

# Prelims PYQ - Marathon Session

## International Relations (2011-2023)

# PYQ Year Wise Detail

Year	No Of Questions
➤ 2011	04
➤ 2014	04
➤ 2015	12
➤ 2016	14
➤ 2017	06
➤ 2018	06
➤ 2019	04
➤ 2020	03
➤ 2021	01
➤ 2022	13
➤ 2023	13

# 2011

**Q1).Recently, the USA decided to support India's membership in multi-lateral export control regimes called the "Australia Group" and the "Wassenaar Arrangement". What is the difference between them?**

1. The Australia Group is an informal arrangement which aims to allow exporting countries to minimize the risk of assisting chemical and biological weapons proliferation, whereas the Wassenaar- Arrangement is a formal group under the OECD holding identical objectives.
2. The Australia Group comprises predominantly of Asian, African and North American countries, whereas the member countries of Wassenaar Arrangement are predominantly from the European Union and American continents.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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- 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
- 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.

# Australia Group

- The *Australia Group* is a *multilateral export control regime (MECR)* and an *informal group of countries* (now joined by the European Commission) established in 1985.
- The Purpose was to *help member countries* to identify those exports which *need to be controlled so as not to contribute* to the spread of chemical and biological weapons.

# Australia Group

- The group, *initially consisting of 15 members*, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium, in June 1985
- With the *incorporation of India on January 19, 2018*, it now has *43 members*.
- This includes Australia, New Zealand, the European Commission, all 27 member states of the EU, UK, the USA, Canada, India, Ukraine, and Argentina.



-  Argentina (1993)
-  Australia (1985)
-  Austria (1989)
-  Belgium (1985)
-  Bulgaria (2001)
-  Canada (1985)
-  Croatia (2007)
-  Cyprus (2000)
-  Czech Republic (2004)
-  Denmark (1985)
-  Estonia (2004)
-  Finland (1991)
-  France (1985)
-  Germany (1985)
-  Greece (1985)
-  Hungary (1993)
-  Iceland (1993)
-  India (2018)
-  Ireland (1985)
-  Italy (1985)
-  Japan (1985)
-  South Korea (1996)
-  Latvia (2004)
-  Lithuania (2004)
-  Luxembourg (1985)
-  Malta (2004)
-  Mexico (2013)
-  Netherlands (1985)
-  New Zealand (1985)
-  Norway (1986)
-  Poland (1994)
-  Portugal (1985)
-  Romania (1995)
-  Slovakia (1994)
-  Slovenia (2004)
-  Spain (1985)
-  Sweden (1991)
-  Switzerland (1987)
-  Turkey (2000)
-  Ukraine (2005)
-  United Kingdom (1985)
-  United States (1985)

### International organisations [\[ edit \]](#)

-  European Commission (1985)

# Wassenaar Arrangement

- The Wassenaar Arrangement is *an elite club of countries* which *subscribe to arms export controls*, similar to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime.
- The body came into being in 1996 to succeed the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls.
- The name comes from *Wassenaar, a suburb of The Hague*, where the agreement to start such a multi-lateral cooperation was reached in 1995.

# Wassenar Arrangement

- *The WA has 42 members, the latest entrant being India.*
- With the exception of China, all the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are signatories of the WA, which is headquartered in Vienna.
- The *23rd plenary session of the WA*, held over 6-7 December 2017, concluded with **India being admitted as the latest member of this elite group.**

# Wassenaar Arrangement

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

# Wassenaar Arrangement

- Dual-use refers to the ability of a good or technology to be used for multiple purposes - usually peaceful and military.
- Wassenaar Arrangement's Secretariat is in Vienna, Austria.

# Wassenaar Arrangement

- The 42 participating states in the Wassenaar Arrangement are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Q2). Southeast Asia has captivated the attention of global community over space and time as a geo strategically significant region. Which among the following is the most convincing explanation for this global perspective?

- a) It was the hot theatre during the Second World War
- b) Its location between the Asian powers of China and India
- c) It was the arena of superpower confrontation during the Cold War period
- d) Its location between the Pacific and Indian oceans and its pre-eminent maritime character

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State	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2020) <sup>[17]</sup>	Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )	GDP (nominal), USD (2020) <sup>[4]</sup>	GDP (PPP) per capita, Int\$ (2020) <sup>[4]</sup>	HDI (2019 report)	Capital
 Brunei	5,765 <sup>[18]</sup>	437,479	74	12,003,000,000	\$85,011	0.838	Bandar Seri Begawan
 Cambodia	181,035 <sup>[19]</sup>	16,718,965	90	25,192,000,000	\$5,044	0.594	Phnom Penh
 East Timor	14,874 <sup>[20]</sup>	1,267,974	85	1,777,000,000	\$5,321	0.606	Dili
 Indonesia	1,904,569 <sup>[21]</sup>	267,670,543	141	1,059,638,000,000	\$14,841	0.718	Jakarta
 Laos	236,800 <sup>[22]</sup>	7,061,507	30	18,820,000,000	\$8,684	0.613	Vientiane
 Malaysia	329,847 <sup>[23]</sup>	31,528,033	96	337,008,000,000	\$34,567	0.810	Kuala Lumpur *
 Myanmar	676,578 <sup>[24]</sup>	53,708,320	79	81,257,000,000	\$7,220	0.583	Nay Pyi Taw
 Philippines	300,000 <sup>[25]</sup>	106,651,394	356	361,489,000,000	\$10,094	0.718	Manila
 Singapore	719.2 <sup>[26]</sup>	5,757,499	8,005	339,981,000,000	\$105,689	0.938	Singapore
 Thailand	513,120 <sup>[27]</sup>	69,428,453	135	501,712,000,000	\$21,361	0.777	Bangkok
 Vietnam	331,210 <sup>[28]</sup>	95,545,962	288	343,114,000,000	\$8,677	0.704	Hanoi



**Oceans and Seas in Southeast Asia**



# Explanation

- Southeast Asia is located *between Indian Ocean on the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east.*
- There are Major Shipping Routes in This Region.
- This region lies in the Sea Passage between East Asia on one side and the Middle East- Mediterranean World.

**Q3).With reference to "Look East Policy" of India, consider the following statements:**

1. India wants to establish itself as an important regional player in the East Asian affairs.
2. India wants to plug the vacuum created by the termination of Cold War.
3. India wants to restore the historical and cultural ties with its neighbours in Southeast and East Asia.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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# Explanation

- India's Look East policy is an effort to cultivate extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of Southeast Asia to bolster its standing as a regional power and a counterweight to the strategic influence of the People's Republic of China.
- *Initiated in 1991, it marked a strategic shift in India's perspective of the world.*

# Explanation

- *It was developed and enacted during the government of Prime Minister Narsimha Rao.*
- After a couple of decades, *India's Act-East Policy, which was announced in 2014 by the Prime minister Narendra Modi's* administration, became a successor to the Look-East Policy.
- Act East focuses not only on Political Co-Operation but also *Cultural and Strategic Relationship between India and Asia Pacific Region.*

Q4).The "New START" treaty was in the news. What is this treaty?

- a) It is a bilateral strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the USA and the Russian Federation
- b) It is a multilateral energy security cooperation treaty among the members of the East Asia Summit
- c) It is a treaty between the Russian Federation and the European Union for the energy security cooperation
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# Explanation

- *START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) was a bilateral treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction and the limitation of strategic offensive arms.*
- The treaty was *signed on 31 July 1991* and entered into force on 5 December 1994.
- The treaty *barred its signatories from deploying more than 6,000 nuclear warheads and a total of 1,600 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and bombers.*

# Explanation

- START negotiated the *largest and most complex arms control treaty in history*.
- It's *final implementation in late 2001* resulted in the removal of about *80% of all strategic nuclear weapons then in existence*.
- Proposed by US President Ronald Reagan, it was renamed START I after negotiations began on START II.
- *The treaty expired on 5 December 2009.*

# Explanation

- On 8 April 2010, the *replacement New START Treaty* was signed in Prague by *US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev*.
- Following its ratification by the US Senate and the Federal Assembly of Russia, the *treaty went into force on 26 January 2011*.
- This extended deep reductions of American and Soviet or Russian strategic nuclear weapons through February 2026.

# Explanation

- For over 50 years, but especially since the end of the cold war, the *United States and the Russian Federation* (formerly the Soviet Union) *have engaged in a series of bilateral arms control* measures that have drastically reduced their strategic nuclear arsenals from a peak of around 60,000.
- The most recent of those measures, the *New START Treaty*, limits the *number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons* to 1,550 per State.

# Explanation

- Should it expire *without a successor or not be extended*, it will be the first time that the strategic arsenals of the United States and the Russian Federation have not been constrained since the 1970s.

# Provisions of Treaty

- Under the Treaty, America and Russia cannot deploy more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and more than 700 long-range missiles and bombers.
- It also limits *each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed* launchers and delivery vehicles.

# Provisions of Treaty

- It allows each side to carry out up to 18 short-notice (32 hours) on-site inspections of strategic nuclear weapons sites annually to ensure the *other has not crossed the limits of the treaty.*
- Under the agreement, Russia and the U.S. exchange data twice a year on the ballistic missiles under the treaty's purview, on bombers, test sites, nuclear bases and so on



## Putin Backs SUSPENDS NEW START Treaty- Feb 2023

- Putin said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the U.S. wanted to “inflict ‘strategic defeat’ on Russia and “try to get to our nuclear facilities at the same time.”
- Mr. Putin argued that while the U.S. had pushed for the resumption of inspections of Russian nuclear facilities under the treaty.
- On the other hand, NATO allies were helping Ukraine mount drone attacks on Russian air bases hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers.

<i>Type of Information</i>	<i>Under New START</i>
New missiles entering the force	Each party provides 48-hours notice before a solid-fueled ICBM leaves a production facility
Basing location of treaty-accountable missiles	Each party provides notification of its associated base or facility
Status change for missiles	Each party provides notification when missiles become deployed or non-deployed and sent to declared facilities.
Advance Notice of Major Strategic Exercises	Each party provides notification at least 2 weeks prior to a major strategic exercise involving heavy bombers and notifies again within 2 days following the exercise's conclusion.

# 2014

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- a) Egypt
- b) Lebanon
- c) Syria
- d) Tunisia

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# Explanation

- Arab Spring began with the overthrow of ruler Tunisia, Ben Ali who fled to Saudi Arabia
- The Arab Spring is a revolutionary wave of demonstrations, protests and civil wars in the Arab world that began on 18 December 2010 and spread throughout the countries of the Arab League.
- *It originally started from Tunisia.*

# Explanation

- On December 17, 2010, a young Tunisian who sold vegetables from a barrow set himself afire to protest against police harassment.
- *Mohamed Bouazizi died on January 4, 2011*, but not before his gesture went viral, *sparking protests against the cost of living* and the country's authoritarian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.
- Ben Ali's 23-year-rule ended 10 days later when he fled to Saudi Arabia, becoming the first leader of an Arab nation to be pushed out by popular protests.

# Mubarak out

- On January 25, 2011, *thousands of Egyptians marched in Cairo*, Alexandria and other cities, demanding the departure of President Hosni Mubarak, who had been in power for 30 years.
- On February 11, as more than a million took to the streets, Mubarak resigned and handed control to the military.
- The *Muslim Brotherhood-linked government of Mohammed Morsi* was elected in 2012.
- But was overthrown the following year by the military led by the general, now president, *Abdel Fattah el-Sisi*.



# Libya Explodes

- The same day the Bahrain protests started, the Libyan police used force to break up a sit-in against the government in the second city, Benghazi.
- **The country's leader Muammar Gaddafi pledged to hunt down the "rats" opposing him.**
- The uprising turned into a civil war with French, British and American air forces intervening against Gaddafi.

# Libya Explodes

- On October 20, 2011, Gaddafi was captured and killed in his home region of Sirte by rebels who found him hiding in a storm drain.
- The country is now split between rival eastern and western-based administrations.

# Syria Follows

- On March 6, 2011, a dozen teenagers tagged the wall of their school in southern Syria with “Your turn, doctor”, referring to President Bashar al-Assad, a trained ophthalmologist.
- The torture of the youths sparked mainly peaceful protests at first and calls for democratic reform.

# Syria Follows

- But with violent repression by the government, the revolt turned into civil war.
- Syria's war also contributed to the rise of the ISIL (ISIS) group and renewed conflict in neighbouring Iraq, culminating in a genocidal attack on minorities in the north of the country.

**Q6). Consider the following countries :**

1. Denmark
2. Japan
3. Russian Federation
4. United Kingdom
5. United States of America

**Which of the above are the members of the 'Arctic Council' ?**

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 4 and 5
- d) 1, 3 and 5

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# Arctic Council

- Arctic region consists primarily of three key components:
  1. The Arctic Ocean
  2. The Land territories of the Arctic states
  3. The Sea territories of the Arctic states





# Arctic

- The Arctic Ocean, recognised as the world's **smallest and shallowest ocean**, is surrounded by 5 countries – Canada, Denmark (Greenland), the United States (US), Russia, and Norway.
- The countries are often referred to as the Arctic coastal states.

# Governance: The Arctic Council

- Due to the peculiar conditions, inhospitable nature, and general lack of state assets and capabilities in the region, the Arctic necessitated a novel governance structure.

# The Arctic Council

- Established in 1996 under the Ottawa Declaration of 1996.
- The Arctic Council was established as a high-level intergovernmental forum by the Arctic States – **the five Arctic coastal states plus Sweden, Finland, and Iceland.**

- ✓ India's association with Arctic is **over 100 years old**, having been one of the original High Contracting Parties to the *Svalbard (formerly Spitsbergen) Treaty in February 1920*.
- ✓ The treaty was **signed on 9 February 1920** and submitted for registration in the League of Nations Treaty Series on 21 October 1920
- ✓ Even today, the Treaty provides the **right of visa-free access** and conduct of **economic and commercial activities** to the citizens of India in Svalbard.

- ✓ India got a **Permanent Observer status** in the Arctic Council in 2013 along with other Asian States, **China, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.**
- ✓ India's **first scientific expedition** to the Arctic Ocean in **2007**
- ✓ Indian research station '**Himadri**' at Ny-Ålesund was dedicated to the nation in **2008.**
- ✓ India is the **only developing country** apart from China to have an **Arctic research base.**

# Observer States- Arctic Council



- Germany, 1998
- Netherlands, 1998
- Poland, 1998
- United Kingdom, 1998
- France, 2000
- Spain, 2006
- China, 2013
- India, 2013
- Italy, 2013
- Japan, 2013
- South Korea, 2013
- Singapore, 2013
- Switzerland, 2017

**Q7).Consider the following pairs : Region often in news  
Country**

1. Chechnya : Russian Federation
2. Darfur : Mali
3. Swat Valley : Iraq

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched ?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
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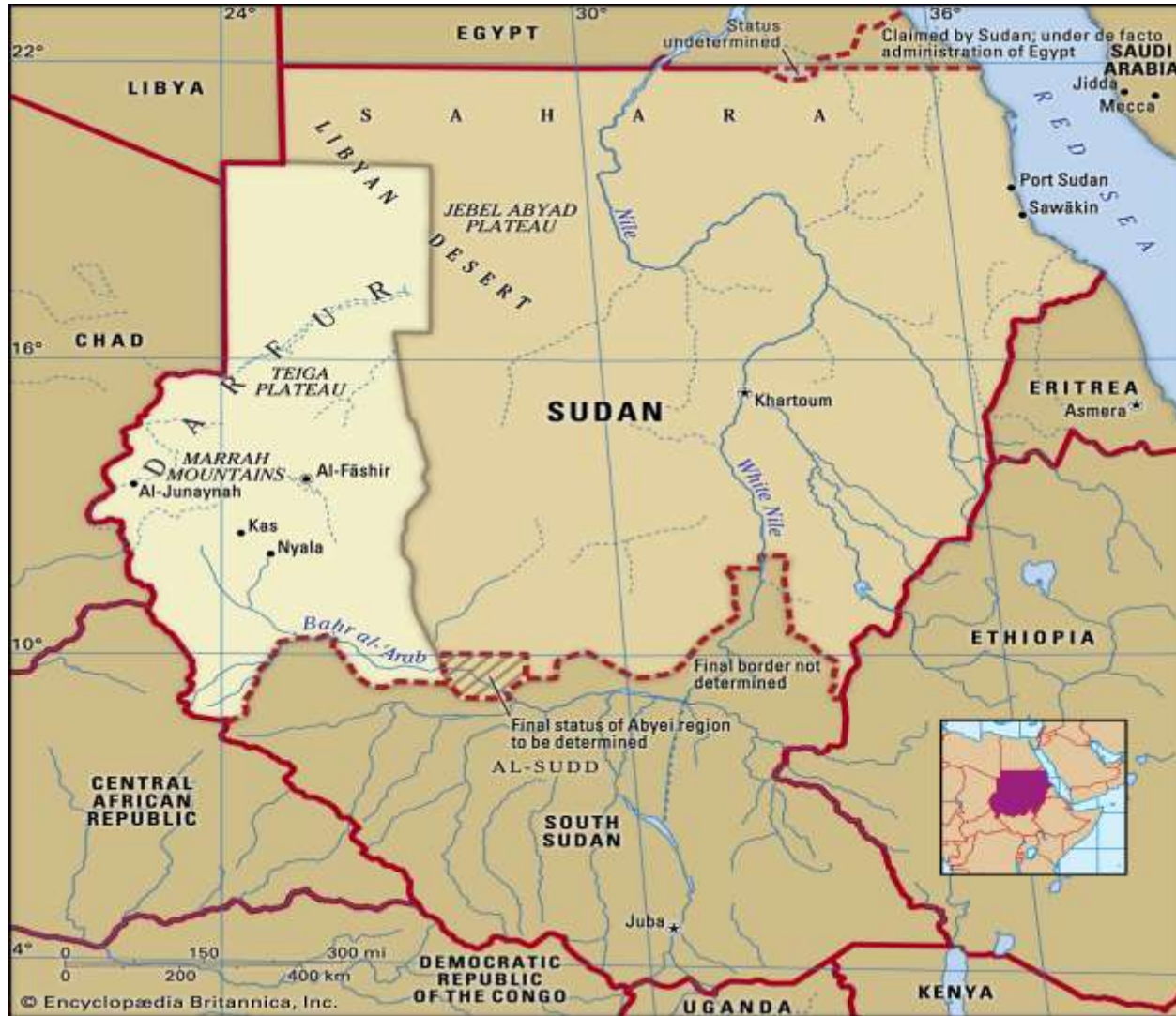
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# Explanation

- All regions are affected by some conflict, *DARFUR is in Sudan, Swat Valley is in Pakistan*
- The *southern Russian republic of Chechnya* has long been a boiling *point for conflict with Moscow* in the restive North Caucasus.
- Separate conflict that *remained unresolved entered* on the Darfur region in western Sudan.
- Swat District is a *district in Malakand Division* of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.







