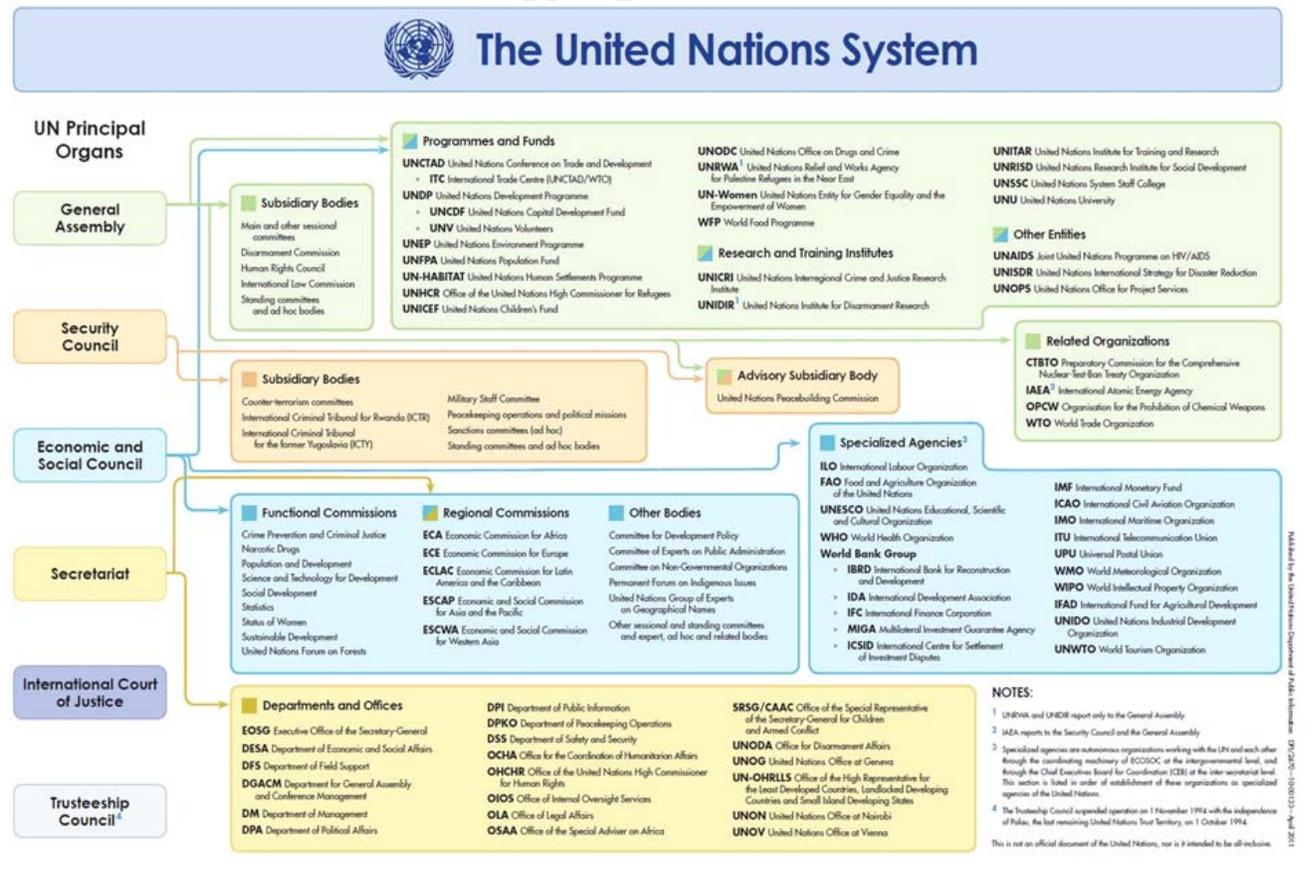


INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

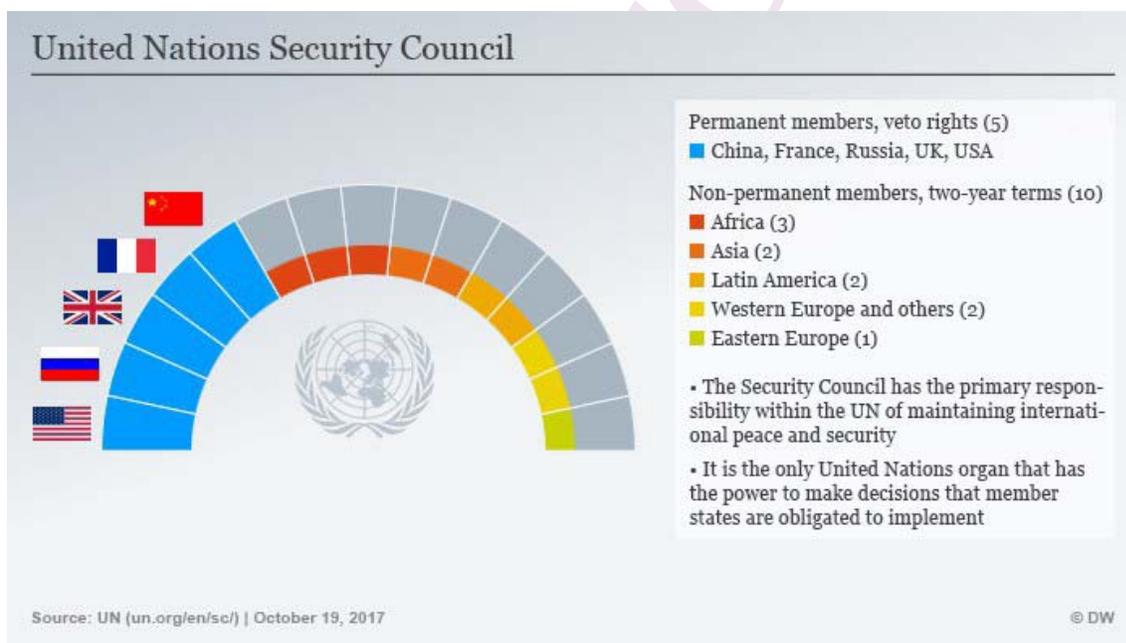
1. UNITED NATIONS

- ❑ **Foundation:** It is an international organization founded in 1945 after the World War II. Its charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 51 countries have signed the charter.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** New York
- ❑ **Members:** 193 (Latest Member South Sudan) - **India** is member of UN.
- ❑ **Secretary General:** Antonio Guterres (Portugal)
- ❑ **Functions:** Its activities include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.
- ❑ **Recent developments:** 1. UNGA held a first ever high-level meeting on the fight against Tuberculosis, under the theme "United to end Tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic".
- ❑ 2. Venezuela and Libya have been suspended from voting in the UN General Assembly for the third time in 3 years because of millions of dollars in unpaid dues to the world body.



UN Security Council

- ❑ **Foundation:** The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Like the UN as a whole, the Security Council was created following World War II to address the failings of a previous international organization, the League of Nations, in maintaining world peace. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
- ❑ **Members:** The council has 15 members: 5 Permanent: US, UK, Russia, France & China and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for 2-year terms.
- ❑ **India & UNSC:** India recently won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the UN in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC for a 2-year term in 2021-22.
- ❑ **Functions:** Responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action.
- ❑ **Recent Developments:** UNSC has recently adopted a Resolution 2427 aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle. The resolution won unanimous approval from all the members of the council.



UN Economic and Social Council

- ❑ **Foundation:** The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations established by the UN Charter in 1945
- ❑ **Headquarter:** The headquarters of the ECOSOC is located in **New York**, United States.
- ❑ **Members:** It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term.
- ❑ **India and ECOSOC:** In 2017, UNGA re-elected India to another 3-year term starting from Jan. 2018 (as its previous term was set to expire in 2017).
- ❑ **Functions:** It is the principal organ that guides sustainable development policies and coordinates the activities of several UN units and organisations working on development and social and economic issues.



UNESCO

