

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

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### Conflict regions in news (Mapping)

#### **1. Chagos Archipelago**

- Sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is disputed between Mauritius and the United Kingdom
- It is in Indian ocean
- The Chagos Islands- referred to by the British as the British Indian Ocean Territory, but which is not recognized as such by Mauritius
- It is home to the US military base Diego Garcia

#### **2. Diaoyu or Senkaku Islands:**

- It is in east china sea
- Disputed between China and Japan
- It is a group of uninhabited islands and known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan, the Diaoyu Islands in China

#### **3. Kuril Islands:**

- Disputed between Russia and Japan
- The island chain known as the Kurils stretches north across the Pacific Ocean from the Japanese island of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula

#### **4. Abyei region**

- It is located along the ill-defined border between Sudan and South Sudan.
- Abyei is an energy-rich region
- Abyei is claimed by both countries and has been a source of conflict in Sudan for over 50 years

#### **5. Azov Sea:**

- EU to blacklist eight Russians over Azov Sea stand-off
- Ukraine and Russia accuse each other of violating international maritime law- 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Ukraine insists on freedom of movement in the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov in accordance with this agreement, while the Russian side is trying to draw territorial borders.
- In 2014, Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula after a conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine.

#### **6. Kerch Strait:**

- The Kerch Strait is the only connection between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

- It is also the only route to reach two important Ukrainian ports, Mariupol and Berdiansk.

## 7. Ukraine crisis

- The continuing conflict in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine exerts a heavy toll.
- Over 10,000 lives have been lost since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

## 8. Doklam

- Doklam (Doko La) is a strategically located tri-junction between India, Bhutan and China.
- It is a disputed territory claimed by both China and Bhutan
- It is very close to India's narrow Siliguri corridor, "the Chicken's Neck"

## 9. Guam Crisis:

- IN 2017, North Korea had threatened to launch a nuclear attack on Guam Island, a US territory
- Guam is an island located in the Micronesia region of the Pacific Ocean
- It is a vital US military outpost

## 10. Jerusalem:

- In 2018 Jerusalem has been recognised as Israel capital by the USA
- The city is sacred to Christians, Jews, and Muslims as it houses their respective religious sites viz., the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Western Wall, and the Aqsa Mosque
- In the Six Day War (1967), Israel occupied the eastern half of Jerusalem

## 11. Catalonia:

- In 2017, Referendum was conducted in Catalonia demanding greater autonomy.
- Spain's north-eastern part is referred to as Catalonia.

## 12. Kurdistan:

- Kurdistan is a roughly defined geo-cultural region comprising parts of Eastern Turkey Northern Iraq, North-western Iran, and Northern Syria
- Kurds are an ethnic group who speak Kurdish languages.

## 13. Gaza

- The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry observed that Israel may have committed crimes against humanity in last year's unrest in Gaza(Palestine).
- These crimes targeted children, health workers and journalists.
- Israel rejected the report saying it was right to self-defence and its duty to defend its residents and borders from violent attack.

- The Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, that borders Egypt on the southwest Israel on the east and north.
- Gaza and the West Bank are claimed by the Palestine.

#### 14. South China Sea:

- It is a semi enclosed sea. It links Indian ocean with Pacific Ocean
- It encompasses an area from Singapore and Malacca Straits to the Strait of Taiwan
- "Nine-dash line"- demarcation line used by China to show the extent of its claim
- Currently, China is involved in numerous territorial and maritime disputes with countries in SCS
- Spratly island is also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia
- Paracel island is completely under Chinese control but disputed with Vietnam
- Scarborough Shoal (known as Huangyan Island in China) is claimed by the Philippines and China

#### 15. Syrian Civil War

- Talks were held between representatives of Syria's Kurdish rebels and President Bashar al-Assad's regime in Damascus.
- Pro-democracy protests erupted in March 2011 in the southern city of Deraa
- Major players - Assad (Govt), Rebels, kurds, ISIS
- The conflict turned into a brutal proxy war that has drawn in regional and world powers
- Chemical weapons with Sarin gas was used at several locations

#### 16. North Korean Crisis:

- North and South Korea are divided by 38th parallel.
- The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is a region on the Korean peninsula that demarcates North Korea from South Korea.
- North Korea is bordered by China and by Russia to the north, and to the south by South Korea, with the heavily fortified Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two
- The nuclear weapon programs of North Korea created crisis in the Korean peninsula
- Elections for the Supreme People's Assembly has been recently held in North Korea. It is the only legislative body in North Korea. The election for SPA is held every five years.