**SWAT REGION**

# Chechen Conflict

- Chechnya Conflict was the centuries-long ethnic and political conflict, often armed, between the Russian, Soviet and Imperial Russian governments and various Chechen forces.
- The recent phase of the conflict started after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 and ended with the oppression of the Chechen population and crushing of the separatist movement in 2017.

# Darfur Genocide

- The Darfur genocide is the systematic killing of ethnic Darfuri people which has occurred during the War in Darfur and the ongoing War in Sudan (2023–present) in Darfur.
- It has become known as the first genocide of the 21st century.

# Darfur Genocide

- The genocide, which is being carried out against the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups, has led the International Criminal Court (ICC) to indict several people for crimes against humanity, rape, forced transfer and torture.
- An estimated 200,000 people were killed between 2003 and 2005.

**Q8).With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements**

1. The First Summit of BRICS was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2009
2. South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?**

- a) 1 only
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# EXPLANATION




- *First BRICS summit was held in 2009 in Russia*, second statement is correct.
- BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies:
- Brazil Russia India China and South Africa.
- The grouping was originally known as “BRIC” before the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.
- The BRIC *first formal summit held in Yekaterinburg* commenced on 16 June 2009.




Country	Population (in Thousands) (2018) <sup>[56][57]</sup>	Nom. GDP bil. USD (2022 est.) <sup>[58]</sup>	PPP GDP bil. USD (2022 est.) <sup>[58]</sup>	Nom. GDP per capita USD (2022 est.) <sup>[58]</sup>	PPP GDP per capita USD (2020 est.) <sup>[58]</sup>	GDP growth (2018 est.) <sup>[59]</sup>	Foreign Exchange Reserves (2021) <sup>[60]</sup>
 <b>Brazil</b>	▲ 210,869.000	1,363	4,593	6,450	17,016	▲ 1.0%	\$355,620 million
 <b>Russia</b>	▲ 143,964.709	1,464	4,519	9,972	30,820	▲ 1.6%	\$600,900 million
 <b>India</b>	▲ 1,367,089.879	3,440	14,363	2,505	9,027	▲ 7.1%	\$633,894 million
 <b>China</b>	▲ 1,415,045.928	14,860	29,471	10,873	20,984	▲ 6.7%	\$3,198,200 million
 <b>South Africa</b>	▲ 57,398.421	370	834	6,193	13,965	▲ 1.4%	\$53,760 million
<b>Average</b>	▲ 627,060.914	3,753.7	8,119.9	7,922	19,041	▲ 3.5%	\$986,994 million

Sr. No.	Date(s)	Host country	Host leader	Location	Notes
1st	16 June 2009	 Russia	Dmitry Medvedev	Yekaterinburg (Sevastianov's House)	The summit was to discuss the global recession taking place at the time, future cooperation among states, and trade. Some of the specific topics discussed were food, trade, climate trade, and security for the nations. They called out for a more influential voice and representation for up and coming markets. Note at the time South Africa was not yet admitted to the BRICS organization at the time. <sup>[43]</sup>
2nd	15 April 2010	 Brazil	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	Brasilia (Itamaraty Palace)	Guests: Jacob Zuma (President of South Africa) and Riyad al-Maliki (Foreign Minister of the Palestinian National Authority). The second summit continued on the conversation of the global recession and how to recover. They had a conversation on the IMF, climate change, and more ways to form cooperation among states. <sup>[43]</sup>
3rd	14 April 2011	 China	Hu Jintao	Sanya (Sheraton Sanya Resort)	First summit to include South Africa alongside the original BRIC countries. The third summit had nations debating on the global and internal economies of countries. <sup>[43]</sup>

4th	29 March 2012	 India	Manmohan Singh	New Delhi (Taj Mahal Hotel)	The BRICS Cable announced an optical fibre submarine communications cable system that carries telecommunications between the BRICS countries. The fourth summit discussed how the organization could prosper from the global recession and how they could take advantage of that to help their economies. BRICS had the intention of improving their global power and to provide adequate development for their state. <sup>[44]</sup>
5th	26–27 March 2013	 South Africa	Jacob Zuma	Durban (Durban ICC)	The fifth summit discusses the New Development Bank proposition and Contingent Reserve Agreement. BRICS also announced the Business Council and its Think Tank Council. <sup>[44]</sup>
6th	14–17 July 2014	 Brazil	Dilma Rousseff	Fortaleza (Centro de Eventos do Ceará) <sup>[45]</sup>	BRICS New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed. Guest: Leaders of Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) <sup>[46][47]</sup> The members of BRICS conversed with each other about political coordination, development, and economic growth. They established the Fortaleza Declaration and Action Plan. <sup>[48]</sup>

7th	8–9 July 2015	 Russia	Vladimir Putin	Ufa (Congress Hall) <sup>[49]</sup>	Joint summit with <a href="#">SCO-EAEU</a> . The seventh summit discussed global, economic problems, and better ways to foster cooperation among member states. <sup>[48]</sup>
8th	15–16 October 2016	 India	Narendra Modi	Benaulim (Taj Exotica)	Joint summit with <a href="#">BIMSTEC</a> . The eighth BRICS summit debated on topics like counter-terrorism, economies, and climate change. BRICS also issued the Goa Declaration and Action Plan, hoping to harden their relationships. <sup>[50]</sup>
9th	3–5 September 2017	 China	Xi Jinping	Xiamen (Xiamen International Conference Center)	Joint summit with <a href="#">EMDCD</a> . The ninth summit was an event that talked about a bright future for BRICS and what their goals intend to be. They still covered and debated on international and regional issues with one another; hopeful to keep moving forward. <sup>[50]</sup>
10th	25–27 July 2018	 South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa	Johannesburg (Sandton Convention Centre)	The tenth summit had the members discuss their rising industries. Hoping they can cut a bigger slice of the industry market.

11th	13–14 November 2019	 Brazil	Jair Bolsonaro	Brasilia (Itamaraty Palace) <sup>[55]</sup>	The eleventh summit discussed advancements in the BRICS's science and innovation fields. Primarily trying to advance technology and digital currency. They made mutual agreements to help stop drug trafficking and organized crime; both internationally and internally
12th	21–23 July 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic) <sup>[63]</sup> 17 November 2020 (video conference) <sup>[64]</sup>	 Russia	Vladimir Putin	Saint Petersburg <sup>[65]</sup>	Joint summit with SCO. Discussing a mutual agreement on helping BRICS member countries to help foster better living standards and quality of life for each country's people. Plans on focusing on peace, economies, and cultural societal issues. <sup>[66]</sup>
13th	9 September 2021 (video conference)	 India	Narendra Modi	New Delhi	BRICS Games 2021 <sup>[67]</sup>

14th	23 June 2022 (video conference)	 China	Xi Jinping	Beijing	<p>A major development on the summit was creation of a new, basket type reserve currency. The currency, which is challenging US dollar, combines BRICS currencies and is backed by precious metals.</p>
15th	22–24 August 2023	 South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa	Johannesburg (Sandton Convention Centre)	<p><a href="#">Argentina</a>, <a href="#">Egypt</a>, <a href="#">Ethiopia</a>, <a href="#">Iran</a>, <a href="#">Saudi Arabia</a>, and the <a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a> were invited to join the bloc. Full membership was scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2024.<sup>[47][48]</sup> On December 29, 2023, the Government of Argentina sent a letter to all BRICS leaders officially declining the invitation to join the bloc.<sup>[51]</sup> Saudi Arabia has not yet confirmed its acceptance.<sup>[68]</sup></p>
16th	October 2024	 Russia	TBD	Kazan	<sup>[69]</sup>



# BRICS in 2024

- BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Originally identified to highlight investment opportunities, the grouping evolved into a cohesive geopolitical bloc, with their governments meeting annually at formal summits and coordinating multilateral policies since 2009.

# BRICS in 2024

- Bilateral relations among BRICS are conducted mainly on the basis of non-interference, equality, and mutual benefit.

# 2015

Q9).The 'Fortaleza Declaration', recently in the news, is related to the affairs of

- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS
- c) OECD
- d) WTO

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- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS**
- c) OECD
- d) WTO

- *Fortaleza Declaration issued at the 6th BRICS Summit*
- The *6th BRICS summit was the sixth annual diplomatic meeting* of the BRICS, a grouping of major emerging economies that includes **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- *Fortaleza, Brazil, on 15 July 2014* at the Sixth BRICS Summit.
- Since its *inception the BRICS* have been *guided by the overarching objectives of peace, security, development and cooperation*.

# Additional Information

- Together, BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population and about 30% of the GDP, making it a critical economic engine.
- The acronym "**BRICS**" *was initially formulated in 2001* by economist Jim O'Neill, of Goldman Sachs.
- The *1st BRIC Summit took place in 2009* in the Russian Federation and focused on *issues such as reform of the global financial architecture.*
- *South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010*, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- *South Africa attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> BRICS Summit in Sanya, China, in March 2011.*

Q10).Which one of the following issues the 'Global Economic Prospects' report periodically ?

- a) The Asian Development Bank
- b) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- c) The US Federal Reserve Bank
- d) The World Bank



Q10).Which one of the following issues the 'Global Economic Prospects' report periodically ?

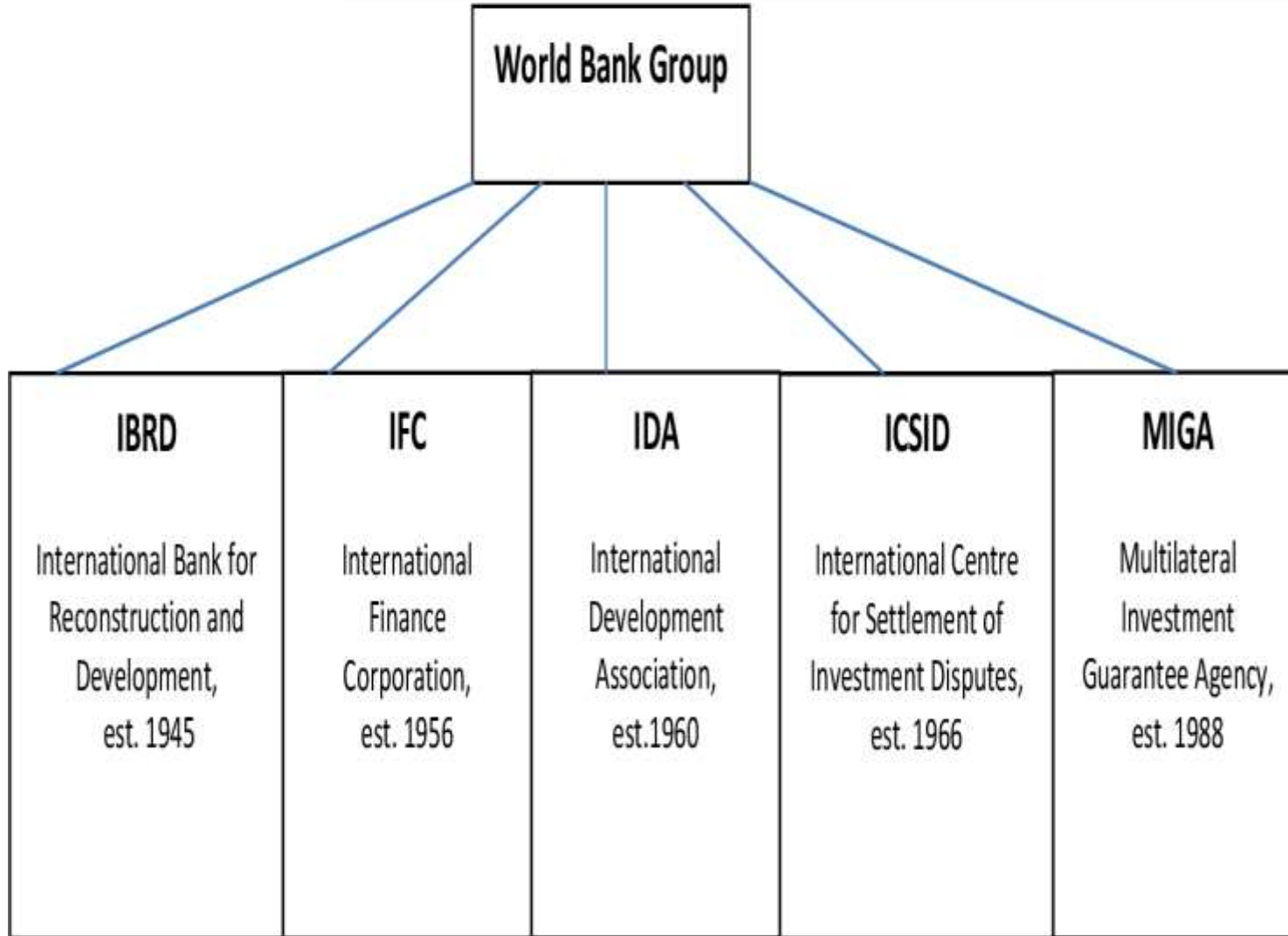
- a) The Asian Development Bank
- b) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- c) The US Federal Reserve Bank
- d) The World Bank**

# Explanation

- World Bank publish the '*Global Economic Prospect's Report periodically*
- Global Economic Prospects is a *World Bank Group report* that examines *global economic developments, with a special focus on developing countries*, on a semiannual basis (in January and June).
- First published in 1998, the report provides both historical data and economic forecasts.

Some other reports issued by World Bank Group

- **Ease of Doing Business**
- **World Development Report**



**IBRD-** International Bank for Reconstruction & Development

**IFC-** International Financial Corporation

**IDA-** International Development Association

**ICSID-** Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

**MIGA-** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Q11).The terms 'Agreement on Agriculture', Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measure' and 'Peace Clause' appear in the news frequently in the context of the affairs of the

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q 11).The terms 'Agreement on Agriculture', Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measure' and 'Peace Clause' appear in the news frequently in the context of the affairs of the

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change
- c) World Trade Organization**
- d) United Nations Environment Programmed

- In news because of Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- *EU had lifted ban on Indian Mangoes*, which were earlier banned due to phytosanitary measures (2015)
- The global trade body *WTO regulates various dimensions* of the agricultural trade by the member countries.
- Under the 'Peace Clause', India has *bargained a relaxation for 4 years in disbursement of the agricultural subsidies* for public stock holding of the food grains at the 9th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (Bali, 2013).
- In the 10th Conference (Nairobi, 2015), the member countries have agreed to decide a permanent solution to this issue.

# Explanation

- The Agreement on Agriculture, (the “Agreement”), *came into force on 1 January 1995.*
- The preamble to the Agreement recognizes that the agreed long-term *objective of the reform process initiated by the Uruguay Round reform programme* is to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.
- The Agreement also takes into account *non-trade concerns*, including food security and the need to protect the environment.
- This also provides special and differential treatment for developing countries.

# Explanation

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Agreement") entered into force with the *establishment of the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995*.
- *It concerns the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations.*
- How do you ensure that your *country's consumers are being supplied with food that is safe to eat* – "safe" by the standards you consider appropriate?
- The *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* sets out the basic rules for food safety and animal and plant health standards.



# SPS Measures

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures can take many forms, such as**

- Requiring products to *come from a disease-free area*.
- Inspection of products.
- Specific treatment or processing of products
- Setting of allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues.
- Permitted use of only certain additives in food.

# Peace Clause

- **Article 13 (“due restraint”)** of the Agriculture Agreement protects countries using subsidies which comply with the agreement from being challenged under other WTO agreements.
- Without this **“peace clause”**, countries would have greater freedom to take action against each others’ subsidies, under the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement and related provisions.
- The peace clause is due to expire at the end of 2003.

# Peace Clause

- The interim “peace clause” allowing developing countries to provide subsidies under public stockholding programmes without being legally challenged in the WTO's dispute settlement system will remain in force until a permanent solution is agreed.

**Q 12).The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to**

- a) Central Asia
- b) Middle East
- c) South-East Asia
- d) Central Africa

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- a) Central Asia
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- c) South-East Asia
- d) Central Africa

# Explanation

- Golan Heights, is a *hilly area overlooking* the upper Jordan River valley on the west.
- The area was part of *extreme southwestern Syria until 1967*, when it came under Israeli military occupation.
- In December 1981 *Israel unilaterally annexed the part* of the Golan it held.