- ❑ **Foundation:** UNESCO was established on November 4th, 1946 as a specialized agency of the UN. Its 1st General Conference was held on November 19th, 1946 in Paris.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** UNESCO's Headquarter is located in **Paris**.
- ❑ **Members:** It had 195 member states. It accorded recognition in 2011 to Palestine as its 195th member. The **United States** and **Israel** left UNESCO so presently It has **193** Members and 11 Associate Members (As of April 2020).
- ❑ **India** is one among the members.
- ❑ **Functions:** UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through International cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs. It is a global development agency with missions that include promoting sex education, literacy, clean water and equality for women.

Supplementary Information

World Heritage Site

- ❑ The UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- ❑ This is embodied in an international treaty called the "Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.
- ❑ The World Heritage Committee is the main body in charge of the implementation the Convention.

International Court of Justice

- ❑ **Foundation:** The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** sometimes called the **World Court**, is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It was established in 1945.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** The Hague (Netherlands).
- ❑ **Members:** All members of the UN are party to the ICJ Statute.
- ❑ **India and ICJ:** An Indian Justice Dalveer Bhandari was re-elected as a judge to the ICJ. India recently won the plea against Pakistan to grant counsellor access to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav and ICJ has directed to Pakistan to stop carrying out the execution of Jadhav.
- ❑ **Structure:** It is presided over by 15 judges elected to 9 year terms by the UNGA and the UNSCI from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. A candidate needs to get an absolute majority in both the chambers *i.e.* the UNGA and the UNSC.
- ❑ **Functions:** It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies. It hears cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues.

Recent Developments

ICJ has made a ruling on the military excesses on Rohingya in Myanmar against Rohingya Muslims recently. It has finally pinned legal responsibility on Myanmar's government for the military's large-scale excesses of 2017. Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi led Myanmar's defence against charges of carrying out genocide against its Muslim Rohingya minority.

In another case of its advisory opinion on Chagos Islands issue, it stated that the UK Government is "under an obligation" to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago "as rapidly as possible".



World Bank Group

- ❑ World Bank Group consists of **five development institutions**.



