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GS SCORE

India & Neighbours

1

India, China Ink First First-Ever Internal Security Cooperation Agreement

CONTEXT: India and China signed their first ever internal security cooperation agreement marking a new beginning in bilateral relations.

- During the meeting, India has also asked China to support its pending application in the UN to designate **Pakistan-based Masood Azhar, leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group, as a global terrorist.**
- In the past, China—a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council—has opposed **India's proposal to list Azhar as a global terrorist and to not give shelter to hardliner ULFA leader Paresh Baruah.**
- India's mention of Baruah to China comes in the backdrop of reports stating that **United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) leader Baruah** had been making frequent trips to China. During the seventies, when insurgency was at its peak in the north-east, the extremist leaders often got training and shelter in China.
- Chinese concerns included **insurgency in Xinjiang by Uighur extremists.** In the **absence of an extradition treaty with China**, the two countries have not exchanged each other's sentenced prisoners, but this pact may change that. There are at least 10 Indians in Chinese prisons and an equal number of Chinese citizens in Indian prisons.

Uighurs and Separatist Movement: The Uyghurs or Uighurs is a **Turkic ethnic group** who live in East and Central Asia. Uyghurs live primarily in the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China**, where they are one of China's fifty-five officially-recognized ethnic minorities. Uyghurs primarily practice Islam.

- **Xinjiang in northwest China** has seen sporadic terror attacks since 2009, allegedly plotted by the **separatist movement for East Turkestan**, whose leaders live outside China. There is little evidence to show that the majority of Xinjiang's residents — Muslim Uighurs support them. But the **government has descended heavily on them.**
- Human Rights Watch says Uighur people in particular are subject to intense surveillance and are made to give DNA and biometric samples. Those with relatives in 26 "sensitive" countries have reportedly been rounded up, and up to a million detained.

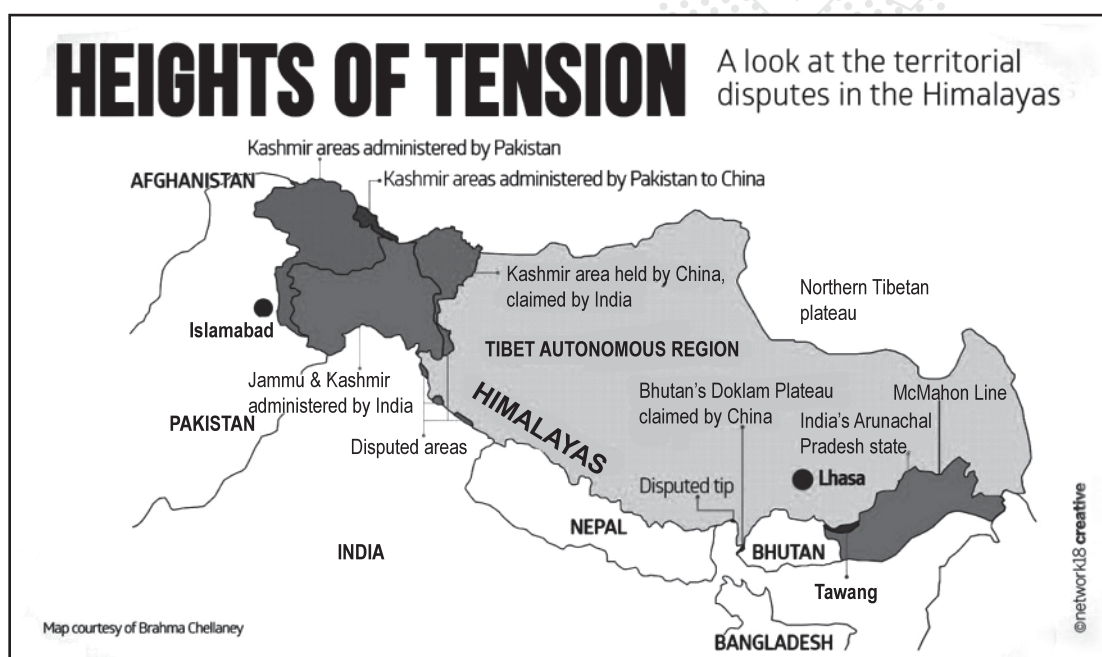
2

India-China Doklam Standoff

CONTEXT: 73 day standoff between India and China took place in Doklam area of Bhutan in June, 2017.

Doklam area:

- The location of the standoff is **Dolam plateau**, which is in the **Doklam area**. The Dolam plateau is different from Doklam plateau.
 - The trijunction is disputed — India claims it is at **Batang La**, while China claims it is around 6.5 km to the south, at **Gymochen**. The border between China and India in the Sikkim section is seen as 'settled'. There is no Line of Actual Control between India and China.
- The standoff started when large construction party of the Chinese Army entered the area with road construction equipment and tried to build a road in **Southern Doklam region to Jampheri ridge**
 - India's concerns emanated from Chinese action **to change the status quo on the ground by building a road in violation of China's existing understanding** with both India and Bhutan
 - The **road construction** would have brought the Chinese military close to the India border in West Bengal and exposed the Jampheri ridge to the possibility of Chinese presence, creating **serious security vulnerability for the Silguri Corridor**.
 - India worked in close coordination with Bhutan at various levels, and was equally concerned about the violation of 1988 and 1998 agreements between Bhutan and China; these do not allow any change in status quo while boundary negotiations were in progress.
 - **India-China Border Dispute Map:**



3 China halts India's entry into NSG

CONTEXT: China refused to dilute its stand on India's entry into the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), asserting that New Delhi must sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty to gain entry as there is no precedent for the inclusion of non-NPT countries.

- China has sought to club India and Pakistan together, on the basis of both being non-signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Chinese representatives want NSG countries to adopt a "criteria-based approach" which essentially means that either **both India and Pakistan can get into the group or none**.

- But most of the NSG countries, including the **US, France and UK**, make a clear distinction between India and Pakistan's nuclear non-proliferation track record.

4

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

CONTEXT: CPEC under OBOR (one belt one road) initiative is expected to benefit only China.

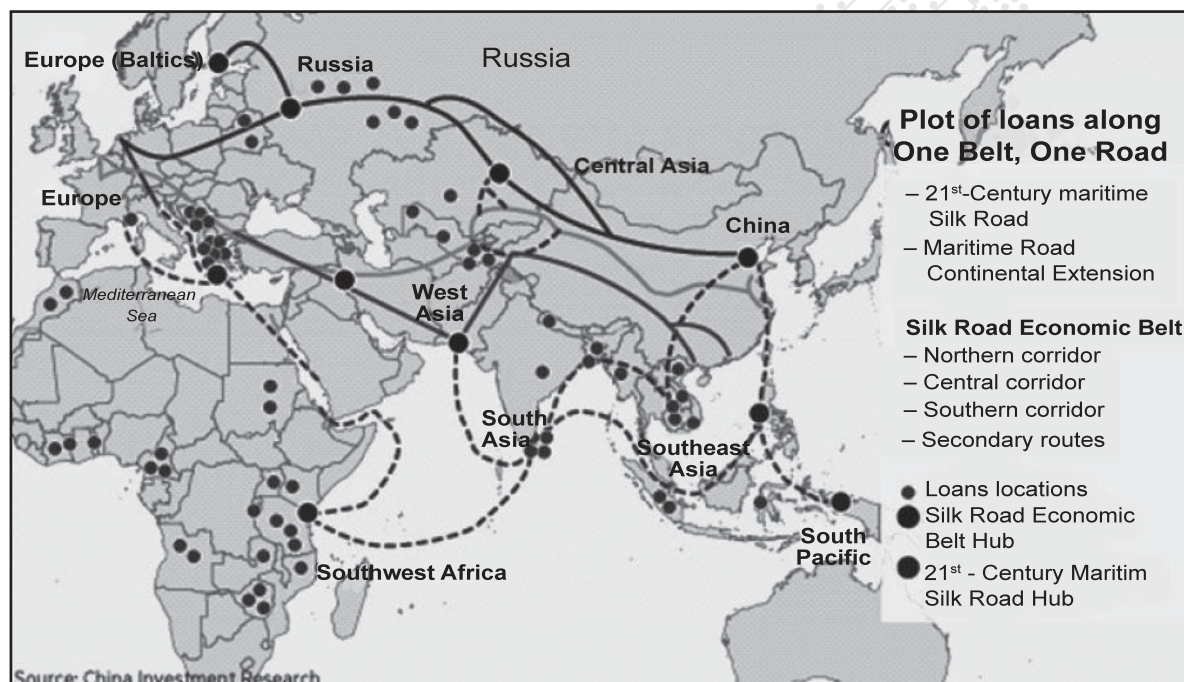
One Belt One Road (OBOR): the brainchild of Chinese President Xi Jinping, is an **ambitious project that focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation** among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe.

- Dubbed as the **“Project of the Century”** by the Chinese authorities, OBOR spans about 78 countries.
 - The project involves building a big **network of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines and associated infrastructure** projects.
 - The project **covers two parts**. First is called the **“Silk Road Economic Belt”** which is **primarily land-based** and is expected to **connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe**.
 - The **second is called the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”** which is **sea-based** and is expected to **will China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia**.
 - The names are confusing as the **‘Belt’ is actually a network of roads, and the ‘Road’ is actually a sea route. CPEC is one of its components.**
- CPEC is clutch of projects valued at **\$51 billion project which aims at rapidly expanding and upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure and strengthening the economic ties** between the People's Republic of China and Pakistan.
 - The 3,000 km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consisting of **highways, railways, and pipelines** is the latest irritant in the India-China relationship.
 - The **goal of CPEC is to modernize road, rail, air, and energy transportation systems—and to connect the deep-sea Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi to China's Xinjiang province.**
 - The proposed project will be financed by heavily-subsidised loans that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banking giants such as **EXIM Bank of China, China Development Bank, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.**
 - The CPEC also envisages a terrestrial cable across the **Khunjerab pass to Islamabad.**
 - Also a **submarine landing station of cable in Gwadar** is planned. Gwadar, as per the plan, “is positioned as the direct hinterland connecting Balochistan and Afghanistan”.
 - Expanded bandwidth will enable terrestrial broadcast of digital HD television, called **Digital Television Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcasting (DTMB)**. This is envisioned as more than just a technological contribution and help in cultural closeness between two countries.
 - Chinese economy claims that its goal through CPEC is to improve the agriculture sector of certain **western provinces like Kashgar.**
 - The plan proposes to harness the work of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps to bring mechanization as well as scientific technique in livestock breeding, development of hybrid varieties and precision irrigation to Pakistan.
 - **Xinjiang borders the countries of Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India**, and the ancient Silk Road ran through its territory. This would reduce the time and cost of transporting goods and energy such as natural gas to China by **circumventing the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea.**

India's concern

- Many experts are not in favour of India supporting CPEC. This is so because any Indian participation would inextricably be **linked to the country's legitimate claims on PoK**.
- CPEC rests on a Chinese plan to secure and shorten its supply lines through Gwadar with an enhanced presence in the Indian Ocean. Hence, it is widely believed that upon CPEC's fruition, **an extensive Chinese presence will undermine India's influence in the Indian Ocean**.
- It is also being contended that if CPEC were to successfully transform the Pakistan economy that could be a "red rag" for India which will remain at the receiving end of a wealthier and stronger Pakistan.
- Besides, India shares a great deal of trust deficit with China and Pakistan and has a history of conflict with both. As a result, even though suggestions to re-approach the project pragmatically have been made, no advocate has overruled the principle strands of contention that continue to mar India's equations with China and Pakistan.

OBOR Map:



5

India- Pakistan: Hearing of Kulbhushan Jadhav Case in International Court of Justice

CONTEXT: During the on-going hearing of Kulbhushan Jadhav case, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) refused to entertain Pakistan's request to adjourn the hearing in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav to appoint a new ad-hoc judge.

- **International Court of Justice**
 - It is the **principal judicial organ of the United Nations**.
 - It was established in **1945** by the San Francisco Conference, which also created the UN.
 - All members of the UN are parties to the statute of the ICJ, and non-members may also become parties.

- ▶ The court's primary function is to pass judgment upon **disputes between sovereign states**. Only states may be parties in cases before the court, and no state can be sued before the World Court unless it consents to such an action.
- ▶ Under article 36 of the court's statute, any state may consent to the court's compulsory jurisdiction in advance by filing a declaration to that effect with the UN secretary-general.

Vienna Convention

- The **Vienna** Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 is an international treaty that defines a framework for **consular relations between independent states**.
 - A consul normally operates out of an embassy in another country, and performs two functions: (1) protecting in the host country the interests of their countrymen, and (2) furthering the commercial and economic relations between the two states.
 - The treaty provides for consular immunity. The treaty has been ratified by **179 states**. Advisory opinions are not binding and are only consultative, though they are considered important.
- KulbhushanJadhav, a former Indian Navy officer, was arrested by Pakistani officials in March 2016, **on suspicion of espionage and sabotage activities** against the country.
 - Claiming that Jadhav was an Indian spy, the Pakistani military court sentenced him to death.
 - India has maintained that Mr.Jadhav, a former naval officer-turned-businessman, was innocent and he had been kidnapped by Pakistani intelligence agencies from Iran.
 - India took Pakistan to the **ICJ** on the grounds that Islamabad violated the **Vienna Convention** by denying consular access to KulbhushanJadhav.
 - Pakistan countered it with another argument questioning the jurisdiction of the ICJ in a case that involves, according to Pakistan, a spy.
 - Pakistan has invoked the reservation under the **UN charter (including India's reservation as part of the Commonwealth) and the bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan** whereby consular access can be denied to those caught in acts of espionage.

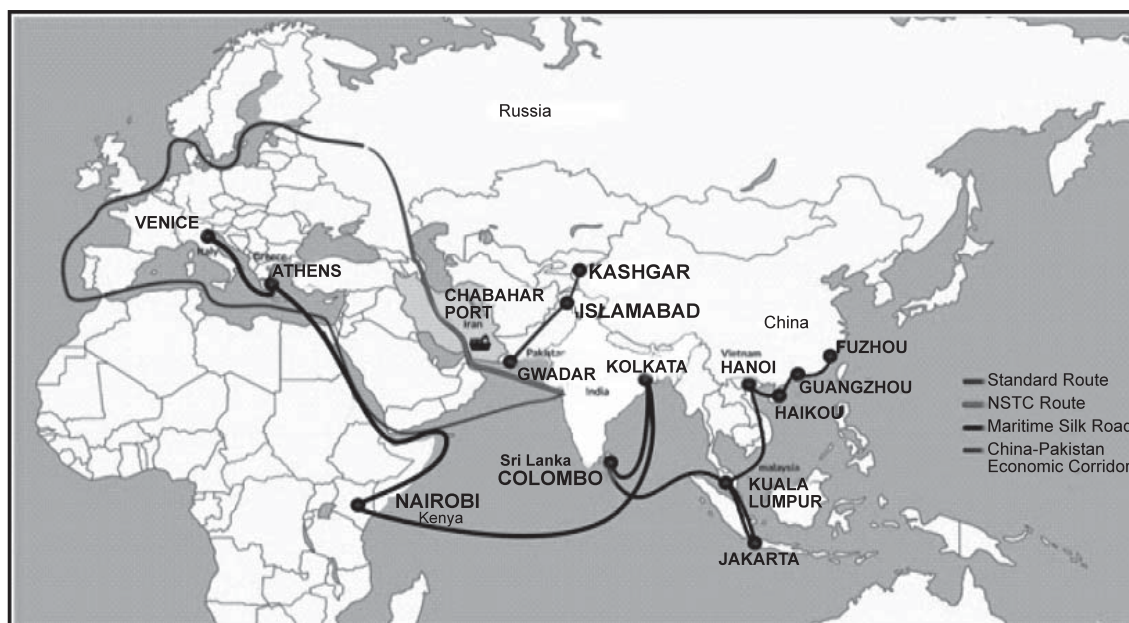
6

First trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran on Chabahar

CONTEXT: The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement was held in Tehran, capital city of Iran.

Chabahar Project

- Chabahar is strategically located in **Sistan-Balochistan province** on energy-rich Iran's southern coast in Gulf of Oman. It is less than 100 nautical miles from **Chinese built port of Gwadar in Pakistan**.
 - The port is seen as golden gateway for India to access landlocked markets of Afghanistan and Central Asian markets **bypassing Pakistan**.
- **India, Iran and Afghanistan** in May 2016, had signed agreement which entailed establishment of transit and transport corridor among three countries using Chabahar Port as one of regional hubs.
 - Detailed discussions were held between three sides on full operationalization of **trilateral Agreement** for international transit and transport through Chabahar port.
 - They also decided to constitute follow-up committee to discuss and finalise protocol to harmonise transit, roads, customs and consular matters for making the route attractive and decrease logistic costs.



7 Bhutan's PM visit to India

CONTEXT: Recently, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering was on visit to India. This was his first visit abroad after assuming office, which shows the importance Bhutan attaches to relations with India.

- The year 2018 celebrates the **Golden Jubilee** of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan. Marking the **completion of 50 years**, Bhutan opened a Consulate in Guwahati.
- The primary objective would be to conclude discussions over **development assistance package for Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan (November 2017-October 2023)**.

BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)

- The landmark MVA was signed by Transport Ministers of BBIN countries (**Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal**) in Thimphu, Bhutan in June 2015. **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** have already **ratified** MVA and have agreed to start its implementation among three signatory countries. Bhutan will bandwagon them after it ratifies the agreement.
- The agreement will **permit member states to ply their vehicles in each other's territory for transportation of cargo and passengers**, including third country transport and personal vehicles
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is providing technical, advisory, and financial support to BBIN MVA initiative as part of its assistance to South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program.
- **SASEC program:** It is **projects-based economic cooperation initiative of ADB** that brings together BBIN countries, **Maldives, Sri Lanka and more recently, Myanmar**. ADB (Manila) is secretariat of SASEC.

8 Work on Asian Trilateral Highway to begin shortly

CONTEXT: Construction work of Asian Trilateral Highway will be started to catalyze the Act east policy.

- The proposed highway covering **India, Myanmar and Thailand** is **1,400 km-long**. It will help in smoother and faster movement of goods between these regions.
- Idea of the highway is **from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand, via Myanmar**. It was conceived at the trilateral ministerial meeting on transport linkages in Yangon in 2002.
- India main exports to these countries includes pharma, machinery, vehicles, plastics and cotton while imports are pulses, rubber, wood, mineral oil and spices.
- India is also working to develop the **Kaladan multi-modal transport** corridor which comprises waterway and roadway.