# Explanation

- The Golan Heights are a rocky plateau in the **Levant region of Western Asia** that was captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War.
- The international community, with the exception of Israel and the United States, generally regards the Golan Heights to be Syrian territory held by Israel under military occupation

# Explanation

- In the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, in which Syria tried but failed to recapture the Golan, Israel agreed to return about 5% of the territory to Syrian civilian control.



# Golan Heights



### Q 13).Amnesty International is

- a) An agency of the United Nations to help refugees of civil wars
- b) A global Human Rights Movement
- c) A non-governmental voluntary organization to help very poor people
- d) An inter-governmental agency to cater to medical emergencies in war-ravaged regions

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# Explanation

- Amnesty International is a *London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights.*
- Amnesty International is a *global movement of more than 10 million* people who take injustice personally.
- The stated objective of the organization is to *conduct research and generate action* to prevent and end abuses of human rights.
- Thereby *demanding justice for those whose rights* have been violated.
- It draws *attention to human rights abuses* and campaigns for compliance with *international laws and standards.*

# Background

- In 1961, *British lawyer Peter Benenson* was outraged when two Portuguese students were jailed just for raising a toast to freedom.
- He wrote an article in The Observer newspaper and launched a campaign that provoked an incredible response.
- Reprinted in newspapers across the world, his call to action sparked the idea that people everywhere can unite in solidarity for justice and freedom.



## Take action now and make a difference



CENSORSHIP AND FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION

Free Saudi Arabia's  
voices of change



CENSORSHIP AND FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION

Russia's war  
censorship laws must  
go



ARMED CONFLICT

Demand a ceasefire by  
all parties to end  
civilian suffering



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND  
ACTIVISTS

Free the wrongly  
imprisoned in  
Venezuela

**Q 14). 'Bio Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes' is managed by the**

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) United Nations Environment Programmed
- d) World Bank

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# Explanation

- It is an initiative by the World Bank
- The *Bio Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL)* is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and *managed by the World Bank*.
- The fund supports *projects that generate “multiple revenue streams*, combining financial returns from the sale of emission reductions. (Carbon credits).
- The fund comprises over 20 projects divided into two categories
  - **UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism**
  - **Verified Carbon Standard project**

# Explanation

- In 2013, the Bio Carbon Fund launched a new initiative to support forest landscapes, namely the *Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL)*.
- ISFL is capitalized via a *new tranche of funding* from the Biocarbon Fund.
- The initiative *supports developing countries' efforts* to reduce emission *through testing jurisdictional approaches* that integrate **reducing deforestation and degradation.**

# Explanation

- Participants investing in the Biocarbon Fund include **6 governments and public entities and 11 private companies.**
- Private sector participants include **oil & gas, utilities, food & beverage, iron & steel, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.**
- The emission reductions that the Biocarbon Fund purchases on behalf of its Participants are subsequently transferred to them pro-rata their financial participation in the fund.

**Public Sector**

<b>Spain</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environmental Affairs Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>Canada</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
<b>Italy</b>	Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
<b>Ireland</b>	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
<b>France</b>	Agence française de développement

**Private Sector**

<b>Japan</b>	Idemitsu Kosan - Petroleum refineries company Japan Iron and Steel Federation Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Ltd. Okinawa Electric Power Company Sumitomo Joint Electric Power Co., Ltd. Sumitomo Chemical Suntory Holdings Limited Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
<b>Spain</b>	Zeroemissions Carbon Trust, Sociedad Anonima
<b>France</b>	Eco-Carbone

**Q 15).India is member of which among the following?**

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
2. Association of South-East Asian Nations
3. East Asia Summit

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) India is a member of none of them

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# EAST ASIA SUMMIT

- Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Indo-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.
- Since its inception, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

# India & East Asia Summit

- India has been a founding member of the EAS since 2005 and has actively participated in all its meetings and activities.
- India views the EAS as a key platform for enhancing its Act East Policy and strengthening its strategic partnership with ASEAN and other regional countries.



# India & East Asia Summit

- At the East Asia Summit in Bangkok in November 2019, India had unveiled India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which is aimed at forging partnerships to create a secure and stable maritime domain.

- Membership of the EAS comprises the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia.
- The **18 EAS member** countries represent collectively *55% of the world's population and account for around 55% of global GDP.*

- **EAS is the Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue.**
- It is the *only leader-led forum* at which all key partners meet to discuss *political, security and economic challenges* facing the Indo-Pacific.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on September 6–7, 2023.

# APEC

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a *forum of 21 Asia-Pacific economies*.
- APEC's member economies *are home to more than 2.9 billion people and make up over half of global GDP*.
- APEC partners make up *more than 70% of Australia's total trade* in goods and services.
- Closer *regional economic integration* contributes to Australian economic growth and prosperity.
- *Australia was a founding member of APEC in 1989*
- APEC has been a success story on regional economic integration, acting as an incubator for new trade policy approaches.



# Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

**41%** of World Population

**44%** of World Trade

**51%** of World GDP

SOURCE:  
[www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org)

# What is APEC and when was it formed?

- The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to foster the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific region and promote economic prosperity for its members.
- The **forum's 21 members are referred to as "economies"** rather than countries, reflecting the focus on trade and economic issues.

# What is APEC and when was it formed?

- Notably, Taiwan and Hong Kong participate as distinct entities, despite China's claim that they are integral parts of China.
- APEC's members are geographically located around the Pacific Ocean and include Australia, Brunei, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Peru, and Chile.

# What role has it played over the years?

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has consistently advocated for free trade, the reduction of trade barriers, and economic liberalization.
- In its early years, APEC established its core objectives, including the creation of a liberalized free trade area around the Pacific Rim.
- APEC's initiatives have significantly contributed to the development of a growing middle class in the developing Asia-Pacific region.



**Q 16).In the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/participants?**

1. Bangladesh
2. Cambodia
3. China
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 5

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- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) **1 and 3**
- d) 1, 2 and 5

# Mekong Ganga Cooperation



## About Mekong River

- The Mekong River is one of the world's great rivers.
- It is a Trans Boundary River in Southeast Asia
- Covering nearly 5,000 km from its source on the *Tibetan Plateau in China to the Mekong Delta*, the river flows through six countries:
- *China, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam.*
- *Mekong River DOES NOT Enter India*



# Mekong Ganga Cooperation

1. The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an initiative by six countries
2. **India and 5 ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam** for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.
3. It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.
4. Both the **Ganga and the Mekong** are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

# CLMV

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**Q 17).With reference to the 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC)', consider the following statements:**

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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# What Is the IORA? and Its Formation

## Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

- Comprises 23 countries from regions around the Indian Ocean, including Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, and Australia.
- Its primary governing body is the Council of Foreign Ministers, convening annually and rotating leadership every two years.
- Current leadership includes Sri Lanka as Chair and India as Vice-Chair, placing the core of IORA in South Asia.

# What Is the IORA? and Its Formation

## IORA's Membership:

- Consists of 23 member countries, which include Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.
- Additionally, it maintains 11 dialogue partners: China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Türkiye, the U.K., and the U.S.

# What Is the IORA? and Its Formation

## Formation and Origin:

- **Established in 1997**, initially named the Indian Ocean Region-Association for Regional Cooperation, with its inception in Mauritius.
- **Rooted in a vision outlined by Nelson Mandela** during his visit to Delhi in 1995 as a guest of then **Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao**.

# What Is the IORA? and Its Formation

- Mandela proposed the concept of an "Indian Ocean Rim of socioeconomic cooperation and other peaceful endeavours" to foster development among developing nations within international organisations like the United Nations, Commonwealth, and Non-Aligned Movement.

# Members IORA



## Member States

Promoting sustained growth and balanced development within the Indian Ocean region, IORA strengthens cooperation and dialogue with Member States namely:

Commonwealth of Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, French Republic, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Singapore, Federal Republic of Somalia , Republic of South Africa, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Republic of Yemen.

Q 18).The term 'IndARC', sometimes in the news, is the name of

- a) An indigenously developed radar system inducted into Indian Defense
- b) India's satellite to provide services to the countries of Indian Ocean Rim
- c) A Scientific establishment set up by India in Antarctic region
- d) India's underwater observatory to scientifically study the Arctic region



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# Explanation

- The deployment of IndARC, the *country's first underwater* moored observatory in the *Kingsford fjord, halfway between Norway and the North Pole. (2014)*
- This represents a **major milestone in India's scientific endeavors** in the Arctic region.
- The observatory is *anchored at a depth of 192 m* and has an array of 10 state-of-the-art oceanographic sensors strategically positioned at various depths in the water.
- *Its research goal is to study the Arctic climate and its influence on the monsoon.*

**Q 19). 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', often seen in the news, is**

- a) a strategy to tackle the regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- b) a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum
- c) an agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations
- d) a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit

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- *The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.*
- The legacy of the Beijing Conference was to be that it sparked a *renewed global commitment to the empowerment of women* everywhere and drew unprecedented international attention.
- The Conference unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- That was in essence an agenda for women's empowerment and stands as a milestone for the advancement of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- “To advance the *goals of equality, development, and peace* for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity”. (Beijing Declaration, 1995).



**Q 20).Consider the following countries:**

1. China
2. France
3. India
4. Israel
5. Pakistan

**Which among the above are Nuclear Weapons States as recognized by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

# Non Proliferation Treaty

- The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is-
  - *To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.*
  - *To promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.*
  - *To further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.*
- The Treaty represents the *only binding commitment* in a multilateral treaty to the *goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States*.
- *Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970.*



# Non Proliferation Treaty

- *On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely.*
- A total of *191 States have joined the Treaty*, including the five nuclear-weapon States.
- The main countries *remaining outside the NPT are Israel, India and Pakistan, South Sudan.*
- North Korea, which *acceded in 1985* but never came into compliance, announced its withdrawal from the NPT in 2003.
- The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and *tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967.*
- *These are USA (1945), Russia (1949), United Kingdom (1952), France (1960), China (1964)*



# India & NPT

- India has always been an ardent supporter of multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
- India opposed to signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
- India views it as discriminatory because of its grouping of countries that divided the world into *“nuclear haves”* and *“nuclear have-nots”*.
- India proposed a comprehensive proposal for *“complete and universal nuclear disarmament”* to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament in 1988.
- This came to be known as the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan.

# 2016

Q 21).The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the' context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

- a) G20
- b) ASEAN
- c) SCO
- d) SAARC

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# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

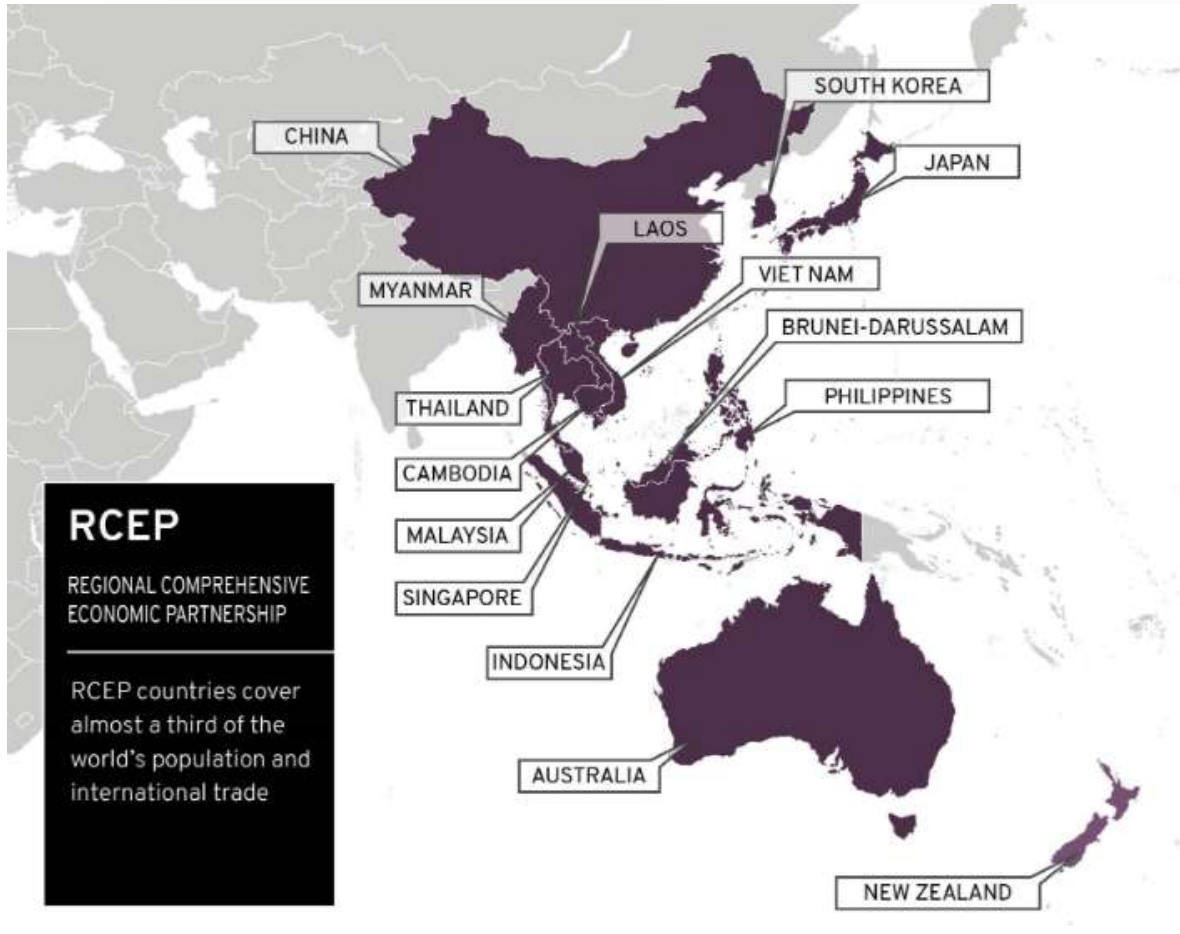


RCEP has come into force w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

## What Is RCEP?

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade agreement between the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The pact aims to cover trade in goods and services, intellectual property, etc.

# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)



## When was RCEP introduced?

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership was introduced during the **19th ASEAN meet held in November 2011**.
- The RCEP negotiations were **kick-started** during the **21st ASEAN Summit in Cambodia** in November 2012.

## China's role in RCEP

- RCEP was **pushed by Beijing in 2012** to counter another FTA that was in the works at the time:
- The **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**. The US-led TPP excluded China.
- However, in **2016 US President Donald Trump** withdrew his country from the TPP.
- Since then, the **RCEP has become a major tool for China** to counter the US efforts to prevent trade with Beijing.





## When was it Signed?



- Leaders from 15 Asia-Pacific nations signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on **15 November 2020**.
- This was nearly eight years to the day after negotiations began for the **trade and investment accord**.
- The signing took place virtually during an RCEP Leaders' Summit, **timed to coincide with various other leaders' and ministers' meetings** among Asia-Pacific economies.

**Q 22). Consider the following statements:**

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2.

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- d) Neither 1 nor 2.

# Explanation

- *India and France have launched an International Solar Alliance* to boost solar energy in developing countries.
- The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015 (21<sup>st</sup> COP)
- It will be a common platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries *lying fully or practically between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.*

# Explanation

- *The UN General Assembly has conferred Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance*
- This is a historic decision which India said would help provide for a *well-defined cooperation between the Alliance and the United Nations* that would *benefit global energy growth and development.*

# Additional Information

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 106 signatory countries (86 of whom are members)
- The alliance is a *treaty-based inter-governmental organization*.
- Countries *that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance* and enjoy all benefits as other members, *with the exception of voting rights*.