International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was established in 1944
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington D.C (United States)
- ❑ **Members:** The IBRD is owned and governed by its 189 member states, with each country represented on the Board of Governors **India** is member of IBRD.
- ❑ **Functions:** Provides commercial-grade or concessional financing to sovereign states to fund projects that seek to improve transportation and infrastructure, education, domestic policy, environmental consciousness, energy investments etc.

International Development Association (IDA)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 24 September 1960.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington D. C
- ❑ **Members:** 173 Countries.
- ❑ **India** is member of IDA.
- ❑ **Functions:** Offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries.

Note: **IBRD and IDA** are collectively known as World Bank, that provides loans to countries for capital programs.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- ❑ **Foundation:** Established in 1956
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington, D. C
- ❑ **Members:** 184 Countries



- ❑ **India** is member of IFC.
- ❑ **Functions:** The International Finance Corporation is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was established in 1988
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington, D. C
- ❑ **Members:** 181 Countries
- ❑ **India** is member of MIGA
- ❑ **Functions:** The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency 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.

The International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was established in October 1966.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington, D. C.
- ❑ **Members:** 163 countries (signatory and contracting states) 154 countries (contracting states only).
- ❑ **India** is not member of ICSID.
- ❑ **Functions:** Legal dispute resolution and conciliation between international investors.

International Monetary Fund

- ❑ **Foundation:** IMF was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods in July 1944.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Washington, D. C
- ❑ **Members:** 189 Countries
- ❑ **India** is member of IMF
- ❑ **Functions:** A core responsibility of the IMF is to provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems. Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects.
- ❑ **Reports:** World economic outlook, Global Financial stability report.
- ❑ **Recent Developments:** In its new deal, IMF members have decided to extend the bilateral borrowing facility by a year to the end of 2020 and a potential doubling of the NAB (New Arrangement to Borrow). But the new deal will leave IMF quotas (the primary source of IMF funds), which determine voting shares, unchanged. Instead, these will be reviewed before the end of 2023.

International Labor Organization

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was created in 1919 by the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❑ **Members:** The organization has 187 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands (a nation in the South Pacific, with political links to New Zealand).

India and ILO

- ❑ India is a founder member of the ILO
- ❑ In 2017, India ratified **ILO Conventions, 138 and 182**, which says that the minimum age for employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling (14 years of age in India's case) and calls for elimination of the worst forms of child labour, respectively.



- ❑ **Functions:** It is responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.
- ❑ **Reports: It publishes** Global Wage report, World Social Protection Report, World Employment and Social Outlook.
- ❑ **Structure: ILO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.** Unlike other United Nations specialized agencies, the International Labour Organization has a tripartite governing structure – representing governments, employers, and workers.
- ❑ ILO designates some member countries as nations of ‘Chief Industrial Importance’.
- ❑ The designated nations are Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

World Health Organization

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- ❑ **Foundation:** It was founded in April 1948.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❑ **Members:** WHO has 194 **member** states: all of the member states of the United Nations except for Liechtenstein, plus the Cook Islands and Niue. (A state becomes a full member of WHO by ratifying the treaty known as the Constitution of the World Health Organization.)
- ❑ **India** is member of WHO
- ❑ **Structure:** The **World Health Assembly** is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❑ The **Executive Board** is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year terms. The annual Board meeting is held in January when the members agree upon the agenda for the World Health Assembly and the resolutions to be considered by the Health Assembly.
- ❑ In addition, the UN observer organizations International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have entered into “official relations” with WHO and are invited as observers. In the World Health Assembly, they are seated alongside the other NGOs.
- ❑ The head of the organization is the **Director-General**, elected by the World Health Assembly.
- ❑ **Functions:** WHO’s main **functions** can be summed up as follows: To act as a directing and coordinating authority on international health work, to ensure valid and productive technical cooperation, and to promote research. The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Handling of novel coronavirus pandemic

In December 2019, the WHO’s China office was informed about cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in the Wuhan city of Hubei province.

Ever since, the WHO has worked to inform the world about the illness — called the novel coronavirus— and even earned the praise of global health experts initially for its transparent and swift approach.

It was the WHO that announced a global emergency due to the spread of the virus and later declared it a pandemic.



International Maritime Organization

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council
- ❑ **Foundation:** March 1948.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** London, U. K
- ❑ **Members:** IMO currently has 174 member states and three associate members
- ❑ **Functions:** Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- ❑ **India and IMO:** India has had the privilege of being elected to and serving the council of the IMO, ever since it started functioning, except for two years during 1983-1984. In the 30th session of IMO held in London, India was re- elected to the council of IMO under

International Civil Aviation Organization

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council **Foundation** - Founded in 1944, Formation took place in April 1947.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Montreal, Canada.
- ❑ **Members:** There are 193 ICAO members, consisting of 192 of the 193 UN members (all but Liechtenstein which lacks an international airport), plus the Cook Islands.
- ❑ **India is member of ICAO.**
- ❑ **Functions:** It changes the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.