#### 17. Venezuela:

- Venezuela is going through an economic and political crisis

- Venezuela has the world's largest known reserves of oil estimated at more than 300 billion barrels - bigger than Saudi Arabia's 266 billion barrels.
- According to UN, more than 1.6 million have fled the country since the crisis began in 2015.

### 18. Yemen crisis

- Yemen, one of the Arab world's poorest countries, has been devastated by a civil war with the Saudi Arabia.
- UN has termed the Yemen crisis as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.
- The Houthi movement, which champions Yemen's Zaidi Shia Muslim minority and fought a series of rebellions against President Saleh during the previous decade.

### 19. Qatar Crisis:

- Qatar diplomatic crisis began when several countries abruptly cut off diplomatic relations with Qatar in June 2017
- Qatar announced its withdrawal from OPEC. It came into effect from Jan 1, 2019.

### 20. Fergana Valley of Central Asia

- It is a valley in Central Asia spread across eastern Uzbekistan, southern Kyrgyzstan and northern Tajikistan
- The valley is ethnically diverse and was the scene of ethnic conflict

## Major ethnic or other groups in news

### 21. Rohingyas:

- Rohingyas are majorly Muslim and living primarily in Myanmar's western Rakhine state
- They are minorities and differ from Myanmar's dominant Buddhist groups religiously, ethnically and linguistically

### 22. Yazidis:

- They are members of the Yazidi religion, one of Iraq's oldest minorities
- They were forced to flee from the Iraqi north-west region because of Islamic State terrorists

### 23. Uighurs

- They are a Turkic ethnic group living in Eastern and Central Asia
- They live primarily in the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region in China, where they are one of the recognized ethnic minorities

## International Issues

### **24. Yellow west movement**

- The yellow vests movement or yellow jackets movement or Mouvement des gilets jaunes, is a political movement for economic justice that began in France in November 2018

### **25. Refugee Crisis:**

- A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave his/her country in order to escape war, fear of persecution or violence or natural disaster
- “Boat people” are those refugees that are fleeing by boat.
- Europe is witnessing refugee crisis due to conflicts like Syrian civil war
- The countries with coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkey, and Tunisia
- Migrants irregularly entered the EU, mainly following the Central Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes

### **26. Drug menace in Asia**

- Drug trafficking and abuse is a trans-border issue
- India is geographically sandwiched between the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle
- These are the two major illicit opium and heroin producing regions of the world
- Golden Crescent (overlaps Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan)
- Golden Triangle (overlaps Myanmar, Laos and Thailand)

### **27. Brexit:**

- Brexit is a term used to define United Kingdom coming out of EU. During a referendum in 2016, UK voted by a narrow margin in favour of Brexit. UK had invoked Article 50 of Lisbon treaty in 2016 and the deadline for the Brexit deal is March 29, 2019.
- Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon gives any EU member state the right to quit voluntarily and outlines the procedure for doing so. It gives the leaving country two years to negotiate an exit deal.
- The “backstop” agreement reached between the EU and the UK in 2017 stated that, in the absence of another solution for the Border, Northern Ireland would effectively remain within the EU customs union.
- The United Kingdom comprises four geographic and historical parts—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- European Union is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. A monetary union was established in 1999



and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. The EU and European citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993.

## **28. Macedonia Renamed**

- The parliamentarians of the Republic of Macedonia voted to change the country's name to the "Republic of North Macedonia".
- It is significant considering the long standing dispute between FYR Macedonia and Greece. It would pave the way for the small republic to enter NATO and the European Union.

## **29. Caspian Sea Breakthrough Treaty**

- 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 after more than two decades of disputes.
- Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan 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.

# **BILATERAL AGREEMENTS/ISSUES**

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## **India-Neighbours:**

### **30. India – Sri Lanka**

- India to acquire a controlling stake in Sri Lanka's Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport
- Sri Lanka recently passed amendments to Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act. It banned the fishing practice of bottom-trawling in their waters.
- SL recently allowed India to jointly develop the Trincomalee port
- The Colombo Declaration was adopted on the 4th of November 2016 order to coordinate anti-drug efforts in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Kachchatheevu issue
  - It is, a 'barren island' which lies about 15 km from Rameswaram and 20 km north of Neduntheevu off the Jaffna peninsula and is just 1.5 km from the International Boundary Line in Sri Lankan waters.
  - The 1974 Agreement ceded Kachchatheevu to Sri Lanka
  - In 1976, the maritime boundary between the two countries was delineated in the Gulf of Mannar from the south-western edge of the Bay of Bengal to a point further down in a south-western axis up to the point where the boundaries of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives met in the Indian Ocean