# Additional Information

- *The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakesh, Morocco.*
- In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then French President François Hollande jointly *laid the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters in Gurugram, India.*

Q 23).European Stability Mechanism', sometimes seen in the' news, is an

- a) Agency created by EU to deal with the impact of millions of refugees arriving from Middle East
- b) Agency of EU that provides financial assistance to eurozone countries
- c) Agency of EU to deal with all the bilateral and multilateral agreements on trade
- d) Agency of EU to deal with the conflicts arising among the member countries



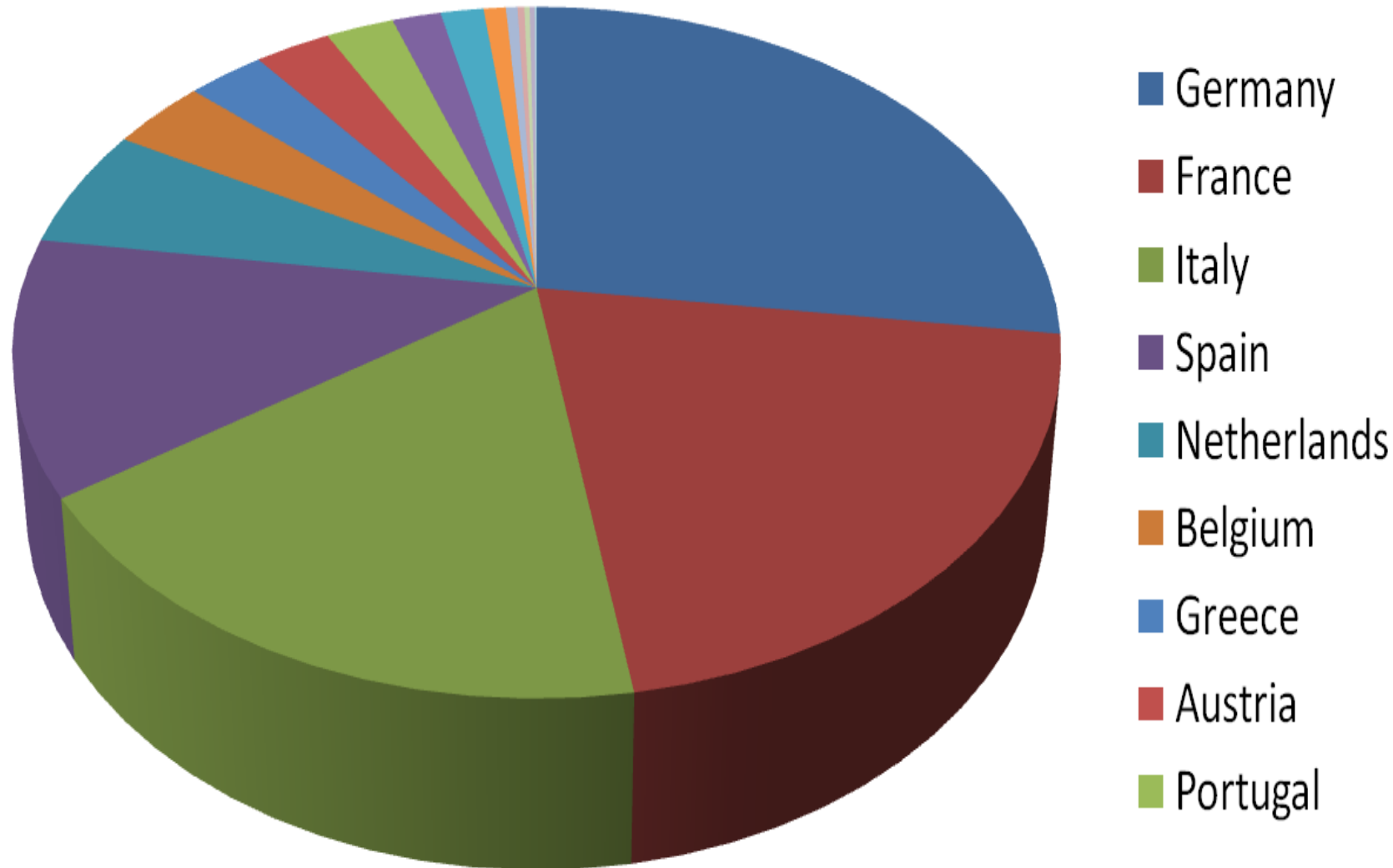
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# Explanation

- The *European Stability Mechanism* is a European Union agency that *provides financial assistance*, in the form of loans, to eurozone countries or as new capital to banks in difficulty.
- *European Stability Mechanism (ESM)* was an international financial institution *set up by the euro area Member States* to help euro area countries in severe financial distress.
- This was set up in 2012 to provide economic support to the debt-ridden countries of the euro zone.
- The first help went to Greece.

# Distribution of ESM contributions





## A Firewall for the Eurozone and First Line of Defense for Global Financial Stability?

### What is the European Stability Mechanism (ESM)?

The ESM is the crisis resolution mechanism for countries of the euro area\*.



When an Eurozone country loses access to the credit market due to a severe economic and financial crisis



ESM will step in to disburse loans with low interest rate and long maturity



The country regains access to the bond markets and is able to maintain its policy choices to stimulate economic growth

\*Note: The Eurozone includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

### Facts about the ESM

The European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) is created as a temporary crisis resolution mechanism in response to the European debt crisis

2010

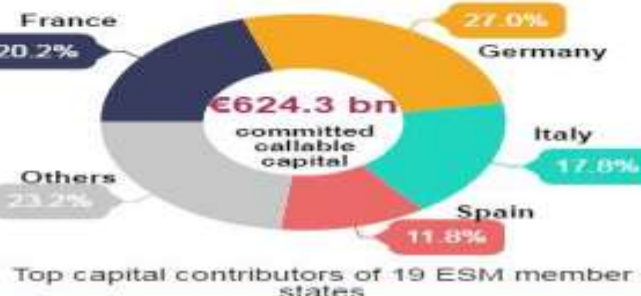
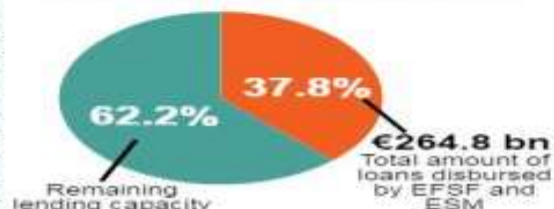
2012

2017

The ESM is established as a permanent successor to the EFSF in October

In 2017, ESM targets a €17 bn long-term funding via bond issuance

**€700 bn =**  
Lending capacity by EFSF and ESM



### The Five Countries with EFSF/ ESM Programs

Compared to market rates, loans from the EFSF/ESM charge much lower interest rates. This helps countries generate substantial budgetary savings, which provide additional leeway to implement fiscal and structural reforms and support market access, debt sustainability, and growth.

#### 1. Ireland

February 2011: Received first loan from EFSF

December 2013: Successfully exited the program

Potential budgetary savings in 2016: 0.3% of GDP

EFSF disbursed a total of €17.7 bn

#### 3. Greece

March 2012: Received first loan from EFSF

2014: Returned to bond issuance for the first time in 4 years

August 2015: Received first loan from ESM

Potential budgetary savings in 2016: 4.6% of GDP

EFSF/ESM disbursed a total of €162.6 billion

#### 2. Portugal

Jun 2011: Received first loan from EFSF

May 2014: Successfully exited the program

Potential budgetary savings in 2016: 0.7%

EFSF disbursed a total of €26 billion

#### 4. Spain

Dec 2012 Feb 2013: Received disbursement from ESM

2013/2014: Bank restructuring completed

Potential budgetary savings in 2016: 0.2%

ESM disbursed a total of €41.5 billion

#### 5. Cyprus

May 2013: Received first loan from ESM

March 2016: Successfully exited the program

Potential budgetary savings in 2016: 1.9%

ESM disbursed a total of €6.3 billion

SOURCES:

European Stability Mechanism

Designed by: Lu Ding  
Edited by: Ole Moehr

# EUGrowth

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
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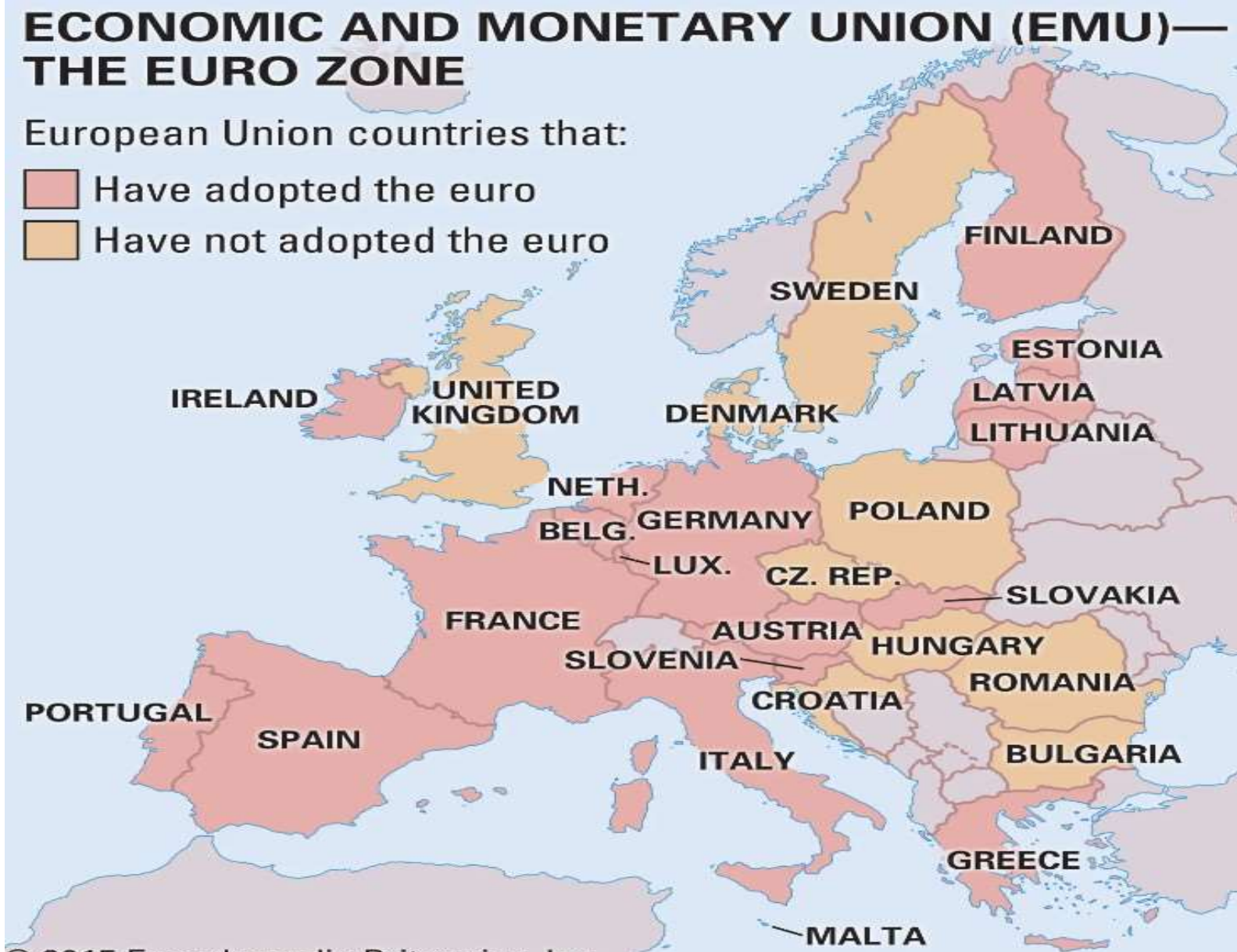


# Eurozone Countries- 19

## ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (EMU)— THE EURO ZONE

European Union countries that:

-  Have adopted the euro
-  Have not adopted the euro





**European Union**

# EU

- The European Union (EU) is a political and economic alliance of 27 countries.
- The EU promotes democratic values in its member nations and is one of the world's most powerful trade blocs.
- Nineteen of the countries share the euro as their official currency.
- The EU grew out of a desire to strengthen economic and political cooperation throughout the continent of Europe in the wake of World War II.

# History of EU

- The EU traces its roots to the European Coal and Steel Community, which was founded in 1950 and had just six members:
- **Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.**
- It became the European Economic Community in 1957 under the Treaty of Rome and subsequently was renamed the European Community



# What is Purpose of EU?

- The European Union was created to bind the nations of Europe closer together for the economic, social, and security welfare of all.
- It is one of several efforts after World War II to bind together the nations of Europe into a single entity.

## What Other European Countries Aren't in the EU?

So which countries are left that aren't in the European Union and aren't even applying for membership? There are actually quite a few. Some might hope to apply further in the future, while others have decided not to apply at all.

### List of European Countries That Aren't EU Members, Candidates, or Potential Candidates

-  Andorra
-  Belarus
-  Moldova
-  Iceland\*
-  Liechtenstein
-  Monaco
-  Norway\*
-  Russia\*\*
-  San Marino
-  Switzerland\*
-  Ukraine
-  Vatican City

\*Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland have all applied for EU membership in the past, but later suspended or withdrawn their applications

\*\*Russia is located partially in Europe and partially in Asia, but its historical center and the majority of its population are on the European side

### List of Official EU Candidate Countries

Joining the EU requires **years of negotiation** with the existing member countries, and the EU has a list of official candidate countries that are working on it now.

-  Albania
-  North Macedonia
-  Montenegro
-  Serbia
-  Turkey

Turkey applied all the way back in 1987, but is **still a long way from getting approval** from the existing EU members. The other candidate countries are mostly at early stages of membership negotiations, or haven't even formally started yet. Serbia and Montenegro will **probably be the next to join**, but aren't expected to any earlier than 2025.

# Joining the EU

- Becoming a member of the EU is a complex procedure which does not happen overnight.
- Once an applicant country meets the conditions for membership, it must implement EU rules and regulations in all areas.
- Any country that satisfies the conditions for membership can apply.

# Copenhagen Criteria

- These conditions are known as the ‘Copenhagen criteria’ and include a
  - Stable democracy and the rule of law
  - Functioning market economy
  - Acceptance of all EU legislation, including of the euro.

**Q 24).Which of the following is/are the indicator/ indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?**

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3 only

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# Explanation

- The *Global Hunger Index (GHI)* is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region.
- Calculated each year by the *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*, the GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.
- By raising awareness and understanding of regional and country *differences in hunger, the GHI aims to trigger actions* to reduce hunger.
- To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines the 4 component indicators into one index.
- ***In 2023, India's Rank in GHI was 111 out of 125 countries.***



# Explanation

- Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries perform worse than India on the GHI.
- India's ranking is based on a Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- This categorizes India's severity of hunger as "serious".

# Explanation

- The GHI score is based on a formula which combines four indicators that together capture the multi-dimensional nature of hunger, including under-nourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

## 4 Components

- **Undernourishment:** the *proportion of undernourished people* as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient)
- **Child wasting:** the proportion of children *under the age of five* who suffer from wasting (that is, *low weight for their height*, reflecting acute undernutrition)
- **Child stunting:** The proportion of children *under the age of five who suffer from stunting* (that is, low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition)
- **Child mortality:** *The mortality rate of children under the age of five* (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

**Q 25).Recently, which one of the following currencies has been proposed to be added to the basket of IMF's SDR?**

- a) Rubble
- b) Rand
- c) Indian Rupee
- d) Renminbi

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# Explanation

- The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund decided to include the *Chinese currency, the renminbi (yuan)*, into its basket of currencies that make up the IMF's Special Drawing Right (SDR).
- The decision was taken during the IMF's five-yearly review of the basket of currencies.
- *SDRs are artificial currency created to augment international liquidity.*
- *It is neither a currency nor a claim on IMF rather it supplements the existing reserves of member countries of IMF.*

# Additional Information

- To be included as SDR a *currency must be freely usable, widely used and widely traded.*
- **U.S. dollar, Euro, British pound and the Japanese yen form the SDR basket.**
- IMF has decided to include Yuan in the SDR basket with effect from October 1, 2016.

**Q 26).Consider the following pairs: Community sometimes mentioned in the news In the affairs of**

1. Kurd : Bangladesh
2. Madhesi : Nepal
3. Rohingya : Myanmar

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 3 only



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**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3**
- d) 3 only

- The Madhesi also referred to as *Terai basi Nepali* are an indigenous ethnic group of Nepalese people who are *natives of the Mahesh plains of Southern Nepal in Terai belt of South Asia*.
- Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of *Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia*.
- They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

# Madhesis- Terai Region



# Kurds

- Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia.
- They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

# Kurds

- Today, they form a distinctive community, united through race, culture and language, even though they have no standard dialect.
- They also adhere to a number of different religions and creeds, **although the majority are Sunni Muslims.**

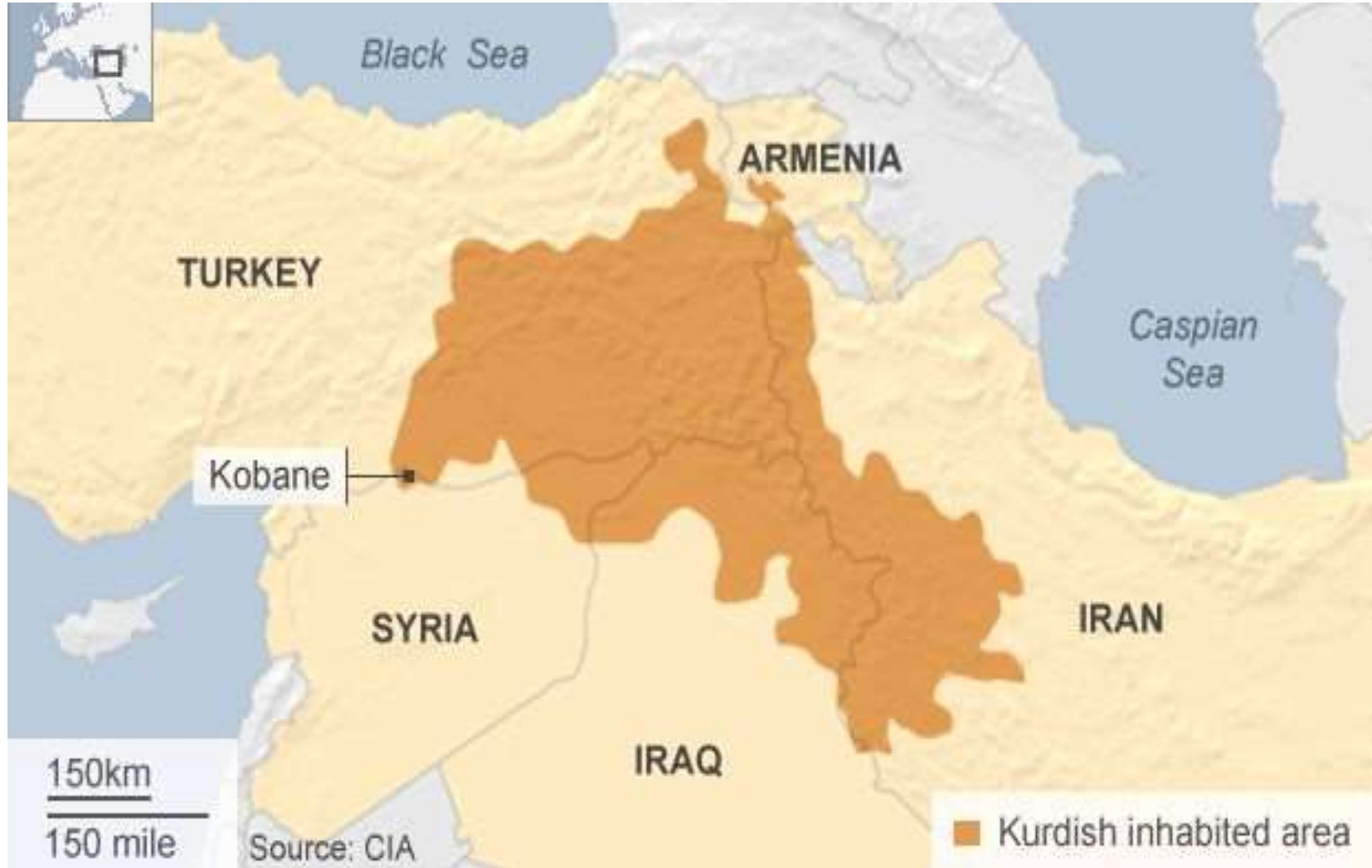
# Kurds

- In the early 20th Century, many Kurds began to consider the creation of a homeland - generally referred to as "Kurdistan".
- After World War One and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres.

