41 days from 21 April to 31 May during the remaining period of the dry season of 1975 under an accord announced as a joint press release on 18 April 1975.
  - After the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 15 August 1975, relations between the two countries became greatly strained and India continued to withdraw water even after the agreed period. The diversions led to a crisis situation in Bangladesh in the dry season of 1976.
  - Till 1996 no consensus was reached. Twenty years later, in 1996, a 30-year agreement was signed by both countries for sharing Ganga River water.
  - Teesta Water Sharing Treaty is a pending issue.



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## 24. Eastern Economic Forum

### In News

Prime Minister attended the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum 2022.

### What is it?

- The Eastern Economic Forum is a key international platform for establishing and strengthening ties within the Russian and global investment communities.
  - Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.
  - It is for the comprehensive expert evaluation of the economic potential of the Russian Far East, the investment opportunities it offers, and business conditions within advanced special economic zones.

- It was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Russian has many petroleum resources which is of great interest to India.
- There are plans to connect the port of Chennai with Vladivostok, the largest city in the Russian Far East. This would provide both India and Russia an alternative sea-route with respect to the Suez Canal.
  - The opening of the Chennai-Vladivostok sea route can be a suitable counter towards Chinese presence in the South China Sea

## **25. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

### **In News**

Iran says 'ready to cooperate' with U.N. nuclear watchdog.

### **What is it?**

- ***The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.***
  - It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
  - The Statute of the IAEA was approved on 23 October 1956 by the Conference on the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations.
  - It came into force on 29 July 1957.
  - ***The IAEA was created in 1957*** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.
  - In October 1957, the delegates to the First General Conference decided to establish the IAEA's headquarters in Vienna, Austria.
- The IAEA is strongly linked to nuclear technology and its controversial applications, either as a weapon or as a practical and useful tool.
- The Agency was set up as the world's "***Atoms for Peace***" organization within the United Nations family.
- The IAEA works in close partnership with Member States, United Nations agencies, research organizations and civil society to maximize the contribution of nuclear science and technology to the achievement of development priorities.

## **26. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

### **In News**

Recently, the FATF removed Pakistan from the grey list lauding "Pakistan's significant progress". Pakistan has been on the FATF grey list continuously since June 2018.

### **About FATF**

- ***The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.(also Money Laundering)***
  - The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- **Mandate:**
  - After the 9/11 attacks, the FATF in 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.
  - In 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.
- **Composition:**
  - The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and two regional organizations (European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council), representing most major financial centers in all parts of the globe.
  - The FATF Plenary is the decision-making body of the FATF.
  - It meets three times per year.
  - India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.
  - India is also a member of its regional partners, the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Eurasian Group (EAG).
- **Headquarters:**
  - Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- **Lists under FATF:**
  - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
  - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
    - The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries. Currently, Iran and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are under High-risk Jurisdiction or black list

## Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

### Why in news?

- FATF suspends membership of Russia over Ukraine invasion

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up in 1989.
- Launch by G7 countries at Paris.
- The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
- Functions
  - The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity.
  - The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively and holds countries to account that does not comply.
- FATF Sessions:
  - The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF.
  - It meets three times per year.
- Membership
  - It is a 39-member body representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.
  - India joined with 'observer' status in 2006 and became a full member of FATF in 2010.



### • Listing

- The Grey List includes countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering.
- The Black List includes Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) that support terror funding and money laundering activities. As of now, Iran, North Korea and Myanmar are the three black listed countries.

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## 27. Crisis in Caucasus

### In News

The violent border clash between Armenia and Azerbaijan has raised fears of another war in Caucasus. The countries had fought a week-long war in 2020 over the disputed **Nagorno-Karabakh region** in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia made cease fire.

### About



### ➤ **Reasons for Dispute:**

- Territorial: Nagorno-Karabakh region has 95% of the population as ethnically Armenian and is controlled by them but it is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.
- Religious: Armenia is Christian majority, while Azerbaijan is Muslim majority country.
- Domestic Politics: The leaders of both the nations have fueled the issue time and again for their vested political interest

## **28. International Finance Corporation**

### **About World Bank & IFC**

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), two of the World Bank Group's five international entities, are known as the World Bank.
  - It was formed with the International Monetary Fund at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- The World Bank Group is a global partnership of 189 countries and five constituent organisations committed to alleviating poverty and promoting prosperity.
- **The World Bank Group's five development institutions are:**
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
  - International Development Association (IDA)
  - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
  - Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
  - International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

### **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**

- The IFC was founded in 1956 and is controlled by 186 member nations, a group that decides on its policies jointly.
- It is the world's largest development organization that *focuses on the private sector in underdeveloped countries*.
- It promotes economic development by funding for-profit and commercial ventures aimed at alleviating poverty and advancing development.
- It also helps projects by mobilizing third-party resources.
- The *IFC collaborates with the private sector* to promote entrepreneurship and the development of long-term businesses.
- Membership in the IFC is open only to member countries of the World Bank.

### **IFC AND INDIA**

- *India is a founding member* of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).
- IFC has expanded its portfolio in India in recent years, increasing profitability and investing in high-impact projects.
- It is extending its operations in India's LIS (the Low Income States and the North-Eastern States).
- Improving the investment climate to promote private sector development and growth for all.



## **29. Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)**

### **In News**

India's Presidency of the prestigious Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was extended for one more year.

### **About AIBD**

- The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was established in 1977 under the aegis of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
  - It is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.
  - The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) are founding organizations of the Institute and they are non-voting members of the General Conference.
  - Its secretariat is situated in Kuala Lumpur and is hosted by the Government of Malaysia.
- **Objective:** The AIBD is mandated to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.
- **Members:** Broadcasters from 26 countries in the Asia Pacific region including India are full members of the organisation.

### **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP)**

- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.
- Established: 1947
- Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand
- Objective: To overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

## **30. Group of Four (G-4) Countries**

### **In News**

On the sidelines of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, the G-4 countries highlight 'urgent need' for reform in U.N. Security Council (UNSC).

### **Group of Four(G-4) Countries**

- ***The G4 is a grouping of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan which are aspiring to become permanent members of the UNSC.***
  - The G4 countries are supporting each other's bids for permanent membership of the UNSC.
  - The G4 nations traditionally meet on the sidelines of the annual high-level UN General Assembly session.

### **Key Highlights of the G-4 Meeting**

- G4 felt that the UN decision-making bodies needed to be urgently reformed as global issues were increasingly complex and interconnected.
- They highlighted that General Assembly did not make "meaningful progress" in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) and lacked transparency.
- They reiterated their support for African countries being represented in a permanent and non-permanent capacity.

### **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)**

- IGN is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- The IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely:
  - *African Union*
  - *G4 nations*
  - *Uniting for Consensus Group (UfC)*
  - *L.69 Group of Developing Countries*
  - *Arab League*
  - *Caribbean Community (CARICOM).*

## **31. Asian Palm Oil Alliance**

### **In News**

- ***The apex edible oil industry associations from five major palm oil importing countries of Asia -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal -- have come together to form the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA).***
- APOA held its first general body meeting on the sidelines of the Globoil Summit being held at Agra, India
- Globoil Summit is one of the World's Leading Edible Oils and Agri Trade Conference, Exhibitions & Awards.

