

Multilateral Agreements/Conventions**97. Berne Convention**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
- This will extend coverage of copyright to the internet and digital environment.
- WIPO Copyright Treaty came into force in 2002 and has been adopted by 96 contracting parties till date and is a Special agreement under Berne Convention.
- The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, usually known as the Berne Convention, is an international agreement governing copyright, which was first accepted in Berne, Switzerland, in 1886.
- WIPO is the global forum established through WIPO Convention in 1967 for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation.

98. Global Compact for Migration

- The global compact for migration is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.
- The global compact is a significant opportunity to improve the governance on migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development

99. UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee, 1951

- Outlines a refugee's rights such as freedom of religion and movement, the right to work, education and accessibility to travel document
- Principle of Refoulement: Refugees should not be returned (refouled) to a country where he/she fears persecution.
- Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967
- India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, or its 1967 Protocol

100. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, 2016

- 193 members of the United Nations adopted the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants in 2016
- It is Non-binding in nature
- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (also known as New York Declaration) calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate the application of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in particular situations, in close coordination with relevant States, other UN agencies and stakeholders.

101. Schengen Agreement

- The Schengen Agreement abolished many of EU's internal borders, enabling passport-free movement across most of the bloc
- 26 European countries (22 of the 28 EU) are part of the agreement
- The 4 European Free Trade Association states viz Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland are also joined but 6 EU States, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the UK are not part of the agreement.

102. Kimberley Process

- India has been elected as the vice chair for 2018 and chair for 2019 of Kimberley Process (KP) Certificate Scheme
- The KP is a joint government, industry and civil society initiative to stem the flow of conflict diamonds – rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments.
- The Kimberley Process (KP) is open to all countries that are willing and able to implement its requirements. The KP has 54 participants, representing 81 countries, with the European Union and its Member States counting as a single participant.

Trade Issues:

103. Trade War:

- Trade war is a situation where countries restrict each other's trade by imposing tariffs or quota on imports.
- US had started imposing tariffs on as much as 25% on Chinese imports. China too responded with retaliatory tariffs of 25% on US goods including on soybean, automobiles, and marine products such as lobsters.

104. Asia Pacific Trade Agreement

- The results of the 4th Round of negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) among six countries, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka, have been implemented with effect from 1st July, 2018.
- The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP or ESCAP).
- APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India.

105. Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

- Free trade pact between India and EU

- The negotiations cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights & Geographical Indications, Sustainable Development.
- The BTIA talks hit a roadblock on the contentious issues of import duty on European cars and alcohol (wines and spirits) levied by India, and recognition of India as a 'data-secure' nation by the EU. India also wants a greater access for its professionals in the EU.

106. Generalised System of Preferences:

- The US has announced its decision to terminate India's designation as a beneficiary of its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
- Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries which allows zero tariff imports from developing countries.

107. RCEP

- Delegates of 16 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member states attended the 6th RCEP Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore
- RCEP seeks to create an open, rules-based and inclusive global trade environment
- Currently it is under negotiation among ten ASEAN member states and 6 non-member states (Japan, China, The Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia, New Zealand, and India).
- RCEP aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights
- Members of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have finalised an Early Harvest Package aimed at concluding RCEP negotiations by this year end.

Non Proliferation Efforts:

108. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT):

- UN Secretary General has appealed to 8 nations including India and the U.S to ratify CTBT.
- CTBT is a multilateral treaty banning all nuclear explosions (air, water, land and even underground explosions) for both military and civilian purposes.
- It was negotiated during the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva in 1996 by UNGA.

- The treaty will enter into force only when all countries with nuclear technology capacity (China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea and the United States) ratify it.
- The treaty establishes a Central Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) at Vienna to implement the provisions of the treaty.

109. Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2017

- It is the first legally binding international agreement that prohibits state parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosives.