### 31. India-Pakistan:

#### ▪ Indus Water Treaty

- The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the World Bank
- According to this agreement, control over the water flowing in three "eastern" rivers of India — the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej — was given to India, while control over the water flowing in three "western" rivers of India — the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum — to Pakistan
- India is allowed to use 20% of its water for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes
- Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) is an established mechanism under the Indus water Treaty.
- Government has listed out the details of the projects being implemented by India to stop the flow of water to Pakistan that belongs to India.
  - India has constructed the Bhakra Dam on Sutlej, Pong and Pandoh Dam on Beas and Thein (Ranjitsagar) on Ravi. These storage works, together with other works like Beas-Sutlej link, Madhopur-Beas link, Indira Gandhi Nahar Project has helped India utilise nearly entire share of waters of the eastern rivers.
  - The projects being worked on to stop the flow of the waters that belong to India are (a) Shahpurkandi project (b) Ujh multipurpose project on Ujhriver, tributary of Ravi and (c) Ravi-Beas link below Ujh to tap excess water flowing down to Pakistan.
- The two countries are currently involved in technical discussions on implementation of various hydroelectric projects including Pakal Dul (1,000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW) in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### ▪ Balochistan

- The landscape of Balochistan is comprised of an area over half a million square kilometers in the southeastern part of the Iran plateau, south of the central deserts and the Helmand river.
- Balochistan is the largest province, located on the southwest side of Pakistan, majority of inhabitants are from Baloch ethnic group while other communities being Pashtuns and Brahuis.

#### ▪ Gilgit Baltistan

- India protested against an order of the SC of Pakistan which stated that its jurisdiction and powers would extend over the region.
- The SC order also directed the government to frame a new law which would extend more rights to the people of Gilgit Baltistan.
- Gilgit-Baltistan is a chunk of high-altitude territory at the northwestern corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

- The region was a part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, but has been under Pakistan's control since November 1947.
- Diamer-Bhasha Dam Project is on Indus river in Gilgit-Baltistan in PoK

- **Kartarpur Corridor**

- The Kartarpur Corridor is a 4km long proposed corridor comprising border gates, road and a bridge to link Dera Baba Nanak gurdwara in Gurdaspur district in India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan.
- It is aimed at allowing the easy movement of Sikh pilgrims to the Kartarpurgurdwara.
- The gurdwara in Kartarpur stands on the bank of River Ravi, about 120 km northeast of Lahore. It is revered as Guru Nanak's final resting place.

- **Pant-Mirza Agreement**

- It is an agreement between India and Pakistan under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, signed in 1974

- **Kulbhushan Jadhav:**

- India urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to annul the former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav's death sentence by a Pakistani military court and order his immediate release.
- India submitted that Pakistan violated its obligations under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 by refusing India consular access to Jadhav when he was under detention.
- The Vienna Convention of 1961 is an international treaty that defines a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries. Article 36 of this treaty states that foreign nationals who are arrested should have the right to be informed about their arrest at its consulate.

- **India revokes MFN status granted to Pakistan**

- India has revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan in the aftermath of the terror attacks in Pulwama.
- Most Favoured Nation is a treatment accorded to a trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between two countries vis-a-vis other trade partners.
- Under WTO rules, a member country cannot discriminate between its trade partners. If a special status is granted to a trade partner, it must be extended to all members of the WTO.
- India had granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996 as per India's commitments as a WTO member. But Pakistan has not reciprocated it,



citing “non-tariff barriers” erected by India as well as huge trade imbalance.

- **Geneva Convention:**

- Pakistan was accused of violating the Geneva Convention in the treatment of the Indian Pilot who crashed into PoK.
  - Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols form the basis of modern international humanitarian law, setting out how soldiers and civilians should be treated during the war.
  - The Conventions have been ratified by all States and are universally applicable.
  - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been mandated under the Geneva Conventions to ensure the application of international humanitarian law

### 32. India-China

- **Brahmaputra issue:**

- The Brahmaputra, called the YarlungTsangpo in China, originates in Tibet and flows downstream into India's northeast
- China plans to build a 1,000-km tunnel to divert water from the Brahmaputra in Tibet to the dry Xinjiang region
- Brahmaputra in India is known as Siang, Dihang and Brahmaputra
- **Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA)**
- The main objective of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement 2013 is to avoid border tensions and army face-offs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by deciding that neither side will use military capability to attack the other side nor tail patrols along the border.

- **CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor)**

- CPEC will connect Pakistan with China with highway connecting Kashgar to Gwadar
- Trade through CPEC will benefit China to bypass the Strait of Malacca in Southeast Asia

- **BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) /One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR)**

- The Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, a significant development strategy launched by the Chinese government with the intention of promoting economic cooperation among countries along the proposed Belt and Road routes.