# Kurds

- Such hopes were dashed three years later, however, when the Treaty of Lausanne, which set the boundaries of modern Turkey, **made no provision for a Kurdish state** and left Kurds with minority status in their respective countries.
- Over the next 80 years, any move by Kurds to set up an independent state was brutally quashed.

# Kurdish Inhabited Area





- *The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority in the majority Buddhist Myanmar.*
- Many of their *enemies refuse to acknowledge* that the Rohingya are an ethnically distinct group.
- They claim *instead that the Rohingya are Bengali* and that their presence in Myanmar is the result of illegal immigration (more on that later).

**Q 27).With reference to 'Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)', consider the following statements:**

1. It is an organization of European Union in working relation with NATO and WHO.
2. It monitors chemical industry to prevent new weapons from emerging.
3. It provides assistance and protection to States (Parties) against chemical weapons threats.

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# Explanation

- OPCW is the Hague-based autonomous body, which works *within the framework of the United Nations*, was established in 1997 by the Chemical Weapons Convention to carry out its mandate.
- OBJECTIVES: OPCW Member States share the collective goal of *preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare*, thereby strengthening international security.

# Explanation

- World's *first multilateral disarmament agreement* to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction
- The most important feature of the CWC is that it requires the *establishment of an independent and permanent body* to implement the CWC.
- For this Purpose OPCW, came into existence.
- HQ- Hague, Netherlands

To this End, the Convention contains 4 key provisions:

- *Destroying all existing chemical weapons* under international verification by the *OPCW monitoring chemical industry*.
- *To prevent new weapons from re-emerging.*
- Providing *assistance and protection* to States Parties against chemical threats
- *Fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation* of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry

# Additional Information

- The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons".
- All 193 parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention are automatically members of the OPCW
- *Israel is a signatory state that has not ratified the Convention*
- *Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan, which have neither signed nor acceded to the Convention*
- Palestine was the most recent state to submit its instrument of accession to the Convention.
- CWC entered into force in 1997

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS

# The Chemical Weapons Convention

**98 percent of the world is protected by the convention,** which banned developing, producing or stockpiling chemical weapons.



**Signed and ratified**

193 states

Including those countries that joined the treaty after it entered into force

**Signed but not ratified**

Israel

**Non-signatories**

Egypt  
North Korea  
South Sudan



Source: OPCW | Data as of April 2021

  
@AJLabs ALJAZEERA



**Q 28).With reference to the 'Transpacific Partnership', consider the following statements:**

1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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# Explanation

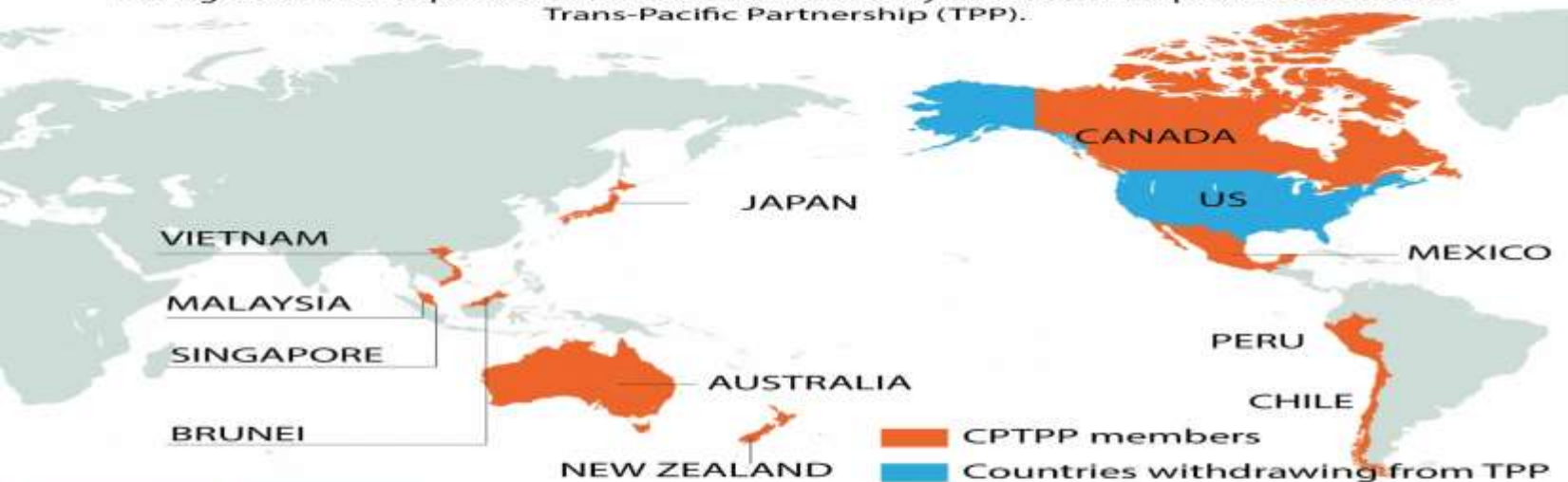
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership was signed by *only 12 member nations of Pacific rim, **not all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.***
- The Pacific Rim is a *description of a region surrounding the Pacific Ocean, the world's largest ocean.*
- Initially the Members were: *Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.*

# Explanation

- *USA withdrew from TPP from January 2017.*
- The remaining countries negotiated a new trade agreement called *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.*
- This incorporates most of the provisions of the TPP and which entered into force on 30 December 2018.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TPP AND CPTPP

Ministers of 11 countries joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) signed the deal in Chile on March 8 (local time). The agreement is expected to be effective from early 2019. CPTPP's predecessor is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).



**TPP** **CPTPP**

Signing date



4/2/2016



8/3/2018



~ 800 Million people



~ 500 Million people

SCALE

Global GDP



Total world trade



CONTENTS

30 chapters covering trade, tariff, investment, intellectual property, labour, environment, and more

It basically maintains the negotiated contents of the TPP, with two additional appendixes (\*)

\*\* The 1st appendix is on the list of 20 suspended obligations of the TPP and four issues needed renegotiation, such as investment and investment licences, telecom dispute settlement, conditions for bidding participation, transparency and equality in procedures for pharmaceutical products and medical equipment...The 2nd appendix is on seven issues related to technical features of the new deal.



## TPP11 Signatories



The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.

The CPTPP was signed by the 11 countries on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile.

The CPTPP entered into force on 30 December 2018 for:

- Australia
- Canada
- Japan
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Singapore

## Some More Facts

- September 16, 2021- China formally submitted a request to accede to the *Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership* (CPTPP) trade agreement.
- Entry into CPTPP would *consolidate China's economic integration* drive, building from its joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement.



# The United Kingdom Is Joining the CPTPP. What Comes Next?



# Context

- The United Kingdom reached an agreement with Indo-Pacific partners to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) at an virtual ministerial meeting late March 31, 2023.
- Soon to be the CPTPP's 12th member, the United Kingdom's anticipated accession to the regional trade bloc represents the first expansion of the grouping since the CPTPP came into effect in 2018.

**Q 29).Consider the following statements: The India-Africa Summit**

1. Held in 2015 was the third such Summit
2. Was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
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- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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# Explanation

- *The 3rd India-Africa summit was held in New Delhi in October 2015.*
- The previous two gatherings were held in 2008 in New Delhi and in 2011 in Addis Ababa.
- The *First India-Africa Summit was held in 2008 in New Delhi.*
- Libya and Egypt's heads of state did not attend.
- It is an official platform for the African-Indian relations and held once in every three years.
- *It was not initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951.*

# Bandung Conference, 1955

- The *first large-scale Asian-African or Afro-Asian Conference* – also known as the Bandung Conference (Indonesia)
- The conference was organized by Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and Pakistan .

The conference's stated aims were to

- ✓ *Promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation*
- ✓ *To oppose colonialism or neocolonialism by any nation.*
- The conference was an important step towards the eventual creation of the *Non-Aligned Movement*, yet the *two initiatives ran in parallel during the 1960s*

Q 30). 'Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières)', often in the news, is

- a) A Division of World Health Organization
- b) A Non-governmental international organization
- c) An Inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union
- d) A Specialized agency of the United Nations

Q 30). 'Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières)', often in the news, is

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- b) A non-governmental international organization**
- c) An inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union
- d) A specialized agency of the United Nations



# Explanation

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) or Doctors without Borders is a *Non-governmental organization*.
- It was founded on 20 December 1971.
- *MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of journalists and doctors.*

# Explanation

- Today, they are a worldwide movement of nearly 65,000 people.
- They provide medical assistance to *people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare.*
- Their actions are *guided by medical ethics* and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality.

**Q 31).Consider the following statements:**

1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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**New  
Development  
Bank**



# About NDB

- The New Development Bank (NDB) BRICS group of nations comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa .
- This was established in 2015.
- To begin with, the bank will start operating with \$50 billion in initial capital with the five BRICS contributing \$10 billion each.
- According to the pact, the *capital of the bank will be divided equally* among the five participating nations and *initially it will focus on infrastructure projects member countries.*

# About NDB

- *The headquarters of the bank will be located in Shanghai, China.*
- The initial authorized capital of the bank is \$100 billion divided into 1 million shares having a par value of \$100,000 each
- Eminent banker Kondapur Vamana Kamath was appointed as first President New Development Bank of NDB.

# Founding Members



**BRAZIL**

July 3, 2015



**RUSSIA**

July 3, 2015



**INDIA**

July 3, 2015



**CHINA**

July 3, 2015



**SOUTH  
AFRICA**

July 3, 2015



# Additional Information

- The Bank shall *mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS* and other emerging economies
- Unlike the World Bank, *which assigns votes based on capital share*, in the *New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote*, and none of the countries will have veto power.

# Additional Information

- The first regional office of the **NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa.**
- The **second regional office was established in 2019 in São Paulo, Brazil, followed by Moscow, Russia.**
- In September 2021, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay joined the NDB.
- In December 2021, the NDB admitted Egypt as a new member.

# Additional Information

- In May 2022, the New Development Bank set up a regional office in India in the state of Gujarat with the goal of financing and observing infrastructure projects in both India and Bangladesh.
- In May 2023, Saudi Arabia expressed its intention to join the NDB

Q 32).Which of the following is not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

- a) Iran
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Oman
- d) Kuwait

Q 32).Which of the following is not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

- a) Iran
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Oman
- d) Kuwait

# Explanation

- The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, originally known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is a regional inter governmental political and economic union consisting *of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf*, except for **Iran**.
- Its member states are *Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates*.
- *Yemen being the only country* of the Arabian Peninsula not yet a member of the GCC.

## Gulf Cooperation Council

- The council's main headquarters are located in the city of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.
- The Charter of the GCC was signed on 25 May 1981, formally establishing the institution
- 3 constitutional monarchies (Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain)
- 2 absolute monarchies (Saudi Arabia and Oman)
- 1 federal monarchy (the United Arab Emirates)



Q 33). 'Belt and Road Initiative' is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- a) African Union
- b) Brazil
- c) European Union
- d) China

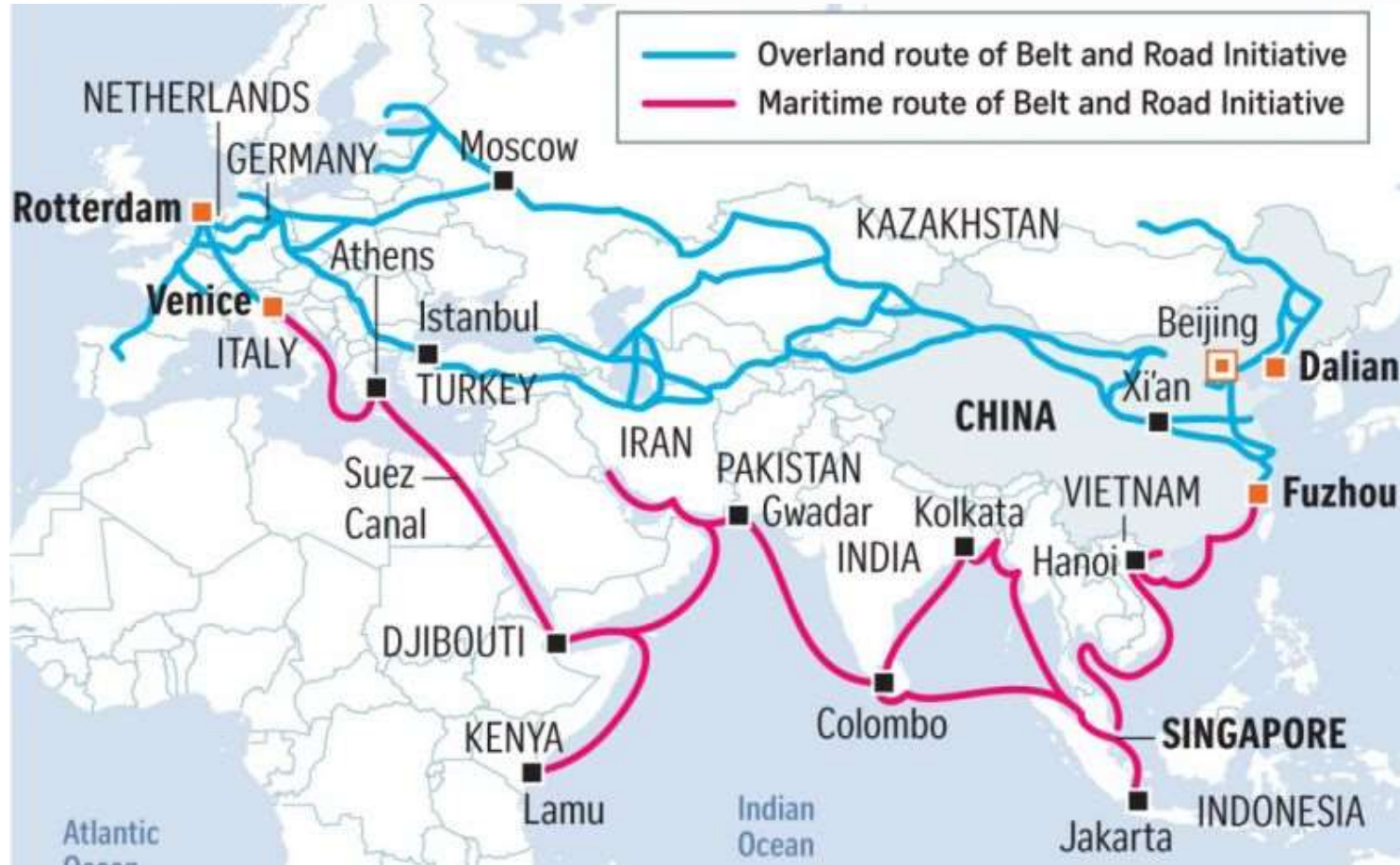


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- a) African Union
- b) Brazil
- c) European Union
- d) China**

- It is a *developmental strategy and framework*, unveiled by Chinese leader *Xi Jinping in October 2013* in announcements revealing the *SREB (Silk Road Economic Belt) and MSR (Maritime Silk Road), respectively*.
- The “belt and road” run through the continents of *Asia, Europe and Africa*.
- It focuses on connectivity and cooperation among countries primarily in Eurasia, which consists of two main components
- The land-based SREB and oceangoing MSR and it is known as **“One Belt One Road”**(OBOR).
- The “belt and road” would be serviced by a network of roads, high-speed railways, fiber-optic lines, transcontinental submarine optical cable projects, and satellite information passageways.

# Belt & Road Initiative



# BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE



# Context

- This vast undertaking, initiated in 2013, seeks to transform the landscape of global trade and the development of infrastructure.
- **A decade has passed since President Xi Jinping introduced the ambitious infrastructure funding project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which spans across Africa and Asia and involves significant investments**

# Evolution of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- **Origins of the BRI:** President Xi Jinping introduced the Silk Road Economic 'Belt' in 2013, aiming to revive trading and infrastructure routes between Asia and Europe, emphasizing connectivity through Central Asia.
- **Addition of the 'Road':** President Xi expanded the initiative by introducing the 'Road,' focusing on maritime trade routes connecting China with Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa. *Key objectives included building ports, bridges, and industry corridors.*

# The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- Its initial name was '**One Belt, One Road,**' but it was changed to BRI to reflect a more open and inclusive approach.
- The BRI comprises two main components-

**Silk Road Economic Belt**

**Maritime Silk Road**





# Core Principles

1. Policy coordination
2. Infrastructure connectivity
3. Trade
4. Financial integration
5. People-to-people connections
6. Industrial cooperation

*It aimed to address China's capital surplus, industrial overcapacity, and enhance its political influence.*

Q 34). 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the

- a) European Central Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development .