110. MECR

- A Multilateral Export Control Regime (MECR) is an international body that states use to organize their national export control systems
- **There are currently four such regimes:**
 - The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.
 - To promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilizing accumulations.
 - The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), for the control of nuclear related technology
 - The Australia Group (AG) for control of chemical and biological technology that could be weaponized.
 - The Missile Technology Control Regime for the control of rockets and other aerial vehicles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction
 - India is a member of the MTCR, AG and WA but not NSG

111. INF:

- Russia officially suspended its participation in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) on the grounds that US have violated the INF treaty.
- US had already withdrawn from the treaty claiming that Russia had secretly developed a missile that violated the INF.
- The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty came into force in 1988. It banned both the Soviet Union (Russia) and the US from developing and deploying land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 km.
- However, treaty did not apply to air-or sea-launched missiles.

112. Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been awarded with Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2018.

113. Global Nuclear Energy Partnership(GNEP)

- The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) is a plan to form an international partnership of invited countries involved in the supply of uranium, uranium enrichment, the sale of nuclear power technology to developing countries and nuclear waste disposal.
- Some states do not approve of the GNEP philosophy that partitions the world between a few fuel-cycle states and a larger number of receiver states, reflecting the distinctions in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Terrorism

114. UNSC Resolution

- UNSC blacklists Osama bin Laden's son, seen as successor of Al Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 committee blacklisted Hamza bin Laden, the son of Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, describing him as the "most probable successor" of Al-Qaeda.

115. Taliban:

- Taliban are an Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military organization in Afghanistan
- Pakistan has enacted a law United Nations Security Council (Freezing and Seizure) Order, 2019. It was enacted in accordance with the provisions of Pakistan's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Act, 1948. It implements United Nations sanctions against individuals and organisation.
- The objective of the order is that the government will take over the control of assets and properties of all banned outfits operating in Pakistan region.

116. FATF

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to (a) set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures (b) for combating money laundering (c) terrorist financing and (d) other related threats to the integrity of the international financial systems.
- FATF 'Grey' listed Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terrorist groups

117. Comprehensive Convention for International Terrorism (CCIT)

- The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a proposed treaty which intends to criminalize all forms of international terrorism and deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, arms, and safe havens
- The CCIT was proposed by India in 1996
- The major objectives
 - To have a universal definition of terrorism that all 193-members of the UNGA will adopt into their own criminal law
 - To ban all terror groups and shut down terror camps
 - To prosecute all terrorists under special laws.
 - To make cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide

118. Terrorist Travel Initiative:

- U.S and Morocco together launched Terrorist Travel Initiative under the auspices of Global Counter Terrorism Forum(GCTF).
- It reinforces Resolution 2396 of the UNSC which aims to curb travel of terrorists.
- The new Initiative will bring in effective counterterrorism watchlisting and strategic tools.

119. GCTF

- GCTF is an international forum consisting of 29 countries and the European Union.
- It was launched in 2011.
- It is co-chaired by Netherlands and Morocco.
- The mission of GCTF is to reduce the vulnerability of people to terrorism worldwide by preventing, combating and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering investment and recruitment to terrorist outfits.

120. 'UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact'

- The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the framework is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 organizational entities, the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organisation, to better serve the needs of Member States when it comes to tackling the scourge of international terrorism.

121. Naga rebels:

- Myanmarese army has taken control of the headquarters of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), Khaplang group, situated in the Myanmar's Sagaing Region.
- NSCN aims at forming 'Nagalim' or Greater Nagaland which would consist of all Naga inhabited areas of North-East and some areas in adjoining Myanmar.

Security alliance

122. NATO

- NATO is a security alliance of 29 countries from North America and Europe formed by the Washington Treaty.
- NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- NATO's Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium
- Montenegro was the 29th country to join the alliance in 2017

123. India-Russia:

- The S-400 Triumf — NATO calls it SA-21 Growler — is a modern long-range surface-to-air missile (MLR SAM) system developed by Russia.
- It is considered to be way ahead of the American THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system though both are different weapon systems.
- India-Russia AK-203 JV will be fully indigenised in 3 years
- Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a manufacturing unit of the AK-203/103 assault rifle at the Korwa ordnance factory in the Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh.

124. US-South Korea:

- The US and South Korea announced that they will end their annual large-scale joint military exercises as US is pursuing efforts to improve ties with North Korea.
- Foal Eagle was the largest of the regular joint exercises held by US and South Korea.