- **One-China policy**

- The One-China policy refers to the policy or view that there is only one state called "China", despite the existence of two governments that claim to be "China".
- As a policy, this means that countries seeking diplomatic relations with People's Republic of China (PRC, Mainland China) must break official relations with the Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan) and vice versa.

- **UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee**

- China has blocked India's bid to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist under the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee. It placed a technical hold on the resolution. This is the fourth time that China has blocked the resolution since 2009.
- Technical hold: All members of the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee have to agree with the resolution for it be passed. China, has sought more time to look into the issue so that it can decide on it. Thus, it has not said "No" but it has put it on hold using the technicalities.

- **Xinjiang:**

- Xinjiang is an administrative region in north-western China. The population in Xinjiang is predominantly Uighurs. Uighurs are ethnically Turkic Muslims.

- **"Physicals for All" project:**

- In Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China had been conducting "Physicals for All" project. The project envisages collection of DNA samples, iris scans, and blood types of all residents in the region between the ages of 12 to 65.

- **After Pulwama:**

- China agreed with Russia which said that Counter Terrorism Mechanism such as Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) under Shanghai cooperation Organisation (SCO) could be used as a forum to discuss India-Pakistan issues. However, India maintains that Kashmir is a bilateral issue and there is no need for any third party mediation.

- **Wuhan Summit**

- India and China held their first Informal Summit in Wuhan on April 2018, to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance, and to elaborate their respective visions and priorities for national development in the context of the current and future international situation.

- India's trade deficit with China is estimated at \$63 billion in the last financial year.

### 33. India-Myanmar:

- **Free Movement Regime:**

- India sought the cooperation of Myanmar side in quick finalisation of the Mode of Operation (MoO) for making the Border Haats functional on the India-Myanmar border
- Myanmar has indefinitely deferred signing an agreement with India to streamline the free movement of people within 16 km along the border
- Previously the Centre had asked four States — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram — that share the unfenced border with Myanmar to distribute “border pass” to all the residents living within 16 km from the border
- The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project will connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea
- Bangladesh, India and Nepal agreed on the text of the operating procedures for passenger vehicle movement in the sub-region under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA). It would facilitate seamless movement of cargo vehicles.

### 34. India-Afghanistan:

- Iran's key strategic port of Chabahar became operational with the maiden shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan.
- The Afghan-India Friendship Dam, known as Salma Dam, was inaugurated.
  - It is built on Hari River in Chishti Sharif District of Herat Province neighbouring Iran.
  - A consortium led by SAIL is invested in Hajigak iron ore reserves in Afghanistan.
  - India participated at a “non-official” level, by sending two former senior diplomats to attend talks on the Afghanistan peace process held in Russia, in the “Moscow Format”

### 35. India-Maldives:

- Maldives is located south of India's Lakshadweep Islands in the Indian Ocean
- Both nations are founding members of the SAARC
- India and Maldives has exchanged formal diplomatic notes for the implementation of Visa Facilitation Agreement.
- The intervention by Indian armed forces - codenamed 'Operation Cactus' - trounced the attempted coup in 1988

**36. India-Nepal-Bhutan:**

- Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan can use Aadhar card as valid travel document.
- Earlier, persons over 65 and under 15 could show their PAN card, driving licence, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card or ration card, but not the Aadhaar, to prove their identity to visit the two countries.
- India has an open door policy with Nepal and Bhutan:
- Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 allows free movement of people between India and Nepal.
- 1949 Treaty of Friendship between India and Bhutan allows free movement of people between the two countries.

**India-Other Countries****37. India-US**

- India and the US held the 2+2 dialogue
  - India has become the first south Asian nation to get the Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) status.
  - India signed 3 of the four Foundational Agreements: The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) (traditionally called the Logistics Support Agreement) with USA, Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (COMCASA) and General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
  - India was also designated as a “Major Defence Partner”
- **Visa Issues:**
  - The US H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ graduate level workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields for a certain period of time<sup>3</sup>
  - Farmington University issue: Indian students detained for enrolling in a fake university in a bid to continue staying in the US
  - **US Waiver for India**
    - US announced waivers to 8 countries including India, Japan and South Korea allowing them to keep buying oil from Iran even after imposition of sanctions on Iran.
    - US sanctions are legally backed by a US federal law, Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) which enables sanctions against Russia, North Korea and Iran.
    - These sanctions on Iran are targeted at the oil sales, energy and shipping industry of Iran, damaging the base of Iranian economy.
    - CAATSA provides for secondary sanctions on the countries engaging with these three countries, as they intend to apply



pressure on the other countries to cease their trade relations with Tehran.