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# Explanation

- Global Financial Stability Report is published by International Monetary Fund.
- The financial stability report *assesses the risks faced by the global financial system.*
- This report is Published by IMF twice a year (April & October)

- Chapter 1 assesses that risks to global growth are skewed to the downside, similar to the assessment in the April 2023 Global Financial Stability Report.
- Cracks in the financial system may turn into worrisome fault lines should a soft landing of the global economy hoped for by market participants does not materialize.

- Chapter 2 homes in on the global banking system, providing a fresh assessment of **vulnerabilities in a higher-for-longer environment**, using an enhanced global stress test and a set of newly developed market-based indicators.
- In response to the vulnerabilities that are uncovered, enhancements to supervisory practices and tightening of regulatory standards are proposed.

- Chapter 3 notes that a broad mix of policies is required to unlock the private capital necessary to cover climate mitigation investment needs in emerging market and developing economies.

# Reports Issued by IMF

- **World Economic Outlook (WEO)**
- **Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)**
- **Fiscal Monitor (FM)**



2017

**Q 35).The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an**

- a) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
- b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
- c) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
- d) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the World

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# Global Infrastructure Facility

Across developing countries, many people lack access to basic infrastructure services.

**840** MILLION

people live more than 2  
kilometers from all-  
weather roads

**1** BILLION

people lack electricity

**4** BILLION

people lack internet  
access

**2.2** BILLION

people do not have safely  
managed drinking water  
services

**4.2** BILLION

people do not have safely  
managed sanitation  
services

# Explanation

- The GIF *supports Governments in bringing well structured* and bankable infrastructure projects to market.
- *GIF was established in 2014 by G20.*
- It is a *global collaboration platform that integrates efforts* to boost private investment in *sustainable, quality infrastructure projects* in developing countries and emerging markets.

# Explanation

- *Quality infrastructure drives economic growth, social progress, and climate action*
- Along with the World Bank Group, *Canada is co-chair of the GIF's Governing Council.*
- Under GIF, there is provision to *support governments and multilateral development banks.*

# Explanation

- Since its inception in 2014, the GIF has approved 171 project activities in 68 countries with 21 transactions reaching commercial close, of which 16 also reached financial close.
- **Every \$1 provided in GIF project preparation support has mobilized \$100 in actual private investment.**

**Q 36).Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):**

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



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- d) Neither 1 nor 2

# Explanation

- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, commonly known as IONS, is a *forum to increase maritime cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.*
- The forum helps to *preserve peaceful relations between nations*, and thus is *critical to building an effective maritime security architecture* in the Indian Ocean Region.
- *The inaugural IONS Seminar was held by the Indian Navy in 2008.*

# Explanation

- Subsequent seminars and meetings of the ‘Conclave of Chiefs’ have been held at the commencement of each 2-year IONS Chairmanship.
- United Arab Emirates in 2010, South Africa in 2012, Australia in 2014, Bangladesh in 2016 and Iran in 2018.
- *IONS includes 24 nations that permanently hold territory that abuts or lies within the Indian Ocean, and 8 observer nations*

# Members & Observers IONS

## Members

**South Asian Littorals:** Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)

**West Asian Littorals:** Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates

**East African Littorals:** France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.

**South East Asian and Australian Littorals:** Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

## Observers

China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain.

## Additional Information

- The IONS, *established in 2007*, is a premier forum for cooperation and *collaboration among the navies of the littoral states* of the Indian Ocean Region.
- The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in *Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)* operations among member navies.

# Additional Information

- 8th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) is being hosted by Royal Thai Navy at Bangkok, Thailand from 19 - 22 Dec 23.
- Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, is leading a three-member Indian Naval delegation for the Conclave.

# Additional Information

- The 8th Conclave is being attended by Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Maritime Agencies of IONS countries and would witness **transfer of IONS Chairmanship from France to Thailand.**
- A Seminar on the theme ‘Blue Economy: Ways Forward for Sustainable Development of IONS Member States’, is being conducted on the side-lines of CoC.

# Additional Information

- India would take over the Chair of IONS (2025-27) during the 9th CoC planned to be conducted in India in end 2025.



Q 37). 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

- a) European Union
- b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

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- b) Gulf Cooperation Council
- c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

# Explanation

- On 28th June 2007, *India and the EU began negotiations* on a broad-based *Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)* in Brussels, Belgium.
- These negotiations are pursuant to the commitment made by political leaders at the *7th India-EU Summit held in Helsinki* on 13th October 2006.

# Explanation

- Aim was to *move towards negotiations for a broad-based trade* and investment agreement on the basis of the report of India-EU High Level Technical Group.
- India and the EU *expect to promote bilateral trade* by removing barriers to *trade in goods and services and investment* across all sectors of the economy.
- Both parties believe that a comprehensive and ambitious agreement that is *consistent with WTO rules and principles* would open new markets and *would expand opportunities* for Indian and EU businesses.

# Additional Information

- So far, 15 rounds of negotiations have been held alternately at Brussels and New Delhi.
- The *last meeting was held in the week of 13th May, 2013* in New Delhi.
- The EU was India's largest trading partner in goods 2019-20, ahead of China and the US, with total trade close to USD 90 billion.
- *The BTIA is a kind of comprehensive free trade agreement being negotiated by the two sides.*
- *It is expected that India and the EU will restart negotiations for their long-pending free trade agreement from June 2022.*

**Q 38). Consider the following statements:**

1. India has ratified to Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. TFA came into force in January 2016.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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- d) 1, 2 and 3

# Explanation

- The TFA is the **WTO's first-ever multilateral** accord that aims to simplify customs regulations for the cross-border movement of goods.
- It was outcome of WTO's 9th Bali (Indonesia) Ministerial Conference of 2013.
- *India ratified it in April 2016.*
- It came into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.
- The TFA contains provisions for *expediting the movement*, release and clearance of goods, *including goods in transit.*
- Thus statement 3 is not correct.



# Additional Information

- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) will *improve trade efficiency worldwide*.
- *Thereby* encouraging economic growth by *cutting red tape* at borders, *increasing transparency* and taking advantage of new technologies.
- *The TFA has entered into force and is binding on all WTO members.*

# Additional Information

- The implementation of the TFA would have a greater impact on international trade than the elimination of all the world's remaining tariffs.
- It will reduce average trade costs by up to 15% with developing countries benefiting even more.
- The TFA – the *first multilateral pact WTO members* had agreed since it was founded on 1 January 1995 – represents a significant **milestone for the global trading system.**

**Q 39).With reference to 'Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)', consider the following statements:**

1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme 'Emerging Urban Forms – Policy Responses and Governance Structure'.
2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

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- The **1st APMCHUD was held in New Delhi, India** from 13th-16th December 2006 on the theme of '*A Vision for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020*'.
- *Emerging Urban Forms - Policy Responses and Governance Structure* was the **theme of the 6th Asia Pacific Conference** on Housing and Urban Development held in **December 2016**.
- **2nd APMCHUD was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**, 3rd in Solo, Republic of Indonesia, 4th in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and 5th in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- Further, *APMCHUD is a consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Housing and Urban Development* in the Asia Pacific Region.
- *This was established under the aegis and support of UN Habitat.*

# Additional Information

- 6<sup>th</sup> APMHCUD was held in New Delhi, India
- This consolidates the political commitment of governments towards *preventing and reducing risk as well as strengthening resilience* by accelerating implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in the region.
- Sendai Framework (Disaster Risk Reduction) works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- There are 68 member countries of APMCHUD.

**THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK OUTLINES SEVEN GLOBAL TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2030:**

**SUBSTANTIAL  
REDUCTIONS**

A. Reduce global disaster mortality



B. Reduce the number of affected people globally



C. Reduce direct economic loss in relation to GDP



D. Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services



E. Increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies



F. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries



G. Increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems

**SUBSTANTIAL  
INCREASES**

Q 40).The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to

- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS
- c) EU
- d) G<sub>20</sub>



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- a) ASEAN
- b) BRICS
- c) EU**
- d) G<sub>20</sub>

# Explanation

- The Digital Single Market strategy was adopted by European Union on the 6 May 2015 and includes 16 specific initiatives which aims to open up digital opportunities for people and business and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy.
- The Digital Single Market strategy *seeks to ensure better access for consumers and business to online goods and services* across Europe.

# Explanation

- For example, by *removing barriers to cross-border e-commerce* and access to online content while *increasing consumer protection*.
- This Strategy aims at *maximizing the growth potential* of the European Digital Economy.
- Key concerns include cybersecurity, data protection/e-privacy, and the fairness and transparency of online platforms.

# 2018

**Q 41).What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'?**

1. It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
2. It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non -Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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# Membership of the NSG means:

- *Access to technology for a range of uses* from medicine to building nuclear power plants for India from the NSG *which is essentially a traders' cartel.*
- India has its *own indigenously developed technology* but to get its hands on state-of-the-art technology that countries within the NSG possess, it has to become part of the group. Hence statement 1 is correct.

# Membership of the NSG means:

- With India *committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels* and ensuring that *40% of its energy is sourced from renewable and clean sources*, there is a pressing need to scale up nuclear power production.
- This can only happen if India gains access to the NSG.
- Even if India today *can buy power plants from the global market* thanks to the one-time NSG waiver in 2008.
- However, there are still many types of technologies India can be denied as it is outside the NSG.



- India could *sign the Nuclear nonproliferation treaty and gain access to all this know how* but that would mean giving up its entire nuclear arsenal.
- Given that *it is situated in an unstable and unpredictable neighbourhood.*
- India is *unlikely to sign the NPT or accede to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)* that *puts curbs on any further nuclear tests.*
- With access to latest technology, India can commercialize the production of nuclear power equipment.
- This, *in turn will boost innovation and high-tech manufacturing* in India and can be leveraged for economic and strategic benefits.

## Statement 2 is not correct:

- Adherence to *one or more of the NPT*, the Treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga, Tlatelolco, Bangkok, Semipalatinsk or an equivalent international nuclear non - proliferation agreement, and full compliance with the obligations of such agreement(s);
- Hence, *it does not automatically become a member of NPT*.
- Should India get membership to the NSG, it can block Pakistan from its membership as entry into the grouping is by consensus only.

## Statement 2 is not correct:

- This is one of the reasons why *China is pushing to include Pakistan* as well as pointing out that *India as a non signatory to the NPT cannot be a member.*
- *India's contention is that its nuclear technologies are indigenously developed, and it has a clean nonproliferation record unlike Pakistan*

- The Nuclear Suppliers Group is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to *contribute to the nonproliferation* of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- The NSG first met in November 1975 in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the “London Club”
- The NSG was founded *in response to the Indian nuclear test* in May 1974 and first met in November 1975.

- Nations already *signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT) saw the need to *further limit the export* of nuclear equipment, materials or technology.
- As of 2019, China has thwarted every attempt of India's inclusion into NSG and *has made it clear that status quo will remain* citing "*lack of consensus*" among NSG members.

As of 2020, the NSG has 48 participating governments:<sup>[4]</sup>

-  Argentina
-  Australia
-  Austria
-  Belarus
-  Belgium
-  Brazil
-  Bulgaria
-  Canada
-  People's Republic of China
-  Croatia
-  Cyprus
-  Czech Republic
-  Denmark
-  Estonia
-  Finland
-  France
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Iceland
-  Ireland
-  Italy
-  Japan
-  Kazakhstan
-  Latvia
-  Lithuania
-  Luxembourg
-  Malta
-  Mexico
-  Netherlands
-  New Zealand
-  Norway
-  Poland
-  Portugal
-  Romania
-  Russia
-  Serbia
-  Slovakia
-  Slovenia
-  South Africa
-  South Korea
-  Spain
-  Sweden
-  Switzerland
-  Turkey
-  Ukraine
-  United Kingdom
-  United States

Q 42). "Rule of Law Index" is released by which of the following?

- a) Amnesty International
- b) International Court of Justice
- c) The Office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights
- d) World Justice Report

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# Explanation

- The World Justice Project *Rule of Law Index* measures how the rule of law is *experienced and perceived by the general public* across the globe.
- It is the *world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.*
- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, *multidisciplinary organization* working create knowledge, build awareness, and *stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.*

# Explanation

- Effective rule of law *reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease*, and *protects people from injustices large and small*.
- It is the *foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace* – underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

Q 43).The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- a) China
- b) Israel
- c) Iraq
- d) Yemen

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- **Two- State Solution of Israel Palestine Issue:** It envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel west of Jordan river.
- The **UNSC Resolution 1397 agreed in 2000** with support from USA and becoming first UNSC resolution to agree on two state solution.



**Q 44).International Labour Organization's Convention 138 and 182 are related to**

- a) Child labour
- b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- c) Regulation of food prices and food security
- d) Gender parity at the workplace

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- a) **Child labour**
- b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
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- d) Gender parity at the workplace



# Explanation

- In 2017 India ratified the *two Core Conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO)*
- *Conventions 138 regarding admission of age to employment* and *Convention 182 regarding worst forms of Child Labour.*
- A global commitment to *end the worst form of child labour* and to *ensure minimum basic education to children.*

# Explanation

- With ratification of the two core ILO conventions, India has ratified *6 out of 8 core ILO conventions*.
- Four other conventions were related to *abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration and no discrimination between men and women in employment and occupation*.
- 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)*

**Q 45).In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?**

- a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
- b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
- c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG

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- Explanation
- India has *ratified the Additional Protocol*, a commitment given under *India-U.S. nuclear deal* by the previous dispensation to grant greater ease to International Atomic Energy Agency to *monitor India's civilian atomic programmed.*
- The IAEA had in *March 2009 approved an additional protocol* to India's safeguards agreement consequent to a pact reached with the agency the previous year to *place its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.*
- That agreement had paved the way for the *48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group* to grant India specific waiver for it to have commercial relations with other countries in the civilian atomic field

# What is Additional Protocol?

- The Additional Protocol is **not a stand-alone agreement**, but rather a **protocol to a safeguards agreement** that provides additional tools for verification.
- In particular, it **significantly increases the IAEA's** ability to verify the **peaceful use of all nuclear material** in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements.
- In May 1997, the IAEA Board of Governors approved the Model Additional Protocol.
- The Model Additional Protocol was **designed for all States** that have **concluded any of the three types of safeguards** agreements with the IAEA.

Q 46).What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news?

- a) An Israeli radar system
- b) India's indigenous anti - missile programmed
- c) An American anti -missile system
- d) A defense collaboration between Japan and South Korea

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# Explanation

- The *Terminal High Altitude Area Defense*, or simply abbreviated as THAAD, is an *American missile defense system* that is designed to *intercept and destroy short and medium -range ballistic missiles* in their final flight phase.
- US wanted to sell the anti-ballistic missile defence system named Terminal High Altitude Area Defense(THAAD) to India, however, *India's defence needs required the S-400 system.*

# Explanation

- THAAD was developed after the experience of Iraq's Scud missile attacks during the Gulf War in 1991.
- THAAD was originally scheduled for deployment in 2012, but initial deployment took place in May 2008.
- THAAD has been deployed in the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Romania, and South Korea.

# Explanation

- S-400 can reportedly be assembled in 5 minutes through a mobile command vehicle making it a deadly force capable of being fired from any terrain.
- *It has the capability to track radars and airborne threats with a range of 400 kms.*

# Explanation

- The S-400 Triumf (Russian: C-400– Triumf; translation: Triumph; NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler), previously known as the S-300 PMU-3, is a mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system developed in the 1990s by Russia's NPO Almaz as an upgrade to the S-300 family of missiles.
- The S-400 was approved for service on 28 April 2007 and the first battalion of the systems assumed combat duty on 6 August 2007.
- The system is complemented by its successor, the S-500.

# 2019

**Q 47).With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements:**

1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.
2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
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# Explanation

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a new international development bank that provides financing for infrastructure projects in Asia.
- It began operations in January 2016.
- The AIIB is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing.
- Like other development banks, its mission is to improve social and economic outcomes in its region, Asia, and beyond.
- **China's leader Xi Jinping first proposed an Asian infrastructure bank at an APEC summit in Bali in 2013.**
- Many observers have interpreted the bank as a challenge to international lending bodies such as WB, IMF.



# Additional Information

- The bank *currently has 105 members*, including 16 prospective members from around the world.
- The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for *"scaling up financing for sustainable development"* and to improve the global economic governance.
- The *starting capital of the bank was US\$100 billion*, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.
- *India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest shareholder of AIIB. India is also the largest Borrower from AIIB.*
- In 2018, *AIIB was granted Permanent Observer status* in the deliberations of both the *United Nations General Assembly* and the Economic and Social Council.