### **Asian Palm Oil Alliance**

- **Aims:** To safeguard the economic and business interests of the palm oil consuming countries and to work towards increasing the consumption of palm oil in member countries.
  - The alliance would work towards ensuring that palm oil is recognised as a high-quality, economical, and healthy vegetable oil and to change the negative image of palm oil.

- Membership of APOA would be further expanded to include companies or industry bodies associated with production or refining of palm oil across the continent.
- *Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.*
- It is used extensively in the production of detergents, plastics, cosmetics, and biofuels.
- ***Indonesia and Malaysia together account for almost 90% of the global palm oil production, with Indonesia producing the largest quantity at over 45 million tonnes in 2021.***
- Top consumers of the commodity are *India*, China, and the European Union (EU).
  - India's annual imports of edible oil is around 13-14 million tonne (MT).
  - Around 8 MT of palm oil is imported from Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soya and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.
  - India is the largest importer of palm oil in Asia, accounting for 15% of global imports, followed by China (9%), Pakistan (4%) and Bangladesh (2%)

### **32. Rotterdam Convention**

#### **In News**

International trade of two new hazardous pesticides — **Iprodione** and **Terbufos** — has been recommended for “prior informed consent” (PIC) procedure under Rotterdam convention.

The 17th meeting of the chemical review committee (CRC 17) had recommended these two pesticides for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

Annex III includes pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by two or more parties

#### **About Rotterdam Convention**

- **Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures (PIC)** entered into force in 2004.
  - It is an international treaty designed to facilitate informed decision-making by countries with regard to trade in *hazardous chemicals*
  - The PIC procedure is a mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing parties on their willingness to receive future shipments of hazardous chemicals.
  - It is a ***legally binding instrument***.
  - ***India acceded to*** the Convention in 2006.
- **Objectives :**
  - To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among State Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm.
  - To contribute to the environmentally sound use of these hazardous chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, providing for a

national decision making process on their import and export, and by disseminating these decisions to the Parties.

- **Iprodione**, a fungicide used on vines, fruits, trees and vegetables, has been classified as carcinogenic and toxic for reproduction.
- **Terbufos** is a soil insecticide used commonly on sorghum, maize, beet and potatoes.
  - It has also been found to pose risk to aquatic organisms due to its toxicity.
  - Both the pesticides, which are used in agriculture, are known for their harmful impacts on human health and the environment.
  - In India, the use of these chemicals was permitted by the 2015 Anupam Verma committee report.

### **33. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):**

#### **In News**

Recently, the 22nd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit was held in Samarkand, City in Uzbekistan

#### **About SCO**

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation of Eurasian Nations with a secretariat in Beijing.
- It is a political, economic and military organisation that aims at maintaining peace, security and stability in the region.
- **Origin:** Journey from *Shanghai Five to SCO*
  - Shanghai Five emerged in 1996 from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks between 4 former USSR republics and China.
    - Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.
  - With the accession of Uzbekistan to the group in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
  - The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and entered into force in 2003.
  - India and Pakistan both were initially observer states.
    - Both were given full membership in 2017.
  - Iran and Belarus:
    - summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join in SCO.
    - Belarus has also begun the membership process for SCO.
- **Present Members-** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.
- **Language:**
  - The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese

### The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2021



#### ➤ **Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:**

- Heads of State Council: It is the supreme SCO body that decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations.
  - It also considers contemporary international issues.
- Heads of Government Council: It approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related to economic spheres of interaction within SCO.
- Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs: It considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
- **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):** It was established to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- SCO Secretariat: It is based in Beijing. It provides informational, analytical & organizational support.

### 34. India-Africa Defence Dialogue

#### In News

India-Africa Defence Dialogue held on the sidelines of Def Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

#### **About IADD**

- The first-ever India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in conjunction with Def Expo in 2020.
  - Joint Declaration - '**Lucknow Declaration**' - was adopted at the end of the conclave as an outcome document.

- IAAD has been institutionalized to be held once every two years on the sidelines of Def Expo.
- The IADD will explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagement, including in areas like capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security and counter terrorism.
- The broad theme of the dialogue is **‘India-Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergising and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation’**.
- Fifty African countries, including 20 Defence Ministers, seven CDS/Service Chiefs and eight Permanent Secretaries participated in the Dialogue.
- The **Gandhinagar Declaration** was adopted as an outcome document of IADD 2022.
- Indo-African ties as multi-faceted covering economic, diplomatic and defence domains.
- India and Africa share a robust partnership based on the cooperative framework of **‘SAGAR’** (Security and Growth for All in the Region), drawn upon the ancient ethos of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (The World is One Family).

### **35. Black Sea Grain initiative**

#### **About**

- Russia and Ukraine signed separate agreements with Turkey and the U.N. in July 2022 , clearing the way for exporting millions of tons of Ukrainian grain, as well as Russian grain and fertilizer, ending a wartime standoff that had threatened food security around the globe.
- Ukraine and Russia are key global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia where many are already struggling with hunger
- The deal makes provisions for the safe passage of ships.

## Black Sea



### Black Sea

- Other Name - Euxine Sea
- Location - Between Eastern Europe and Western Asia
- Bordering Mountain Ranges - Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains.
- Connecting Straits
  - Dardanelles straits connects the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean and Mediterranean seas
  - Bosphorus straits connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara
  - Strait of Kerch connects Black Sea to the Sea of Azov
- The bordering countries of Black Sea-Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.



### 36. 19th ASEAN-India Summit

#### In News

Recently, the Vice President of India attended the 19th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

#### **Highlights of the Meeting**

- **Act East Policy:** India hailed the deep cultural, economic and civilizational ties that have existed between India and South East Asia from time immemorial and stated that the India-ASEAN relationship forms the central pillar of India's ACT-EAST policy.

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** ASEAN and India adopted a joint statement announcing the elevation of the existing Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
  - It proposes expediting the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade-facilitative.
- **Deepening Dialogue and Coordination:** As part of maintaining “ASEAN-Centrality”, the two sides reaffirmed the importance of deepening dialogue and coordination through ASEAN-led mechanisms.
- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**
  - It is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.
  - It was established in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (*Bangkok Declaration*) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
  - Its chairmanship rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.
  - ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 2.8 trillion.
  - Members: ASEAN brings together ten Southeast Asian states – *Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam* – into one organisation.



## Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



### Why in news?

- The 3rd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting was held.
- Theme - "Synergy Towards a Sustainable Digital Future".

### Key Points of the Meeting

- The meeting focused on enhancing the relationship between India and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- India emphasised its reforms to promote fair competition, and increase broadband and telecom connectivity.
- India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023 was approved, which includes initiatives for capacity building and knowledge sharing in areas such as Artificial Intelligence in Cybersecurity, IoT and AI in Next Generation Smart Cities, and the role of ICTs in implementing digital health and security.

### ASEAN

- It is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- Motto - "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.
- Formation - Based on ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) in 1967.
- Founding Countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.



## 37. Carbon Border Tax

### In News

At COP-27, India and three others oppose 'carbon border tax'.

### About Carbon Border Tax

- The European Union has proposed a policy called the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** to tax products such as *cement and steel* that are *extremely carbon intensive*, with effect from 2026.
  - It involves *imposing an import duty on a product manufactured in a country with more lax climate rules than the one buying it.*
- The CBAM would tax imported goods sold in EU markets on the basis of their carbon content.
  - This is to address the carbon leakage, which occurs when businesses in the EU move production to non-member countries with less stringent emissions rules.
  - It will initially apply to the highest-emitting industries – iron and steel, cement, fertilizers, aluminum, and electricity generation.