125. India-Bangladesh:

- India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise - Sampriti 2019
- The aim of this exercise is to build, strengthen and promote positive relations between the Armies of India and Bangladesh.
- In addition to understanding each other in tactical level operations, the exercise lays emphasis on greater cultural understanding to strengthen military trust and cooperation between the two nations.
- The joint exercise was first held in Assam in 2011

126. Military Space Force:

- President Donald Trump signed Space Policy Directive-4 (SPD-4) to establish the Military Space Force.

- This space force will act as the sixth branch of the United States military, after the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.
- The main goal of the Space Force is to secure and extend American dominance of the space domain.

127. Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) of US:

- It establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy in order to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It authorizes \$1.5 billion for spending every year for the next five years for a range of U.S. programs in East and Southeast Asia.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Diaspora:

128. Draft Emigration Bill, 2019

- The Ministry of External Affairs proposed that the Emigration Bill, 2019 be introduced in the Parliament to replace the existing Emigration Act, 1983.
- The Emigration Act, 1983 was introduced in the wake of large scale Indian Emigration to the Gulf.
- It is set to replace the extant one under the Emigration Act of 1983.

129. MADAD Portal:

- An online grievances monitoring system launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2015.
- It provides Indian citizens living abroad an online platform in which they can file consular grievances.

130. Overseas Workers Resource Centre:

- 24x7 toll-free helpline set up in Delhi to enable emigrants/ aspiring emigrants to seek information and file complaints against Recruiting Agents/ Foreign Employers.

131. The Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana (MGPSY):

- Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana is a special social security scheme which includes Pension and Life Insurance, introduced by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the overseas Indian workers in possession of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports
- A scheme with the objective of protection and welfare of the emigrant workers and to address their social security.

132. Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2017:

- A mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian emigrant workers falling under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category and going to ECR countries.
- The Insured person shall be covered for a sum of Rs.10 lakhs in the event of accidental death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad, irrespective of change of employer/location of insured person.

133. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2019:

- 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated from 21-23 January, 2019 at Varanasi. This is the first time it was in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Theme: 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India'.
- PBD celebrated once in every two years, provides a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and reconnect with their roots

134. Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme

- The Kerala government has approved a dividend pension scheme for its diaspora returnees.
- Regular pension will be given to Non Resident Keralites as a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh.

135. Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

- Under this Yojana, a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- All people of Indian-origin aged 45 to 65 can apply and a group will be selected out of them with first preference given to people from 'Girmitiya countries' such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica.
- Girmityas or Jahajis are descendants of indentured Indian labourers brought to Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, East Africa, the Malay Peninsula, Caribbean and South America (Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname).

Miscellaneous:**136. 88-88 Uprising**

- 2018 marked the 30th anniversary of the people's uprising in Myanmar
- It was a pro-democracy people's movement in the year 1988.

137. Abu Dhabi includes Hindi as third official court language:

- The Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, has added Hindi as the 3rd formal language to be used in the city's courts. Now Hindi will be used alongside Arabic and English.

138. Henley Passport Index

- In the Henley Passport Index 2019 released by Henley & Partners' Group, India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th in 2019.
- The Henley Passport Index measures the access each country's travel document affords. The Index is based on the data provided by the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) and covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.

139. IOWave 18

- India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean nations, participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise on 4th& 5th September, 2018.
- The exercise, known as IOWave18, was organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which had coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of the 26 December 2004 tsunami.

140. 'UN Human Rights Prize'

- It is an honorary award given to individuals and organizations in recognition of achievement in human rights.
- The Prize was established by the General Assembly in 1966
- The only Indian to have received the award was Baba Amte.
- Pakistan's iconic human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir was posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights.

141. World Sanskrit Conference

- The World Sanskrit Conference is organized by the International Association of Sanskrit Studies.
- The association was formed as a result of the 1972 International Sanskrit Conference that was sponsored by India's central government in collaboration with UNESCO.
- The 17th World Sanskrit Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada (2018)