Recent Developments

- ❑ Recently, ICAO introduced a **scheme to measure carbon emission**, called as 'CORSIA - Carbon Offsetting and Reporting Scheme for International Aviation'. The CORSIA is a global market-based measure adopted by ICAO. It intends to offset annual increases in CO₂ emissions from international civil aviation above 2020 levels.
- ❑ A market-based measure is a policy tool that is designed to achieve environmental goals at a lower cost and in a more flexible manner than traditional regulatory measures. e.g. Levies, emissions trading systems, and carbon offsetting. It relies on the use of emissions units to offset the amount of CO₂ emissions.

World Meteorological Organization

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council
- ❑ **Foundation:** March 1950
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❑ **Members:** It is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
- ❑ **India is member of WMO**
- ❑ **Functions:** Through its members, WMO provides forecasts and early warnings to nations, which help prevent and mitigate disasters. WMO monitors and forecast the transport of chemical and oil spills, forest fires, volcanic ash, haze and nuclear isotopes. It also draws world attention to the depletion of the ozone layer.

India and WMO

- ❑ India has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the 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 6 hours in advance

World Intellectual Property Organization

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council
- ❑ **Foundation:** July 1967
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❑ **Members:** WIPO currently has 193 **member states**. 190 of the UN Members as well as the Holy See, Niue and the Cook Islands are Members of WIPO.
- ❑ **India** is member of WIPO
- ❑ **Functions:** To promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property (inventions, trademarks, and designs) and copyrighted materials (literary, musical, photographic, and other artistic works).

India and WIPO

- ❑ India has joined three WIPO treaties designed to ease the search for trademarks and industrial designs, helping brand owners and designers in their efforts to obtain protection for their own work. The three agreements are:
 - Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks.
 - Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks.
 - Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs.
- ❑ The accessions underline India's strong multilateral engagement with the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

United Nations Development Programme

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- ❑ **Foundation:** November 1965.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** New York, United States.
- ❑ **Functions:** UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change.
- ❑ It also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programmes.
- ❑ **UNDP Projects in India:** In partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), UNDP, through the Governance & Accelerated Livelihoods (**GOALS**) **project**, helps promote affordable housing for the rural poor.
- ❑ The **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network, or eVIN**, developed by UNDP India with support from the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, uses technology to help health workers ensure that vaccines reach every child, everywhere.

Sustainable Development Goals

The UNDP is one of the main UN agencies involved in the development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda widely known as the sustainable development goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.





World Trade Organization

- ❑ **Foundation:** January 1995 - WTO officially commenced under the Marrakesh Agreement, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❑ **Members:** 164 members.
- ❑ **India** is member of WTO.
- ❑ **Functions:** It operates a global system of trade rules, acts as a forum for negotiating trade agreements, it settles trade disputes between its member countries and it supports the needs of developing countries.

India & WTO

India suffered a setback at the WTO in a dispute against the US that had challenged its key export subsidy schemes including the one for special economic zones.

The WTO has ruled that these export subsidy programmes violated provisions of the trade body's norms. India is likely to appeal the ruling before the organisation's Appellate Body.

United Nations Human Rights Council

- ❑ **Parent Organization:** United Nations General Assembly
- ❑ **Foundation:** March 2006
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland



- ❑ **Members:** The UNHRC has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.
- ❑ **Functions:** It is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.

UNHRC & India

- ❑ The 18 new members (for next 3 years) were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.
- ❑ India was also elected beginning January 1, 2019, in the Asia-Pacific category with highest number of votes among all candidates.
- ❑ Brazil, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines were also elected in the same regional group.
- ❑ Venezuela were elected despite widespread criticism of its poor human rights record.

2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (ECONOMIC)

New Development Bank

- ❑ **Foundation:** July 2014, (Founded by BRICS Countries).
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Shanghai, China.
- ❑ **Members:** BRICS Nations-Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- ❑ **Functions:** Its focus is to finance infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging market and developing countries.
- ❑ It supports sovereign and non-sovereign projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

Recent Developments

NDB's first non-sovereign project was a \$200 million loan to Brazil's Petrobras for an environmental protection scheme and the second a \$200 million loan to South Africa's Transnet to reconstruct a port in Durban.

Supplementary Information

- ❑ It has an initial authorized capital of 100 billion dollars, and an initial subscribed capital of 50 billion dollars.
- ❑ The initial subscribed capital shall be equally distributed amongst the founding members (BRICS countries).
- ❑ The initial authorized capital of the Bank was divided in to 1 million shares and made available for subscription to members, to which all members subscribed equally.
- ❑ Hence the voting power that was based number of the subscribed shares is equally shared among the members.
- ❑ **All members of UN could be members of the NDB**, however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.

Asian Development Bank

- ❑ **Foundation:** 19 December 1966
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Manila, Philippines
- ❑ **Members:** ADB now has 68 members of which 49 from within Asia and Pacific while remaining 19 from outside. **India** is founding member since 1966.
- ❑ **Functions:** ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.