- The tax will benefit the environment and provide a level playing field to companies.
- The EU tax will be phased in over the next four years.
- The importers will be required to report emissions embedded in the goods they import from 2023.

#### **How it works?**

- EU importers will buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid, had the goods been produced under the EU's carbon pricing rules.
- Conversely, a non-EU producer can show that they have already paid a price for the carbon used in the production of the imported goods in a third country, the corresponding cost can be fully deducted for the EU importer.
- If a country already has a domestic carbon price, the border tax will be lowered or waived.

#### **Effects on Developing Countries**

- In the short run they may have little incentive to undertake costly emission reductions.
- The developing economies which often depend on manufactured products, will likely experience an outflow of activity as firms relocate to the EU.
- Decarbonize energy-intensive goods like cement and steel is very expensive for developing countries.

### **38. Nord stream**

#### **In News**

Traces of explosives near Nord stream.

#### **About Nord Stream**

- Nord stream is a network of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe which run under the *Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany*.
- Nord Stream's business model is to provide gas to the European gas grid from western Russia.
- Nord Streams are adhering to environmental management obligations and relevant technical standards (codes) of the respective permitting countries.

#### **Current Status of Nord Stream**

- Nord Stream 1 and 2 have been closed indefinitely after a number of leaks were found in them.
- Seismologists have detected explosions under the sea in the same area.
- None of the four pipes are currently operational, bringing the Nord Stream project to an effective standstill.

### **39. Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)**

#### **In News**

*India takes over as Council Chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).*

#### **About GPAI**

- The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative.
  - It is a first-of-its-type initiative for evolving better understanding of challenges and opportunities around AI.
  - It was launched in June 2020 with 15 members.
  - ***GPAI is the fruition of an idea developed within the G7.***
- **Aim of GPAI:** To bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- **Objective of GPAI:** To facilitating international collaboration, reducing duplication, acting as a global reference point for specific AI issues, and ultimately promoting trust in and the adoption of trustworthy AI.
  - At present it has 29 members.
  - It brings together engaged minds and expertise to foster international cooperation.
  - GPAI assesses – on a comprehensive, objective, open, and transparent basis – the scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant to understanding AI impacts.

#### **Functions of GPAI**

- GPAI undertakes projects on specific AI issues.
- GPAI experts will collaborate across four working groups on the themes:
  - Responsible AI (including a subgroup on AI and pandemic response)
  - Data governance
  - Future of work
  - Innovation and commercialization.

### **40. Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**

#### **In News**

Australian parliament approves free trade agreement with India.

#### **About ECTA**

- ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade.
- ECTA will open a new chapter on India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

- This will also connect with more than seven lakhs of Australia's Indian diaspora.

### **Main features of ECTA**

- The ECTA is guided by a Preamble and is divided into multiple sections.
- It will be the most expansive bilateral trade since the two countries established diplomatic ties.
- It has a section on goods exports.
- It lays out clearly "**Rules of Origin**" that are aimed at creating anti-dumping measures.

### **Advantages of ECTA**

- The ECTA will increase trade between the two sides to \$45-50 billion over five years.
- It will create over 10 lakh additional job opportunities.
- India will give 85% of Australia's exports zero-duty access to its domestic market.
- India is expected to get zero-duty access to Australia for its goods over five years.

## **41. Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2022)**

### **About IPRD**

- ***The IPRD is an apex level international annual conference of Indian Navy.***
  - It is principal manifestation of Navy's engagement at the strategic-level.
  - The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) is the knowledge partner and chief organizer of the event.
- **Aim:** To review both opportunities and challenges that arise within the Indo-Pacific.
- **Theme of IPRD-2022:** *Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)*
  - It foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues.
  - It is an event that aims to encourage discussions on public policy.

### **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**

- IPRD-2022 is appropriately cantered upon the IPOI and its operationalization.
- The IPOI is a comprehensive and inclusive construct for regional cooperation.
- It is focused on seven interconnected spokes or pillars:
  - Maritime Security
  - Maritime Ecology
  - Maritime Resources
  - Disaster Risk-reduction and Management
  - Trade-Connectivity and Maritime Transport
  - Capacity-building and Resource sharing

- Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation.

#### **42. India Assumes Presidency Of UN Security Council**

##### **About:**

- It is the second time of monthly presidency in India's two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- India had earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021.
- **December Presidency: Two signature events at the ministerial level**
  - **Reformed Multilateralism:**
    - India will hold a "high-level open debate" on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism" at the Security Council.
    - ***New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism (NORMS)*** envisages reforms in the current multilateral architecture, with the UN at its centre, to make it more representative and fit for purpose.
  - **Counter-Terrorism:**
    - The theme of this event is "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism — Challenges and Way Forward"
- **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**
  - It is one of the UN's six main organs and is aimed at maintaining international peace and security.
  - The other 5 organs of the United Nations are—the *General Assembly (UNGA)*, *the Trusteeship Council*, *the Economic and Social Council*, *the International Court of Justice*, and *the Secretariat*.
  - It held its first session on 17th January 1946 in Westminster, London.
  - Headquarters: New York City.
  - **Membership:**
    - The Council is composed of 15 Members:
    - Permanent members with veto power: ***China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.***
    - Ten non-permanent members of 2022: Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly: *Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates.*
  - ***India has served seven times in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member*** and in January 2021, India entered the UNSC for the eighth time.
  - More than 50 United Nations Member States have never been Members of the Security Council.
- **Functions and Powers:**
  - To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- **UNSC Elections:**
  - Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.
  - The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows:
    - Five for African and Asian States.
    - One for the Eastern European States.
    - Two for the Latin American and Caribbean States;
    - Two for Western European and other States
  - To be elected to the Council, candidate countries need a *two-thirds majority* of ballots of the Member States that are present and voting in the Assembly.
  - The UNSC elections were traditionally held in the General Assembly Hall with each of the 193 member states casting its vote in a *secret ballot*.

## United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

**Why in news?**

- India and Bangladesh on agreed to support each other's non permanent membership at the UN Security Council.

**United Nation Security Council (UNSC)**

- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security.
- Headquarter - New York, USA
- Membership
  - The council has 15 members the five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
  - Permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
  - The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.
  - The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.




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### 43. Lusophone world

#### In News

- India is moving in to strategically engage with a new geopolitical grouping: the Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking countries) as Delhi wants to leverage the untapped potential and the historical connect.
- India is hosting International Lusophone Festival in Goa.

#### About Lusophone

➤ ***Lusophone world (Portuguese speaking countries)***

- Lusophones are peoples that speak Portuguese as a native or as common second language and nations where Portuguese features prominently in society
- The Lusophone world is spread in nine countries across four continents, and Portuguese is the most widely-spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- In 1996 Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) ,also known as Lusophone Commonwealth was formed.
  - CPLP is a multilateral forum with 9 member states and 32 associate observers
  - India is an associate Observer.
  - Members are : Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe as members; while Timor Leste and Equatorial Guinea joined later.