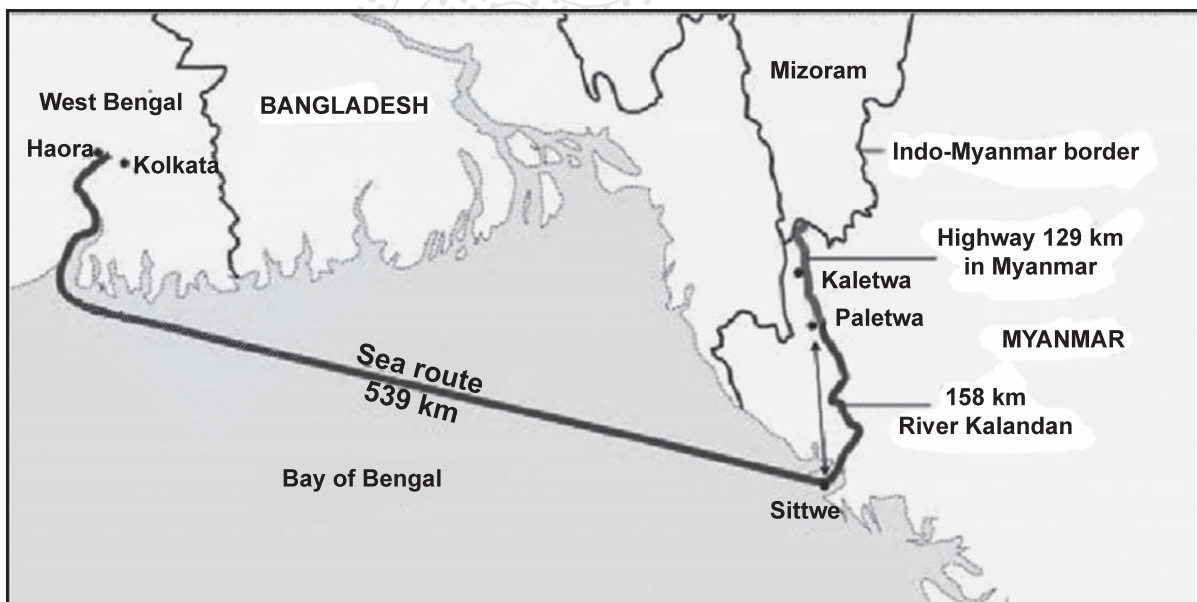
9

Boost to Kaladan Project: India-Myanmar Signed MOU towards making Sittwe Port Operational

CONTEXT: India and Myanmar inked a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to appoint a private operator for operation and maintenance of Sittwe port located at the mouth of Kaladan River in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:

- It is a project **connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar** by sea.
- In Myanmar, it will then link Sittwe seaport to Paletwa in Chin State via the Kaladan river boat route, and then from **Paletwa by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India**.
- It is expected to be operational only by 2019-2020.



- The Sittwe port in Myanmar is expected to **connect India's landlocked north-east region** to the Bay of Bengal through **Mizoram**. It will also provide an **alternate route to Kolkata**.
- Current MoU for the appointment of a private Port Operator also covers **operation and maintenance of Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities** that are part of the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project.

10 India Myanmar Relations

CONTEXT: Myanmar Army and government out rightly rejected the plea of Indian insurgent groups of Assam and Manipur for the shelter in Myanmar.

Recent Engagements with Myanmar:

- India's relationship with Myanmar – the **only ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) country with which it **shares a land border** – is a significant foreign policy priority for the government
- **Act East policy**, which was announced by government **during the 12th ASEAN–India Summit in Myanmar in 2014**.
- Two countries have enjoyed growing bilateral high-level engagement most notably when Indian Prime Minister visited Myanmar in 2017
- **State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi** visited New Delhi in January 2018, one of ten ASEAN leaders who were the **chief guests at India's 2018 Republic Day parade**.
- The **first-ever India–Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise (IMBAX)**, took place in 2017, and focused on **peacekeeping operations**.
- Maritime cooperation between the two countries has also gained importance, with the Indian and Myanmar navies conducting their first-ever bilateral naval exercise, **IMNEX (India Myanmar Naval exercise)**, 2018 in the Bay of Bengal.
- India aims to balance relations between two of its neighbours, majority Buddhist Myanmar and Muslim Bangladesh, which are **strained by the fate of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine State**.

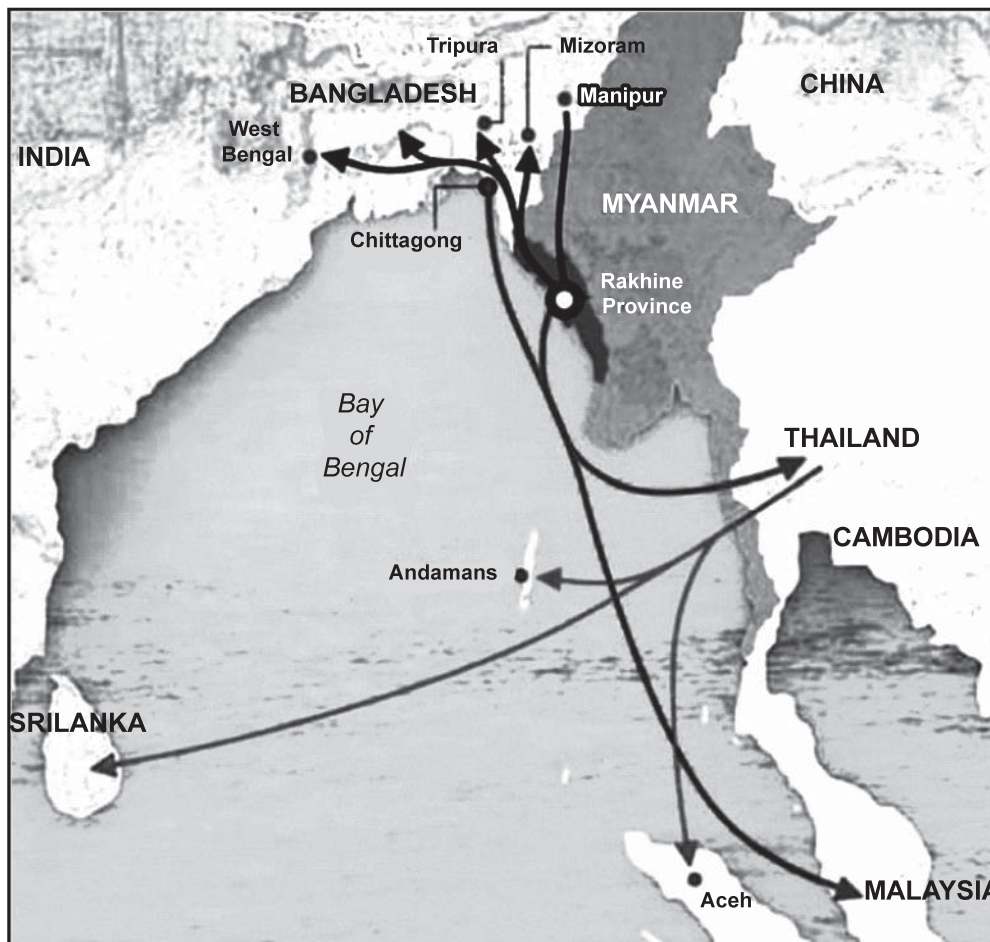
11 Rohingya Issue and India

CONTEXT: UNHCR stated that about 1, 68,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar since 2012, when clashes with Buddhists erupted in the trouble-torn Arakan region.

Rohingya are one of many **ethnic minorities in Myanmar**, where the government sees them as illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh and **denies them citizenship**.

- Government decided to deport over 40,000 Rohingyas living in the country illegally.
- **UNHCR** (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and the **Amnesty International** asked India to reconsider its decision saying that the Rohingyas are the most persecuted ethnic group in the world. India should adopt humanitarian approach
- **Bangladesh's Cox Bazar** has been hosting over seven million Rohingya refugees since August 2017. Bangladesh has requested India's support for early repatriation of the Rohingyas to the **Rakhine State of Myanmar**.
- United Nations inked a deal with the government of Burma to begin the long process of resettling some of the 700,000 Rohingya refugees.
- Three parties that signed the memorandum of understanding were **the U.N. refugee agency, or UNHCR; the U.N. Development Program; and the Burmese government**.

Rohingyas Migration map:



12 India - Bangladesh

CONTEXT: Joint military exercise-SAMPRTI was conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh in March 2019.

Recent Engagements on Border Security:

- SAMPRITI aims to strengthen and broaden the aspects of inter-operability and co-operation between the Armies of both countries.
- In a separate development an **advanced electronic surveillance system along the 61-km border of India-Bangladesh** was set up in **Dhubri district of Assam** to tackle cross border crime and help BSF personnel in round the clock patrolling.
- The new project, under **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management (CIBM)** will equip the unfenced areas along the riverine border with sensors.
- The **BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception)** will cover the entire Brahmaputra River with data network generated by microwave communication.
- India-Bangladesh border along Assam’s Dhubri district will be equipped with **underwater and underground sonar sensors** to detect any illegal cross-border activities.

India & World

1

Joint Proposal by India & China in WTO on Aggregate Measurement of Support

CONTEXT: India and China jointly submitted a proposal in the 11th ministerial conference of the WTO held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2017 for the elimination of Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) or 'Amber Box' by developed countries.

Domestic Support in Agriculture

- In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by "Boxes" which are given the colours of traffic lights: **green (permitted), amber (slow down — i.e. be reduced), red (forbidden)**

- **Green Box:** In order to qualify, green box subsidies **must not distort trade**, or at most cause minimal distortion. They have to be **government-funded** and **must not involve price support**.
- **Amber Box:** Nearly all **domestic support measures** considered to **distort production and trade** (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box. It is defined in **Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement** as all domestic supports **except** those in the **blue and green boxes**.
- These supports are subject to "**de minimis**".
- The Agriculture Agreement has **no red box**
- **Blue Box:** This is the "**amber box with conditions**" — conditions designed to **reduce distortion**. Any support that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if the support also **requires farmers to limit production**

- Six industrialized countries (the EU is regarded as a single unit, although it is made up of 28 countries) are entitled to providing farm support through **de minimis**.
 - ▶ **De-Minimis** - Minimal amounts of domestic support that are allowed even though they distort trade — up to 5% of the value of production for **developed countries, 10% for developing**.
- But subsidies for many items provided by the developed world are over 50% of the value of production of the product concerned, while developing countries are forced to contain it within 10% of the value of production.

2

India – U.S Defence Pacts

- There are **four foundational agreements** that help the U.S. to intensify its defence cooperation with a partner nation such as India.

- India had signed only three of these four agreements -
 - ▶ **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** in 2002- it provides Greater technology cooperation in the military sector.
 - ▶ **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** in 2016- Gives both nations access to each other's military facilities
 - ▶ **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** in 2018- Enables transfer of encrypted communications systems
- The last one remaining is the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)**. The agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.

3 India-USA Conduct 2+2 Dialogue in New Delhi

CONTEXT: India and the US held the 2+2 dialogue leading to signing of Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)

2+2 dialogue: A 'two plus two dialogue' is a term — adopted in foreign parleys — used for installation of a dialogue mechanism between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries.

- To put it simply, 'two plus two dialogue' is an expression used to indicate that two appointed ministers from each country, the ministers of defence and external affairs in this case, will meet up to discuss the two countries' strategic and security interests. The goal is to establish a diplomatic, yet fruitful, conversation between the two countries' respective heads of defence and external affairs.
- Signing of COMCASA will enable India to access advanced technologies from the US.
- It will provide a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India that would facilitate "interoperability" between their forces and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secured data links.
- It will also allow the installation of high-security US communication equipment on defence platforms.
- It would enhance India's defence capability and preparedness.
- Two sides also announced the deployment of an Indian liaison officer at the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), which is in charge of naval operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the oil-rich Gulf countries.

4 India's Exemption from CAATSA

CONTEXT: U.S is set to exempt an India, Indonesia and Vietnam defence acquisition from Russia from CAATSA law.

- The **Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)**, aims at taking punitive measures against Russia, Iran, and North Korea.
- India have to meet one of two conditions to get exemption,
 - ▶ India has significantly reduced dependence on Russia,
 - ▶ It has significantly increased cooperation with the United States.
- To fulfil thus, **India is in the process of purchasing arms and equipment worth billions of dollars from the United States** in the coming months and years including armed and unarmed drones and fighter jets

5 India in US's Strategic Trade Authorisation-1(STA-1) List

CONTEXT: The US has granted India exemption under the Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 list.

- In 2009, two lists were created namely STA-1 and STA-2 by US to establish a licence-free or license exemption regime.
- **STA-1** - STA-1 countries are America's most trusted allies. The US considers the non-proliferation controls of these countries the best in the world. STA-1 countries have **licence-free access to almost 90% of dual-use technology**
- **STA-2** - Countries in the STA-2 list enjoy **some form of licensing exemption**. But they **cannot access dual-use items/technology** that may impact regional stability, or contribute to nuclear non-proliferation, etc.

6 India's Nuclear Facilities under IAEA Safeguards

CONTEXT: Government of India decided to place four more nuclear reactors under the IAEA safeguards.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- It seeks to **promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.**
 - It was established as an autonomous organization in 1957 through its own international treaty, the **IAEA Statute**.
 - Its headquarters are in **Vienna, Austria**. IAEA serves as international nuclear energy watchdog, **independent of United Nations** but **reports to both** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Security Council (UNSC).
- The four reactors will include **two Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors** and **two Pressurised Heavy Reactors** built with Indian technology.
 - With the addition of four new nuclear reactors, **a total of 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be under IAEA**, the nuclear energy watchdog.
 - These reactors are **eligible to import uranium** to generate nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

Background

- As India is not a party to **Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, it has classified its nuclear facilities into **two types under Separation Plan**
- **Unsafeguarded**- where domestic uranium can be used anywhere India wants. **Safeguarded**- where **imported uranium would be used for civilian nuclear energy**.
- Since India's use of domestic uranium could not anyway be restricted, this was seen as a balance between the benefits of nuclear energy in emission reduction and the risks of increasing India's military capability.

India and IAEA safeguards:

- The IAEA safeguards in the country are implemented in accordance with the agreement entered between Government of India and the IAEA.
- In 2014, India ratified the **additional protocol**, a commitment given **under the Indo-US civil nuclear deal** by the government to grant **greater access to the IAEA to monitor country's civilian atomic programme**.

- A special set of India-specific safeguards, negotiated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ensures that **imported uranium was not diverted for military use**.
- **New reactor plants established with foreign collaboration are automatically placed under the IAEA safeguards.**

7 Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT

- NPT was negotiated by the **Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament**, a United Nations-sponsored organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. **It came into force in 1970.**
- It is an 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.
- **Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT**, three of which are thought to possess nuclear weapons: **India, Israel, and Pakistan**. In addition, **South Sudan**, founded in 2011, has not joined.
- The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967; these are the **United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China**.
- Four other states are known or believed to possess nuclear weapons: **India, Pakistan, and North Korea** have openly tested and declared that they possess nuclear weapons, while **Israel** is deliberately ambiguous regarding its nuclear weapons status.

8 UN Chief Appeals India and US, to Ratify CTBT

CONTEXT: UN chief Antonio Guterres reiterated his appeal to eight nations, including India and the US, to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, to ensure a world free of atomic weapons.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

- The treaty **prohibits nuclear explosions anywhere** – whether on the Earth’s surface, in the atmosphere, underwater or underground.
- It also **makes it difficult for countries to develop nuclear bombs for the first time**, and prevents nations that already possess nuclear technology from developing even more powerful bombs.
- More than 180 countries have signed the CTBT, and mostly ratified it; the treaty **can only enter into force after it is ratified by eight countries with nuclear technology capacity**, namely **China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States**.
- **International Day Against Nuclear Tests**, is observed annually on 29 August by Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).
- CTBTO works with over 300 stations to monitor the planet for any sign of a nuclear explosion.

Other Important Arms Control Treaties

<p>Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT), 1963</p>	<p>It bans nuclear tests in the atmosphere, outer space and under water.</p> <p>It does not ban tests underground, but does prohibit explosions in the environment if the explosions create debris outside the territory of the responsible state.</p>
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<p>Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT),1970</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is the only multilateral treaty with a binding commitment of disarmament by nuclear-weapon states. ◦ More states have ratified the NPT than any other treaty on arms limitation and disarmament. ◦ IAEA verifies compliance with the Treaty.
<p>Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I),1972</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The United States and the Soviet Union negotiated agreements on limits and restraints of their strategic armaments. ◦ Attempts to reach an agreement failed on the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) systems and more proposals were made. ◦ After over two years of negotiation, SALT I ended, but an Interim Agreement for five years was established for certain major aspects of strategic weaponry. ◦ SALT II never came into being.
<p>Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty,1972</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It restricts and locates only two ABM deployment areas in such a nature that they cannot become the basis for developing a nationwide ABM defense. ◦ In 2001, U.S. president George Bush submitted a formal notification of intent to repeal the treaty and in 2002, the United States withdrew from the ABM Treaty.
<p>Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) ,1975</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty that bans the development, production, and stockpiling of this category of weapons of mass destruction.
<p>Intermediate-Range Forces Treaty, 1987</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The treaty was signed in Reykjavik, Iceland, by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and led to the destruction of more than 2600 missiles by 1991. ◦ It originally banned only the U.S. and the Soviet Union (later Russia) from deploying all ground-launched nuclear and conventional missiles with a range of 500 to 5500kms. After 1991, treaty also covered Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine under it. ◦ Through the treaty, the superpowers for the first time, agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, and utilize extensive on-site inspections for verification
<p>Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR),1987</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is an informal association of governments with common interests in missile, unmanned air vehicle, and related technology of non-proliferation. ◦ Its goal is to limit risks of proliferation by controlling transfers to delivery systems capable of weapons of mass destruction. States must follow laws and procedures which include information-sharing. There is no formal mechanism to ensure compliance
<p>Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START I), 1994</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It was the first treaty that required U.S. and Soviet/Russian reductions of strategic nuclear weapons. It was indispensable in creating a framework that ensured predictability and stability for deep reductions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The dissolution of the Soviet Union caused a delayed the treaty, as the classification of states as nuclear or non-nuclear had to be determined, among other things. START II ceased START I.
<p>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), 1997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is the first multilateral framework that seeks to eliminate chemical weapons as a category of weapons of mass destruction. ◦ The Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was established in 1997 as the entry-into-force of the CWC in order to lay out standard operating procedures and implement the regime of the CWC. ◦ The provisions of the CWC create a transparent regime that can verify the destruction of chemical weapons, prevent the re-emergence in any party, and provide protection against chemical weapons. It also encourages cooperation on the peaceful uses of chemistry.
<p>Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (Yet to come into force)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is composed of three parts: Part I details the International Monitoring System (IMS), Part II focuses on the On-Site Inspections (OSI component), and Part III is on Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs). ◦ The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is an international organization with two organs: the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) which coordinates with countries to develop and maintain an international network of monitoring stations and radionuclide laboratories, and the Preparatory Commission which is designed to help achieve the object and purpose of the Treaty

9 India-Japan Civil Nuclear Energy Deal

CONTEXT: Landmark Indo-Japanese civil nuclear deal signed in November 2016 comes into force.