Nonregional members		Regional members	
<b>\$25 billion</b>		<b>\$75 billion</b>	
Top-10 contributors		Top-10 contributors	
Germany	\$4.5 bil.	<b>China</b>	<b>\$29.8 billion</b>
France	3.4	India	8.4
Brazil	3.2	Russia	6.5
U.K.	3.1	South Korea	3.7
Italy	2.6	Australia	3.7
Spain	1.8	Indonesia	3.4
Netherlands	1.0	Turkey	2.6
Poland	0.8	Saudi Arabia	2.5
Switzerland	0.7	Iran	1.6
Egypt	0.7	Thailand	1.4
Others*	3.4	Others'	11.4

- Countries accepted as AIIB founding members include China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Myanmar, the Philippines, Pakistan, Britain, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany and Spain.
- AIIB began operations in 2016 with 57 founding Members (37 regional and 20 nonregional).
- By the end of 2020, *AIIB had 103 approved Members representing approximately 70% of the global population and 65% of global GDP.*

**Q 48).Which of the following adopted a law on data protection and privacy for its citizens known as 'General Data Protection Regulation' in April 2016 and started implementation of its from 25th May, 2018?**

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) The European Union
- d) The United States of America

Q 48).Which of the following adopted a law on data protection and privacy for its citizens known as 'General Data Protection Regulation' in April 2016 and started implementation of its from 25th May, 2018?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) The European Union**
- d) The United States of America

# Explanation

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) aims to protect all European Union (EU) citizens from data breaches.
- The regulation, which was *approved by the EU Parliament* in April 2016 after *about four years of preparation and debate*, came into effect on May 25, 2018.
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the toughest privacy and security law in the world.

# Explanation

- Though it was *drafted and passed by the European Union* (EU).
- It imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
- The GDPR *will levy harsh fines* against those who violate its *privacy and security standards*, with penalties reaching into the tens of millions of euros.

**Q 49).Recently, India signed a deal known as 'Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field' with which of the following countries?**

- a) Japan
- b) Russia
- c) The United Kingdom
- d) The United States of America



Q 49).Recently, India signed a deal known as 'Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field' with which of the following countries?

- a) Japan
- b) Russia**
- c) The United Kingdom
- d) The United States of America

# Explanation

- ✓ Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Co-operation Areas in the Nuclear Field Identified Jointly by India and Russia was signed on 5th October 2018 in New Delhi.
- ✓ This happened during 19th edition of the annual India-Russia Summit.
- ✓ The two sides concluded an action plan for *expanding civil nuclear partnership*, comprising a second site for Russian nuclear reactors in India and *cooperation in other markets in West Asia, Africa and Latin America*.

# Explanation

- ✓ Russia is currently the *only foreign partner for nuclear reactors in India*, with the first plant it set up in Kudankulam.
- ✓ India and Russia are *involved in a joint project* for a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.
- ✓ As per the agreement, Russia will build *12 units of Nuclear Power Plants in the next 20 years.*

**Q 50). Consider the following statements:**

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air'.
2. The UNCAC is the ever - first legally binding global anti - corruption instrument.
3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.
4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its members States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 50). Consider the following statements:**

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air'.
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3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.
4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its members States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only**
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## Statement 1 is Not Correct and Statement 2 is correct:

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which *entered into force in December 2005*, is the *First ever binding global anti-corruption instrument*.
  - It Obliges the States to
    - Prevent and criminalize different corrupt practices
    - Promote international cooperation
    - Cooperate for the recovery of stolen assets
    - Enhance technical assistance and information exchange.



## Statement 3 is not correct:

- The *UNTOC was adopted by General Assembly in 2000* and came into force in 2003.
- The Convention is the *first comprehensive and global* legally binding instrument to *fight transnational organized crime*.
- States that have *ratified UNTOC commit themselves* to taking a series of *measures to prevent and control transnational* organized crime, including
  - (i) The *criminalizing of the participation* in an organized criminal group, of money laundering, related corruption and obstruction of justice
  - (ii) The *adoption of frameworks for extradition*, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation.

## Statement 4 is correct:

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is *mandated by its Member States to assist in the implementation of both Conventions.*

2020

**Q 51).Consider the following pairs International agreement/set-up Subject**

1. Alma-Ata Declaration - Healthcare of the people
2. Hague Convention - Biological and chemical weapons
3. Talanoa Dialogue - Global climate change
4. Under Coalition - Child rights

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Q 51). Consider the following pairs International agreement/set-up Subject

1. Alma-Ata Declaration - Healthcare of the people
2. Hague Convention - Biological and chemical weapons
3. Talanoa Dialogue - Global climate change
4. Under Coalition - Child rights

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only**
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

# Alma Ata Declaration:

- The Declaration of Alma-Ata was adopted at the International Conference on Primary Health Care, *Almaty, Kazakhstan, 6-12 September 1978.*
- It expressed the need for *urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers,* and the world community to protect and *promote the health of all people.*
- Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.

# Hague Convention:

- The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of *International Child Abduction* or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the *Hague Conference on Private International Law*.
- This provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- *Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched*

- **Talanoa Dialogue** is a process *designed to help countries* implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020.
- The Dialogue was *mandated by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change* to take stock of the collective global efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, in line with the *goals of the Paris Agreement*.
- Hence **Pair 3 is correctly matched.**



# ABOUT OUR TALANOA DIALOGUES



HOSTED BY: Freshfields  
PARTNERING WITH: Ethical Tea Partnership



HOSTED BY: Nordea  
PARTNERING WITH: ECOHZ



HOSTED BY: ING

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) asked for private sector and civil society views on how to build a net zero economy. It called this the Talanoa Dialogue.

We work with more than 300 clients around the world, delivering solutions to reduce carbon emissions, drive the growth of renewable energy, conserve forests and improve health and livelihoods for communities.

Our Talanoa Dialogues brought together business leaders to discuss their role in building a net zero economy through seven three-hour roundtable discussions across the U.S. and Europe.

NUMBER OF COMPANIES **61**

COMBINED REVENUE **\$1.3 TRN**



HOSTED BY: Salesforce



HOSTED BY: ARUP



HOSTED BY: MetLife



## HOW BUSINESS CAN DELIVER NET ZERO EMISSIONS: IMPRINTING NET ZERO

### STEP ONE: TO NET ZERO...



#### 1. FOOT-PRINT

Reduce emissions consumed directly through company activities or through the purchase of electricity. Examples: Marks & Spencer, Microsoft



#### 3. HAND-PRINT

Reduce emissions consumed by customers of your company's goods and services (downstream). Examples: BP (Target Neutral), Elopak



#### 2. TAIL-PRINT

Reduce emissions consumed by suppliers in the creation of goods and services used by your company (upstream). Examples: Interface, Taylors of Harrogate



#### 4. BRAIN-PRINT

Put the transformation to a net zero economy at the heart of business strategy, advocacy, brand positioning, product and service innovation. Examples: ING, Microsoft



#### 5. FINGER-PRINT

Make the strategy personally relevant to all staff and management. Example: LinkedIn



#### 6. BLUE-PRINT

Move from goals to identify the investments, partnerships, governance and technology that underpin the plan deliver against the goal. Example: Scania



#### 7. NEWS-PRINT

Earn customer preference with partnerships, engaging influencers, and policy advocacy. Set yourself free from the confines of sustainability reports. Examples: Intel, Intuit

## Under 2 Coalition

- It is a global community of state and regional governments committed to *ambitious climate action* in line with the Paris Agreement.
- Signatories commit to *keeping global temperature rises to well below 2°C with efforts to reach 1.5°C.*
- Hence **Pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- *The Under 2 Coalition brings together over 270 governments representing 1.75 billion people and 50% of the global economy.*
- Our members commit to keep global temperature rise *well below 2°C with efforts to reach 1.5°C.*
- Over 40 states and regions have committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.
- *This is essential to limit global temperature rise.*

**Q 52).In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?**

- a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

Q 52).In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?

- a) **Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey**
- b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

# Explanation

- The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

# Explanation

- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

# Additional Information

- The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises. (Asian Financial Crisis 1997)
- Since 2008, it has convened at least once a year, with summits involving each member's head of government or state, finance minister, foreign minister.
- Each year, a different G20 member country assumes the presidency starting from 1 December until 30 November.
- The 2021 summit was held in Italy.
- The 2022, 2023 and 2024 summits will be hosted by Indonesia, India and Brazil respectively.



# Trick to Remember G20 Countries

- GURU JI SITA AB SSC FCI ME kaam karti hain



- **G- Germany**  
**U- USA**  
**R- Russia**  
**U- U.K**
- **J- Japan**  
**I- India**
- **S- Saudi Arabia**  
**I- Indonesia**  
**T- Turkey**  
**A- Australia**
- **A- Argentina**  
**B- Brazil**
- **S- South Korea**  
**S- South Africa**  
**C- Canada**
- **F- France**  
**C- China**  
**I- Italy**
- **M- Mexico**  
**E- European union**

Member	Trade bil. USD (2018) <small>[citation needed]</small>	Nom. GDP mil. USD (2022) <sup>[47]</sup>	PPP GDP mil. USD (2022) <sup>[47]</sup>	Nom. GDP per capita USD (2022) <sup>[48][49]</sup>	PPP GDP per capita USD (2022) <sup>[47]</sup>	HDI (2019)	Population (2018) <sup>[50]</sup>	Area km <sup>2</sup>	P5	G4	G7	BRICS	MIKTA
 Argentina	127	564,277	1,195,581	12,187	25,822	0.845	44,570,000	2,780,400	No	No	No	No	No
 Australia	481.1	1,748,334	1,605,196	67,464	61,941	0.944	25,182,000	7,692,024	No	No	No	No	Yes
 Brazil	650.0	1,833,274	3,680,942	8,570	17,208	0.765	210,869,000	8,515,767	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
 Canada	910	2,221,218	2,236,928	57,406	57,812	0.929	38,179,630	9,984,670	No	No	Yes	No	No
 China	4,629	19,911,593	30,177,926	14,096	21,364	0.761	1,396,982,000	9,596,960	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
 France	1,227.4	2,936,702	3,677,579	44,747	56,036	0.901	65,098,000	640,679	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
 Germany	2,834	4,256,540	5,269,963	51,104	63,271	0.947	82,786,000	357,114	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
 India	830.7	3,291,398	11,745,260	2,342	8,358	0.645	1,334,221,000	3,287,263	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
 Indonesia	368.9	1,289,295	3,995,064	4,691	14,535	0.718	265,316,000	1,904,569	No	No	No	No	Yes
 Italy	1,047.4	2,058,330	2,972,091	34,777	50,216	0.892	60,756,000	301,336	No	No	Yes	No	No
 Japan	1,486.6	4,912,147	6,110,075	39,243	48,814	0.919	126,431,000	377,930	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
 South Korea	1,140.4	1,804,680	2,735,870	34,994	53,051	0.916	51,665,000	100,210	No	No	No	No	Yes
 Mexico	915.2	1,322,740	2,890,685	10,166	22,216	0.779	124,738,000	1,964,375	No	No	No	No	Yes
 Russia	687.5	1,829,050	4,365,443	12,575	30,013	0.824	146,850,200	17,098,242	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
 Saudi Arabia	369.1	1,040,166	2,002,542	28,759	55,368	0.854	33,203,000	2,149,690	No	No	No	No	No
 South Africa	187.8	426,166	937,964	6,979	15,361	0.709	57,420,000	1,221,037	No	No	No	Yes	No
 Turkey	391	692,380	3,212,072	8,081	37,488	0.820	71,867,000	783,562	No	No	No	No	Yes
 United Kingdom	1,157.1	3,376,003	3,751,845	49,761	55,301	0.932	66,466,000	242,495	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
 United States	4,278	25,346,805	25,346,805	76,027	76,027	0.926	328,116,000	9,833,517	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
 European Union		17,199,536	23,730,275	38,560	53,201	0.900	512,600,000	4,233,262	No	No	Yes	No	No

Invitee	Officeholder	State	Official title
 African Union (AU)	Macky Sall	 Senegal	President (Chairperson) since February 2022
 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Hun Sen	 Cambodia	Prime Minister (2022 chair)
	Lim Jock Hoi	N/A	Secretary-General
Financial Stability Board (FSB)	Randal K. Quarles	N/A	Chairperson
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Qu Dongyu	N/A	Director-General
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Guy Ryder	N/A	Director General
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Kristalina Georgieva	N/A	Managing Director
 Spain <sup>[43]</sup>	Pedro Sánchez	 Spain	Prime Minister
New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)	Paul Kagame	 Rwanda	President (chair)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Mathias Cormann	N/A	Secretary-General
 United Nations (UN)	António Guterres	N/A	Secretary-General
World Bank Group (WBG)	David Malpass	N/A	President
 World Health Organization (WHO)	Tedros Adhanom	N/A	Director General
 World Trade Organization (WTO)	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	N/A	Director General

## Permanent Guests to G 20

Q 53).In India, why are some nuclear reactors kept under "IAEA Safeguards" while others are not?

- a) Some use uranium and others use thorium
- b) Some use imported uranium and others use domestic supplies.
- c) Some are operated by foreign enterprises and others are operated by domestic enterprises
- d) Some are State-owned and others are privately

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- a) Some use uranium and others use thorium
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- d) Some are State-owned and others are privately owned

# Explanation

- The nuclear reactors in India are placed under IAEA safeguards *only if they are fueled by uranium procured from abroad.*
- There are *at present 22 operational reactors*, of which *14 are under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards* as these use imported fuel.
- India currently imports uranium from Russia, Kazakhstan and Canada.
- Plans are also afoot to procure the fuel from Uzbekistan and Australia.

# Explanation

- By placing the *reactors under the IAEA safeguards*, India gives the international *nuclear energy watchdog access* to them.
- This step was taken by the country in 2014 to demonstrate that its *nuclear energy programmed was for peaceful purposes*.
- It was a necessary step under the Indo -US nuclear deal.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

## What Are Safeguards & What role they Play?

- Safeguards are *activities by which the IAEA can verify* that a State is *living up to its international commitments* not to use nuclear programmes for nuclear-weapons purposes.
- The global *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)* and other treaties *against the spread of nuclear weapons* entrust the IAEA as the nuclear inspectorate.
- Today, the *IAEA safeguards nuclear material* and activities under agreements with more than 140 States.
- The IAEA's safeguards system *functions as a confidence-building measure.*



# Safeguards Agreements



1. Comprehensive safeguards agreements with non-nuclear-weapon State parties to the NPT
2. Voluntary offer safeguards agreements with the nuclear-weapon State parties to the NPT.
3. **Item-specific safeguards agreements with non-NPT States.**

# What is Additional Protocol?



- The Additional Protocol is **not a stand-alone agreement**, but rather a **protocol to a safeguards agreement** that provides additional tools for verification.
- In particular, it **significantly increases the IAEA's** ability to verify the **peaceful use of all nuclear material** in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements.
- In May 1997, the IAEA Board of Governors approved the Model Additional Protocol.
- The Model Additional Protocol was **designed for all States** that have **concluded any of the three types of safeguards agreements** with the IAEA.

# 2021

**Q 54). Consider the following statements in respect of the 32<sup>ND</sup> Summer Olympics:**

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this, Olympics.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 54). Consider the following statements in respect of the 32<sup>ND</sup> Summer Olympics:

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**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Statement 1 *is not correct*:

- The Olympic motto was amended to "*faster, higher, stronger - together*" during the International Olympic Committee's session in July 2021.
- The word "together" after a hyphen has been added to the earlier motto, which was made up of three Latin words -- Citius, Altius, Fortius, translating to "Faster Higher Stronger" in English.

# Explanation

## Statement 2 is correct:

- Under new IOC rules *first introduced for the Tokyo Games*, Olympic *host cities can hand-pick sports and propose them* for inclusion in those Games *if they are popular in that country* and add to the Games appeal.
- The Tokyo Olympics saw *six new sports that were not on the programmed in Rio*, out of which four made their debut, along with repackaged disciplines and the introduction of the mixed team events in traditional sports.
- Baseball and softball, surfing, skateboarding, karate and sports climbing will become part of the Olympic roster in Tokyo
- Additionally, the *Tokyo Olympics will also feature several existing sports in new forms in basketball and cycling*.

# Summer Olympics

- These are also known as the *Games of the Olympiad*, are a major international multi-sport event normally held once every four years.
- The inaugural Games took place in 1896 in Athens, Greece, and most recently the *2020 Summer Olympics were celebrated in 2021* in Tokyo, Japan.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) organizes the Games and oversees the host city's preparations.
- The Winter Olympic Games were created out of the success of the Summer Olympics.
- It is regarded as the largest and most prestigious multi-sport international event in the world.



2022

**Q 55. The term "Levant" often heard in the news roughly corresponds to which of the following regions ?**

- a) Region along the eastern Mediterranean shores
- b) Region along North African shores stretching from Egypt to Morocco
- c) Region along Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa
- d) The entire coastal areas of Mediterranean Sea

Q 55. The term "Levant" often heard in the news roughly corresponds to which of the following regions ?

- a) **Region along the eastern Mediterranean shores**
- b) Region along North African shores stretching from Egypt to Morocco
- c) Region along Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa
- d) The entire coastal areas of Mediterranean Sea

- Levant includes present-day *Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and most of Turkey.*
- The Levant is an old term referring to countries of the eastern Mediterranean.
- Some scholars include it in Cyprus and a small part of Turkey.
- But basically, the Levant has throughout history meant Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.
- This means Jordan, the West Bank (now under Israeli occupation) and Israel itself are part of the Levant.