**Significance of the Grouping**

- Large Portuguese speaking population across the World: Portuguese is one of the official languages of the continental organisations: African Union, Organization of American States, European Union and of multiple regional organisations, as well as official language of UNESCO General Conference. More than 265-million speakers worldwide; most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere; regarded as the language of the first globalisation in the modern era.
- Trade Potential: There is huge potential to expand and strengthen trade and economic collaboration between India and Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) countries
- Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking countries) economies are among the fastest-growing in the world, with Brazil, Angola, Portugal, Mozambique being some of them.
- Goa has had historical linkages with the Lusophone world, nurtured through the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions like the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute which promote the Portuguese language

**44. International Year of Millets**

**In News**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi conveyed his message at the opening ceremony of the International Year of Millets at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, Italy.

**About International Year of Millets**

- ***The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'.***
- It is the Prime Minister's vision and initiative that led to this United Nations Resolution being adopted with support from more than 70 nations across the globe.

- It will help in creating awareness throughout the world about the significant role of millet in sustainable agriculture and its benefits as a smart and superfood.
- India is poised to become the global hub for millets with a production of more than 170 lakh tonnes which makes for more than 80 % of the millets produced in Asia.
  - The earliest evidence for these grains has been found in the Indus civilization and was one of the first plants to be domesticated for food.
  - It is grown in about 131 countries and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa.
- **Objectives:** The Government of India has declared to celebrate IYOM, 2023 to make it a people's movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, and value-added products are accepted globally.

#### **45. India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs**

##### **In News**

India's National Security Advisor recently chaired the first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs and Secretaries of Security Councils in Delhi

##### **More about the meeting**

- The very first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs
- The meeting coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and the Central Asian countries.
- The meeting was the outcome of the India-Central Asia virtual summit held in January 2022, where Indian Prime Minister hosted leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and agreed to have security chiefs meet on a regular basis to discuss India's "extended neighbourhood."
- Participants: The NSAs of India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting.
- Turkmenistan was represented by its ambassador in New Delhi.
- The Central Asia region (CA) comprises the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

##### **Key Highlights of the meeting:**

- Afghanistan the Centre of Talks: The focus was mainly on the security situation in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism originating from the country under the Taliban.

##### **Transport & Connectivity:**

- **Chabahar port & INSTC**
  - The participants supported India's proposal to include the Chabahar port within the framework of the International North-South Transport Corridor that connects Iran to Russia via Central Asia,



- **Uzbekistan’s Termez Transport and Logistics Hub:**
  - The communique noted Uzbekistan’s creation of the “Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub” in Termez that helped channel aid to Afghanistan.
- **TAPI Project:**
  - Turkmenistan made a push for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan- India (TAPI) pipeline that was launched in 2016.
  - TAPI pipeline project has run into trouble over the Afghan conflict, and breakdown of India-Pakistan ties, and the NSAs agreed on the importance of TAPI in expanding connectivity.
  - Addressing individual efforts: The countries gathered also noted
    - India’s special conferences involving UNSC and NMFT (No Money for Terror) on countering terror financing,
    - Kazakhstan’s work on the International Agency for Biological Safety,
    - Kyrgyzstan’s efforts on climate change, and the
    - Dushanbe declaration on border security cooperation to prevent terrorist movements.
- **Push for the adoption of UN-CCIT:**
  - The communique also called for the early adoption of the **UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)**, which India had first proposed in 1996, but has been held up for decades, primarily over differences on the definition of terrorism.

#### **46. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)**

##### **In News**

Shri Piyush Goyal participates in virtual Ministerial Meeting on Economic Benefits for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

##### **About IPEF**

- ***The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity initiative between the United States and 13 other countries.***
  - These countries together represent more than 40% of global GDP.
  - India is a member country in IPEF.
  - It strives toward a connected, resilient, clean, and fair economy.
- The IPEF is divided into four pillars:
  - Connected economy: digital, environment, and labour issues
  - Resilient economy: supply chain cooperation and coordination
  - Clean economy: decarbonization and infrastructure development
  - Fair economy: taxation and anti-corruption efforts
- IPEF is a flexible and open arrangement.
  - It allows partner countries to join any of the four pillars without having a commit to all four.

- This framework does not constitute a traditional free trade agreement.
- The framework would be open to other countries willing to join in the future.

#### **47. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

##### **In News**

Facebook's parent company Meta has been imposed with two sets of fines totalling €390 million, since the company's advertising and data handling practices were in breach of the EU's privacy law.

##### **EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

- It is a law passed by the *28-member bloc in 2018. (now 27)*
- The GDPR is the toughest privacy and security law in the world.
- Though it was drafted and passed by the European Union (EU), it imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
- As per the GDPR, cross-border cases are to be handled by the data-protection authority in the country where the company is based.
- European Data Protection Board: The body that oversees regulatory action on data privacy across the 27-nation bloc.

#### **48. International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**

##### **In News**

Workshop conducted on Linking Chabahar Port with INSTC.

##### **About INSTC**

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km-long multi modal transportation.
- It was established in 2000.
- It has network of ship, rail, and road route.
- It was for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- It is for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.
- This corridor connects India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, Islamic Rep., and is then connected to Saint Petersburg and North European via Russia.
- The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan, Bandar Anzali, etc.
- INSTC is India's vision and initiative to reduce the time taken for EXIM shipments to reach Russia, Europe and enter the central Asian markets.



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I owe the largest share of my success to the tireless and constant support of the Enlite IAS academy team. Being part of such a committed group of Individuals has truly been an enriching and rewarding experience. I am deeply indebted to Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir, both of whom exemplify the true spirit of Enlite. They have been pillars of support throughout the entire process, helping me navigate and overcome every obstacle that this journey has thrown at me.

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I attended philosophy optional enrichment program @ ENLITE IAS. The unique insights I got during the course played a vital role in my success in the civil service examination. Also 90% of the questions in the exam directly appeared from the class room sessions. It helped in tuning my Interview preparation to an optimum level.

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## International North-South Transport Corridor



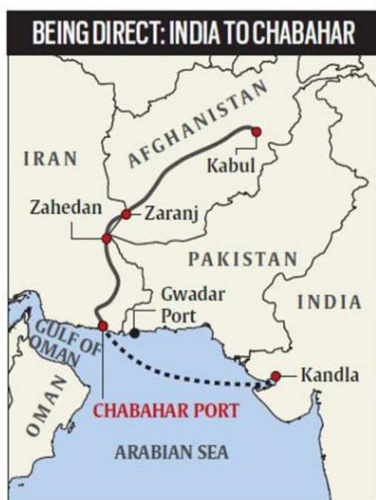
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### Why in news?

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, in association with India Ports Global Ltd, conducted a workshop on the 'Linking Chabahar Port with INSTC' in Mumbai.

### International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

- It is a multimodal transportation ( sea, road and rail routes) agreement formed with a trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in 2000.
- It links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe.
- The main purpose of the corridor was to reduce carriage costs and transit time between India and Russia. The transit time is expected to reduce to almost half, once the corridor becomes fully functional.
- The agreement has been ratified by 13 countries namely, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine.



### Chabahar Port

- Location - Southeastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.



### Why to Link with Chabahar?

- The strategic location of Chabahar has a great advantage for developing it as a transshipment hub.
- The Port's deep draft of 16 m is suitable for handling large shipment vessels.
- The Port lies close to some of the busiest trade routes in the world.
- The region comes under the Asia-Europe, Asia-Asia trade route, which carries large cargo volumes.