- The deal would **enable Japan to export nuclear power plant technology as well as provide finance** for nuclear power plants in India.
- Japan would also assist India in **nuclear waste management** and could undertake **joint manufacture of nuclear power plant components** under the **Make in India** initiative.
- India is the only **non-NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty) signatory** with which Japan has entered into a civil nuclear deal and this can be seen as a recognition for India's impeccable non-proliferation record
- **Westinghouse (acquired by Japanese conglomerate Toshiba in 2006) is to set up six nuclear reactors in Andhra Pradesh**, and will supply technology and construction to India.

10 Japan-USA-India (JAI) & Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral

CONTEXT: Recently, at the G-20 Summit held in Buenos Aires, the newly-forged Japan-USA-India (JAI) trilateral meeting hogged everyone's attention. However, there was another equally important meeting which took place on the side-lines — that of the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral, a much older grouping.

Japan-USA-India (JAI)

- In the recently held G-20 meeting at in Buenos Aires, Prime Minister termed the India-US-Japan partnership as “**JAI**” or victory and said that the partnership between the three nations would go a long way in ensuring world peace and prosperity.
- India, Japan and the United States have agreed that a “**free, open, inclusive and rules based**” order is essential for the Indo-Pacific’s peace and prosperity as the leaders from the three countries held a trilateral meeting for the first time, amidst China flexing its muscles in the strategic region.
- The leaders also agreed to the central role of ASEAN and they also agreed to work on maritime and connectivity issues and to synergise efforts in this regard.

Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral

- Together, the **RIC countries occupy over 19 percent of the global landmass** and contribute to over **33 percent of global GDP**.
- All three countries are nuclear powers and two, Russia and China, are **permanent members of the UN Security Council**, while India aspires to be one.

11 Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

CONTEXT: Vision document for AAGC was released by India in the 2017 African Development Bank meeting in Gujarat.

Asia-Africa Growth Corridor:

- It is an **India-Japan economic cooperation agreement aimed at the socio-economic development of Asia and Africa**.
- Aim of the AAGC is to **develop infrastructure and digital connectivity** in Africa through Indo-Japan collaboration.
- The basic concept of the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is that it aims for an open, inclusive, sustainable and innovative growth of the entire Asia-Africa region, in cooperation with the international community.
- The AAGC Vision Study will use **Geographical Simulation Model** to bring out the economic gains for Africa through its integration with India, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania.

12 Taiwan and India

CONTEXT: India had imposed safeguard duty of up to 25 per cent on solar cells imports from China and Malaysia for two years to protect domestic players from a steep rise in inbound shipments.

- Taiwan has sought consultations with India **under the WTO’s safeguard agreement** against India’s decision to impose import duty on solar cells.
- The consultations, however, do not fall under WTO’s dispute settlement system.
- Seeking consultations under the safeguard agreement is a **way to inform other countries that they are not fulfilling their commitments under the WTO rules**.
- Solar cells are mainly primarily imported from China, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.
- Imports of solar cells from Malaysia and China account for more than 90 per cent of the total inbound shipments in the country.

13 India – South Korea

CONTEXT: South Korea is speeding up negotiations on expanding the existing Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India.

- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is a free trade agreement between India and South Korea.
- **Other Agreements between South Korea and India**
 - ▶ **Twin City Agreement** - Union Territory Delhi government and South Korea has signed a twincity agreement between Seoul and Delhi.
 - ▶ **Trade Remedy Cooperation** - MoU will promote cooperation between the two countries in the area of trade remedies such as antidumping, subsidy and countervailing and safeguard measures.

14 Asia Pacific Trade Agreement

- The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) was signed in 1975 as an initiative of UN- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- It is previously named the **Bangkok Agreement**.
- There are 6-member states to APTA – **Bangladesh, China, India, South Korea, Laos and Sri Lanka**.
- **Mongolia is soon to become the 7th member** of APTA. It has concluded bilateral negotiation on tariff concessions with members of APTA.
- It is a **preferential trade agreement (PTA)**, under which the basket of items as well as extent of tariff concessions are enlarged during the trade negotiating rounds.
- APTA is the **only operational trade agreement linking China and India**.

15 5th ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting (ADMM)-Plus in Singapore

CONTEXT: It was the first annualised meeting of the member countries of ADMM Plus as earlier the member countries used to meet once in two years. With the theme 'Strengthening Cooperation, Building Resilience, which resulted in adoption of two resolutions.

- **Countering the Threat of Terrorism.**
- **Practical Confidence Building Measures.**

Asian Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)

- The ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action, adopted at the **10th ASEAN Summit**, stipulates that ASEAN shall work towards the convening of an annual ADMM.
- Against this background, the Inaugural meeting of the ADMM was held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2006.
- The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.
- The ADMM aims to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness.

ADMM-Plus:

- Consistent with the ADMM guiding principles of open and outward looking, the **2nd ADMM in Singapore in 2007 adopted** the Concept Paper to establish the ADMM-Plus.
 - The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its **eight Dialogue Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the US)** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
 - The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in **Ha Noi, Vietnam, on 12 October 2010**.
 - The Defence Ministers then agreed on five areas of practical cooperation to pursue under this new mechanism, namely maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.
 - To facilitate cooperation on these areas, Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) are established.
- The ADMM-Plus Defence Ministers, in the first joint statement on **Preventing and Countering the Threat of Terrorism, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**, and agreed to strengthen regional counter-terrorism cooperation.
 - This included a sustained and comprehensive approach at both national and international levels, regional cooperation through capacity-building initiatives and the sharing of information, intelligence, experience, best practices, and lessons learned.
 - India has been a constant participant of ADMM Plus since its inception. In the 5th ADMM meeting, Indian Defence Minister has reiterated India's commitment to regional peace, prosperity and enhanced cooperation with other partners of ADMM challenges like terrorism, climate change etc.

14 India and Indonesia Cooperation

- Context- Indonesia has recently agreed to give India **access to its port for operational turnaround for Indian Navy**.
- In a first, Indian ship **INS Sumitra** berthed at **Sabang Port** close to the **Malacca Strait** for operational turnaround.
- INS Sumitra sailed from Port Blair to Sabang, where it will take provisions and fuel before going for further deployment in the Indian Ocean.
- It will increase the Indian Navy's footprint in the region. **Sabang port is in Sumatra island of Indonesia**.

16 India – Singapore

CONTEXT: India and Singapore have recently signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

CECA involves only “**tariff reduction/elimination in a phased manner** on listed / all items except the negative list and tariff rate quota (TRQ) items” while **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** also covers the trade in services and investment, and other areas of economic partnership. So **CEPA is a wider term than CECA and has the widest coverage**.

- Singapore is the **second largest trading partner** of India within ASEAN and India is the largest trading partner of Singapore in South Asia.

17 Relations between India and United Arab Emirates

CONTEXT: Recently Christian Michel, a British National, wanted in Agusta Westland Chopper scam, was extradited to India from Dubai.

- Deepak Talwar and Rajiv Saxena were also extradited to India from UAE. **Rajiv Saxena is a co-accused in Agusta Westland Scam. Deepak Talwar is a lobbyist accused of economic offences** in India.
- UAE offered to provide financial assistance to India during the Kerala floods in August last year.

Recent Engagements:

- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin **Zayed Al Nahyan** was the **Chief Guest of 2017 Republic Day of India**.
- India was designated as the Guest of Honour country at Abu Dhabi Music and Art festival 2018.
- India and UAE signed an MOU for cooperation in Africa.
- India UAE had their **first bilateral Naval exercise in March 2018** named 'Gulf Star 1', which took place off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- India UAE **signed a currency swap agreement** in December last year which will boost trade and economic relationship between two countries and reduce India's dependence on US Dollar.
- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has signed **agreement to explore storing Crude oil in Indian Strategic Reserve in Padur**.
- ADNOC also filled up 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil in Mangalore strategic reserve, the only foreign and private player so far to have invested in storing in Indian strategic reserve.
- Abu Dhabi government **allotted land for construction of first Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi**. There are two Hindu temples in UAE, both in Dubai.
- UAE and India signed an MOU in field of manpower **exploring the possibility of linking their respective e-platforms** for the benefit and welfare of Indian workers going to UAE.
- India and UAE is **fast-tracking food corridor**. This will entail investment by UAE in Indian agriculture sector benefitting farmers and creating additional jobs in food processing logistics etc. It will also help in food security for UAE.
- The UAE is one of the **biggest overseas markets for Indian cinema** apart from the UK and USA.

18 India - Seychelles Bilateral Meet

Context: Seychelles President Danny Faure recently visited India for a bilateral meet.

- **Assumption Island** - It is one of the 115 islands constituting Seychelles archipelago.
- India signed a **pact to develop Assumption Island** which includes permission to station Indian military personnel on the ground. It is being **financed entirely by India**.
- India has recently gifted a **Dornier maritime patrol aircraft** to Seychelles
- India has also announced a **\$100 million line of credit** under which Seychelles can purchase military hardware from India.



19 India – Morocco

CONTEXT: Union cabinet has recently approved the revised air services agreement between India and Morocco.

- Air services agreements are **signed bilaterally to improve seamless air connectivity** between two sovereign nations.
- Under the agreement, both countries designate one of more airlines.
- These designated airlines of either country
- Have the right to establish offices in the territory of the other country for the promotion and sale of air services.
- Can enter into cooperative marketing arrangements with the designated carriers of same party, other party and third country.
- Can operate any number of services to/from the six points specified in the Route Schedule.

20 Extradition Treaty between India and Malawi

- Union Cabinet has recently approved extradition treaty between **India and Malawi**.
- The Treaty would **provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals** from and to Malawi.
- An extradition treaty is a **mutually agreed text signed and ratified by two Governments**.
- The arrangement is made in the absence of an extradition treaty on the assurance of reciprocity including under an international convention.
- In the arrangement, two countries consider any international convention as the legal basis for extradition in respect of any offence to which the convention applies.
- It **does not cover all offences**.

21 e-VidyaBharati

- India has recently launched digital bridge called e-VidyaBharati & e-ArogyaBharati Network between **India and Africa**.
- The network covers **48 african countries** and operates based on satellite technology.
- It aims at providing quality **tele-education and tele-medicine** facility by linking select Indian Universities, Institutions and Super Specialty Hospitals to African educational institutions and hospitals.

22 MoU between India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (TIF)

CONTEXT: Union Cabinet Approves MoU between India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund(TIF) in 2017.

- India and Israel will make a contribution of four million US Dollars each for the Fund, both **equivalent amounts**, annually for **five years**. The Innovation Fund will be **governed by a joint Board** which will consist of **four members from each country**.
- The MoU envisages promotion of bilateral Industrial R&D and Innovation cooperation in the fields of science and technology by extending **support to joint projects for innovative or technology-driven new or improved products, services or processes**.

- It is expected that this will **foster and strengthen the eco-system of innovation and entrepreneurship** in India and will contribute directly to the Start-up India programme.
- It is a \$40 million **India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)**. The projects will focus on affordable technological innovations in areas of mutual interest such as water, agriculture, energy and digital technologies.

22 A new European Union strategy for India

CONTEXT: European Union has released its strategy document on India after 14 years.

- The 2004 EU-India declaration on building bilateral strategic partnership, which current strategy document replaces, did not have much of a success in reconfiguring the relationship as was expected.
- There is a new push in Brussels to emerge as a geopolitical actor of some significance and **India is a natural partner in many respects** based on principles of **democracy, human rights, tolerance and internal diversity**.
- **EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for 13.2% of India's overall trade.** Further the trade in services has almost **tripled** in last decade. The EU is also the largest destination for Indian exports.

23 Horizon 2020

Context: It is a joint project by Indian government and European Union to develop a next generation influenza vaccine to protect citizens worldwide.

- It aims to **develop cost-effective and affordable influenza vaccine** rapidly without compromising quality
- The project requires minimum 3 applicants from European countries associated to Horizon 2020 and minimum 3 applicants from India. It is also **open to applicants from other countries**.

24 Deal to Improve Grid Integration of Renewable Energy between India and Germany

CONTEXT: India and Germany ink pact to boost green energy ties.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of Germany signed an agreement on technical cooperation under the "Indo-German Energy Programme - Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC)"
- The main objective of this programme component is **to improve the sector framework and conditions for grid integration of renewable energy**.
- Germany also provides a loan of 7 million euro for training activities in the photovoltaic solar rooftop sector and energy efficiency in residential buildings under technical assistance through GIZ.
- GIZ and MNRE will work on improving market mechanisms and regulations for integration of renewable energies, advancing technical and institutional conditions in specified target states, regions and on a national level, adding human capacities to handle systemic (strategic, managerial, financial, technical) renewable energies integration in an efficient and effective manner.

25 India and Germany Pact

- India and Germany have signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) to focus on the field of **dual vocational education and training and skill development**.
- Under the MoA, students who complete specific training courses in India will get a certificate that is recognised in India and in Germany too.
- These students can apply for jobs in India and also in Germany.

26 India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change signed a letter of Intent establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative together with the Norwegian ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- In January, 2019, the Indian and Norwegian governments agreed to work more closely on oceans by signing a MoU and establishing the India-Norway Ocean Dialogue during the Norwegian Prime Minister's visit to India in January.
- In partnership, Norway and India will share experiences and competence, and collaborate on efforts to develop clean and healthy oceans, sustainable use of ocean resources and growth in the blue economy.
- **Other Initiatives for Marine Pollution**

<p>Clean Seas Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ UN Environment launched Clean Seas (#CleanSeas on social media) in February 2017, with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution. ◦ India joined 'Clean Seas Campaign' on World Environment Day 2018.
<p>Beat Plastic Pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Beat Plastic Pollution", the theme for World Environment Day 2018, is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. ◦ Every year, up to 13 million tons of plastic leak into our oceans, where it smothers coral reefs and threatens vulnerable marine wildlife. ◦ The plastic that ends up in the oceans can circle the Earth four times in a single year, and it can persist for up to 1,000 years before it fully disintegrates. ◦ India aims at banning single use plastics by 2022.
<p>National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It has a vision and mission to aid in the better protection, conservation, rehabilitation, management and policy design of the coast. ◦ Recently, India emerged as a world leader with beach clean-up projects across the country.
<p>Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It (WIO-C, "the Consortium") comprises a group of international and regional NGOs in partnership with intergovernmental organizations that have presence and are active in regional marine and coastal ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean.

26 First India-Central Asia Dialogue

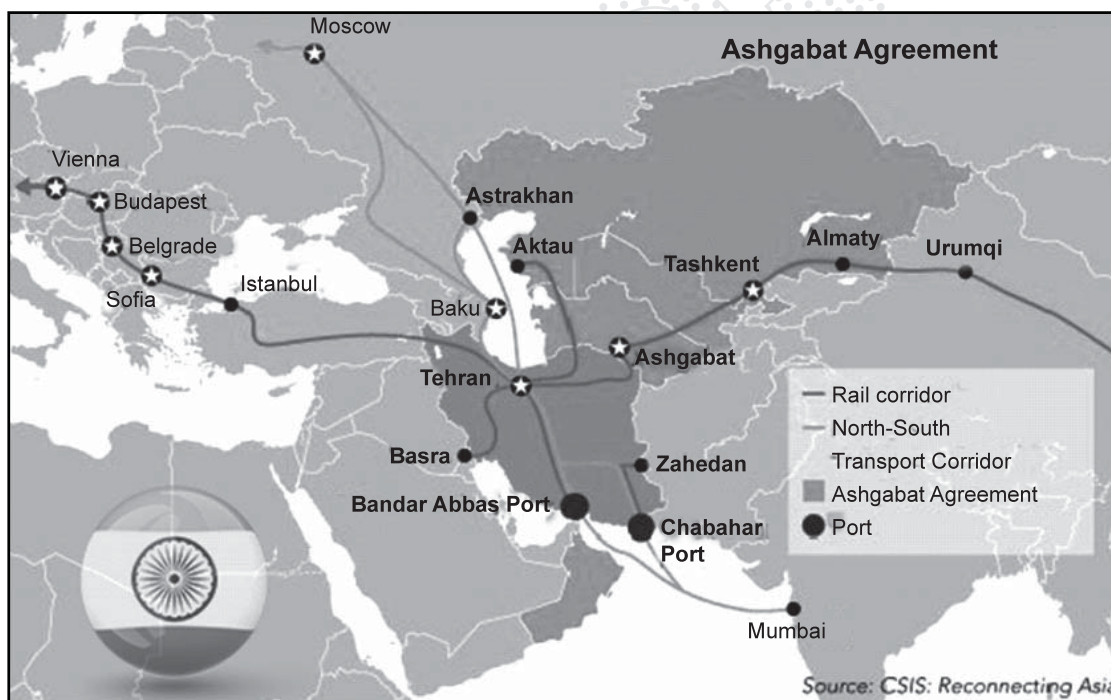
CONTEXT: The first India-Central Asia Dialogue took place in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan.**

- The dialogue included representatives from **five Central Asian countries- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** as well as that of Afghanistan.
- The dialogue focussed on varied issues including **trade, connectivity and security** as well as **bringing stability by restoring peace in Afghanistan.**

Ashgabat Agreement

- India has supported “multiple options of connectivity in the Central Asian region” by joining the Ashgabat Agreement in 2018 which aims at **establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor** between **Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**
- Ashgabat Agreement envisages **facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.**
- Accession to the Agreement would diversify India’s connectivity options with Central Asia and have a positive influence on India’s trade and commercial ties with the region.