ADB finances projects in four ways:

- i. Public sector (sovereign) financing:** Financial products for developing member country governments and public sector entities.
- ii. Private sector (non-sovereign) financing:** Direct financial assistance to private sector projects.
- iii. ADB funds and resources:** ADB funds activities in various sectors through loans and grants financed from ordinary capital resources as well as special and trust funds.
- iv. Co-financing partnerships:** ADB partners with multilaterals, bilateral and private institutions and with commercial finance institutions to finance development projects in the region.

India & ADB

- ❑ India is a founding member and the 4th largest shareholder.
- ❑ ADB is developing New Delhi as a regional hub for its operations in South Asia.
- ❑ Mumbai Metro Rail System Project, Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program, East coast economic corridor, South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program etc are sponsored by ADB.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- ❑ **Foundation:** 16 January 2016 (Open for business); 25 December 2015 (Entry into force Articles of Agreement).
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Beijing, China.
- ❑ **Members:** The bank currently has 78 members as well as 24 prospective members from around the world. **China, India and Russia** are the three largest shareholders of AIIB with voting shares are 26.06%, 7.5% and 5.92% respectively. **US & Japan are not its members.**
- ❑ **Functions:** It aims to stimulate growth and improve access to basic services by furthering interconnectivity and economic development in the region through advancements in infrastructure.
- ❑ It offers sovereign and non-sovereign finance for projects in various sectors with an interest rate of London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 1.15 % and a repayment period of 25 years with 5 years in grace period.

India & AIIB

Power transmission and distribution projects in Assam, metro rail projects in Chennai, Mumbai and rural water supply system in Karnataka, major irrigation and flood management project in West Bengal, 250MW solar project in Rajasthan, Mumbai urban transport project etc are some of the projects sponsored by AIIB.

European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)

- ❑ **Foundation:** Founded in 1991 as a multilateral developmental investment Bank.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** London
- ❑ **Members:** 69 countries and two EU institutions, the 69th being india since July 2018. (It is not to be confused with the European Investment Bank (EIB) which is owned by EU member states and used to support EU policy)
- ❑ **Functions:** EBRD's core operations pertain to private sector development in their countries of operation.
- ❑ The minimum initial investment towards the membership of EBRD is approximately one million Euros.

India & EBRD

- ❑ In 2017, the **Union Cabinet has approved India's membership for EBRD and shareholders of EBRD also voted for India's full membership.**



- ❑ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has signed a pact for cooperation on energy projects.

Bank for International Settlements

- ❑ **Foundation:** 17 May 1930
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Basel, Switzerland
- ❑ **Members:** 62 central banks and monetary authorities are currently members of the BIS and have rights of voting and representation at general meetings
- ❑ **Functions:** To serve central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, to foster international cooperation in those areas and to act as a bank for central banks.
- ❑ **India:** Reserve Bank of India is also member of it.

3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (JUDICIAL)

International Criminal Court

- ❑ **Foundation:** July 2002 (Rome Statute adopted in July 1998, Entered into force in July 2002)
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Hague, Netherlands
- ❑ **Members:** There are 123 members. Malaysia is the latest member to join.

Rome Statute

- ❑ It is a multilateral treaty which serves as ICC's foundational and governing document. States becomes party to Rome Statute by signing it and subsequently becomes member of ICC by ratifying it.
- ❑ **India is not** a signatory to the Rome Statute.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

- ❑ **Foundation:** Established in 1899 by **Convention on the Pacific Settlement of disputes.**
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Hague, Netherlands
- ❑ **Members:** 122 States
- ❑ **India** is party to the Convention
- ❑ **Functions:** It provides **services of arbitral tribunal** to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements.
- ❑ The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- ❑ **Supplementary Information:** The organization is not a United Nations agency but has observer status in the UN General Assembly. The rulings of PCA are binding but the tribunal has no powers for enforcement.

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (MARITIME)

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea)

- ❑ **Foundation:** Signed on 10 December 1982, Came into force from 16 November 1994.
- ❑ **Location:** Montego Bay, Jamaica
- ❑ **Members:** Signatories - 157 Parties - 168
- ❑ **India** is also one among the members



- ❑ **Functions:** The most significant issues covered by convention were setting limits, navigation, archipelagic status and transit regimes, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), continental shelf jurisdiction, deep seabed mining, the exploitation regime, protection of the marine environment, scientific research, and settlement of disputes.
- ❑ The convention gives a clear definition on Internal Waters, Territorial Waters, Archipelagic Waters, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone, and Continental Shelf.
- ❑ Mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction is regulated through an **International Seabed Authority** and the Common heritage of mankind principle.

ITLOS (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea)

- ❑ **Foundation:** December 1982, The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an intergovernmental organization created by the mandate of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Hamburg, Germany
- ❑ **Members:** The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.
- ❑ **India and ITLOS:** Dr. Neeru Chadha has become the first Indian woman to be elected as a judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS).
- ❑ **Functions:** to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS Convention.