## **49. Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG AnGR)**

### In News

India elected as Vice-Chair at the 12th session of FAO's WG AnGR

### **About WG AnGR**

- It was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- It was established in the Seventh Regular Session of the Commission in 1997.

**Functions of Working Group:**

- Review the situation and issues related to agro biodiversity in the area of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Commission on above matters.
- Consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- Report to the Commission on its activities.
- India was elected as Vice-Chair in the recently concluded 12th Session of WG AnGR and represented Asia & Pacific region.

**About Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

- It is the only *permanent intergovernmental body that specifically addresses all components of biological diversity for food and agriculture.*
- It was established in 1983 as the *Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*
- Its membership comprises 178 countries and the European Union.
- It aims to reach international consensus on policies for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.
- It oversees and guides the preparation of global sectoral and cross-sectoral assessments of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

**50. Indus Water Treaty (IWT)**

**In News**

India sends notice to Pakistan to amend 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

**About the Treaty**

- It was signed in 1970 between India and Pakistan and brokered by the World Bank.
- It fixed and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system.
- **The Treaty gives control over the waters of the three Eastern Rivers (Beas, Ravi and Sutlej) to India.**
- **It gave control over the waters of the three Western River (Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) to Pakistan.**
- It provided for the funding and building of dams, link canals, barrages, and tube wells.
- It created a Permanent Indus Commission, with a commissioner from each country.
  - The commission maintain a channel for communication and to try to resolve questions about implementation of the treaty.
  - It also has a mechanism for resolving.

- It is considered one of the most successful water sharing endeavours in the world today

**About Indus River system**

- The Indus River system has been used for irrigation since time immemorial.
- The Indus River rises in the southwestern Tibet and flows through Kashmir region and then into Pakistan to drain into the Arabian Sea.
- It is joined by tributaries, notably those of the eastern Punjab Plain—the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers.



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### Indus River and Indus Water Treaty

**Why in news?**

- India announced on Friday that it wants to modify the 62-year-old Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan, citing what it called Pakistan's "intransigence" in resolving disputes over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects, both in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Indus River**

- Origin - Bokhar Chu in the Tibetan region in the Kailash Mountain range near the Mansarovar Lake.
- Associated Civilisation - Indus Valley Civilization
- The river flows enters in Ladakh region in India from a place called Demchok.
- Mouth - Arabian sea near Karachi
- The blind Indus River Dolphin, a sub-species of dolphin, is found only in the Indus River.

#### Indus Water Treaty


The Indus river system is critical to both India and Pakistan. A look at the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960

- The Indus system of rivers comprises the main river and its tributaries, namely Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Jhelum and Chenab
- The treaty provides India absolute control of all the waters of the eastern rivers – Ravi, Sutlej and Beas
- Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all waters of the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab
- India is permitted to use the waters of the western rivers for domestic use, non-consumptive use, agriculture and generation of hydro-electric power subject to certain conditions



**Tributaries**

- Left Bank Tributaries** - Zaskar river, Suru river, Soan river, Jhelum River, Chenab River, Ravi River, Beas river, Satluj river, Panjnad river
- Right Bank Tributaries** - Shyok River, Gilgit river, Hunza river, Swat river, Kunnar river, Kurram river, Gomal River, and Kabul river are its major right-bank tributaries.



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**Recent Developments**

- Recently India announced that it wants to modify the 62-year-old Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan.
- Pakistan unilaterally decided to approach a court of arbitration at The Hague to resolve disputes over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects.

- India asked for modifications to the treaty as per Article XII (3) of the IWT that deals with the “final provisions” of the treaty.

## **51. Non-Aligned Movement**

### **In News**

India and Egypt reiterate support for Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

### **About NAM**

- **Aim:** To give a voice to developing countries and to encourage their concerted action in world affairs.
- The Non-Aligned Movement was founded and held its first conference (*the Belgrade Conference*) in 1961.
  - *It has 120 member countries.*
  - It emerged in the context of the wave of *decolonization that followed World War II.*
  - The states of the Non-Aligned Movement *cannot be part of a multilateral military alliance.*
  - It does not signify that a state ought to remain passive or even neutral in international politics.
  - The Non-Aligned Movement *has no formal constitution or permanent secretariat.*
  - All members of the Non-Aligned Movement *have equal weight within its organization.*

## **52. Ukraine's Odesa in UNESCO's World Heritage List**

### **In News**

Recently, the World Heritage Committee decided to add the historic centre of Ukraine's Black Sea port city of Odesa to its list of World Heritage sites.



### What is it?

- The Historic Centre of Odesa has also been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- The List of World Heritage in Danger is designed to inform the international community of conditions that threaten the very characteristics for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List
- As of 2023, the 52 properties are decided by the Committee to include on the List of World Heritage in danger.

### 53. Paris Club

#### In News

Paris Club is likely to give the IMF financial guarantees about the Sri Lankan debt.

#### About

- *The Paris Club is an informal group of mostly western creditor countries.*
  - It grew from a 1956 meeting in Paris between Argentina and its public creditors.
- Its objective is to find sustainable debt-relief solutions for countries unable to repay their bilateral loans.
- The members of the *Paris Club* are also members of the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*.



- **Members:** Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The Paris Club operates on the principles of consensus and solidarity and any agreement reached with the debtor country applies equally to all Paris Club creditors.
- The club used to be a dominant bilateral lender in the last century, but its importance has diminished with the emergence of China as the world's largest bilateral lender.

#### **54. Operation Dost**

##### **In News**

India, under '*Operation Dost*' has sent its sixth plane carrying National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel, essentials, and medical equipment for the earthquake-hit Turkey.

##### **About**

- Operation Dost symbolises that India is a friend of Turkey and the two must deepen their relations.
- A field hospital under Operation Dost has been set up by the Indian Army in Hatay province of Turkey.
- India has also sent a transport aircraft with medical supplies to Syria.
- The earthquake of magnitude 7.7 on the Richter scale hit Turkey and Syria on 6 Feb 2023

## Syria and Turkey

### Why in news?

- Syria and Turkey struck again by a major earthquake with magnitude of 6.3.

### Syria

- Syria is a Western Asian country located in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant.
- Capital - Damascus
- Borders
  - West - Mediterranean Sea
  - North - Turkey
  - East and southeast - Iraq
  - South - Jordan
  - Southwest - Israel and Lebanon
  - Cyprus lies to the west across the Mediterranean Sea
- Major Rivers in Syria - Euphrates, Tigris
- Disputed Territories - Golan heights with Israel



### Turkey

- Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly on the Anatolian Peninsula in Western Asia, with a small portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe.
- Asian Turkey is separated from European Turkey by Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles.
- Capital - Ankara
- Borders
  - North - Black Sea
  - Northeast - Georgia
  - East - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran
  - Southeast - Iraq
  - South - Syria and the Mediterranean Sea
  - West - Aegean Sea
  - Northwest - Greece and Bulgaria
  - Cyprus is off the south coast
- Climate - Mediterranean climate
- International Relation
  - Turkey is a founding member of the United Nations the OECD the OIC the OSCE ECO BSEC TURKSOY , the D-8 G20 and the OTS.
  - Turkey is also member of UNSC and NATO.



## 55. Official Development Assistance

### In News

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India.