- Trade issues
- Generalised System of Preferences: The GSP, the largest and oldest US trade preference programme, is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.
- The U.S. GSP programme was established by the U.S. Trade Act of 1974,
- Special 301 report- United States Trade Representative (USTR) releases an annual report reviewing the global state of IP rights protection and enforcement.
- The not so good ones are put either on the 'watch list' or on 'priority watch list'. The bad ones are put in 'priority foreign countries' categories
- India is on the 'Priority Watch List'

### 38. India-Central Asia

- The 1st India-Central Asia Dialogue, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan was co-chaired by the Minister of External Affairs of India.
- 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

### 39. India-France:

- India and France recently signed an implementation agreement on Mobilize Your City Programme.
- The Programme was launched in CoP21 Paris Summit in December 2015.
- It is an International Initiative in the field of sustainable Urban Transportation.
- India and France finally agreed upon the terms and conditions for the purchase of 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets by the former from the latter.
- Dassault, the French aviation company that manufactures the Rafale, had won the tender in January 2012 but had been locked in negotiations with the Indian government over the technical details ever since

### 40. India-Iran:

- India is developing Chabahar port in Iran.
- The port is located at the mouth of Gulf of Oman.



- Bandar Abbas Port, located near Strait of Hormuz, in Persian Gulf. It is conceived as the hub for the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian ocean
- The Port is located at the mouth of the Straits of Hormuz near the Persian Gulf.

#### 41. India-Japan:

- The India-Japan civil nuclear agreement came into force in July, 2017
- India has become the first non-NPT country with which Japan has signed a Civil Nuclear Agreement
- India and Japan laid the foundation for the country's first high-speed rail corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad
- Both linked MoU to set up India Japan Act East Forum to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in Northeast India
- Both countries have signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2011.
- They also participate in annual trilateral Malabar exercises.
- Both are part of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)
- The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - It is an economic cooperation agreement between the governments of India and Japan. It aims for Indo-Japanese collaboration to develop quality infrastructure in Africa, complemented by digital connectivity, which would undertake the realization of the idea of creating free and open Indo-Pacific Region.
- Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) supports India's development initiatives.
- In the 13th Indo-Japan annual bilateral summit, the two countries have entered into a currency swap agreement of \$75 billion.
- Currency swap is a mechanism where one country exchanges its national currency for that of the other country's currency or even for a third country's currency.

#### 42. India Indonesia

- 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.

#### 43. India-UK

- UK Home Secretary has certified India's Enforcement Directorate(ED) extradition request for fugitive diamond dealer NiravModi.

- Extradition is simply the surrender of a criminal to one country by another. The process is regulated by treaties between the two countries.
- Extradition is governed by the Indian Extradition Act, 1962. India has extradition treaties with 44 countries. So, this means these countries generally accept that the offender will be treated as criminal in both countries.

#### 44. India-South Africa:

- India and South Africa concluded a three-year strategic programme (2019-21) during the South African PM's visit to India for the Republic Day Parade.
- The South African National Defence Force participated in the First Multinational India-Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX) in March 2019 at Pune.
- 2017 marked 20 years of the Red Fort Declaration for Strategic Partnership, which helped improve ties between the countries over the years.
- Tshwane Declaration, 2006, helped strengthen cooperation in various fields such as Education, Railways, science and technology, visa regime, etc
- India-Africa Strategic Dialogue, India Africa Forum summit, BRICS, IBSA etc are some of the forums where India and South Africa engage.

#### 45. India-Saudi Arabia:

- Saudi Arabian oil major ARAMCO (in partnership with ADNOC of UAE) decided to partner with Ratnagiri Refinery and Petro-Chemical Project in Maharashtra, a Joint Venture of US\$ 44 billion billed as the world's biggest.
- India is the largest recipient of foreign remittances (upto \$11 bn annually) from Saudi.
- India has been seeking investment from Saudi Arabia to build strategic crude oil reserves. It will act as a buffer against volatility in oil prices and supply disruptions.
- These are located in Mangalore Karnataka, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- In Phase-II, India plans to build facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka.
- Saudi Arabia is the second largest supplier of crude and LPG to India.

#### 46. India-EU:

- European Union, through its research and innovation programme 'Horizon 2020' and Indian Government has decided to jointly invest on seven research and innovation projects
- The seven selected projects are (a) India-H2O (bio-mimetic and phyto-technologies designed for low-cost purification and recycling of water) (b) LOTUS (low-cost innovative technology for water quality monitoring and water resources management) (c) PANI WATER (Photo-irradiation and adsorption based novel innovations for water-treatment) (d) PAVITR (potential advance

technologies for water and waste water treatment, and safe water reuse in India) (e) PAVITRA GANGA (unlocking waste water treatment, water re-use and resource recovery) (f) SAEASWATI 2.0 (Identifying best available technologies for decentralized wastewater treatment) and (g) SPRING (Strategic planning for water resources and implementation of novel bio-technical treatment solutions and good practices).