Ashgabat Agreement Map:



27 India’s Soft Power in Central Asia

CONTEXT: India’s Soft Power is at play in Central Asia

- Soft power is one of the key components of foreign policy in the age of mass communication, global trade and tourism. It includes **harnessing power of cultural factors, sharing the intellectual, artistic and spiritual culture of a country** with the other nations of the world for deepening the ties.

- Efforts in cultural exchange and education are also crucial for understanding India's ambitions in the region. Following Prime Minister global tour in 2015, which included stops across Central Asia shows that India has made a push to build the country's image globally by putting its soft power to work.

28 MoU between India and Brazil for Zebu Cattle Genomics

CONTEXT: Union government approved MoU between India and Brazil for Zebu cattle genomics and Assistant Reproductive Technologies.

Zebu Cattles:

- A zebu sometimes known as indicine cattle or **humped cattle**, is a species or subspecies of **domestic cattle originating in South Asia**. Zebu are characterised by a **fatty hump on their shoulders**, a large dewlap, and sometimes drooping ears.
 - They are **well adapted to withstanding high temperatures, and are farmed throughout the tropical countries**, both as pure zebu and as hybrids with taurine cattle, the other main type of domestic cattle. Zebu are used as **draught and riding animals, dairy cattle, and beef cattle, as well as for by-products** such as hides and dung for fuel and manure.
- The MoU will strengthen the friendly relations between **India and Brazil** and promote **development of Genomics and Assistant Reproductive Technologies (ARTs)** in Cattle through joint activities.
 - The MoU would promote and facilitate scientific cooperation and setting up of genomic selection programme in Zebu Cattle through (a) application of genomic in Zebu Cattle and their crosses and buffaloes (b) application of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) in cattle and buffaloes (c) capacity building in genomic and assisted reproductive technology (d) Related research and development in Genomics and ART
 - Both the countries will undertake joint projects in the fields of Productivity **Improvement of cattle and buffaloes** for broadening the existing knowledge base on sustainable dairy development.

International Events

1

Astana Declaration: Not just health, but affordable health for all

CONTEXT: In an event that marked 40 years of the historic Alma Ata Declaration, which declared health a human right for all, all the 192 member countries of the United Nations, including India, signed the Astana Declaration.

Alma Ata Declaration

- It was adopted at the **International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC)**, Almaty (formerly Alma-Ata), **Kazakhstan** (formerly Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic), and **6–12 September 1978**.
 - It expressed the **need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health** of all people.
 - It was the **first international declaration** underlining the importance of **primary health care**.
 - The primary health care approach has since then been accepted by member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the key to achieving the goal of "Health For All" but only in developing countries at first. This applied to all other countries five years later.
- The declaration touches upon the crucial aspect that PHC should not function in vacuum and there has to be **cohesion between all tiers of healthcare** so that the services given to patients are not limited.
 - The declaration also takes into cognizance the **growing threat of lifestyle and non-communicable diseases**.
 - The declaration asks all member states to make "**bold political choices**" for health across sectors.
 - It also seeks a **multi-sectoral action** that includes technology, scientific and traditional knowledge, along with well-trained and compensated health professionals, and people and community participation is needed to strengthen primary health care and provide quality "health for all".

2

Global Fund for AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis

CONTEXT: Recently, Government of India hosted a high level preparatory meeting for the Sixth Replenishment Conference of the "Global Fund". During the meet various stakeholders vowed for collective action to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Global Fund

- **Founded in 2002**, it is a partnership organization **including governments, civil society, the private sector and people** affected by the diseases.
 - The Global Fund partnership model is designed to **promote innovative solutions to global health challenges** (epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria).
 - The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need.
 - Countries take the lead in determining where and how to best fight AIDS, TB and malaria. Collectively, the Global Fund harnesses the best possible experience, insights and innovation in the public and private sectors to respond to diseases and build **resilient and sustainable systems for health**.
 - The Global Fund is a **signatory to the World Health Organization-led Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All**, designed to deliver more effective collaboration and coordination on global health.
- The conference is aimed at raising funds to fight the diseases and build stronger systems for health for the next three years.
 - To achieve **SDG 3 and end HIV, TB and malaria** as epidemics, the world needs to step up total funding from all sources, particularly from national governments.
 - The Government of India and the Global Fund partnership has been a unique one, with India receiving and making financial and concurrent technical support from donors and partners since 2002.
 - India has pledged to increase India's health spending to **2.5 percent of GDP by 2025 to pay for ambitious health reforms**, including expanding primary care and delivering universal health coverage.
 - It was reiterated that India, which has the world's largest TB epidemic, has set the ambitious goal of **ending TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - **France** will host the Global Fund's **Sixth Replenishment Conference in Lyon** in October 2019.

3

UNSC Reform

CONTEXT: G4 countries reiterate demand for UNSC reforms in a fixed time frame.

- The long-pending UN Security Council reform process got a much-needed breakthrough after efforts led by India resulted in the **adoption of text-based negotiations in 2015**.
- **France** has reiterated its support for India as the permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council, saying the UNSC's enlargement is the "**first crucial part**" towards its reform.
- Enlargement of the Security Council in the two categories of non-permanent and permanent categories - **India, Brazil, Germany and Japan** - and equitable representation of Africans and so that is the first crucial part of it.
- **Ufc (United for consensus)** has been the main source of **obstruction in the reform process** because of its opposition to adding permanent seats and it uses the tactic of opposing the adoption of a negotiating text to block the reform process from moving ahead.
- **Pakistan, Canada, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, Argentina, Malta** are the members of Ufc.
- **South Africa** assumed the seat as a **non-permanent member** of the UN Security Council, where it said ending the conflicts on the African continent will be its key priority.

4 UN Development System

CONTEXT: UNGA has adopted a resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system, in order to align it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The **Development System Reform** process will mean significant changes to the setup, leadership, accountability mechanisms and capacities of the **whole UN development system**.
- It will ensure that it meets national needs not only for **implementing the SDGs**, but also in meeting the climate change commitments made through the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- With the reform, the functions of the **Resident Coordinator** (the most senior UN development officials at the country level) are now separated from those of the **resident representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- It is essentially **two-tiered**, with policymaking and oversight taking place in both system-wide UN governance structures and in the governance structures of UNDS entities themselves.
- Three reform tracks to help the UN perform better:-
- Position sustainable development at the heart of UN's work, with the 2030 Agenda as our imperative for change
- Recalibrate the Secretariat's management framework to enable and support action, especially in the field.
- Improve the structure and operation of the peace and security pillar in UN HQ to better prevent and alleviate crises.

5 Adoption of Dubai Declaration to Measure Progress of SDGs

CONTEXT: The second United Nations World Data Forum launched a Dubai Declaration to increase financing for better data and statistics for sustainable development.

UN World Data forum:

- United Nations World Data Forum on Sustainable Development Data (UN World Data Forum) would be the suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups, such as information technology, geospatial information managers, data scientists, and users, as well as civil society stakeholders.
 - The **first** United Nations World Data Forum was held in January 2017 by Statistics **South African Cape Town, South Africa**. In this forum Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) was launched.
 - Recently, **second** UN World Data Forum hosted by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority of the United Arab Emirates October 2018 in Dubai.
- **Dubai Declaration** includes detailed measures to **boost funding for data and statistical analysis** for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the **2030 SDGs**.
 - It aimed towards mobilising domestic and international funds and activating more effective data partnerships.
 - It acknowledged that in the 2030 agenda Member States committed to “promote transparent and accountable public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress”
 - It recognises that the **Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) launched at the first United Nations World Data Forum** guides the implementation of programmes and activities to respond to the data needs of the 2030 Agenda.



6 UN Central Emergency Response Fund

CONTEXT: The United Nation has approved \$9.2 million USD in humanitarian aid to Venezuela as the nation descends into social and economic crisis.

- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) will aim to fund emergency healthcare to the most vulnerable and food provisions for young children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF):

CERF was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 as the United Nations global emergency response fund. CERF enables humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance whenever and wherever crises strike.

- As an essential enabler of global humanitarian action, CERF's **Rapid Response window** allows country teams to kick-start relief efforts immediately in a coordinated and prioritized response when a new crisis emerges. CERF's **window for Underfunded Emergencies** helps scale-up and sustain protracted relief operations to avoid critical gaps when no other funding is available.
- CERF receives contributions from various donors mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals into a single fund. This is set aside for immediate use during crises.
- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** is a nation situated on the northern coast of South America, consisting of a continental landmass and a large number of small islands and islets in the Caribbean Sea. Caracas is the largest city and capital of Venezuela.
- Since 2010, Venezuela has been facing socioeconomic and political crisis which began under the presidency of Hugo Chávez and has continued into the current presidency of Nicolás Maduro. He has been re-elected for a second six-year term. The current situation is the worst economic crisis in Venezuela's history with hyperinflation, soaring hunger, disease, crime and death rates, and massive emigration from the country.

7 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

CONTEXT: The U.S., Canada and Mexico arrived at a revised trade agreement, replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

NAFTA

- NAFTA came into effect in 1994.
- It is a successor to the **Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement**.
- NAFTA is a trilateral arrangement that includes Mexico.
- It led to lower tariffs on most goods and services traded among the countries.
- It encouraged big business to reorganize supply chains around the North American continent.
- Overall, regional trade has expanded more than three times since NAFTA came into effect.

8 United States and Israel Formally pulled out of UNESCO

CONTEXT: Recently, United States (US) and Israel have officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- Both the countries alleged that the UNESCO behaved partially by **criticizing Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and granted full membership to Palestine in 2011**.
- **USA has pulled out from UNESCO in 1984 during the Reagan administration** for the agency's alleged soft corner towards erstwhile Soviet Union. Later it joined the agency in 2003.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

- The Constitution of UNESCO, signed on **16 November 1945**, came into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by twenty countries
- **India was the founding member** of the organisation
- **It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris**. Its declared purpose is **to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms** in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.
- UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture and communication/information.
- It is also a member of the **United Nations Development Group**.

9 USA out of Paris Pact

Context: USA argues that China and India will benefit the most from the Paris Agreement.

- USA said that **India would get billions of dollars for meeting its commitment** under the Paris Agreement and it along with China would double its **coal-fired power plants in the years to come, gaining a financial advantage over the United States**.

Paris Agreement 2015:

- Chief objective of the **Paris pact adopted by 195 countries in December 2015** was to **prevent an increase the global average temperature** and keep it well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- Paris deal, replaced the **1997 Kyoto Protocol**. With its decision to exit the Paris Agreement, the **US joins Syria and Nicaragua, which are not part of the climate deal**.

- The major fallout of the US decision on developing countries would be felt in two areas — finance and technology transfer. USA had committed \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund.

10 USA pulls out of INF treaty

CONTEXT: USA has suspended (Not terminated the treaty) its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, effective from February 2 and will withdraw from it in six months.

Intermediate-Range Forces Treaty, 1987

- It originally banned only the U.S. and the Soviet Union (later Russia) from deploying all ground-launched nuclear and conventional missiles with a range of 500 to 5500kms. After 1991, **treaty also covered Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine under it.**
- On **December 4, 2018**, the United States announced that the Russian Federation is in material breach of the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**, an assessment shared by **all NATO Allies**.
- The United States also provided notice that unless Russia returned to full and verifiable compliance in 60 days, the United States would suspend its obligations under the Treaty as a consequence for Russia's material breach.
- Russia remains in material breach of its obligations not to produce, possess, or flight-test a ground-launched, intermediate-range cruise missile system with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.
- The United States first alleged in its Compliance Report 2014 that Russia is in violation of its INF Treaty obligations.
- Since the treaty came into force, both Russia and the US have alleged each other for violating the treaty.
- The present context of US pulling out of the INF treaty is **based on the allegation that Russia has developed and deployed Novator 9 M 729 missiles, also known as the SSC-8, that could strike Europe at short notice.** However, Russia has repeatedly denied the allegations.

11 Japan leaves International Whaling Commission

CONTEXT: In a landmark policy shift, Japan formally announced that it would withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and resume commercial whaling in its territorial waters next year for the first time in more than 30 years.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- IWC is the global body charged with the **conservation of whales and the management of whaling**. Currently, it has **89 members**. All members are signatories to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. **This Convention is the legal framework which established the IWC in 1946.**
- Uncertainty over whale numbers led to **the introduction of a 'moratorium' on commercial whaling in 1986**. This remains in place although the Commission continues to set catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling. Today, the Commission also works to understand and address a wide range of non-whaling threats to cetaceans including entanglement, ship strike, marine debris, climate change and other environmental concerns.

Reasons of withdrawal cited by Japan

- With a moratorium in effect for more than 30 years, populations of endangered whale species will have had **plenty of time to regenerate**.
- ‘Fundamental differences’ among members have led the whaling commission to what it calls a dead end.
- **Pressure from local fishermen** to restart **commercial whaling**
- **Whaling is deeply ingrained in Japanese culinary culture**, dating back as far as the earliest historical era of the Jomon Period (10,000-200 B.C.). Whale meat also served as critical sources of protein in the post-war period as the nation grappled with poverty.
- Having peaked in 1962 at 230,000 tons, annual consumption of whale meat has since trended steadily downward, with an average of 5,000 to 6,000 tons consumed yearly today, according to fishery ministry of Japan.

11 Yellow Vest

CONTEXT: France experienced one of the most significant social mobilisations in its recent history. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets across the country to protest against rising fuel prices.

- The protesters are dubbed as “Les gilets jaunes” (the yellow vests) after the **high-visibility jackets they adopted as a symbol of their complaint**.
- Protestors were angry about the almost **20 percent increase in the price of diesel since the start of 2018, as well as the planned fuel tax hike**, President Emmanuel Macron had recently announced, which he had said, were needed to fund renewable energy investments.
- But protests have also erupted over other issues. The yellow vests want further concessions from the government. Their **demands include are distribution of wealth as well as the increase of salaries, pensions, social security payments, minimum wage and easier university entry requirements**.

12 Macedonia set to join NATO

CONTEXT: Macedonia signed an accession agreement with NATO, paving its way to join the alliance next year.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance between **29 North American and European countries**. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on **4 April 1949**.
 - NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
 - **NATO’s Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium**, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.
 - Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 29.
- In 1995, the country joined the Partnership for Peace. It then began taking part in various NATO missions, including the 1999 NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Two years later, NATO intervened in the 2001 Macedonian insurgency.

- At the **2008 Bucharest summit**, **Greece vetoed the country's invitation to join**; however NATO nations agreed that the country would receive an invitation upon resolution of the Macedonia naming dispute.
- The country will be renamed as '**Republic of North Macedonia**', to end one of the world's longest diplomatic disputes between Greece and Macedonia.
- The renaming accord subsequently paved the way for Macedonia to join NATO and the European Union.

13 Spain hit by Constitutional Crisis

CONTEXT: Spain declares Catalonia independence referendum as illegal.

- Catalonia is an autonomous community in Spain on the **north eastern corner of the Iberian Peninsula**.
- Catalonia consists of four provinces: **Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona**.
- Some groups in Catalonia believe that it **doesn't have enough freedom and power from the Spanish government and that it should be allowed to run itself completely**. Also, people who live there should get to vote on this issue - a bit like when Scotland voted over whether or not it wanted to be part of the UK.
- The independence referendum, declared illegal by Spain's central government, has thrown the country into its worst constitutional crisis in decades and deepened a centuries-old rift between **Madrid and Barcelona**.
- The push for full autonomy has gathered pace in recent years, most notably since **Spain's 2008 debt crisis**. People in Catalonia demanded more self-government and control over what is done with their money.
- Latest referendum was the region's second referendum on independence in three years. The previous ballot, a non-binding vote in November 2014, returned an 80% result in favour of an independent Catalan state. However, less than half of the 5.4 million eligible voters participated.

14 Caspian Sea Breakthrough Treaty

CONTEXT: Five Caspian Sea states reached a breakthrough agreement on sovereign rights to the sea, paving the way for new oil and gas extraction and pipelines.

- The **Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea** ends a spat over whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake, granting it special legal status and clarifying the maritime boundaries of each surrounding country.
- It allows each to lay pipelines offshore with consent **only from the neighbouring states** affected, rather than from all Caspian Sea nations.
- The new agreement states that the development of seabed reserves will be regulated by separate deals between Caspian nations, in line with international law.
- The End of territorial disputes will allow for the exploration of at least 20 billion barrels of oil and more than 240 trillion cubic feet of gas.
- Treaty will also remove a legal barrier to building a trans-Caspian gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Europe.
- Projects in the northernmost waters **Kazakhstan's giant Kashagan field** and **Russia's Filanovsky and Korchagin deposits** are seen as sources of future oil-output growth for the countries.

Caspian Sea states

- Five Caspian Sea states are **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan**
- Five members have tried to define the Caspian Sea's legal status since the collapse of the Soviet Union, in order to divide up the waters and its natural resources for new drilling and pipelines.

15 Myanmar Joins International Solar Alliance (ISA)

CONTEXT: Myanmar has recently joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming its 68th member.

- International Solar Alliance was **launched by India and France at the Paris climate summit in 2015**. It is open to all 121 prospective member countries falling **between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn**.

16 Political Crises in Sri Lanka

CONTEXT: United National Party leader Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the prime minister of Sri Lanka, ending a 51-day power tussle in the island nation that had crippled the government.

- The UNP leader had refused to step down asserting that his sacking was illegal. His re-appointment comes a day after former strongman **Mahinda Rajapaksa**, who was installed as Prime Minister by **President Sirisena**, after two crucial Supreme Court decisions made his efforts to cling to premiership unacceptable.
- India remains committed to taking forward its people-oriented development projects in Sri Lanka.
- The Indian statement refrains from using the term '**constitutional crisis**' clearly indicating that it does not want to be seen as taking any position on the 'political situation' in Sri Lanka.

17 Early Harvest Package for RCEP

CONTEXT: Members of RCEP including India and China, finalise Early Harvest package

Early harvest scheme is a precursor to a free trade agreement (FTA) between trading partners. This is to help the trading countries to **identify certain products for tariff liberalisation pending the conclusion of FTA negotiation**. It is primarily a confidence building measure.

- RCEP (**Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership**) accepted some key demands from India: on differential tariff regimes for different country groups like China, and in allowing a 20-year implementation period of the agreement.
- Of the 16 countries that have been negotiating for the RCEP, **India does not have Free Trade Agreements with three countries — Australia, New Zealand and China**, for which negotiations will now be separately held, in a "**bilateral pairing mechanism**".
- India has been unsure of remaining in RCEP and granting greater market access because of its whopping \$63 billion trade deficit with China.
- The steel sector is particularly concerned, as China has been dumping iron and steel products in India at a much lower price than that of the domestic industry.