### About ODA

- **Official development assistance (ODA) is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.**
- ODA was adopted as the “gold standard” of foreign aid in 1969.
  - Aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient, or channeled through a multilateral development agency
  - Aid includes grants, soft loans and the provision of technical assistance.
  - Soft loans are those where the grant element is at least 25% of the total.
- The OECD maintains a list of developing countries and territories; only aid to these countries counts as ODA.
  - The list is periodically updated and currently contains over 150 countries or territories.
  - It remains the main source of financing for development aid.
  - ODA data is collected, verified and made publicly available by the OECD.
  - Loans and credits for military purposes are excluded.

## **56. Windsor Framework**

### **In News**

The UK government reached a landmark deal with the European Union (EU) on post-Brexit trade rules that will govern Northern Ireland

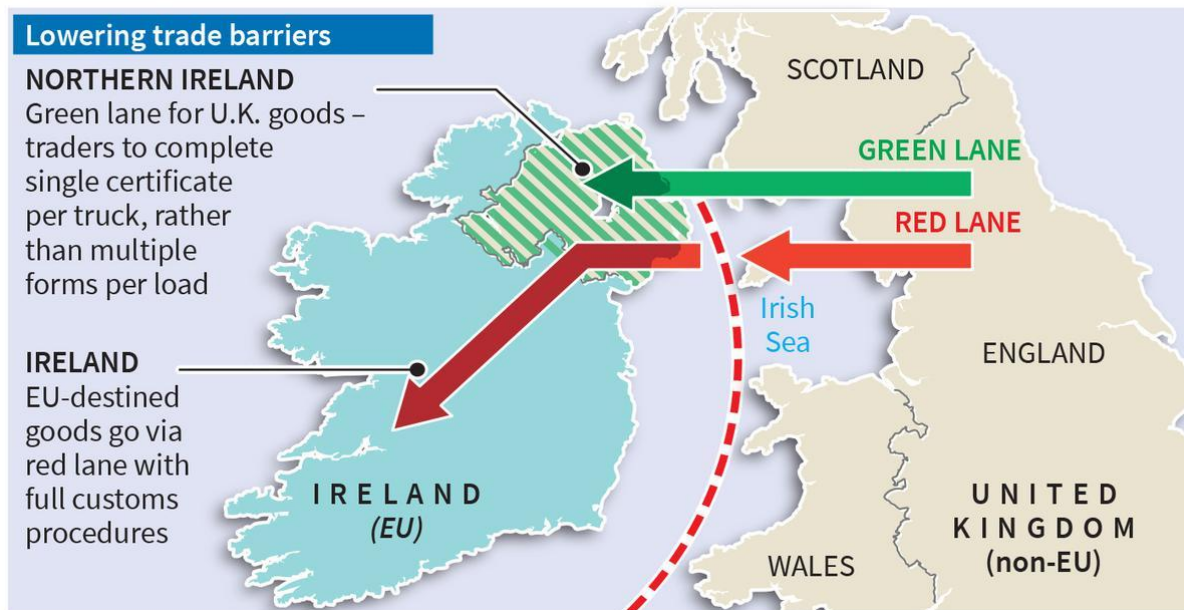
### **The Northern Ireland Protocol**

- The protocol is post Brexit arrangement between UK and EU to manage cross border movements of goods
- Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that shares a land border with an EU member ,the Republic of Ireland (or Ireland)
- However, the two Irelands have had a long history of conflict, with a hard-fought peace secured only in 1998 under the Belfast Agreement/ Good Friday agreement. So to avoid conflict
- It was decided the border checks would be conducted between Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) and Northern Ireland (which together with Great Britain forms the United Kingdom).
- This was called the Northern Ireland Protocol.
  - Under the protocol, Northern Ireland remained in the EU single market, and trade-and-customs inspections of goods coming from Great Britain took place at its ports along the Irish Sea.

### **About ‘Windsor Framework’**

- The ‘Windsor Framework’ will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol
- Framework introduced a Green lane and Red lane system for goods
- **Green lane:** British goods meant for Northern Ireland will use the green lane at the ports and will be allowed to pass with minimal paperwork and checks.
- **Red lane:** Goods destined for Ireland or the rest of the EU will have to take the red lane, with the attendant customs and other checks.

- The ‘**Stormont Brake**’: It allows Northern Ireland lawmakers and London to veto any EU regulation they believe affects the region adversely.



## 57. UN High Seas Treaty

### In News

For the first time, United Nations members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas.

### **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty/ High Seas Treaty**

- The treaty is negotiated under the *United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982* which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources.
- Treaty aims to create an updated framework to protect marine life in high seas, which are regions outside national boundary waters.
- 2/3rd of the world’s oceans are currently considered international waters/high seas. But until now only about 1% of these waters have been protected
- Treaty will *create a new body to manage the conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas on the high seas.*
- The treaty also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.

### **Importance of High Seas:**

- Ninety per cent of global warming occurs in the ocean, deeply affecting Marine life.
- Comprehensive protection of endangered species and habitats is not possible without High Seas which cover more than 40% of the Earth's surface and two-thirds of the ocean.

- High seas begin at border of countries Exclusive economic Zone, which is 370Km from coast line.