#### **47. India-South Korea:**

- PM Modi was conferred with the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize in recognition of his national and international contributions.
- Korea Plus- an organization that facilitates investments by Korean companies in India.
- MoU on release of commemorative postal stamp on Queen Hur (Suriratna, a legendary Princess of Ayodhya, who went to Korea in AD 48 and married King Kim-Suro.

#### **48. India-Argentina:**

- MOU signed between Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP), India, and CNEA, the Secretariat of Energy, Argentina.

### UN

#### **49. UNSC**

- The G4 nations have been calling for early reform of the 15-nation Council, seeking the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership.
- 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 members of UfC

#### **50. UNESCO**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- India was the founding member of the organisation
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.
- 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.
- US and Israel formally quit UNESCO

**51. UNHRC**

- The UNHRC 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.
- India was currently elected as member of NHRC with record mandate.
- The United States has withdrawn from the United Nations Human Rights Council after it questioned the legitimacy of the council because of the presence of several dictatorial regimes violating human rights on it.

**52. UNHCR**

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also known as the UN Refugee Agency is a United Nations programme with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group
- The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, once in 1954 and again in 2015.

**53. UNCLOS**

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty.
- The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources
- US has not yet ratified UNCLOS

**54. UNCITRAL:**

- It is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.
- Its aims at the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.
- India is a founding member of UNCITRAL.
- India is only one of eight countries that has been a member of UNCITRAL from its inception, and has recently been re-elected for a term of six years

**55. UN Women:**

- The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) lauded the Odisha government for its women's reservation



proposal which seeks to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.

- UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010.
- The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact.

#### **56. International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

- UN celebrated World Maritime Day through its agency IMO to recognize the contribution of international shipping to the world economy.
- The theme of the World Maritime Day 2018 was IMO70: Our Heritage-Better Shipping for a Better Future.
- IMO is a UN agency responsible for the safety of shipping and prevention at atmospheric and marine pollution by ships.
- It has its headquarters at London.
- India is a member of the IMO since 1959.

### **Geopolitical organizations**

#### **57. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

- It is a unique forum where the governments of 34 democracies with market economies work with each other, as well as with more than 70 non-member economies to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development
- India, China, Russia are not its members
- International Energy Agency was established under the framework of OECD

#### **58. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, was held in Qingdao city, China
- This was the first summit where India participated as full time member.
- India was given the membership of in June 2017.
- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
- Announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- After the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the Organisation to SCO
- Afghanistan, Belarus Iran and Mongolia are having observer states
- Nepal, Sri Lanka are dialogue partners
- India and Pakistan became full time member in the June 2017 Summit held at Astana, Kazakhstan
- RATS – SCO



- The SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was established by the member states of the Shanghai Convention to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism in 2001.
- Located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan it is a permanent standing SCO body.

### **59. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**

- The Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), confirmed usage of chemical weapons in Lataminah, Syria.
- Sarin and chlorine was very likely used as a chemical weapon
- It is the most successful disarmament treaty eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction.
- OPCW received the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Countries outside OPCW - Egypt, Israel, North Korea and South Sudan

### **60. IBSA**

- India, Brazil, South Africa 2018 Ministerial meet was held in Pretoria, South Africa.
- The outcome of this meeting was a document titled IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation.
- In 2003, IBSA Dialogue forum was formalized through the adoption of the "Brasilia Declaration".

### **61. BRICS**

- The 10th BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg under the theme "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".
- Members are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- All 5 are members of G20.

### **62. ASEAN**

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nation is a political and economic Organisation of ten Southeast Asian countries.
- It was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand
- Later, the membership was expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam
- "ASEAN Plus Three" includes China, Japan, and South Korea
- Delhi Dialogue is an annual forum of ASEAN and India
- ADMM Plus (Asian Defence Ministers Meet Plus), comprises 10 ASEAN states along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and USA

**63. EAS**

- East Asian Summit has 18 members
- India is a member of the forum
- The membership of EAS consists of ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA
- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN

**64. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

- It is a forum for facilitating growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region
- APEC comprises 21 member countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam and the United States
- India is an observer of APEC since 2011 and has applied for membership.