- India emphasised on press successful conclusion of talks in **services and investments** as well, so that accords on all the **three pillars (goods, services and investment)** can be put to effect simultaneously.
- India is keen on services, as it account for over a half of its gross domestic product.
- Several government departments are against joining the RCEP trade pact. They have auctioned against signing the deal. Government has thus decided to remain engaged in RCEP, but not cede more than 86% market access.

RCEP:

- RCEP is a proposed Free Trade Agreement between **ten ASEAN member states and their six Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. It means a **zero-customs duty zone**
- RCEP members want India to significantly reduce their customs duties on maximum number of goods. India's huge domestic market provides immense opportunity of exports for RCEP countries.
- However, Dairy cooperative Amul and Jindal Stainless, among others, have expressed reservations about the deal. RCEP will also impact India's revenue collection.

18 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**CONTEXT: India chooses to benchmark itself on PISA.**

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is **an international assessment measuring student performance in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.**
- It recently announced that in 2021 it will be rejoining PISA, which tests performance of 15-year-old schoolchildren in mathematics, science and reading.
- The assessment **does not depend on mugging up of dates or theories but assess how students apply what they have learnt to real-world problems.**
- **In 2009, India scored 72nd out of a total of 74 countries.** 16,000 students from 400 schools across Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu had participated.
- The Government blamed "out of context" questions for the poor results in 2009 and decided it won't participate in 2012 and 2015.
- PISA is organised **every three years by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Paris, France.** Its latest edition in 2015 saw 73 countries participating.

19 Qatar is leaving OPEC

CONTEXT: Qatar has announced that it would leave OPEC in January 2019 to focus its efforts on natural gas.

Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

- It is an international body of oil rich countries.
- **It was formed in 1960** to negotiate with oil companies on matters like oil production and price.

- In 2017, the 15 OPEC members have approximately **82% of world's total proven oil reserves** and accounted for about **43.5% of the total oil production**.
- OPEC influences global petroleum prices by fixing a production quota for its members.

- **Qatar joined OPEC in 1961**, just a year after the organization was founded.
- It is believed that current move is a strategic response by the country to a changing energy landscape and the 18-month old ongoing boycott of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt. The boycott was led by Saudi Arabia, which is also the de facto shot-caller in the oil producers' body.
- As of now, Qatar maintains that **its decision to leave the oil cartel is aimed at reinforcing the country's autonomy from its Persian Gulf neighbours**. But the exit also points to larger problems with oil production and pricing and OPEC's declining clout in a world that is looking to move away from fossil fuel.
- OPEC is heavily influenced by Saudi Arabia with which Qatar is not on the best of terms. **Qatar's oil output is only 2% of OPEC's total output** and, hence, it always had little say in its policy decisions. Qatar today is among the largest exporters of natural gas and is no longer dependent solely on oil.

20 Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, 2018

CONTEXT: President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA), which passed the U.S. Senate earlier that month.

- The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It will authorize \$1.5 billion in spending for a range of U.S. programs in East and Southeast Asia and “develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.
- It includes multiple provisions and largely supports the Trump administration's own National Security Strategy and National Defence Strategy documents, both of which have identified the Indo-Pacific as a strategic region of particular priority.
- It devotes attention to the maritime commons in the Asia (including Japan and South Korea) and the South China Sea, where it calls on the United States to support the ASEAN nations as they adopt a code of conduct in the South China Sea with China.

21 Marrakesh Treaty

CONTEXT: European Union has recently ratified Marrakesh Treaty to ease access to reading material for print-disabled people.

- Marrakesh Treaty was adopted by United Nations - **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**.
- The main goal of Marrakesh Treaty is **to create a set of mandatory limitations and exceptions for the benefit of the blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled (VIPs)**.
- It addresses the “**book famine**” by requiring its contracting parties to adopt national law provisions that permit the reproduction, distribution and making available of published works in accessible formats - such as Braille - to VIPs and to permit exchange of these works across borders by organizations that serve those beneficiaries.
- With the ratification of European Union, the **treaty now expands to 70 countries. India was among the earliest to ratify** the Marrakesh treaty in June 2014.

22 Montreal Protocol

- The Montreal Protocol on **Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** has been recognized as the most successful international environment treaty in history.
- It is the **only environmental treaty** which enjoys **universal ratification of 197 UN members** countries.
- The protocol has been **amended by Kigali Agreement** which was signed by the member countries in its 28th Conference of Parties (CoP).
- Kigali agreement aims to **phase out Hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs)**, a family of potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.
- The protocol and its amendments have banned the use of ozone destroying chemicals and the rate of ozone depletion seems to have slowed.
- Its implementation has not only led to the phase-out of around 98% of ozone depleting chemicals, but also averted more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

23 Talanoa Dialogue

- The countries put in place a road-map for '**Talanoa Dialogue**' in **COP 23** which is a **year-long process to assess the countries' progress on climate actions**.
- Under this, it was agreed that the **next two climate conferences, in 2018 and 2019, will have special 'stock-taking' sessions**.
- This stock-take would focus on the '**pre-2020 actions**' being taken by different countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It included the progress made by developed nations in their obligations to provide finance and technology support to the developing countries.
- It reflected a strong message to developed countries that post-2020 climate action as part of the Paris Agreement cannot be divorced from pre-2020 commitments.

4

International/Regional Groupings

S.No.	Organization	Members	Features
	ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 10 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Indonesia ▶ Malaysia ▶ Philippines ▶ Singapore ▶ Thailand ▶ Brunei ▶ Cambodia ▶ Lao PDR ▶ Myanmar ▶ Vietnam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aims: ◦ Accelerating economic growth, social progress, and sociocultural evolution among its members, ◦ Protection of regional stability ◦ Providing a mechanism for member countries to resolve differences peacefully ◦ ‘The ASEAN Way’: Doctrine that the member countries will largely mind their own business when it comes to internal matters of member countries ◦ HQ : Jakarta, Indonesia ◦ Last summit: Singapore ◦ Next summit: Thailand (2019)
2.	APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)	<p>21 countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vietnam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It was established in response to the growing interdependence of Asia blocs in other parts of the world; ◦ To establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe. ◦ India is not a member. India has applied but membership was denied because it does not border Pacific Ocean ◦ India is an observer member in APEC ◦ HQ: Singapore ◦ Last summit: Papua New Guinea ◦ Next summit: Chile (2019)
3.	BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Initiative)	<p>4 countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bangladesh ▶ Bhutan ▶ India ▶ Nepal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aims to formulate, implement and review quadrilateral agreements across areas such as water resources management, connectivity of power, transport, and infrastructure ◦ Last summit: Bangladesh

4.	BCIM (Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Economic Corridor)	4 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bangladesh ▶ China ▶ India ▶ Myanmar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It aims at greater integration of trade and investment between the four countries ◦ BCIM economic corridor is an initiative conceptualised for significant gains through sub cooperation within the BCIM. ◦ The multi-modal corridor will be the first expressway between India and China and will pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh ◦ BCIM evolved from 'Kunming Initiative' (A platform in 1990s)
5.	BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)	7 Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bangladesh ▶ Bhutan ▶ India ▶ Nepal ▶ Sri Lanka ▶ Myanmar ▶ Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Established in 1997 in Bangkok ◦ Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand were founding members ◦ The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic cooperation among south Asian and South East Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal. BIMSTEC uses the alphabetical order for the Chairmanship. ◦ Bhutan has never been chairman (Skipped itself) ◦ Current chairmanship : Nepal ◦ HQ : Dhaka, Bangladesh ◦ Last summit: Nepal ◦ Next summit: Sri Lanka
6.	BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)	5 Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Brazil ▶ Russia ▶ India ▶ China ▶ South Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It encourages commercial, political and cultural cooperation between the BRICS nations ◦ New Development Bank is an outcome of this platform ◦ As of 2015, the five BRICS countries represent over 3 billion people, or 42% of the world population ◦ Last summit: South Africa ◦ Next summit: Brazil (2019)
7.	Commonwealth of Nations	53 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Set up after the Second World War (in 1949) by Britain, to maintain close economic ties with its erstwhile colonies that were now rapidly becoming independent. ◦ It is not a trade block. ◦ It aims to promote democracy, human rights, world peace etc. ◦ Commonwealth countries in theory do not consider each other 'foreign', and hence send 'High Commissioners' and not 'Ambassadors'. ◦ Several countries (such as Britain, Caribbean islands) grant the right to vote to any commonwealth country citizen residing in their territory to vote in their elections

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ HQ : London ◦ Last meeting: UK ◦ Next meeting: Rwanda (2020)
8.	East Asia Summit	18 countries: 10 ASEAN nations, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, Russia, US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Started in 2005 from Kuala Lumpur ◦ EAS meetings are held after annual ASEAN leaders' meetings. It is an ASEAN led initiative. ◦ Last summit: Thailand ◦ Next summit: Vietnam
9.	EEU (Eurasian Economic Union)	5 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Armenia ◦ Belarus ◦ Kazakhstan ◦ Kyrgyzstan ◦ Russia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Established in 2015 ◦ The EEU introduces the free movement of goods, capital, services and people and provides for common transport, agriculture and energy policies In future, it can evolve with provisions for a single currency and greater integration ◦ HQ : Moscow ◦ Last summit: Russia ◦ Next summit: Armenia
10.	G4	4 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ India, ◦ Brazil, ◦ Germany, ◦ Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Their economic and political influence has grown significantly in the last decades, reaching a scope comparable to the permanent members (P5) ◦ G4 campaigns for U.N. Reforms, including more representation for developing countries, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, in the UNSC
11.	G7	7 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Canada, ◦ France, ◦ Germany, ◦ Italy, ◦ Japan, ◦ United Kingdom, ◦ United States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ These countries are the seven major advanced economies as reported by the International Monetary Fund. ◦ G7 countries represent more than 64% of the net global wealth ◦ Common denominator among members is the economy and long-term political motives The European Union is also represented within the G7.
12.	G20	20 members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Its aim was to review policy decisions to enhance international financial stability ◦ First Head of State Summit was held in 2008 (Due to Economic Crisis) ◦ G20 economies account for around 85% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), and two-thirds of the world population ◦ G20 replaced G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations ◦ Last summit: Buenos Aires ◦ Next summit: Japan (2019)

13.	India-Africa Forum	India and countries of Africa chosen by the African Union.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Summit 2015:Delhi Declaration ◦ Infrastructure building - "Cairo to cape town, Marrakesh to Mombassa ◦ Credit at concessional rates of \$10 billion over 5 year (in addition to 4.7 billion that India had already pledged since 2008) ◦ Grant assistance of \$600 million (India-African dev fund, India-African Health Fund)
14.	IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum)	3 countries: India, Brazil, South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others. ◦ IBSA was formalised and launched through the adoption of the “Brasilia Declaration” in 2003. ◦ Brasilia Declaration (2003) : Approved urgent need for reforms in the United Nations, especially the Security Council. ◦ Last summit: South Africa ◦ Next summit: to be announced
15.	IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)	22 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The organisation was first established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius on March 1995 and formally launched in 1997 by the conclusion of a multilateral treaty known as the Charter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation ◦ Last summit: Indonesia
16.	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	6 countries: ◦ India, ◦ Thailand, ◦ Myanmar, ◦ Cambodia, ◦ Laos, ◦ Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ They emphasised four areas of cooperation: ◦ tourism, ◦ culture, ◦ education, and ◦ transportation ◦ The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region ◦ Last summit: Singapore
17.	OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)	14 countries: ◦ Algeria ◦ Angola ◦ Congo ◦ Ecuador ◦ Equatorial Guinea ◦ Gabon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ OPEC sets production targets for its member nations and generally, when OPEC production targets are reduced, oil prices increase ◦ As of 2015, the 13 countries accounted for 43 percent of global oil production and 73 percent of the world’s “proven” oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Iran ◦ Iraq ◦ Kuwait ◦ Libya ◦ Nigeria ◦ Saudi Arabia ◦ United Arab Emirates ◦ Venezuela 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ OPEC decisions have come to play a prominent role in the global oil market and international relations ◦ HQ : Vienna, Austria ◦ Last meeting: Austria ◦ Next meeting: Austria (2019)
18.	OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)	<p>36 Members:</p> <p>Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic</p> <p>Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aims to stimulate economic progress and world trade ◦ Its members are committed to Democracy and Market Economy ◦ Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries ◦ India is not a member of OECD ◦ HQ: Paris, France
19.	RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)	<p>16 countries:</p> <p>Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia ◦ RCEP is viewed as an alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which includes the United States but excludes China ◦ RCEP potentially includes more than 3 billion people or 45% of the world's population, and a combined GDP of about \$21.3 trillion, accounting for about 40 percent of world trade ◦ The combined GDP of potential of RCEP members surpassed the combined GDP of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) members in 2007. ◦ Last summit: Singapore

20.	SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)	8 countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Afghanistan ◦ Bhutan ◦ Bangladesh ◦ India ◦ Pakistan ◦ Nepal ◦ Sri Lanka ◦ Maldives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Myanmar and China are not its members ◦ SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 9.12% of the global economy, as of 2015 ◦ The organization promotes development economics and regional integration ◦ SAFTA : South Asia Free Trade Agreement was launched in 2006 ◦ HQ: Kathmandu, Nepal ◦ Last summit: Pakistan ◦ Next summit: Sri Lanka (2019)
21.	SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)	8 members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ China ◦ Kazakhstan, ◦ Kyrgyzstan, ◦ Russia, ◦ Tajikistan, ◦ Uzbekistan, ◦ India, ◦ Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ SCO evolved from Shanghai Five (All above minus Uzbekistan) ◦ On July 10, 2015, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members, and they are expected to join by 2016 ◦ Main activities: cooperation on security, military activities, and economic and cultural cooperation ◦ Member countries are rich in energy resources (both fossil fuels and uranium) ◦ HQ : Beijing, China ◦ Last summit: China ◦ Next summit: Kyrgyzstan (2019)
22.	TPP (Trans- Pacific Partnership)	13 countries: Australia; Brunei; Canada; Chile; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; Singapore; Vietnam; Japan; New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Goals: ◦ promote economic growth; ◦ support the creation and retention of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; ◦ raise living standards; reduce poverty in our countries; ◦ promote transparency, good governance, enhanced labor and environmental protections The agreement covers 40% of the world's economy
23.	TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)	European Union and the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aims to promote trade and multilateral economic growth ◦ Its main three broad areas are: ◦ market access; ◦ specific regulation; and ◦ broader rules and principles and modes of co-operation
24	EU (European Union)	28 countries: Austria, Italy, Belgium, Latvia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Croatia, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Malta,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a political and economic union of 28 countries located primarily in Europe. ◦ Unlike members of most international organisations, the member states of the EU are subjected to binding laws in exchange for representation within the common legislative and judicial institutions. ◦ Subsidiarity is a founding principle of the EU.

		Czechia, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Estonia, Portugal, Finland, Romania, France, Slovakia, Germany, Slovenia, Greece, Spain, Hungary, Sweden, Ireland, United Kingdom	
25	Arctic Council	<p>8 countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Canada, ◦ Denmark, ◦ Finland, ◦ Iceland, ◦ Norway, ◦ Russia, ◦ Sweden, ◦ United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. ◦ The first step towards the formation of the Council occurred in 1991 when the eight Arctic countries signed the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). ◦ The 1996 Ottawa Declaration established the Arctic Council as a forum for promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States. ◦ HQ: Tomso, Norway ◦ Last meeting: US
26	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)	<p>29 countries:</p> <p>Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries. ◦ The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. ◦ NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. ◦ HQ: Brussels, Belgium
27	GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)	<p>6 states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bahrain, ◦ Kuwait, ◦ Oman, ◦ Qatar, ◦ Saudi Arabia, ◦ United Arab Emirates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq. ◦ Established in 1981, the GCC promotes economic, security, cultural and social cooperation between the six states and holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs. ◦ HQ: Saudi Arabia

28	OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)	57 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the collective voice of the Muslim world and works to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony. In 2019, India was present at the OIC meet in UAE for the first time. HQ: Saudi Arabia
29	AU (African Union)	55 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim is to achieve greater unity, cohesion and solidarity between the African countries and African nations. To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States. It has vast socio-economic goals. HQ: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Last summit: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30	Colombo Plan	27 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States, Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a regional organisation that represents a collective intergovernmental effort to strengthen economic and social development of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The primary focus of Colombo Plan activities is on the development of human resources in the region. HQ: Colombo, Sri Lanka
31	G-15	16 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an informal forum set up to foster cooperation and provides input for other international groups, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Group of Seven. It was established at the Ninth Non-Aligned Movement Summit Meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia with a common goal of enhanced growth and prosperity. HQ: Geneva, Switzerland Last summit: Sri Lanka
32	G-24	24 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was established to help coordinate the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development finance issues. HQ: Washington, D.C., United States

33	G-77	134 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Group of 77 at the United Nations is a coalition of 134 developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations. ◦ HQ: New York City ◦ Last chairman: Egypt ◦ Next chairman: Palestine
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International Organizations

1 United Nations

- The United Nations is an **organization of sovereign States**, which **voluntarily join the UN to work for world peace**. It formally came into being on **24 October 1945**. At that time, it had 51 countries as Members. Currently, **193 countries are UN members**; the most recent to join was **South Sudan in July 2011**. There are six main organs of the United Nations—
- **General Assembly** - The **main deliberative organ** of the United Nations comprised of all Member States, **each of which has one vote, no matter its size or influence**. It may discuss any matter arising under the UN Charter.
- **Security Council** - Unlike the General Assembly, the Security Council does not hold regular meetings. The **Council has 15 members, including 5 permanent members**: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Economic and Social Council** - It is the central **body for coordinating the economic and social work** of the United Nations and the UN System. The Council has **54 members** which are chosen for **equal geographical representation** and serve a **three-year term**. Voting in the Council is by **simple majority**; each member has one vote.
- **Trusteeship Council**- The Trusteeship Council was assigned under the UN Charter to supervise the administration of 11 Trust Territories—former colonies or dependent territories—which were placed under the International Trusteeship System.
- **International Court of Justice** - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the **UN's main judicial organ, located in the Hague, Netherlands**. Established in 1945, the ICJ, or “World Court” assumed its functions in 1946. The Court settles legal disputes only between nations and not between individuals, in accordance with international law.
- **The Secretariat** - The Secretariat is made up of an **international staff working at UN Headquarters in New York**, as well as UN offices in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and other locations. It consists of departments and offices with a total staff of 16,000 drawn from most Member States.
- The Court has its seat at **the Hague, Netherlands**. **All other organs** are based at United Nations Headquarters in **New York**.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of **international peace and security**.
- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
 - ▶ **Members: Fifteen members** with Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members.