## United Nations High Seas Treaty

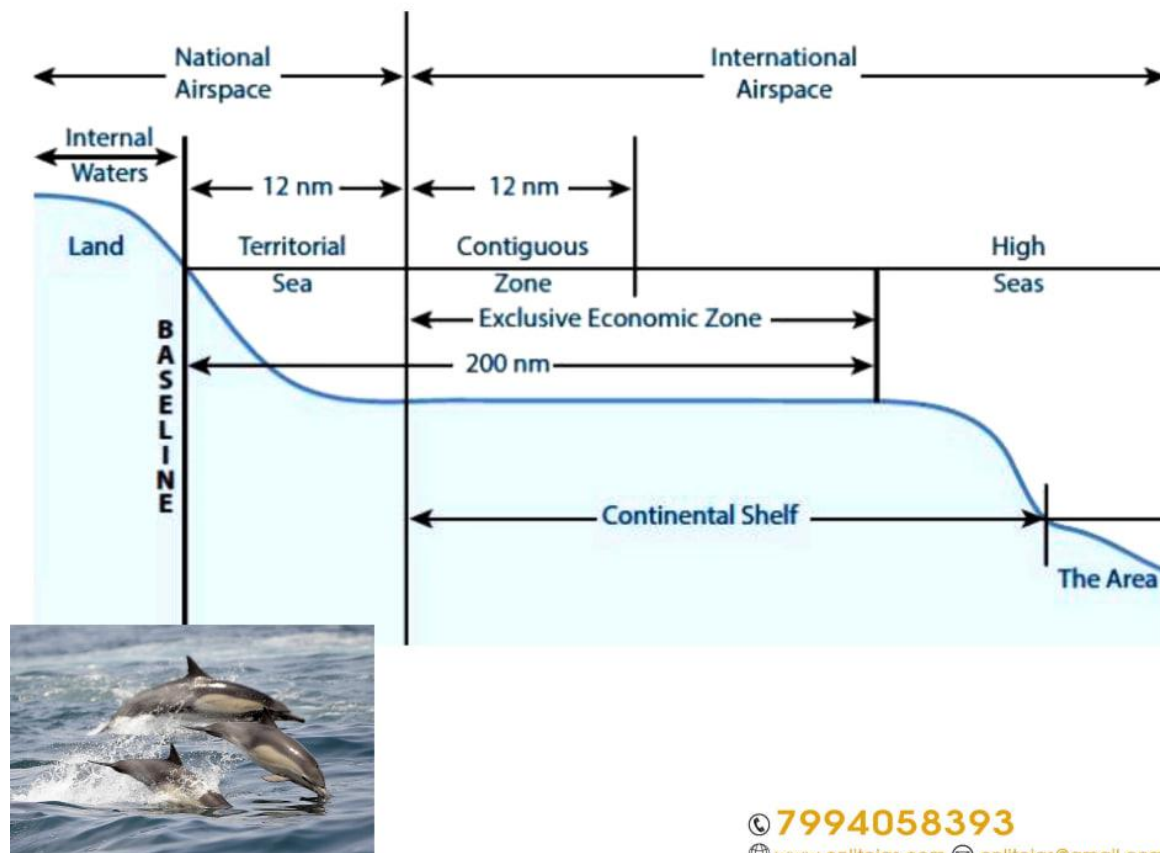


### Why in news?

- A new round of negotiations on the United Nations High Seas Treaty began in New York.

### United Nations High Seas Treaty

- It is known as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean',
- Aim - To deal with Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction has been under discussion for several years.
- The proposed treaty concerns the ocean existing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) that lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles into the sea (Countries have special rights for exploration till 200 nautical miles).
- The treaty was to be negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982.



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## **58. India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP)**

### **In News**

Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh will jointly inaugurate the maiden cross-border oil pipeline between the two countries

### **About India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL):**

- IBFPL will carry diesel from Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Ltd's (NRL) marketing terminal at Siliguri in West Bengal to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
- IBFPL is 5 Kilometers long, out of which 126.5 kilometer pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 kilometers in India.
- The pipeline has a capacity of one million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).
- The total project cost for the construction of the IBFPL is Rs 377.08 crore.
- The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India.

## **59. Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement**

### **In News**

The Japanese Cabinet approved Japan's participation in the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement of WTO

### **About**

- ***MPIA (formed in 2020) is an alternative system for resolving WTO disputes that are appealed by a Member in the absence of a functioning WTO Appellate Body.***
  - WTO's dispute settlement process functioning is impacted since 2019 in the backdrop of USA blocking appointments to Appellate Body
- The MPIA is an arrangement which provides that the participating members will resolve disputes by using arbitrations when they are unable to accept the adoption of the WTO panel decisions.
  - WTO members can resort to MPIA under Article 25 of WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.
  - Any member can join MPIA (**India not a member yet**) by notifying the Dispute Settlement Body (composed of representatives of all WTO Members).
  - In a dispute between members, MPIA will supersede the previous appeal processes and also apply to future disputes between members.
- **WTO Dispute Settlement**
  - Once a complaint has been filed with the WTO, there are two main ways to resolve a dispute:
  - ***Mutually Acceptable Solution:*** The parties reach a mutually acceptable solution, particularly during the phase of bilateral consultations;
  - ***Adjudication:*** It includes the subsequent implementation of the panel and Appellate Body reports, which are binding on the parties once adopted by the DSB.

- The WTO dispute settlement process is divided into three stages:
  - Parties' discussions;
  - Adjudication by panels and, if relevant, by the Appellate Body.
  - Ruling implementation includes the potential of countermeasures if the losing party fails to implement the ruling.

## 60. Green Climate Fund

### In News

Rwanda has been selected to host 35th meeting of Board of GCF which will be held in Kigali, capital of Rwanda.

### About

- Board of GCF generally holds three meetings per year.
  - Meetings are attended by more than 300 participants, including National Designated Authorities (NDAs), and Accredited Entities and other partners who assist in delivering climate finance to developing countries.
- NDA of India: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- Direct access accredited entities: IDFC Bank, Yes Bank, NABARD, SIDBI, IESIL (IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure and Services Limited).
- **Green Climate Fund(GCF)**
  - GCF was established in 2010 under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help developing countries reduce their GHG emissions and adapt to impact of climate change.
  - It is governed by a 24 Board member Board.
  - Secretariat is located in Songdo, Incheon- South Korea.
  - Key features of GCF
    - Country-driven approach i.e., developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.
    - Balanced allocation i.e., GCF is mandated to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.
    - Provide financial support through flexible combination of grant, concessional debt, guarantees or equity instrument.

## Rwanda



### Why in news?

- Rwanda has been selected to host 35th meeting of Board of GCF which will be held in Kigali.

### Rwanda

- is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, where the African Great Lakes region and Southeast Africa converge.
- Located a few degrees south of the Equator.
- Capital - Kigali (Kigali Amendment related to Montreal Protocol against Ozone Depletion was signed)
- Border Countries - Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Geography dominated by mountains in the west and savanna to the southeast.
- River - Rusizi River



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## 61. Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)

### In News

Armenia has repeatedly criticized the CSTO for its failure to protect itself.

## Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)



### Why in news?

- Armenia has repeatedly criticised the CSTO for its failure to protect itself

### Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)

- The CSTO is a Russia-led military alliance of seven former Soviet states that was created in 2002.
- Members - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status in the CSTO.
- Its purpose is to ensure the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression.
- It has been described by political scientists as the Eurasian counterpart of NATO, which has 29 member states, while the CSTO has just six.



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## **62. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**

### **About CBAM**

- The European Union had formalised a method to stop ‘carbon leakage’ or moving production of high-polluting products to nations outside of the EU. This is called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.
- CBAM is part of the EU’s plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, under the European Climate Law.
  - It is a landmark tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU.
  - It will encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
  - It is aligned with the phase-out of the allocation of free allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).
  - The CBAM will ensure the carbon price of imports is equivalent to the carbon price of domestic production.
- **About Carbon Leakage**
  - Carbon leakage refers to the situation that may occur if, for reasons of costs related to climate policies, businesses were to transfer production to other countries with laxer emission constraints.
  - Carbon leakage occurs when companies based in the EU move carbon-intensive production abroad to countries where less stringent climate policies are in place than in the EU.
- **Impact of CBAM on India**
  - If the CBAM covers only the five high-carbon products then the impact on India will be limited when seen in terms total exports.
  - More than 50 percent of Indian exports come under the CBAM proposal which will leave a dent on India’s European exports.
  - The iron and steel and aluminum sector will be the most affected by the CBAM-implicated Indian exports to the EU.
  - It will pose challenges to those industries which are exporting to European markets in terms of increased compliance costs.

## **63. International Criminal Court (ICC)**

### **In News**

International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Putin over Ukraine.

### **About the Court**

- ***The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.***
  - Governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute'
  - It is seated in The Hague, Netherlands.

- It is the first and only permanent international court with *jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for international crimes*
- The Court is participating in a global fight to end impunity.
- India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China.
- It aims to hold those responsible accountable for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again.
- Key features of the Court
  - It ensure the fairness of proceedings.
  - The Prosecution is independent
  - Defendants' rights are upheld
  - Victims' voices are heard
  - Participating victims and witnesses are protected
  - Outreach creates two-way dialogue
- ICC has six official languages - English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
- **Recent Issue**
  - The ICC had issued an arrest warrant against Russian President and Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights.
  - The warrant was issued for the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

## **64. India's G20 Presidency**

### **In News**

- India formally assumed the presidency of G-20 on December 1, 2022.
- India will hold the presidency till 30th November 2023.
- India's theme as stated by the Prime Minister is — **“One Earth, One Family, One Future”**.