International Sea Bed Authority

- ❑ **Foundation:** 16 November 1994
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Kingston, Jamaica
- ❑ **Members:** 168 Parties
- ❑ **Functions:** To organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- ❑ It helps in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”.

India & ISA

- ❑ India was re-elected as a member of the Council of ISA (2017-2020).
- ❑ India has been given exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed in Central Indian Ocean Basin has been extended by 5 years.
- ❑ India is implementing a programme on exploration of Polymetallic nodules through the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

International Whaling Commission

- ❑ **Foundation:** 2 December 1946 **Headquarter** - Impington, U.K **Members** - 88 Nations
- ❑ **India is** also member of IWC
- ❑ **Functions:** Regulation of Whaling for the proper conservation of whale and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.

Its objectives are

1. Setting out catch limits by species and area which may be zero as it the case for commercial whaling,
2. Designating specified areas as whale sanctuaries,
3. Protection of calves and females accompanied bycalves,
4. Prescribe open and closed seasons and areas for whaling and restrictions on hunting methods.



Indian Ocean Rim Association

- ❑ **Foundation:** 7 March, 1997
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Ebene, Mauritius
- ❑ **Members:** 22 states bordering the Indian Ocean
- ❑ **Function:** Strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.

India and IORA

- ❑ India hosted 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial meet in 2018.
- ❑ It has adopted “Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region”.
- ❑ As per the declaration, IORA member nations will collaborate with the ISA member nations to exchange knowledge and share potential interests in the renewable energy sector.

5. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (WEAPONS)

Multilateral Export Control Regimes

Nuclear Suppliers Group

- ❑ **Foundation:** May 1974
- ❑ **Members:** It has 48 members with European Commission and the Chair of Zangger Committee as observers.
- ❑ **Details:** It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- ❑ According to this, a supplier authorizes a transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- ❑ **After India U.S Civil Nuclear:** Agreement, India has been trying to become a member. But its membership has been blocked by China.

Wassenaar Arrangement

- ❑ **Foundation:** July 1996
- ❑ **Secretariat:** Vienna, Austria.
- ❑ **Members:** 42 Participating states
- ❑ **India** has been admitted as the 42nd member, which will strengthen India’s credentials as a responsible nuclear power.

Details

- ❑ The Wassenaar Arrangement is a **voluntary export control regime**. The Arrangement, formally established in July 1996, has 42 members who exchange information on transfers of **conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies**.
- ❑ **Dual-use refers** to the ability of a good or technology to be used for multiple purposes - usually peaceful and military.
- ❑ The Wassenaar Arrangement has been established in order to contribute to regional and international security and stability, by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.



Missile Technology Control Regime

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was established in April 1987 by G-7 countries – USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, and Japan.
- ❑ **Members:** It has 35 members, which include most of the world's key missile manufacturers, including India.
- ❑ **India** was inducted into the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016 as the 35th member.
- ❑ **Details:** This is a **non-treaty association of member countries** with certain guidelines about the information sharing, national control laws and export policies for **missile systems** and a rule-based regulation mechanism to limit the transfer of such **critical technologies of these missile systems**.

Australia Group

- ❑ **Foundation:** The formation of the Australia Group (AG) in 1985 was prompted by Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988).
- ❑ **Members:** It has 43 members (including the European union). The members work on a consensus basis. The annual meeting is held in Paris, France.
- ❑ **India** is member of this group.
- ❑ **Details:** The Australia Group (AG) is an **informal forum of countries** which, through the harmonisation of export controls, seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of **chemical or biological weapons**.

6. INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

Commonwealth of Nations

- ❑ **Foundation:** 11 December 1931 by Parliament of the United Kingdom.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** London, U.K.
- ❑ **Members:** It is a political association of 54 member states, nearly all former territories of the British Empire.
- ❑ **India** is member of it.
- ❑ **Details:** It operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organised through the Commonwealth Secretariat and non-governmental organisations, organised through the Commonwealth Foundation.
- ❑ Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and the monarch of 16 members of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth realms.

Member states have no legal obligation to one another

- ❑ Every 2 years, member countries meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- ❑ **Recent Developments**
The Maldives has recently re-joined the Commonwealth as 54th member, reversing its earlier policy of isolation.

Eastern Economic Forum

- ❑ **Foundation:** 2015
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Vladivostok, Russia
- ❑ **Functions:** It aims to support economic development of Russia's "Far East and to expand international cooperation in Asia-Pacific region.



- ❑ The Forum business programme includes a number of business dialogues with leading partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and with ASEAN, a key integration organization of dynamically developing nations in Southeast Asia.