**65. IOR- ARC**

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) or Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean
- It was established in Mauritius in March 1997 with the aim of promoting economic and technical cooperation.
- IOR-ARC is the only Pan-Indian ocean grouping and the Association comprises 20 member states
- India is a member
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa on 2 November 2018
- Bangladesh has been elected as Vice Chairman of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period of 2019-21 and as IORA Chairman for 2021-23.
- Maldives was added as the 22nd member of the IOR-ARC. Myanmar's membership was opposed by South Africa and other countries.

**66. MERCOSUR**

- Mercosur is an economic and political bloc
- Its members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- Its purpose is to promote free trade and fluid movement of goods, people, and currency
- Venezuela was suspended from the Mercosur trade group

**67. IOM - International Organization for Migration**

- It is an Intergovernmental organisation working in the field of migration
- It has no legal protection mandate
- India is a member

**68. International Whaling Commission (IWC)**

- International Whaling Commission (IWC) is a 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.
- The Commission also works to understand and address a wide range of non-whaling threats to cetaceans including entanglement, ship strikes, marine debris, climate change and other environmental concerns.

**69. OPEC**

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations
- It was founded in 1960 in Baghdad and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna.
- OPEC's members are Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

**70. African Union:**

- AU is a Continental Union consisting of all 55 countries on the African continent.
- It was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- It replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- Morocco returned to the African Union (AU)
- The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa

**71. BIMSTEC**

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation having Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand as its member states.
- BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand - Economic Cooperation) was formed at a meeting in June 1997 in Bangkok. Myanmar was admitted in Dec 1997 and the organization was renamed as BIMST-EC.
- BIMSTEC Chairmanship rotates among member countries.
- The BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat is established in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**72. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**

- Members: Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait

- All current member states are monarchies
- UAE: Established in December 1971, the country is a federation of seven emirates. The constituent emirates are Abu Dhabi (capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Quwain

### 73. Heart of Asia conference

- It is also known as Istanbul Process
- It provides a new agenda for regional cooperation in the 'Heart of Asia' by placing Afghanistan at its centre and engaging the 'Heart of Asia' countries in sincere and result-oriented cooperation for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, as well as a secure and prosperous region as a whole.
- India is a member
- This region-led dialogue was launched in November 2011 to expand practical coordination between Afghanistan and its neighbors and regional partners in facing common threats, including counterterrorism, counternarcotics, poverty, and extremism.
- The process has 3 pillars, namely, Political Consultation, Confidence Building Measures(CBM), and cooperation with regional organizations.
- In 2016 HOA was held at Amritsar India, and Amritsar Declaration was adopted

### 74. Interpol:

- International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation.
- It has 192 member countries and its headquartered at Lyon, France.
- It issues different notices for requests and alerts allowing police in member countries to share important crime related information.
- CBI is the nodal agency to coordinate and handle the issuance of Interpol notices in India. There are also liaison officers in every state police force to coordinate with the Interpol.

### 75. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

- India was invited to a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), a powerful block of Muslim nations.
- This is the first time India has been invited to the OIC after 1969
- OIC is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states.
- The OIC sends permanent delegation to the United Nations and the European Union.
- India is the second largest home to adherents of Islam.
- At a time when India is trying to diplomatically alienate Pakistan on global forums, India's invitation to OIC holds immense significance.



**76. Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019:**

- The Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019, being organized by India for the first time began in Mumbai.
- It is organized by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), in coordination with the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of External Affairs.
- During the Conference, Ministry of Shipping unveiled its policy on “Right of First Refusal (RoFR)”.
- RoFR means whenever a tendering process is undertaken to charter a vessel, a bidder offering a ship built in India will be given the first priority.

**77. Arab League:**

- The League of Arab States, or Arab League, is a voluntary association of countries whose citizens are mainly Arabic speaking or where Arabic is an official language.
- It has 22 members including Palestine which it considers to be an independent state.
- The aim of the league is to strengthen and coordinate the political, cultural, economic, and social programs of its members and to mediate disputes among them or between them and third parties.

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

- For the first time India has been elected as the president of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur
- The theme of the summit was ‘Telling Our Stories – Asia and More’ held in New Delhi. It was held in India for the first time.
- It was established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO
- Services countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.

**International Judicial mechanisms****79. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**

- It is located at Hague
- The PCA was the first permanent intergovernmental organization to provide a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.
- Established at the First Hague Peace Conference in 1899
- Unlike the ICJ, the PCA has no sitting judges: the parties themselves select the arbitrators.
- Another difference is that sessions of the PCA are held in private and are confidential



- The Court provides arbitration in disputes between international organisations and between states and international organisations.

### 80. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The ICJ, established in 1945, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA).
- Judge Dalveer Bhandari from India has been elected to the ICJ, he is the third Indian to be elected to ICJ. He will have a tenure of 9 years.
- ICJ has a total of 15 judges out of which 3 judges are from Asia.