### **About the Presidency**

- **Agenda:** The Prime Minister had described India's agenda at the G-20 as “inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented”.
- **Significance of 2023, G20 Summit:** The G20 summit would be qualitatively different from any of the previous multilateral summits that India has hosted.
  - None of the previous summits had the world's largest economies assembled in one place nor did they have the entire P-5 (permanent members of the UN Security Council) represented.
  - In that sense, the G-20 summit would be the first of its kind in Indian history.
- **Depoliticisation:** To promote harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilisers and medical products, so that geopolitical tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises.

### **The G20 Grouping**

- Origin: The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.

- Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- On the advice of the G7 Finance Ministers, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors began holding meetings to discuss the response to the global financial crisis that occurred. After that, the Minister of Finance level meeting is held regularly in the fall.
- Nine years later, on November 14-15 2008, the leaders of the G20 countries gathered for the first G20 Summit.
- The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in Washington DC, US. In addition to Summits, the Sherpa meetings (that help in negotiations and building consensus), and other events are also organised throughout the year.
- **Objectives:**
  - Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
  - To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and
  - To create a new international financial architecture.
- **Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- **Others:** Each year, the Presidency invites guest countries, which take full part in the G20 exercise. Several international and regional organizations also participate, granting the forum an even broader representation.
- Together, the G20 countries include:
  - 60 percent of the world's population,
  - 80 percent of global GDP, and
  - 75 percent of global trade.
- **Presidency of G20 & Troika:** The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members.
  - The country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the 'Troika' to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda
- The G20 has no permanent secretariat. The agenda and work are coordinated by representatives of the G20 countries, known as 'Sherpas', who work together with the finance ministers and governors of the central banks. India recently said ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant would be the G20 Sherpa after Piyush Goyal.

## G20 Grouping



### G20 Grouping

- It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- It has representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- Headquarters - It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

### Facts about G20 Grouping

- Consists of two-thirds of the world's population.
- It account 85% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

### Recent Development

- Formation of G20 Troika with members like Indonesia, Italy and India.
- India convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023 in September.

### G20 members countries



## 65. Interpol Red Notice

### In News

Interpol takes down Red Notice against Mehul Choksi.

### What is Red Notice?

- ***Red Notices are published by INTERPOL at the request of a member country, and must comply with INTERPOL's Constitution and Rules.***
  - It is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.
  - A Red Notice is an international alert for a wanted person, but it is not an arrest warrant.
- **About Red Notice**
  - It is based on an arrest warrant or court order issued by the judicial authorities in the requesting country.
  - Member countries apply their own laws in deciding whether to arrest a person.
  - ***It contains two types of information:***
    - Information to identify the wanted person, such as their name, date of birth, nationality, hair and eye colour, photographs and fingerprints if available.
    - Information related to the crime they are wanted for, which can typically be murder, rape, child abuse or armed robbery.
  - Red Notices are important because they are used to simultaneously alert police in all the member countries about internationally wanted fugitives.
  - It will help bring fugitives to justice, sometimes many years after the original crime was committed.
  - It is issued for fugitives wanted either for prosecution or to serve a sentence in relation to serious ordinary law crimes.

➤ **About INTERPOL**

- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is an inter-governmental organization.
- It has 195 member countries, and help police in all of these countries to work together to make the world a safer place.
- Its headquarters is in Lyon, France.
- The General Assembly is the governing body and it brings all countries together once a year to take decisions.
- The General Secretariat coordinates our day-to-day activities to fight a range of crimes.
- An INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in each country provides the central point of contact for the General Secretariat and other NCBs.

**International Police Organisation (Interpol)**

**Why in news?**

- The Interpol has withdrawn the Red Corner Notice (RCN) issued against Mehul Choksi.

**International Police Organisation (Interpol)**

- It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation against cross-border terrorism, trafficking, and other crime.
- All decisions regarding the activities of INTERPOL are made by the General Assembly which is its supreme governing body which meets annually.
- It is 'NOT' a unit or part of a united nation system. It is an independent international organization.
- Headquarters - Lyon , France

**INTERPOL NOTICES**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <br><b>RED NOTICE</b><br>WANTED PERSONS          | <br><b>GREEN NOTICE</b><br>WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE   |
| <br><b>YELLOW NOTICE</b><br>MISSING PERSONS      | <br><b>ORANGE NOTICE</b><br>IMMINENT THREAT  |
| <br><b>BLUE NOTICE</b><br>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | <br><b>PURPLE NOTICE</b><br>MODUS OPERANDI   |
| <br><b>BLACK NOTICE</b><br>UNIDENTIFIED BODIES   | <br><b>INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE</b><br>GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS |

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**66. GISAID**

**In News**

GISAID temporarily lifts ban on authors of Zenodo report.

**About GISAID**

- The *Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data* is an open-access influenza genome database.
- It is a global science initiative and primary source established in 2008.
- It shares genetic sequence and related clinical and epidemiological data associated with human viruses.
- GISAID has been recognized for incentivizing rapid exchange of outbreak data during the H1N1 pandemic.
- It ensure that open access to data is provided free-of-charge to all individuals that agreed to identify themselves and agreed to uphold the GISAID sharing mechanism.
- It promotes the development of novel research tools for the analysis of influenza data.
- It help developers to facilitate the integration or connection of their tools to analyze GISAID data.
- The European Commission recognized GISAID as a research organization and partner in the PREDEMICS consortium.

#### **About Zenodo**

- Zenodo is a general-purpose open repository developed under the European OpenAIRE program and operated by CERN.
- Zenodo was launched in 2013.
- Zenodo helps the Big Science tools to be effectively shared with the long-tail of research.
- It allows researchers to deposit research papers, data sets, research software, reports, and any other research related digital artefacts.

### **67. Bali Peace Clause**

#### **In News**

India comes under fire at WTO for avoiding questions on MSP subsidy.

#### **What is Peace Clause?**

- Trade negotiators generally refer to Article 13 of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture as the Peace Clause.
  - It states that domestic support measures and export subsidies of a WTO member that are legal under the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture cannot be challenged by other WTO members.
  - The Peace Clause expired by the end of 2003.

#### **Bali Peace Clause**

- A temporary peace clause was made at the WTO Bali conference in 2013.
- It states that no country would be legally barred from food security programs for its own people even if the subsidy breached the limits specified in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture.

- The peace clause allows developing countries to breach the 10% ceiling without invoking legal action by members.
- It is subject to onerous notification requirements and other conditions such as not distorting global trade and not affecting food security of other members.

### Recent Issue

- India has come under fire at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for avoiding questions raised by members on its minimum support price (MSP) programmes for food grain.
- India did not give sufficient replies to concerns raised by other members during consultations.

## World Trade Organization (WTO)



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### World Trade Organization (WTO)

- The WTO is an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations.
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994.
- It replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948.
- It is the largest international economic organization in the world.
- Functions of WTO
  - The WTO deals with the regulation of trade in goods, services and intellectual property between participating countries.
  - It provides a framework for negotiating trade agreements and a dispute resolution process aimed at enforcing participants' adherence to WTO agreements, which are signed by representatives of member governments and ratified by their parliaments.



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