European Free Trade Association

- ❑ **Foundation:** May 1960
- ❑ **Members:** It is a bloc comprising of four countries - Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- ❑ **Details: India EFTA Pact** - India and EFTA started negotiating a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement in 2008, shortly after India started FTA talks with the European Union.
- ❑ The agreement is expected to promote economic ties between the countries.
- ❑ The talks resumed in Geneva in 2016, but hit a rough patch after the Switzerland insists on stringent IPR regime in India.
- ❑ This is mainly due to number of Swiss pharmaceutical MNCs, including Novartis and Roche, having been aggressively fighting for their patent rights in India over the past few years.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

- ❑ **Foundation:** 4 April 1949, Washington, D. C, United States.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Brussels, Belgium
- ❑ **Members:** It is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 North American and European countries.
- ❑ **Functions:** NATO is committed to the principle that an attack against one or several of its members is considered as an attack against all. This is the **principle of collective defence**, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.
- ❑ **Core tasks:** Collective defence, crisis-management and cooperative security.
- ❑ **Recent Developments:** Members of NATO are gathered in London to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the defence alliance.

Financial Action Task Force

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Paris, France
- ❑ **Members:** It has 39 members that include all 5 permanent members of UNSC and 2 regional organisations - Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission.
- ❑ **India** became an Observer at FATF in 2006. Since then, it had been working towards full-fledged **membership**. On June 25, 2010 **India** was taken in as the 34th country **member** of FATF.
- ❑ **Functions:** The objectives are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for **combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats** to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ❑ **Recent Development:** Pakistan will continue to remain on the grey list for its alleged laxity in curtailing finances of terrorist groups within its soil.

Group of Seven (G7)

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was founded in 1975
- ❑ **Members:** The countries that are part of the G7 include the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States.
- ❑ These countries are the seven major advanced economies as reported by the IMF.
- ❑ Formerly called G8 with Russia in it, but due to Crimean crisis Russia was ejected from the group.



- ❑ **Purpose:** The organization was founded to facilitate shared macroeconomic initiatives by its members in response to the collapse of the exchange rate 1971.G7 summit is being held annually to discuss economic policies, while the G7 finance ministers have met at least semi-annually.

India and G7

- ❑ Although India is not a member of the G7 group, PM attended the G7 Summit as a special guest as he has been personally invited by French President.

6.7 G20

- ❑ The G20 is an international forum for the **governments and central bank governors** from 19 countries and the European Union.
- ❑ **Foundation:** 26 September 1999
- ❑ **Members:** Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Russia, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China and Indonesia and EU.
- ❑ *The members are divided into 5 groups, consisting of a maximum of four states for choosing the President:*
 1. Group 1: Australia, Canada, United States, Saudi Arabia.
 2. Group 2: India, Russia, South Africa, Turkey.
 3. Group 3: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico.
 4. Group 4: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.
 5. Group 5: China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea
- ❑ **Purpose:** It acts as a forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies. It was founded with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

Gulf Cooperation Council

- ❑ **Foundation:** 25 May, 1981
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- ❑ **Members:** It is a regional political and economic alliance of six Gulf States i.e Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ❑ **Objectives:**
 - Fostering scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources.
 - Establishing scientific research centers.
 - Setting up joint ventures.
 - Unified militar (Peninsula Shield Force)
 - Encouraging cooperation of the private sector.
 - Strengthening ties between their people.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 25 September 1969
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- ❑ **Members:** 57 member states
- ❑ **Purpose:** The organisation works to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.
- ❑ **India** is not a member to this organisation but was invited to the meeting as a guest of honour in 2019.



Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- ❑ **Foundation:** September 1960
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Vienna, Austria
- ❑ **Members:** It is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations.
- ❑ **Objective:** To coordinate and unify petroleum policies and ensure the stabilisation of oil markets, in order to have regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.
- ❑ Since 2007, OPEC has published the “**World Oil Outlook**” annually, in which it presents a comprehensive analysis of the global oil industry including medium- and long-term projections for supply and demand.

Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 30 September 1967
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Paris, France
- ❑ **Members:** It started with 18 European countries plus the US and Canada. Presently it has 37 members
- ❑ **India** is not member of OECD
- ❑ **Function:** To stimulate economic progress and world trade, provide platform to compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practices and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members.
- ❑ **Recent Developments:** India recently became the signatory of the Multilateral Instrument (MLI). It is an agreement put out by OECD to prevent base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). It will help them crack down on abuse of bilateral tax treaties and treaty shopping. India and 68 other jurisdictions became signatories of MLI.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- ❑ **Foundation:** November 1974
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Paris, France
- ❑ **Members:** 30 states are members. **Only OECD member states can become members of the IEA.** Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Slovenia all OECD member states are members of the IEA. **India** is not member of IEA.
- ❑ **Function:** The IEA examines the full spectrum of energy issues including oil, gas and coal supply and demand, renewable energy technologies, electricity markets, energy efficiency, access to energy, demand side management etc.

India & IEA

- ❑ Ocean Energy Systems Technology Collaboration Programme is an intergovernmental collaboration between countries operates under the framework established by IEA.
- ❑ India became an associate member due to which India would have access to advanced research and development teams, technologies and data in the area of ocean energy across the world

International Energy Forum

- ❑ **Foundation:** 1991
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- ❑ **Members:** 72 member states including **India**. It comprises not only countries of the IEA and OPEC, but also other major players outside of IEA and OPEC, including Argentina, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa.