- ▶ These permanent members can **veto** any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.
- ▶ The Security Council also has **10 non-permanent members**, elected on a regional basis to serve **two-year terms**. The body's presidency **rotates monthly** among its members.

Proposed reforms:

- ▶ Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) encompasses five key issues: categories of membership, the question of the veto held by the five permanent members, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods, and the Security Council-General Assembly relationship.
- ▶ There is also a proposal to admit more permanent members.

2 Specialized Agencies Related to UN

- The UN specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations. All were brought into relationship with the UN through negotiated agreements. Some existed before the First World War. Some were associated with the League of Nations. Others were created almost simultaneously with the UN. Others were created by the UN to meet emerging needs.



3 World Bank (WB)

- The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications, among other things.
- There are 2 goals for the world to achieve by 2030 –
 - ▶ **End extreme poverty** by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3%
 - ▶ **Promote shared prosperity** by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country
- The World Bank works in over 100 countries through **World Bank Group**. It is headquartered in **Washington. D.C, US**.

World Bank Group

- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**
 - ▶ The **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** is a global development cooperative owned by 189 member countries.

- ▶ As the largest development bank in the world, it supports the World Bank Group's mission by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries, as well as by coordinating responses to regional and global challenges.
- **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) :**
 - ▶ The **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)** is an international arbitration institution established in 1966 **for legal dispute resolution and conciliation between international investors.**
 - ▶ The ICSID is part of and funded by the World Bank Group, **headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States.** It is an autonomous, multilateral specialized institution to encourage international flow of investment and mitigate non-commercial risks by a treaty drafted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's executive directors and signed by member countries.
- **International Development Association (IDA) :**
 - ▶ It is an international financial institution which **offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.**
 - ▶ The IDA is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in **Washington, D.C., United States.**
 - ▶ It was established in 1960 to complement the existing International Bank for Reconstruction and Development by lending to developing countries which suffer from the lowest gross national income, from troubled creditworthiness, or from the lowest per capita income.
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC) :**
 - ▶ It is an international financial institution that **offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services** to encourage **private-sector development** in developing countries.
 - ▶ The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in **Washington, D.C.** It was established in 1956, as the **private-sector arm of the World Bank Group**, to advance economic development by investing in for-profit and commercial projects for poverty reduction and promoting development.
- **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) :**
 - ▶ It is an international financial institution which offers political risk insurance and credit enhancement guarantees. These guarantees help investors **protect foreign direct investments** against political and non-commercial risks in developing countries.
 - ▶ MIGA is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in **Washington, D.C.**
 - ▶ MIGA was established in 1988 as an investment insurance facility to encourage confident investment in developing countries.

4 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Background

- At 1945 — UN conference in Bretton Woods, 1944
- Headquarters — Washington
- Member — 189 countries

Responsibility — ensures the stability of the international monetary system. It does so in three ways:

- keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries.
- lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties.
- giving practical help to members.

Board of Governors

- Highest decision-making body of the IMF and is vested with all powers of IMF

- One governor & One alternate governor for each member country
- Governor is appointed by the member country and is usually the minister of finance or the governor of the central bank

Resources for IMF loans — provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.

- **Voting share** – Based on the **quota** of country
- **Quota** — based broadly on its relative **position in the world economy**.
 - ▶ largest member — United States (quota – SDR82.99 billion)
 - ▶ smallest member – Tuvalu (quota – SDR2.5 million)
 - ▶ India — quota – 2.76% (8th position) & Voting share – 2.64%

Special Drawing Rights (SDR) — international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

- Its value is based on a basket of five major currencies—the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi (RMB), the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling
- The SDR is neither a currency, nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.
- Holders of SDRs can obtain these currencies in exchange for their SDRs in two ways

Publications

- World Economic Outlook
- Global Financial Stability Report
- Fiscal Monitor
- Regional Economic Prospects
- Finance and Development

5 World Health Organisation (WHO)

- It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The WHO is a member of the **United Nations Development Group**. Its predecessor, the Health Organisation, was an agency of the League of Nations.
- The WHO is responsible for the **World Health Report, the worldwide World Health Survey, and World Health Day**.
- WHO **ensures the safety of the air people breathe, the food they eat, the water they drink and the medicines and vaccines they need**.
- In the ongoing WHO's South-East Asia regional meeting, Indian member **Dr. Poonam Khetrapal** was unanimously **re-elected as Regional director**.
- She has already served as the regional director for south-east Asia since 2014.
- She is the **first Indian National and the first woman** to hold this post.
- The WHO's south-east Asia region covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

6 United Nations Educational, Scientific And Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Basic Information

- A member of the United Nations Development Group
- **Headquarter : Paris**

- Successor of the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.
- Aim: **to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue** through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information
- Members **195 member states** and ten associate members.
- The **United States and Israel left UNESCO** on 31 December 2018.

UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs:

- Education
- Natural sciences
- Social/human sciences
- Culture
- Communication/information

Governance structure

- Executive Board (EXB) —58 members elected by the General Conference **for four-year term**
- Examines work for UNESCO and the corresponding budget estimates
- It is main organ responsible for all policies and programmes of UNESCO.
- General conference
- All members **meet every 2 years**
- Vote on policies, programs, budget
- Elect executive board, DG every 4 year

Programmes

- UNESCO's Creative Cities Network — 2004
- To foster international cooperation with and between cities committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy. It includes cities within its seven creative fields (Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music).
- **India — Varanasi** (added as City of Music), **Jaipur** (City of Crafts and Folk Art) and **Chennai**

World Heritage Cities Programme

- To assist state parties in the challenges of protecting and managing their urban heritage sites.
- **India — Allahabad**

List of World Heritage in danger — drawing world's attention to the prevailing situation.

7 International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- Headquartered at **Geneva, Switzerland**, the ILO **promotes international labour rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labour, and equality of opportunity and treatment.**
- The ILO has **187 member states**: 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO.
- In **1969**, the organization received the **Nobel Peace Prize** for improving peace among classes, pursuing decent work and justice for workers, and providing technical assistance to other developing nations.
- The Governing Body **decides the agenda of the International Labour Conference**, adopts the draft program and budget of the organization for submission to the conference, elects the director-general, requests information from member states concerning labour matters, appoints commissions of inquiry and supervises the work of the International Labour Office.

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) is a **tripartite organisation** where representatives from the **government, employers and employees** openly debate and create labour standards.
- ILO is celebrating its **100th anniversary in 2019**.

8 Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Headquartered at **Rome Italy**, the FAO leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- It is **both a forum for negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development**.
- Formed on Oct 16, 1945, presently having **194 members along with EU** (a member organization) and the Faroe Island and Tokelau which are associate members.
- FAO and the World Health Organization created the **Codex Alimentarius Commission** in 1961 to develop **food standards, guidelines and texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/ WHO Food Standards Programme**. The main aims of the programme are protecting consumer health, ensuring fair trade and **promoting co-ordination of all food standards** work undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

9 The International Fund For Agriculture Development (IFAD)

- The IFAD, since it was created in 1977, has **focused exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries** to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition; raise their productivity and incomes; and improve the quality of their lives.
- **Headquartered in Rome, Italy**, it has 176 members including 174 UN member states along with the Cook Island and Niue.

10 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- Also known as Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the IMO has created a **comprehensive shipping regulatory framework, addressing safety and environmental concerns, legal matters, technical cooperation, security, and efficiency**.
- The IMO was established in **Geneva in 1948** and came into force ten years later, meeting for the first time in 1959, **Headquartered in London**, United Kingdom, the IMO has **172 Member States** and three Associate Members.
- IMO is governed by an assembly of members and is financially administered by a council of members elected from the assembly.
- In 2017, **India was re-elected to Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** at an assembly of body at its headquarters in London.
- India was elected under **category B** that represents nations with largest interests in international sea borne trade. It secured second-highest 144 number of votes from member-countries, just after Germany's 146.

11 WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

Basic Information

- Established by the ratification of the WMO convention on 23 march 1950.
- **Headquarter — Geneva, Switzerland**
- **Predessor organization — international meteorological organization (imo) —**

- Founded in 1873
- Members — of 191 member states and territories
- Specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences

Governance structure

- World meteorological congress
 - ▶ Each member state and territory is represented by a Permanent Representative
 - ▶ Congress meets every four year
 - ▶ World Meteorological Congress
 - ▶ Policy making body
 - ▶ Elects the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization and members of the Executive Council; and appoints the Secretary-General
- **The Executive Council (EC)** — implements Congress decisions
- **Six Regional Associations (RA)**
 - ▶ Coordination of meteorological, hydrological and related activities within respective Regions.
 - ▶ The president of each regional association is an ex officio member of the Executive Council.
- **Eight Technical Commissions** — studying meteorological and hydrological operational systems, applications and research.
- **The Secretariat**
 - ▶ Secretary-General — appointed by the World Meteorological Congress for a four-year term with a maximum tenure of 8 years
- **Reports**
 - ▶ Greenhouse Gas Bulletin
 - ▶ Status of the World Climate

12 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- The WIPO protects **intellectual property** throughout the world through 23 international treaties.
- Created in 1967, currently having **189 member states 186** of the UN Members as well as the **Cook Islands, Holy See and Niue are Members of WIPO.**
- **Non-members** are the states of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, South Sudan and East Timor. The Palestinians have observer status and its **headquartered is in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Reports**
 - ▶ World Intellectual Property Report (biennial)
 - ▶ Patent Landscape Reports
 - ▶ World Intellectual Property Indicators

13 International Civilian Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- The ICAO is a UN **specialized agency**, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (**Chicago Convention**), headquartered in **Montreal Canada.**

- ICAO works with the Convention's 191 Member States and industry **groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)** and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.
- The **International Civil Aviation Day** is observed every year on **7 December** across the world to generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of importance of international civil aviation to social and economic development.

14 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The ITU is the **United Nations specialized agency** for information and communication technologies.
- It is **committed to connecting the entire world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means**. Through its work, it protects and supports everyone's fundamental right to communicate
- An organization **based on public-private partnership** since its inception, ITU currently has a **membership of 193 countries and almost 800 private-sector entities and academic institutions**. ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has twelve regional and area offices around the world.
- **India** was elected as member of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term **from 2019 to 2022**.
- The elections to ITU Council were held during ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE. India got elected to Council from Asia-Australasia region by securing 165 votes and was among 48 countries elected to Council globally. They were elected by 193 member states of ITU.

15 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- **Headquartered in Vienna, Austria**, the UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that **promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability**.
- **The Lima Declaration of 2013** mandates the mission of the organisation i.e. **to promote and induce inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability all over the world**. Hence, the organisational functions is moving around the interrelated thematic domain:
 - ▶ Poverty reduction through productive activities
 - ▶ Trade capacity-building
 - ▶ Energy and environment

16 Universal Postal Union (UPO)

- It 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.
- **Headquartered in Bern, Switzerland**, formed on October 9, 1874 contains four bodies consisting of the Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operation Council and the International bureau.
- It also oversees the **Telematics and EMS cooperatives**. Each member agrees to the same terms for conducting international postal duties.

- **World Post Day** is observed every year on **October 9** to spread awareness about the postal services and their role in the everyday lives of people and businesses. The day is celebrated to mark anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

17 United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

- Formed in 1975, it is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- **Headquartered in Madrid, Spain**, presently its membership includes **157 countries, 6 Associate Members and 500 Affiliate Members** representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.
- The World Tourism Day (WTD) is being observed every year on 27th September to raise awareness about importance of tourism. Observance of day aims to foster awareness among international community of importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

18 Other Entities/Agencies Include

UNAIDS

- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS is co-sponsored by 10 UN system agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, the ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank and has ten goals related to stopping and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

UNISDR

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction.

UNOPS

- The United Nations Office for Project Services is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peace building, humanitarian and development projects around the world.

19 UN Peacekeeping

- United Nations Peacekeeping was created in **1948**. Its first mission involved the establishment of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which served to observe and maintain ceasefire during the **1948 Arab-Israeli War**.
- UN Peacekeeping maintains **three basic principles**: Consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of Force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.
- The UN Peacekeepers are led by the **Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DKPO)**.
- There are currently **17 UN peace operations** deployed on four continents.
- UN Peacekeepers are from diverse backgrounds, from areas all around the world. They include police, military and civilian personnel. They are often referred to as **Blue Berets** or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets.
- The UN Peacekeeping Force won the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1988**.
- The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. For this reason, the international community usually looks to the Security Council to authorize peacekeeping operations.

Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)

- The **Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India** and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect have jointly started the pilot "Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on Civilian Protection and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)" in Delhi.

- **Role and important functions:**
 - ▶ The Centre conducts International Training Capsules for Military Contingent Officers, Military Observers, and Staff and Logistics Officers.
 - ▶ The Centre regularly organizes Seminars, Joint Working Groups and Command Post Exercises at the National and International level.
 - ▶ It is also a repository of information on India's involvement in UN Peacekeeping and is continuing to build and update its research on peacekeeping

20 Un Human Rights Council

- The UN body was established in 2006 with the **aim of promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations.**
- It is made up of **47 member states**, which are selected by the UN General Assembly on a staggered basis each year for **three-year-long terms.**
- Members meet around three times a year to debate human rights issues and pass **non-binding resolutions** and recommendations by majority vote.
- The council also carries out the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states, which allows civil society groups to bring accusations of human rights violations in member states to the attention of the UN.

21 UN Related Other Organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA is an international organization that **seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.**
- It was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the **IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.**
- It has its headquarters in **Vienna, Austria.**
- It has two “Regional Safeguards Offices” which are located in Toronto, Canada, and in Tokyo, Japan. The IAEA also has two liaison offices which are located in New York City, United States, and in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition, the IAEA has laboratories and research centers located in Seibersdorf, Austria, in Monaco and in Trieste, Italy.
- It serves as an intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear power worldwide.
- It plays an active part in helping the international community achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It helps countries to use nuclear and isotopic techniques and thereby contribute directly to **attaining nine** of the 17 Goals

22 World Trade Organization (WTO)

- It is a forum for governments to **negotiate trade agreements, and a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.**
- WTO is an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations. The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the **Marrakesh Agreement**, signed by 124 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, which commenced in 1948. It is the largest international economic organization in the world.

- It deals with regulation of trade in goods, services and intellectual property between participating countries by providing 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
- It prohibits discrimination between trading partners, but provides exceptions for environmental protection, national security, and other important goals. Trade-related disputes are resolved by independent judges at the WTO through a dispute resolution process.
- The highest decision-making body of the WTO, the **Ministerial Conference**, usually meets every two years. It brings together all members of the WTO, all of which are countries or customs unions.

23 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

- The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization promotes the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty** (which is **not yet in force**) and the build-up of the verification regime so that it is operational when the Treaty enters into force.
- Its seat will be in **Vienna, Austria**. The organization will be tasked with verifying the ban on nuclear tests and will operate therefore a worldwide monitoring system and may conduct on site inspections.
- The Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, and its Provisional Technical Secretariat, were established in 1997 and are headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

24 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the **Chemical Weapons Convention**, which entered into force on **29 April 1997**. The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its **seat in The Hague, Netherlands**, and oversees the global endeavour for the permanent and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons.
- The **organisation promotes and verifies the adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention**, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction. Verification consists both of evaluation of declarations by member states and onsite inspections.
- The organisation was awarded the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize** “for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons”.
- OPCW Member States work together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.
- The Convention contains four key provisions:
 - ▶ Destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW.
 - ▶ Monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging.
 - ▶ Providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats.
 - ▶ Fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry

25 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- It is an intergovernmental organization that **provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants**, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.
- In September 2016, it became a **related organization** of the United Nations. It was initially established in 1951 as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II.

- As of June 2018, the International Organization for Migration had 172 member states and eight observer states.
- It is the principal intergovernmental organization in the field of migration.
- IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people.

26 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

- It is an **international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, working in the field of the wilderness preservation, and the reduction of human impact on the environment.** It was formerly named the World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States.
- **WWF is the world's largest conservation organization with over five million supporters worldwide,** working in more than 100 countries, supporting around 1,300 conservation and environmental projects.
- WWF aims to “stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.” The **Living Planet Report** is published every two years by WWF since 1998; it is based on a **Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculation.** In addition, WWF has launched several notable worldwide campaigns including **Earth Hour** and **Debt-for-Nature Swap**, and its current work is organized around these six areas: food, climate, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans.

27 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- It is a **multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.** The bank currently has **69 members** as well as 24 prospective members from around the world. The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015, after ratifications were received from 10 member states holding a total number of 50% of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock.
- The **bank was proposed by China in 2013** and the initiative was launched at a ceremony in Beijing in October 2014. It received the highest credit ratings from the three biggest rating agencies in the world, and is seen as a potential rival to the World Bank and IMF.

28 World Economic Forum

- WEF is Swiss non profit foundation, based in **Geneva.**
- It is recognized as **international institution for public-private cooperation.**
- It is committed to improve state of world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- WEF is best known for its **annual winter meeting** for five days in **Davos**, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in eastern Alps region of **Switzerland.**
- The meeting brings together some international political leaders, 2,500 top business leaders, selected intellectuals, and journalists to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world.

29 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- It is a humanitarian institution based in **Geneva, Switzerland**, and a three-time **Nobel Prize Laureate**. State parties (signatories) to the four **Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 (Protocol I, Protocol II)** and 2005 have given the ICRC a **mandate to protect victims of international and internal armed conflicts**. Such victims include **war wounded, prisoners, refugees, civilians, and other non-combatants**.
- The ICRC is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 190 National Societies.
- It is the oldest and most honoured organization within the movement and one of the most widely recognized organizations in the world, having **won three Nobel Peace Prizes in 1917, 1944, and 1963**.