### 81. International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- It is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- The Rome Statute is the founding treaty which entered into force on July 1, 2002.
- While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations.
- When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC granting it Jurisdiction

## Financial mechanisms

### 82. Asian Development Bank

- Regional development bank
- Established in 1966 with headquarters at Mandaluyong, Philippines
- India a member since 1966
- Important publications and report:
  - Inclusive Green Growth Index
  - Asian Economic Integration Report
  - Asian Development Outlook

### 83. G 20

- G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting, held, in Salta, Argentina, was attended by 33 heads of delegation including India.
- Theme - 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'
- Group of Twenty (G20) is an international forum of the world's major economies that seeks to develop global policies to address today's most pressing challenges.

- The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- The G20 was born out of a meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in 1999.
- India to host G20 Summit in 2022

### **Transport Corridors:**

#### **84. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:**

- The Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project is viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.
- India entered into a framework agreement with Myanmar in April 2008 to facilitate implementation of the project.
- This project aims to connect seaport of Kolkata (India) with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea; it will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio to Mizoram in India by road transport.
- This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Mizoram by approximately 1000 km and cut travelling time to 3-4 days for transport of goods.

#### **85. International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC):**

- 19th annual Bilateral Summit between India and Russia in New Delhi focused on increasing trade connectivity between the two nations, calling for the development of the INSTC.
- It is a 7200-km long multi-modal network of land and sea routes (road, rail and ship) for moving freight between India, Iran, Oman, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Turkey, Belarus and Bulgaria.
- It will complement the Ashgabat Agreement for international transport and transit corridor to facilitate goods transportation between Central Asia and Persian Gulf.
- Ashgabat Agreement was signed between India, Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

### **International Non-Governmental organizations**

#### **86. Redcross**

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a humanitarian institution based in Geneva, Switzerland,
- It received the Nobel Peace Prize three times.
- 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 the 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.

### 87. ICAN

- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global civil society coalition working to promote adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- The campaign helped bring about this treaty. ICAN was launched in 2007 and counts 468 partner organizations in 101 countries as of 2017.
- The campaign received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons

### 88. Oxfam

- It is an international confederation of charitable organizations focused on the alleviation of global poverty
- It releases the Inequality Report annually.
- According to its recent report 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world.
- Top 10% of the richest population in India holds 77.4% of the total national wealth.
- Globally The number of billionaires has doubled during the last 10 years. A new billionaire was being created every two days in 2017-2018.

### 89. Actionaid

- It is an international non-governmental organization whose primary aim is to work against poverty and injustice worldwide
- ActionAid is a federation of 45 country offices that works with communities, often via local partner organisations, on a range of development issues.

### 90. CARE International

- It is a large humanitarian INGO that is committed to fighting poverty. They take a special interest in empowering poor women because "women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty"
- It mainly works in the following areas
- Strengthening capacity for self-help
- Providing economic opportunity
- Delivering relief in emergencies
- Influencing policy decisions at all levels

- Addressing discrimination in all its forms

### 91. Transparency international

- It is an INGO whose purpose is to take action to combat corruption and prevent criminal activities arising from corruption
- The Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index make the following observations in its recent report: Denmark is the world's least corrupt country followed by New Zealand.
- India continues to be among the most corrupt countries in the world, it is currently the 78th most corrupt country in the world.
- India's neighbours – China and Pakistan – ranked below it, at 87 and 117 spots, respectively.
- The group said only 20 countries had significantly improved their scores since 2012, including Argentina and Ivory Coast. Sixteen others, including Australia, Chile and Malta, declined significantly in the same period.

### 92. Friends of Peoples Close to Nature (fPcN)

- It is a non-governmental human rights organization that works in the field of indigenous rights

### 93. Medicine Sans Frontiers (MSF)

- Also known as Doctors without Borders, it is an international humanitarian NGO best known for its projects in war torn regions and developing countries affected by endemic diseases
- MSF is involved in several health care projects in less developed states like Jharkhand, UP, Bihar

### 94. Mercy Corps

- Mercy Corps is a global humanitarian aid agency engaged in transitional environments that have experienced some sort of shock: natural disaster, economic collapse, or conflict
- Mercy Corps proposes a mission to "alleviate suffering, purpose and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.
- Mercy Corps is involved in several projects in India.

### 95. Amnesty International

- Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty and AI) is a non-governmental organisation focused on human rights
- The organisation was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize

### 96. Human Rights Watch

- Human Rights Watch is a non-governmental human rights organization

- Human Rights Watch in 1997 shared in the Nobel Peace Prize as a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and it played a leading role in the 2008 treaty banning cluster munitions.

ForumIAS