- ❑ **Function:** To foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of common energy interests among its members.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 15 June, 2001 (It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance)
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Beijing, China.
- ❑ **Members:** Current member states (8)– China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, **India** and Pakistan.
- ❑ **Observer States (4):** Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- ❑ **Dialogue Partners (6):** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, Sri Lanka.
- ❑ **Function:** The original purpose of the SCO was to serve as a counterbalance to NATO and in particular to avoid conflicts that would allow the United States to intervene in areas bordering both Russia and China.
- ❑ The SCO is primarily centered on its member nation's security-related concerns, often describing the main threats it confronts as being terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 8 August 1967
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- ❑ **Members:** It is a regional organisation comprising 10 Southeast Asian states.
- ❑ Member nations are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- ❑ **India** is not member of ASEAN.
- ❑ **Functions:** Its principal aim is to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and socio cultural evolution, promote Southeast Asian studies, alongside the protection of regional stability.
- ❑ **Supplementary Information:** ASEAN plus Three was created to improve existing ties with the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea.
- ❑ ASEAN became ASEAN Plus Six with additional countries: Australia, New Zealand and India.

East Asia Summit

- ❑ **Foundation:** The East Asia Summit (EAS) was established in 2005
- ❑ **Members:** The EAS comprises the **ten member states** of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam – along with **8 members** Australia, China, Japan, **India**, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

Key Functional Areas

- ❑ Environment and Energy Education
- ❑ Finance
- ❑ Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases
- ❑ Natural Disaster Management
- ❑ ASEAN Connectivity

India and EAS

- ❑ For India it acts as an alternative to the APEC in which India doesn't enjoy the membership. India's membership to the EAS is a recognition of its fast growing economic and political clout.



Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- ❑ **Foundation:** November 1989, Canberra, Australia
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Singapore
- ❑ **Members:** is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim. The 21 Members Economies are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian and Vietnam.
- ❑ **India** is not in the grouping and has applied for membership.
- ❑ **Purpose:** It was established due to growing inter dependence among Asia Pacific regions, increasing regional trade blocs, to diffuse growing power of Japan; establish agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.

Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was signed in 1975 as an initiative of UN- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It is previously named the Bangkok Agreement.
- ❑ **Members:** Members - Bangladesh, China, India, South Korea, Laos & Sri Lanka. Mongolia is soon to become the 7th member of APTA.
- ❑ **Objectives:** To hasten economic development among the seven participating states opting trade and investment liberalization measures that will contribute to intra-regional trade and economic strengthening through the coverage of merchandise goods and services, synchronized investment regime and free flow of technology transfer making all the Participating States to be in equally winsome situation.

BRICS

- ❑ **Foundation:** It was formed in year 2009
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Shanghai, China
- ❑ **Members:** It is an association of 5 major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. All five are G-20 members
- ❑ **Objectives:**
 - Promote technological information exchange among member country.
 - Improve education of **BRICS** nations.
 - Economic cooperation.
 - Bridging the gap between developed and developing countries.
- ❑ **BRICS Plus:** China introduced the “BRICS Plus” format at the Xiamen summit. It involved inviting a few countries from different regions. South Africa emulated it, with representation of 5 nations of its choice - Argentina, Jamaica, Turkey, Indonesia and Egypt.

BIMSTEC

- ❑ **Foundation:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organisation came into being in 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❑ **Members:** It comprises of India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- ❑ **Objectives:** to harness growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.



BIMSTEC Ports' Conclave

- ❑ **The first ever BIMSTEC Ports' Conclave was organised at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.** The conclave is expected to explore the possibility of increasing economic cooperation by furthering EXIM trade and coastal shipping.
- ❑ It discussed on various investment opportunities, best practices adopted for productivity and safety at Ports.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation

- ❑ **Foundation:** The Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos
- ❑ **Members:** It comprises 6 member countries - India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
- ❑ **Areas of Cooperation**
 1. Tourism and Culture,
 2. Education, Science and Technology,
 3. Traditional Medicine and Health,
 4. Agriculture and Allied Sectors,
 5. Water Resources Management,
 6. Transportation and Communication, and
 7. Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ❑ **India's assistance** to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) under the MGC Quick Impact Project Scheme (QIPS) since its inception in 2014 is moving at a steady pace.

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- ❑ **Foundation:** 8 December, 1985
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ❑ **Members:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are its members.
- ❑ States with observer status include Australia, China, European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and United States.
- ❑ **Objectives:** The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia with objectives like:
 - To quicken the economic growth, social progress, and cultural development.
 - To develop the welfare of the people of South Asia and to promote their quality of life.
 - To promote towards mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of the problems of one another.

SAARC Development Fund

- ❑ It was created by SAARC member states in 2010 to promote welfare of the people of SAARC region, improve their quality of life, and accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
- ❑ It has an authorised capital of \$1.5 billion and a total capital base of \$500 million. It aims to become a full-fledged regional development bank in the near future.
- ❑ **SDF partnership conclave** was recently organized to rope in top institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the AIIB.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

- ❑ The **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**, also called the **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**, was a proposed trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New