30 Amnesty International

- It is a **London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights**. The organization has more than seven million members and supporters around the world.
- The stated mission of the organization is to campaign for “a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.”
- Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards.
- It **works to mobilize public opinion to put pressure on governments that let abuse take place**. Amnesty considers capital punishment to be “the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights.” **The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its “defence of human dignity against torture, “and the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in 1978.**

31 International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

- It was established by Austria and Switzerland in 1993 and has since grown to 17 member states.
- ICMPD was **founded to carry out research, projects and activities on migration-related issues and to provide policy recommendations to the governmental agencies** of states, as well as to external governmental and intergovernmental agencies. ICMPD also has observer status at the United Nations.
- Although ICMPD has global operations, it is primarily focused on the European area and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

32 International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- It is an international body set up by **the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW)**, which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on **December 2, 1946** to “provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry”.
- In 1982 the **IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling**. Currently, **Japan, Russia, and a number of other nations oppose this moratorium**.

- On 13 September 2018, IWC members gathered in Florianopolis, Brazil, where they discussed and rejected a proposal by Japan to renew commercial whaling.
- Through the “**Florianopolis Declaration**”, it was concluded that the purpose of the IWC is the conservation of whales and that they would now safeguard the marine mammals in perpetuity and would allow the recovery of all whale populations to pre-industrial whaling levels.
- **Japan announced on 26 December 2018 that it is withdrawing its membership** and will resume commercial hunting in its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone from July 2019, but will cease whaling activities in the Southern Hemisphere.

33 International Energy Agency (IEA)

- It is a **Paris-based** autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
- It was initially **dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.**
- It acts as a **policy adviser** to its **member states**, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia.
- The Agency’s mandate has broadened to focus on the “**3Es**” of effectual energy policy: **energy security, economic development, and environmental protection.**

34 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- It is an **intergovernmental organization to promote adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.**
- It was founded in 2009 and its statute entered into force on **8 July 2010**. The agency is **headquartered in Abu Dhabi.**
- IRENA is an official United Nations observer.

35 African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

- It is a **multilateral development finance institution.** The AfDB was founded in 1964 and comprises **three entities:** The African Development Bank, the African Development Fund and the Nigeria Trust Fund.
- The AfDB’s mission is **to fight poverty and improve living conditions on the continent through promoting the investment of public and private capital** in projects and programs that are likely to contribute to the economic and social development of the region.
- The AfDB is a financial provider to African governments and private companies investing in the regional member countries (RMC).

36 Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- It is a regional development bank established on **19 December 1966**, which is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines.**

- The company also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- The ADB was modelled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar **weighted voting system** where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- **Japan and United States hold the largest proportion** of shares at 15.607%. China holds 6.444%, **India holds 6.331%**, and Australia holds 5.786%.

37 Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

- It is an **international financial institution** owned by central banks which “**fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks**”.
- The BIS carries out its work through its meetings, programmes and through the Basel Process – hosting international groups pursuing global financial stability and facilitating their interaction.
- It also **provides banking services, but only to central banks and other international organizations**.
- It is **based in Basel, Switzerland**, with representative offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.

38 Financial Action Task Force

- It is an intergovernmental organization founded **in 1989** on the **initiative of the G7** to develop policies to **combat money laundering**.
- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing. It monitors progress in implementing the FATF Recommendations through “peer reviews” (“mutual evaluations”) of member countries.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD **headquarters in Paris**.

39 International Criminal Court (ICC)

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in **the Hague, Netherlands**.
- It has the **jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression**.
- It is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore exercise its jurisdiction only when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- It **began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force**. The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC. As of March 2019, there are 124 ICC member states.

40 International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL)

- It is an international organization that **facilitates international police cooperation**.
- It was established as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in 1923.

- To keep INTERPOL as politically neutral as possible, its charter forbids it from undertaking interventions or activities of a political, military, religious, or racial nature or involving itself in disputes over such matters.
- Its work focuses primarily on public safety and battling transnational crimes against humanity, child pornography, cybercrime, drug trafficking, environmental crime, genocide, human trafficking, illicit drug production, copyright infringement, missing people, illicit traffic in works of art, intellectual property crime, money laundering, organized crime, corruption, terrorism, war crimes, weapons smuggling, and white-collar crime.

41 Transparency International (TI)

- It is an international **non-governmental organization which is based in Berlin, Germany, and was founded in 1993.**
- Its non-profit purpose is to take action to **combat global corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.**
- It publishes for example the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perceptions Index.
- Transparency International has the legal status of a German registered voluntary association (Eingetragener Verein) and serves as an umbrella organization.
- Its members have grown from a few individuals to more than 100 national chapters which engage in fighting corruption in their home countries.

42 European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN

- It is a European research organization that operates the largest particle physics laboratory in the world.
- Established in 1954, the organization is based in a northwest suburb of Geneva on the Franco-Swiss border and has 22 member states.
- **Israel is the only non-European country granted full membership of CERN. It is also an official United Nations Observer.**
- CERN's main function is to provide the particle accelerators and other infrastructure needed for high-energy physics research – as a result, numerous experiments have been constructed at CERN through international collaborations.

43 The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

- It is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its 6 million members in over 100 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.
- ICC has **three main activities: rule setting, dispute resolution, and policy advocacy.** Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders.
- Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of international trade.
- ICC supports the work of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional, such as G20 on behalf of international business. ICC was the first organization granted general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UN Observer Status.

44 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

- Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a multinational body concerned with reducing nuclear proliferation by **controlling the export and re-transfer of materials** that may be applicable to nuclear weapon development and by improving safeguards and protection on existing materials.
- NSG was set up in **1974** as a reaction to India's nuclear tests to stop what it called the misuse of nuclear material meant for peaceful purposes.
- Currently, it has **48 members**.
- India is **not** a member yet.
- India sought membership of the NSG in 2008
- India's application has not been decided upon because signing the **NPT** or other nuclear moratoriums on testing is a pre-requisite and India has not signed NPT.
- However, India has received a **special waiver** to conduct nuclear trade with all nuclear exporters.
- **India, Pakistan, Israel and South Sudan** are among the four UN member states which have **not signed the NPT**, the international pact aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons
- **Benefits of being an NSG member:**
 - ▶ Gets timely information on nuclear matters
 - ▶ Contributes by way of information
 - ▶ Gets confirmed credentials
 - ▶ Can act as an instrument of harmonization and coordination
 - ▶ Become part of a very transparent process

45 SCO Peace mission

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Peace Mission Exercise is conducted **biennially for SCO member states**.
- The joint exercise for the year **2018** will be conducted at **Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia** by Central Military Commission of Russia.
- The upcoming peace mission is considered as a historic occasion due to participation of India after becoming a full member in 2017.
- It will involve tactical level operations in an international counter insurgency or counter terrorism environment under SCO Charter.

46 International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 280 airlines or 83% of total air traffic. Formed in April 1945, it is the successor to the International Air Traffic Association, which was formed in 1919
- IATA supports airline activity and helps **formulate industry policy and standards**. It also provides consulting and training services in many areas crucial to aviation.
- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada** with Executive Offices in Geneva, Switzerland.

47 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
- It is **headquartered in Beijing**.
- It commenced operations in January 2016 and has now grown to **84 approved members** from around the world.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, it aims to connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.

48 Global Solar Bank

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** plans to approach multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to create a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to specifically finance solar projects. This SPV aimed at financing \$150 billion would become a World Solar Bank.

49 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7.
- It is a **“policy-making body”** which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD **headquarters in Paris**.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Summits/ Conferences

1 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- **Third Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on consumer protection** was recently convened by UNCTAD.
- India was represented by **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- UNCTAD is a **permanent intergovernmental body** established by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1964.**
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland** and **part of the UN Secretariat.**
- It is a part of the **United Nations Development Group (UNDG).**
- It was formed specifically to handle the problems of developing countries dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- **Reports published by UNCTAD** – World Economic Situation and Prospects Report, Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report and Commodities and Development Report.

2 East Asia Summit - Economic Ministers' Meeting

- East Asia Summit - Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) was recently **held in Singapore.**
- The meeting was attended by Economic Ministers from **10 ASEAN countries and their eight dialogue partners.**
- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam are ASEAN members.
- The dialogue partners are Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.
- It was followed by the **15th ASEAN Economic Ministers - India Consultation.**

3 Global Cooling Innovation Summit

- It is going to be inaugurated by **Ministry of Science and Technology** in New Delhi.
- It is a first-of-its-kind solution focussed event to explore ways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing **demand from room air conditioners.**

- **Global cooling prize** - Mission Innovation challenge will be launched in this summit.
- It aims to spur development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times less climate impact than today's standard.

4 APEC Meet

- The recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**.
- The **meeting was topped by disputes between the US and China over trade**, security and which would be the better investment partner for the region.
- APEC is a forum for **21 Pacific Rim member economies** that promotes free trade throughout the Asia Pacific region.
- It is headquartered at **Singapore**.
- APEC also includes **three official observers: ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council**
- **India is not in the grouping.**

5 MOVE: Global Mobility Summit

- India's first ever **mobility summit** will be **organised by NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners.
- It will be **held in New Delhi** in the month of September, 2018.
- The summit will give **impetus for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration, job growth and speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy.**
- It will see participation from countries **like Netherlands, Slovakia, USA, UK, Netherlands, China, South Korea, Australia** etc.

6 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018

- The conference is to be held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** in the month of July.
- Theme of the AMCDRR 2018 is **'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development'**.
- It will enable governments and stakeholders to review progress made against the commitments at the AMCDRR 2016, i.e. the New Delhi Declaration, the Asia Regional Plan.
- India will participate in this conference and also organize a side event on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Management.

7 Third Edition of Indian Ocean Conference

- **Context-** Third edition of the Indian Ocean Conference was held in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Theme of conference in 2018 was **"Building Regional Architectures"**.
- The conference will **emphasise on better cooperation, strategic collaboration and governance architectures.**

- It will serve a platform to the countries to come closer and exchange better views on the economic and strategic importance of the region and neighbourhood.
- **Maritime security and safety have taken centre stage in the 21st century**, especially in the realm of non-traditional threats which include maritime terrorism, smuggling, and drug trafficking, illegal immigration.
- IOC plays an important role in smooth flow of trade, checking piracy and securing the sea lanes of communication in the IOR (Indian Ocean Region).

IOC:

- **IOC is an annual conference that aims to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, thought leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region on a single platform.**
- It has been initiated by **Delhi based think tank India Foundation** along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- Two editions of conference were hosted in 2016 and 2017 in **Singapore and Sri Lanka respectively.**

8 International Round Table Conference

- The **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is organising a two-day International Round Table Conference “**Data for New India**” at New Delhi during 9-10th July, 2018.
- The objective of the Round Table Conference is to identify innovative ideas for **improving the statistical system in India**, taking cue from the best practices followed in advanced countries like Canada, UK and Australia.
- Such a Conference is being organized in India for the first time, the conference is expected to suggest measures paving way for initiating the reform process in the Indian Statistical System.

9 World Sanskrit Conference

- World Sanskrit Conference is to promote, preserve and practice the Sanskrit language all over the world by the people.
- It is being held in various countries across the globe once **in every three years** and so far it has been **held thrice in India.**
- The latest edition, **17th World Sanskrit Conference** is going to be held at **Vancouver, Canada.**
- Union HRD minister will be inaugurating the conference.
- More than 500 scholars and delegates from over 40 countries will be participating in this conference on various subjects.

10 Delhi Dialogue

- It is a premier annual **track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN.**
- It has been held annually since 2009 and political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, think tanks and academicians from both sides participate in the discussions pertaining to ASEAN-India relations.

- It is aimed at finding a common ground and expanding the scope of cooperation between India and ASEAN nations.
- **Track 1.5 – A situation in which official and non-official actors work together to resolve conflicts.**

11 Geo-Intelligence Asia – 2018

- **Theme: ‘Geo-Spatial: A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security’**
- The Eleventh edition of Geo Intelligence Asia 2018 is being held in **New Delhi**. It is organised by Geo Spatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers.
- The seminar brings together the military, security officials including BSF and Police Forces, Government and industry together to examine the latest technology solutions and on the critical role of geospatial technology in military and security applications.

12 FCTC Conference

- **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** Conference of Parties is being organised by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** at **Geneva** in October.
- The conference is expected to discuss steps to **bring down tobacco consumption and cultivation**.
- Article 17 and 18 of FCTC deal with suitable alternatives to tobacco cultivation.
- Federation of All-India Farmer Associations requested the Union Commerce Ministry to seek the inclusion of tobacco farmers’ representatives in the conference.

13 Asia-Europe Meeting

- **Republic of Korea** is organising **3rd Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** conference on ‘**Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons**’.
- It will be attended by international institutions including the UN, regional institutions such as UNESCAP, UNECE, European Union, ASEAN and international NGOs.
- **India is also taking part** in this conference. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** will represent India.
- ASEM is an **exclusively Asian–European forum**, established in 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Currently has **51 nations from the European Union and South Asia** and **2 regional organisations (ASEAN, EU)** as partners.
- The 3 pillars of ASEM are Political, Economic, Socio Cultural and Educational.
- In 2016, it adopted **Ulaanbaatar declaration** to resolve **fight against terrorism** was signed in the ASEM summit.

14 World Summit on Accreditation

- **Union Human Resources and Development ministry** has recently inaugurated world summit on Accreditation.

- The summit is a **biennial** Summit organised by **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)**.
- The summit provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.
- NBA has already organised three Summits in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

15 ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)

- The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus were held recently **Singapore**.
- The conferences were attended by defence ministers from **India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and US**.
- ADMM and ADMM-Plus serves as key Ministerial-level platforms in regional security architecture for promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.

16 Fusion Energy Conference

- The 27th edition of fusion energy conference was recently organised in **Gandhinagar**.
- It is **organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** and hosted by the Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- It aims to provide a forum for the discussion of technology issues that are of direct relevance to the **use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy**.
- Innovative concepts on using nuclear fusion as a source of energy are discussed in this conference.

17 Technology Summit

- The technology summit is being **organised by Ministry of Science and Technology** every year.
- The 24th edition of this summit is going to be **organised with Italy** as the partner country.
- In the past 18 years, several countries have become partner countries in this summit.
- This is the **first time that Italy has been selected** as partner country.
- The Summit is envisaged to serve as a wide-ranging knowledge-business partnership platform.
- Aerospace, Clean tech, Cultural Heritage, Education, Healthcare, ICT and Renewable are the seven focus sectors for this year's summit.

18 SCO Meeting on Urban Disaster

- India is going to host Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's meeting on **Urban Disaster Handling**.
- **Pakistan has accepted India's invitation** for the meeting.
- It involves the joint mock exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- It will provide an opportunity to member-countries to validate their preparedness and resilience to various disasters and making humanitarian assistance in disaster response more effective.

20 Virtual Climate Summit

- It is an innovative climate summit which is an entirely online event to be a **carbon neutral event**.
- It is the **world's first ever political global meeting** to be **held in online**.
- Its focus is on to renew political momentum in **tackling climate change**.
- It was announced in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) assembly recently held in Vietnam.
- It is the brainchild of **Marshall Islands President** who insisted upon such summit in the GEF assembly.
- The summit is convened by the **Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)** in its capacity as the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) chair.
- Its main aim is to encourage the international community to keep global warming to **1.5 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels.

21 South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference

- The conference will be organized by **Gandhi Smriti and DarshanSamiti (GSDS)**, functioning under **Ministry of Culture**.
- UNESCO MGEIP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development) is in partnership with GSDS for organizing this conference.
- It is being organized to mark the beginning of celebration of **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- It focuses on building a **network for young leaders from South Asian countries** to work towards achieving UN sustainable development goals.

22 International Conference on Sustainable Water Management

- The **first International conference on sustainable water management** was recently **organized in India**.
- It was organized under the aegis of **national hydrology project**, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- **National hydrology project** is a **central sector scheme**, helps in gathering **hydro-meteorological data** which will be stored and analysed on a real time basis.

Reports & Rankings

1 India's Performance in Various Reports

Report/Index	By	India's Rank	Explanation
Ease of Doing Business	World Bank	77/190 (2019) & 100 th (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rankings are determined by sorting the aggregate scores on 10 parameters, giving equal weightage to all. India has shown highest improvement (53rd rank) in the last 2 years by any large country since 2011. Published Annually.
World Development Report (WDR)	World Bank	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDR-2018 was devoted entirely to education – aimed at tackling the global learning crisis, which will be critical for achieving quality education (SDG4). Published Annually
Global Economic Prospect Report	World Bank	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected India's growth at 7.3% for FY 2018-19 and 7.5 % for FY 2019-20. Global Economic Prospects Report 2019 is titled "Darkening Skies"
World Economic Outlook	IMF	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is measured in terms of per capita GDP based on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). India is now the world's sixth largest economy at \$2.6 trillion (in terms of GDP), displacing France. Published Biannually.
Global Money Laundering Report	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	68/128 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It assesses the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing around the world. Pakistan has been put on 'grey list' for its failure to stop terror financing.

Global Competitiveness Report	World Economic Forum (WEF)	58/140 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a composite indicator that assesses the factors determining an economy's level of productivity - widely considered as the most important determinant for long-term growth.
Global Human Capital Index	World Economic Forum (WEF)	158/195 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a measure of how the investment in health and education has translated into workforce productivity. Rankings are based on four parameters - capacity; deployment; development; and know-how.
Inclusive Development Index	World Economic Forum (WEF)	62/74 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The index has three pillars of growth for global economies - growth and development; inclusion; and intergenerational equity and sustainability. Published Annually
Human Development Index (HDI)	UNDP	130th (2018);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a statistic composite index of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. India's HDI value increased from 0.427 to 0.640, an almost 50 percent increase which is an indicator that millions have been lifted out of poverty. The first report was launched in 1990 by the Pakistani Economist MahbubulHaq and Indian Nobel laureate AmartyaSen
Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	UNDP	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It identifies people's deprivations across three key dimensions – health, education and living standards. MPI covers 105 countries in total, home to 75% of the world's population, or 5.7 billion people. India has made momentous progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, bringing down its poverty rate from 55% to 28% in ten years. While the national average is 21%. Kerala has an MPI of 1%, Tamil Nadu (6%), Karnataka (11%), Telangana (14%) and Andhra Pradesh (13%) are also significantly low. Bihar is the poorest State with 43% incidence of poverty.
Gender Inequality Index	UN Development Programme (UNDP)	125/159 (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a sub-index of Human Development Index (HDI). It is composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions- reproductive health; empowerment; and the labour market.

World Investment Report	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It focuses on trends in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worldwide Global flows of FDI fell by 23 % in 2017. Cross-border investment in developed and transition economies dropped sharply.
World Happiness Report	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	133/156 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It measures happiness based on 6 criteria India witnessed a drop of 11 places from 2017. India's rank is lower than other SAARC countries except Afghanistan. Finland topped the ranking.
World Intellectual Property Report	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides comprehensive, reliable information and analysis on fast-changing global IP developments relating to patents, trademarks, copyrights, and other areas of intellectual-property law. India's performance is improving as patent granted by India up by 50% in 2017.
Intellectual Property Index	US Chamber of Commerce	44/50 (2018) 36/50 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first time, India has broken free of the bottom 10% of economies measured. Passing guidelines to strengthen the patentability environment for technological innovations, improving the protection of well-known trademarks, initiating IP awareness and coordination programs helped India to improve its position. Published Annually
World Energy Outlook	International Energy Agency (IEA)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It examines future patterns of a changing global energy system at a time of increasing uncertainties.
Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International NGO	78/180 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. New Zealand was the least corrupt and Somalia was the most nations.
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders	138/180 (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It reflects the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations, and netizens enjoy in each country.
Global Peace Index	Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), Australia	136/163	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPI was launched in 2007 as a measure of world peace. Iceland secured 1st rank in the index. India's rank marginally improved compared to 2017 performance.

Global Innovation Index	Cornell University, INSEAD and WIPO	57 th (2018) 60 th (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ GII ranks economies based on 80 indicators. ◦ Since 2011, Switzerland has topped the list. ◦ China is the first middle-income country that entered top 20 ranking.
Global Cyber Security Index	ITU	23/165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ India is ahead of Germany, China, but Singapore is on top.
Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Organisation of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)	In 2009, 72 nd out of 74 nations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy. ◦ Published every 3 years
Global Gender Gap	WEF	108 th in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gender gap was measured across four key pillars (i) economic opportunity, (ii) political empowerment, (iii) educational attainment, and (iv) health and survival.
World employment and Social outlook	International Labour Organization (ILO)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 24 million new jobs will be created globally by 2030 if the right policies to promote a greener economy are put in place. ◦ Name of report "World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs"
Global Environment Outlook	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ GEO project was initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of UN Agenda 21. ◦ 6 UNEP regions are: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, west Asia, Pan European region.
World State of Forest Report	Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ State of the World's Forests 2018: Forest pathways to sustainable development ◦ World's forest area decreased from 31.6 per cent of the global land area to 30.6 per cent between 1990 and 2015.
An economy for the 99%	Oxfam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Eight men own the same wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, ◦ Report reveals that how big business and the super-rich are fuelling the inequality crisis.

Major Defence Exercise

1 Joint Defence Exercises

A defence exercise is the employment of military resources in training for military operations, either exploring the effects of warfare or testing strategies without actual combat. This serves the purpose of ensuring the combat readiness of deployable forces and ensures the security of our nation.

List of all Army, Naval and Air-force exercises carried out by India:

S.NO.	Name of Exercise	Participating Countries	Nature of Exercise
1.	Ajeya Warrior	UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army ◦ Aimed to build and promote bilateral relations and enhance interoperability. ◦ Location: Mahajan Firing Range, India.
2.	Mithra Shakti	India and Sri Lanka.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
3.	Hand-in-Hand.	India-China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
4.	Shakti IV	India and France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army ◦ Aimed at high degree of physical fitness, tactical drills, techniques and procedure. ◦ Location: Maily – le – Camp. France (2018).
5.	Nomadic Elephant	Indian and Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
6.	Surya Kiran XIII	India and Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army; ◦ Aimed at training on jungle warfare, anti-terrorism combat and disaster response activities. ◦ Location: Pithoragarh, India (2018).

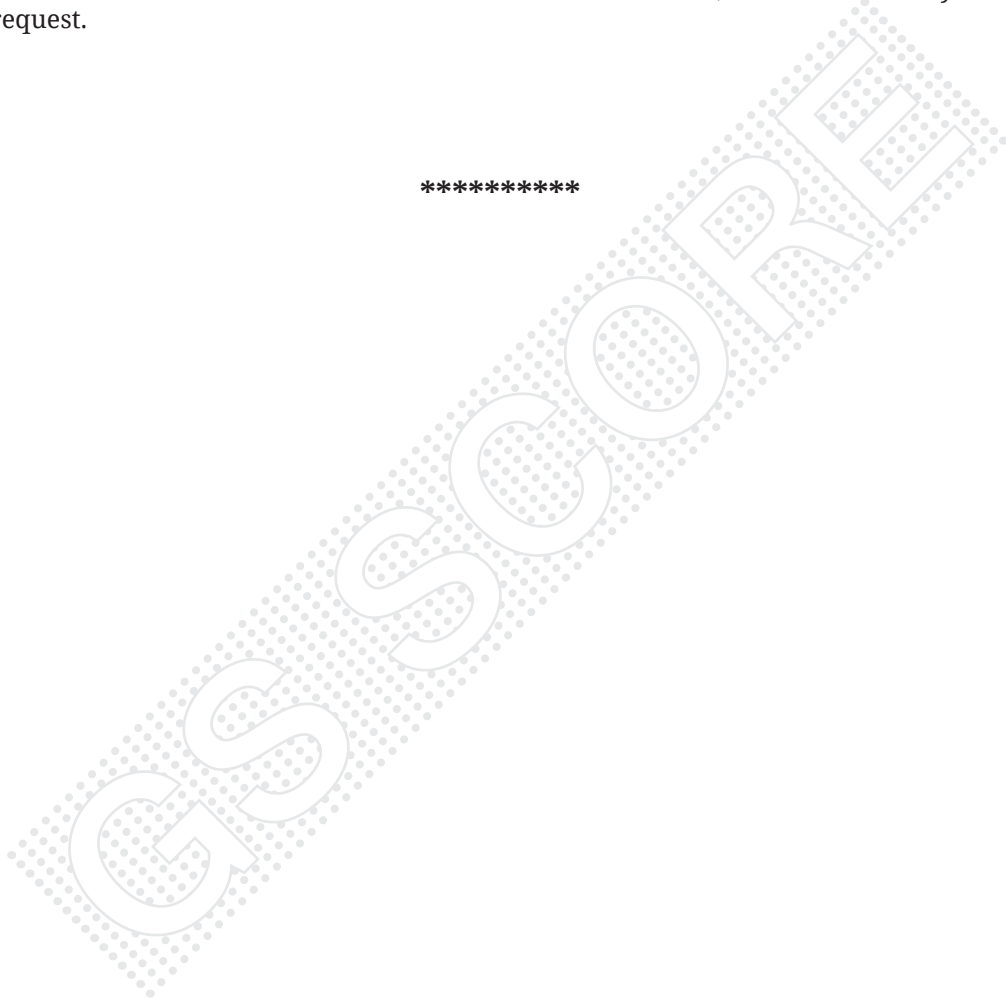
7.	LAMITYE VIII	India and Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army ◦ Aimed at conducting counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations ◦ Location: Mahe, Seychelles. (2018).
8.	Al-Nagah	India and Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
9.	EKUVERIN	India and Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
10.	SAMPRTI	India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
11.	GARUDA SHAKTI	India and Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
12.	Vajra Prahar 2018	India and USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army ◦ Held in Seattle, USA
13.	YudhAbhyas	India and USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
14.	PRABAL DOSTYK	India and Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
15.	KAZIND	India and Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
16.	Maitree	India and Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
17.	DHARMA GUARDIAN	India and Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
18.	AGNI WARRIOR	India and Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
19.	BOLD KURUKHESTRA	India and Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
20.	IMBEX	India and Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
21.	KHANJAR	India and Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Army
22.	INDRA	India and Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A joint, bi-annual military exercise conducted by India and Russia
23.	Malabar	India, United States and Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval
24.	Varuna	France and India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval
25.	SLINEX	Sri Lanka and India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval
26.	Simbex	Indian Navy with Republic of Singapore Navy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval
27.	IBSAMAR	India, Brazil and South African navies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval
28.	KONKAN	Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Naval

29.	AUSINDEX	Indian and Australian	◦ Naval
30.	Sahyog-Kaijin	India and Japan	◦ Joint exercise of Coast Guards
31.	Vinbax 1	India and Vietnam	◦ Naval
32.	IND-INDO CORPAT	India and Indonesia	◦ Naval
33.	SAMUDRA SHAKTI	India and Indonesia	◦ Naval
34.	Naseem-al-Bahr	India and Oman	◦ Naval
35.	Indradhanush or Rainbow IV	India-UK	◦ Airforce
36.	Garuda V	India-France Air Exercise	◦ Airforce
37.	AviaIndra	India-Russia aerial exercise	◦ Airforce
38.	Cope India	United States and India	◦ Air Force ◦ At Kalaikunda and Panagarh
39.	RED FLAG	United States and India	◦ Air Force
40.	Pitch Black	India and Royal Australian Air Force	◦ Air Force
41.	BLUE FLAG	Israel and India	◦ Air Force
42.	SIAM BHARAT	India and Thailand	◦ Air Force
43.	DESERT EAGLE-II	India and UAE	◦ Air Force
44.	EASTERN BRIDGE-IV	India and Oman	◦ Air Force
45.	Samvedna	India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and UAE	◦ Air Force

Others:

- **Cobra gold** – One of the world’s largest and longest-running international military exercises held in Thailand. The **38th annual (2019) Cobra Gold exercise, co-sponsored by the Royal Thai and U.S armed forces**. They are joined by **another 27 nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore**. China and India participate in civic-action parts of the exercise.
- **Ex. Force 18** – Multinational Field Training Exercise (FTX) –involving ASEAN Plus (viz. **India, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Russia and US**) countries commenced at Pune with themes based on ‘Humanitarian Mine Action’ and ‘Peacekeeping Operations’.
- **MILEX** The first field training military exercise **MILEX-18**, as part of the Bay of Bengal initiative for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation (**BIMSTEC**). The **theme of the exercise is counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain**.
- **Rapid Trident** - Ukraine launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident **with the United States and other NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries. Its main goal is to practice countering armed aggression in conditions of the hybrid war.

- **Vostok-2018** - Russia holds its biggest military exercise Vostok-2018 since the Cold War, in the eastern part of the country and with the participation of China and Mongolia.
- **MILAN 2018 (MILES-18)** - The 10th edition of Milan was conducted in the Andaman Sea. The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability between navies of the region and to exchange best practices. It is a multilateral naval exercise.
- **Gaganshakti-2018**- An all-encompassing coordinated and composite exercise was conducted in two phases, the first being at the western border and second phase will be along the northern borders with Pakistan. The aim of this exercise is real time coordination, deployment and employment of Air Power in a short & intense battle scenario.
- **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** - Navies of India and Indonesia to hold their first bilateral exercise in the Java Sea India will stage a new trilateral exercise with Thailand and Singapore soon. Navy recently conducted maiden bilateral exercises with Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam India and Bangladesh have also agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two navies. The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request.



Miscellaneous

1 Operation NISTAR

- The Indians who were stranded in **Socotra island** after **cyclone Mekunu** hit the area were evacuated by **INS Sunayna** in an **operation “Nistar”**.
- The cyclone Mekunu had badly hit various parts of Oman and the Socotra Island.
- Socotra also called Soqotra is **located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea**.
- It is the **largest of four islands** of the Socotra archipelago.
- The territory is located near major shipping routes and is **officially part of Yemen**, and had long been a subdivision of the Aden Governorate.

2 SAGAR Programme (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

- SAGAR is a term coined by PM Modi in 2015 during his Mauritius visit with a focus on blue economy. It is a **maritime initiative which gives priority to Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in Indian Ocean region**.
- The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other `s interests; peaceful resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation. It is in line with the principles of Indian Ocean Rim Association.

3 Maitri Irrigation Project

- The project was launched in January last year **to boost growth to the Himalayan nation’s agricultural sector through enhanced facilities**.
- The project is aimed at installing 2,700 shallow tube wells in 12 districts of Nepal.
- The project would **ensure all-season irrigation facility** to about 8,115 hectares of farm land, augment productivity of wheat, rice and seasonal fruits, vegetables and other crops, it said.
- It would also uplift the socio-economic status of farming families in the 12 districts covered under the project

4 No-first-use doctrine

- India is committed to a 'No-First-Use' policy as **part of its nuclear doctrine**.
- Thus, second strike capability - the capability to strike back after being hit by nuclear weapons first becomes important.

5 Accession to WIPO treaty

- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal regarding accession to the **WIPO Copyright Treaty** and **WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty**. The treaty extends coverage of **copyright to the internet and digital environment**.
- The policy aims to get value for IPRs through commercialization by providing guidance and support to IPR owners about commercial opportunities of e-commerce through Internet and mobile platforms.

6 WIPO Copyright Treaty

- The treaty came to force in 2002 and has been adopted by 96 contracting parties till date.
- It is a Special agreement under **Berne Convention** (for **protection of literary and artistic works**). It has provisions to extend the protection of copyrights contained therein to the digital environment.

7 WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty

- The treaty came to force in 2002 and has 96 contracting parties as its members.
- WPPT deals with **rights of Performers** (actors, singers, musicians etc.) and **producers of Phonograms** (sound recordings) in digital environment.
- It recognizes moral rights of the performers for the first time & provides exclusive economic rights to them in digital environment.

8 Gaming University

- The **UNESCO**, specialised agency of United Nations, entered into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board for the establishment of a gaming digital learning hub.
- **Visakhapatnam** will soon have a Design university for gaming.
- The hub is seen as potential medium for creating around 50,000 jobs in 10 years.

9 Mattala Airport

- Mattala Airport is referred to as the world's "**emptiest airport**" located in Sri Lanka.
- India is negotiating a joint venture with Sri Lanka to operate this loss making airport.
- It is located strategically very near to **Hambantota port which is operated by China**.

10 World's largest mobile manufacturing plant

- **South Korea** in partnership with India recently inaugurated Samsung's mobile manufacturing plant, touted as the biggest in the world, in **Noida**.
- It will almost double its manufacturing capacity to 120 million by 2020 from 68 million now.

11 MoU by the Vice President

- Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu becomes first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a foreign country.
- Rajya Sabha has for the **first time** in 76 years since it came into being, entered a **MOU with a foreign counterpart** for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.
- The MoU was inked with the visiting President of the Senate of the **Republic of Rwanda**.
- Collaboration in mutual interest in regional and international multilateral parliamentary bodies in furtherance of bilateral relations.

12 Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA)

- WGIA is an initiative of **Government of Japan**.
- It is to improve the quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience.
- **Members of WGIA** - 15 countries including Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- India is hosting WGIA for the first time.
- Workshop has been organized by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan and is being hosted by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in New Delhi

13 Resolution 2427

- The **UN Security Council** has adopted a resolution 2427, which won unanimous approval of the 15 members of the council.
- The resolution aimed at a **framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle**.
- It also **condemns attacks against schools and hospitals** and the denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.
- It demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children.

14 Global Compact for Migration

- United Nations has **created Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration for the first time**.
- It is the **first intergovernmental** negotiated agreement under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.

- The agreement was signed by adopting a non-binding political declaration “**New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**” in 2016.
- Its objective is to address the challenges of migration, strengthen migrant rights.
- Under the agenda, member States committed to cooperate internationally to safe facilitate migration.

15 Regional Aviation Partnership

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amongst BRICS Nations.
- The Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation will benefit **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- The objective is that BRICS countries would benefit from the establishing of an institutional framework to cooperate in the **field of civil aviation**.
- The MoU has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges amongst the BRICS Nations.

16 International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC)

- An International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) is about to be setup at **Dwarka, New Delhi**.
- IICC will reflect India’s economic progress, rich cultural heritage and its consciousness towards protection of the environment.
- IICC will give a **new identity to India** in the sphere of meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) which is a multibillion business.

17 CORSIA

- **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)** is a global scheme to **address the increase in total CO₂ emissions** from international aviation above 2020 levels.
- The aviation industry is committed to technology, operational and infrastructure advances to continue to reduce the sector’s carbon emissions.
- On average (2021-2035), flights subject to CORSIA’s offsetting requirements will account for over 600 million tons of CO₂ per year. This makes CORSIA one of the largest carbon pricing instruments in the world in terms of greenhouse gas emissions coverage.

18 Hague Abduction Convention

- The government has clarified that it is **not yet ready** to sign the Hague treaty on inter-country abduction of children by parents fleeing a bad marriage. On the other hand, the government is planning to follow the Japan example and put safeguards in place before acceding to the Hague treaty.
- **The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980):**
- The Hague Convention is a multilateral treaty whereby the contracting states will have to

cooperate with each other in **expeditiously sending back the runaway parent and the child** to the country of the child's 'habitual residence'.

- It seeks to return children abducted or retained overseas by a parent to their country of habitual residence for the courts of that country to decide on matters of residence and contact.
- The convention shall apply to any child, **up to the age of 16 years** who is a habitual resident of any of the contacting states.

19 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2019

- **Context-** The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was held on 21-23 January 2019, in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- PBD is a celebratory day observed on **9 January** to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates **the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa** to Mumbai on **9 January 1915**.
- PBD conventions are being held every year **since 2003**. These conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities.
- PBD is celebrated **every year** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- It is sponsored by the **Ministry of External Affairs, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industries** and the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**.
- Theme of this year was "**Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India**". Special arrangements were also being made for participation in Kumbh Mela and Republic day parade.
- During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are also honoured with the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)** to recognize their contributions in various fields both in India and abroad.
- PBSA is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians.
- PBSA is conferred by the President of India as a part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conventions to a **Non-Resident Indian**, Person of Indian Origin or an organization or institution established and run by the Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, who has made significant contribution.

20 India and WMO

- India has been designated as a **nodal centre** for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- India will develop a customised model that can issue advance warning of floods in **Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand**.
- The system is called the **Flash Flood Guidance System** which aims to provide forecasts six hours in advance.
- The WMO says flash floods account for 85% of flooding incidents across the world, causing some 5,000 deaths each year.

21 SAARC Fund

- In 1996, a first funding mechanism was created in SAARC, 'South Asian Development Fund (SADF), merging the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and the SAARC Regional Fund.
- SADF objectives were **to support industrial development, poverty alleviation, protection of environment, institutional/human resource development and promotion of social and infrastructure development projects** in the SAARC region.
- **SAARC Development Fund which was established by the heads of the eight SAARC Member States in April 2010.** SDF has three windows. They are Social, Economic and Infrastructure Windows.
- Its governing council comprises finance ministers of the SAARC countries
- The aim of the fund is to:
 - ▶ Promote the welfare of the people of SAARC region.
 - ▶ Improve their quality of life.
 - ▶ Accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