# The LEVANT



# MEDITERRANEAN SEA



**Q 56. Consider the following countries :**

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

**Which of the above have borders with Afghanistan ?**

- a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Q 56. Consider the following countries :**

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

**Which of the above have borders with Afghanistan ?**

- a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 3, 4 and 5 only**
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5





**Q 57. Consider the following:**

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

**India is a member of which of the above?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 57. Consider the following:**

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

**India is a member of which of the above?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3**

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
- **Headquartered in Beijing, It commenced operations in January 2016.**
- India is a founding member of AIIB with the second-highest voting share after China.
- The **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)** is an informal political understanding among states that seek to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology.
- The regime was formed in 1987.
- **India became an official member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016. (35<sup>th</sup> Member of MTCR)**

The MTCR has 35 members.<sup>[26]</sup>

-  Argentina, 1993<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Australia, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Austria, 1991<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Belgium, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Bulgaria, 2004<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Brazil, 1995<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Canada, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Czech Republic, 1998<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Denmark, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Finland, 1991<sup>[26]</sup>
-  France, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Germany, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Greece, 1992<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Hungary, 1993<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Iceland, 1993<sup>[26]</sup>
-  India, 2016<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Ireland, 1992<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Italy, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Japan, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Luxembourg, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Netherlands, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  New Zealand, 1991<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Norway, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Poland, 1997<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Portugal, 1992<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Republic of Korea, 2001<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Russian Federation, 1995<sup>[26]</sup>
-  South Africa, 1995<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Spain, 1990<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Sweden, 1991<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Switzerland, 1992<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Turkey, 1997<sup>[26]</sup>
-  Ukraine, 1998<sup>[26]</sup>
-  United Kingdom, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>
-  United States, 1987<sup>[26]</sup>

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a transcontinental political, economic, security, and military alliance founded in 2001.
- On 9 June 2017, at the historic summit in Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full -fledged members.
- The SCO currently comprises Nine Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran).
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

# SCO: the path to expansion

- Participants
- Observers
- Dialogue partners

## Expansion history

- Founders
- Start of the acceptance procedure
- ⊙ Joining the SCO



Source: SCO, World Bank



Home > World > SCO to admit Iran as a full member; Belarus applied for membership:...

World

# SCO to admit Iran as a full member; Belarus applied for membership: SG Zhang Ming



# Additional Information

- There are four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia).
- There are six “Dialogue Partners” (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
- In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member.

# Members of SCO- **PICK TURKEY**

- P- Pakistan
- I- India
- C- China
- K- Kyrgyzstan
  
- T- Tajikistan
- U- Uzbekistan
- R- Russia
- K- Kazakhstan

# About SCO

- After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the then security and economic architecture in the Eurasian region dissolved and new structures had to come up.
- *Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kurguzstan (Kurguz Republic) and Tajikistan is popularly known as Shanghai Five.*
- They had come together in the post-Soviet era in 1996.
- In order to work on regional security reduction of border troops, and terrorism.



# About SCO

- Subsequently, a permanent intergovernmental international organisation called SCO was founded in June 2001.
- It is the Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Its membership was expanded to include India and Pakistan in 2017.

**Q 58. Consider the following statements:**

1. Vietnam has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world in the recent years.
2. Vietnam is led by a multi-party-political system.
3. Vietnam's economic growth is linked to its integration with global supply chains and focus on exports.
4. For a long time, Vietnam's low labour costs and stable exchange rates have attracted global manufacturers.
5. Vietnam has the most productive eservice sector in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 2 and 4
- b) 3 and 5
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 1 and 2

**Q 58. Consider the following statements:**

1. Vietnam has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world in the recent years.
2. Vietnam is led by a multi-party political system.
3. Vietnam's economic growth is linked to its integration with global supply chains and focus on exports.
4. For a long time, Vietnam's low labour costs and stable exchange rates have attracted global manufacturers.
5. Vietnam has the most productive eservice sector in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 2 and 4
- b) 3 and 5
- c) 1, 3 and 4**
- d) 1 and 2

- Vietnam is a one-party communist state, not a multi party parliamentary democracy. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- **Vietnam's open economic policy of recent years integrating into global supply chains has made the growth success story possible in recent years.**
- Vietnam's export-led growth strategy and global integration are among the key factors behind the country's remarkable achievements in growth and poverty.
- **Between 2002 and 2021, GDP per capita increased 3.6 times, reaching almost US\$3,700.**
- Poverty rates declined sharply from over 32 percent in 2011 to below 2 percent today.
- **Thanks to its solid foundations, the economy has proven resilient through different crises, the latest being COVID-19.**

- Vietnam was one of only a few countries to post GDP growth in 2020 when the pandemic hit.
- Vietnam is projected to be the fastest-growing internet economy in Southeast Asia in the next 10 years.
- **Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.**
- Thanks to an abundance of low-wage labour, Vietnam's manufacturing sector grew at a compound annual growth in the last decade.



- As the rest of East Asia developed and wages there rose, global manufacturers were lured by Vietnam's low labour costs and stable exchange rate.
- **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

- According to Asian Development Bank Report, e-services including digital financial services are at a very nascent stage in Vietnam.
- Vietnamese fintech companies raised a total of US\$375 million in the first nine months of 2021.
- This is putting the country at the 3rd position in fintech investment amount across ASEAN, behind only Singapore and Indonesia.
- Countries like Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia are the forefront in e-commerce productivity.
- Hence statement 5 is not correct.

**Q 59. With reference to the "United Nations Credentials Committee", consider the following statements:**

1. It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
2. It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year.
3. It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 3 only
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 3
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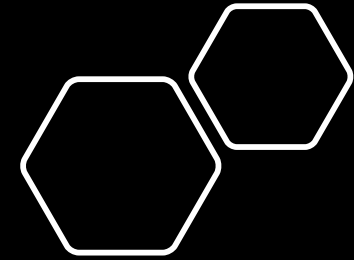
- a) 3 only**
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 2

# Explanation

- A Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly.
- It consists of nine members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.
- The Committee reports to the Assembly on the credentials of representatives.
- The president of the United Nations General Assembly is a position voted by representatives in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a yearly basis.
- **The president is the chair and presiding officer of the General Assembly.**



**Incumbent**  
**Csaba Körösi**  
since 13 September 2022



- The United Nations Credentials Committee is a committee of the United Nations General Assembly whose main purpose is to report to the Assembly regarding the credentials of the body's representatives.
- UN Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly.
- It consists of nine members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.
- **The Assembly meets in regular sessions from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.**
- It discusses specific issues through dedicated agenda items or sub-items, which lead to the adoption of resolutions.
- Hence statements 1 and 2 are not correct.

- The credentials of representatives and the names of members of the **delegation of each Member State are submitted** to the Secretary-General and are issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- The Committee is **mandated to examine the credentials** of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly thereon.
- Hence statement 3 is correct.



**Q 60. Which one of the following statements best describes the 'Polar Code'?**

- a) It is the international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters.
- b) It is the agreement of the countries around the North Pole regarding the demarcation of their territories in the polar region.
- c) It is a set of norms to be followed by the countries whose scientists undertake research studies in the North Pole and South Pole.
- d) It is a trade and security agreement of the member countries of the Arctic Council.

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- d) It is a trade and security agreement of the member countries of the Arctic Council.

# Explanation

The Polar Code is intended to cover the full range of shipping-related *matters relevant to navigation in waters surrounding the two poles.*

- Ship design,
- Construction and equipment
- Operational and Training concerns
- Search and Rescue
- The protection of the unique environment and eco-systems of the polar regions.

**The Polar Code entered into force on 1 January 2017.**

- The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters or Polar Code is an international regime adopted by the International Maritime Organization in 2014.
- **The Code sets out regulations for shipping in the polar regions, principally relating to ice navigation and ship design.**

**Q 61. With reference to the United Nations General Assembly, consider the following statements:**

1. The UN General Assembly can grant observe status to the non-member States.
2. Inter-governmental organisations can seek observer status in the UN General Assembly.
3. Permanent Observers in the UN General Assembly can maintain mission at the UN headquarters

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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- 22 November 1974: Non-member observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organization.
- In 2012, Palestine's observer status was changed from "non-member observer entity" to "**non-member observer state**", which many called "symbolic
- In some circumstances a state may elect to become an observer rather than full member.
- For example, to preserve its neutrality while participating in its work, Switzerland chose to remain a permanent non-member state observer from 1948 until it became a member in 2002.

- Non-Member States of the United Nations, which are members of *one or more specialized agencies, can apply for the status of Permanent Observer.*
- *ISA recently became an observer to UN but does not have a Mission at UN headquarters*



- Observer status is a privilege granted by some organizations to non-members to give them an ability to participate in the organization's activities.
- The United Nations General Assembly grants Permanent Observer Status to non-member states, international organisations and other entities.
- According to UN website, "observer status would be confined to states and intergovernmental organisations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly”.
- The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly considers all applications for observer status before they are considered in the plenary session.
- Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.

- The Permanent Observers may participate in the sessions and workings of the General Assembly and maintain missions at the U.N. headquarters.
- Hence statement 3 is correct.
- **In December 2021, United Nations General Assembly granted Observer status to International Solar Alliance.**

**Q 62. Consider the following statements:**

1. Bidibidi is a large refugee settlement in north -western Kenya.
2. Some people who fled from South Sudan civil war live in Bidibidi.
3. Some people who fled from civil war in Somalia live in Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 3 only

**Q 62. Consider the following statements:**

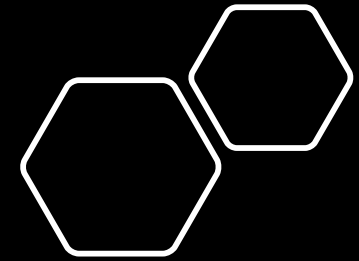
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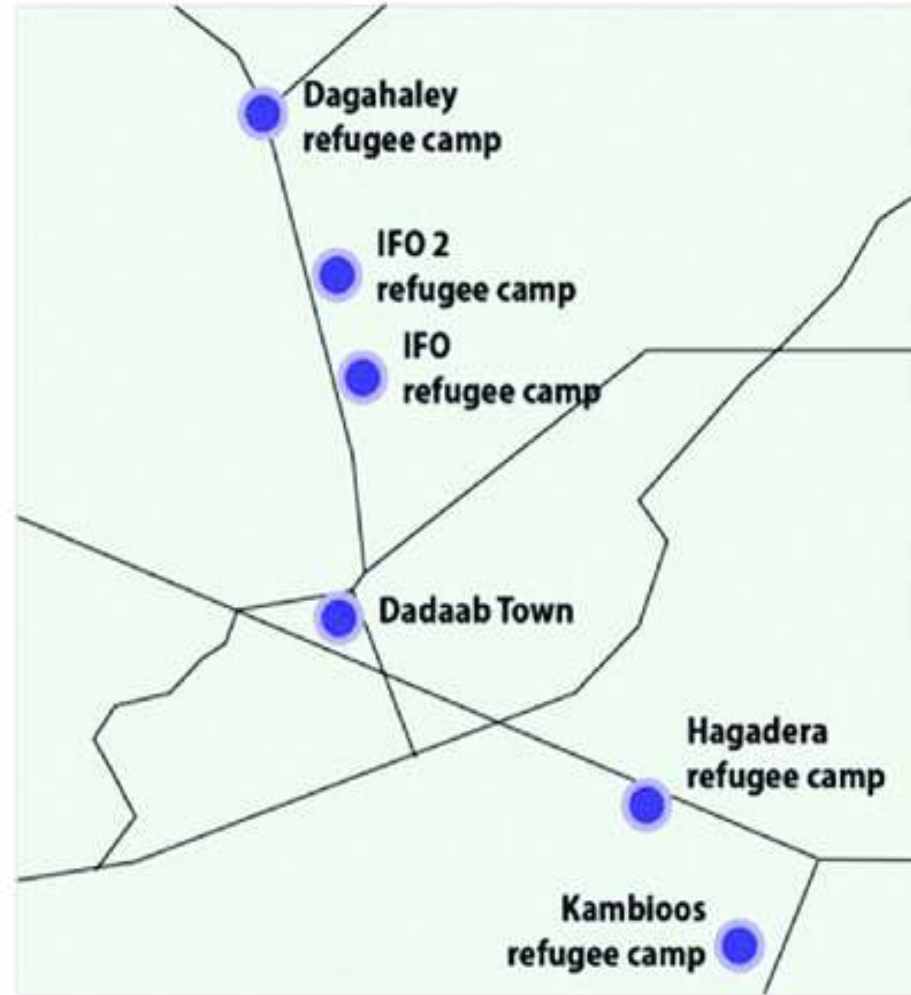
# Explanation

- **Bidibidi Refugee Settlement is a refugee camp in northwestern Uganda.**
- With over 270,000 South Sudanese refugees fleeing the ongoing civil war, as of early 2017 it was the largest refugee settlement in the world.
- As of 2018, that distinction was claimed by Kutapalong refugee camp for displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh.
- **Bidibidi was opened in 2016 as a refugee settlement**



# Explanation

- Dadaab is the site of a UNHCR base hosting 223,420 registered refugees and asylum seekers in three camps (Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo).
- As of 13 May 2019, it is the 3rd-largest such complex in the world.
- The center is run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and its operations are financed by foreign donors
- In 2013, **UNHCR, the governments of Kenya and Somalia** signed a *tripartite agreement facilitating the repatriation of Somali refugees at the complex.*





**Q 63. Consider the following countries:**

1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Croatia
4. Romania
5. Uzbekistan

**Which of the above are members of the Organization of Turkic States?**

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 5
- d) 3, 4 and 5

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- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 5**
- d) 3, 4 and 5

- Organization of Turkic States (then called the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States - Turkic Council) was established in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic States.
- **Its Four founding member states are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye.**
- In October 2019, Uzbekistan joined as a full member.
- Hence Option (C) is the correct answer.

- During the 8th summit in Istanbul (held on November 12, 2021), the council reformed into an organization.
- With the name Turkic Council being changed to *Organization of Turkic States*.
- Turkic countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.
- **Turkmenistan received the observer status at the 8th summit in Istanbul.** (November 2021)
- Overarching aim is promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic-speaking states.

## Languages of Romania

**Official**

**Romanian (>90%)**

**Minority**

**Hungarian, Romani, Ukrainian, German,  
Greek, Russian, Turkish, Tatar, Serbian,  
Slovak, Bulgarian, Croatian**

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# Emblem of Organization of Turkic States



**Q 64. With reference to the United National Convention on the Law of Sea, consider the following statements:**

1. A coastal state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baseline determined in accordance with the convention.
2. Ships of all states, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.
3. The Exclusive Economic Zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3**

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an **international agreement that establishes** a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.
- Every State has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit **not exceeding 12 nautical miles**, measured from baselines determined in accordance with this Convention.
- Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Subject to this Convention, ships of all States, whether coastal or land-locked, **enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.**
- Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The **exclusive economic zone shall not extend** beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- Hence statement 3 is correct.

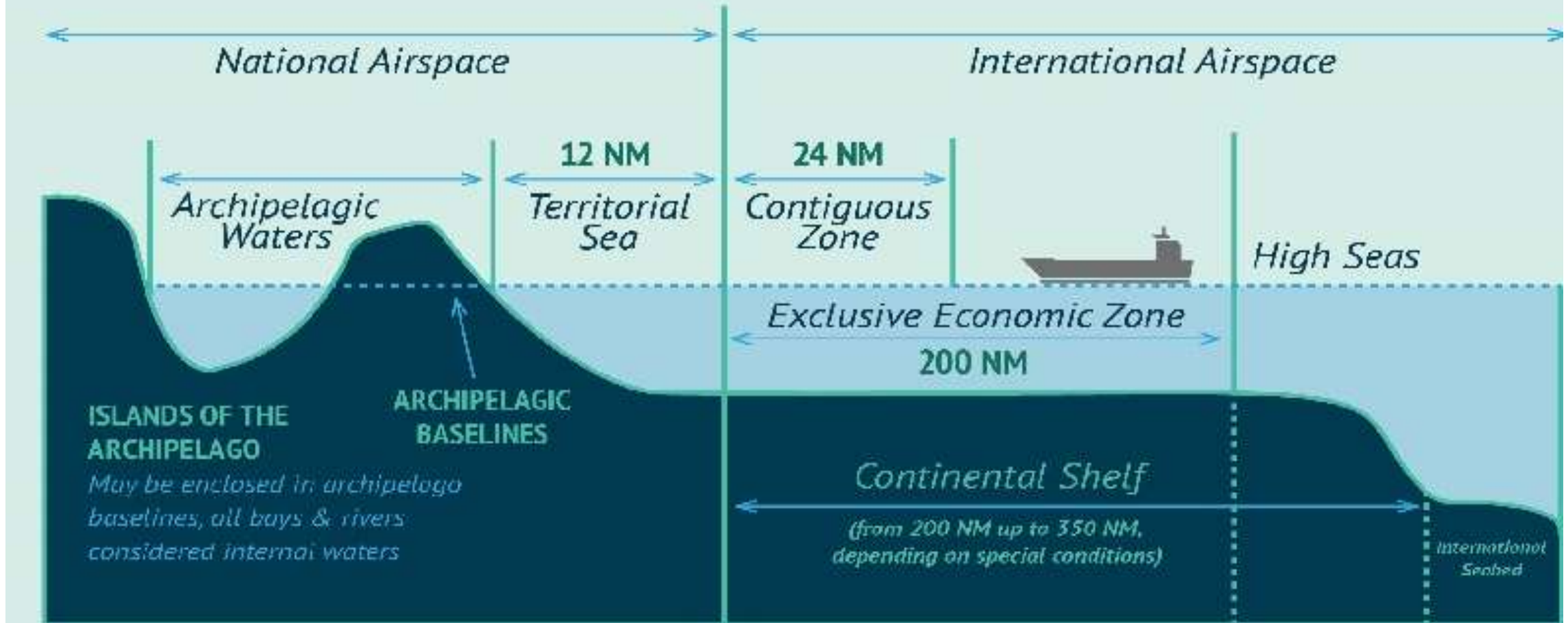
## Sea areas provided for by UNCLOS

The sea areas are:

1. internal waters
2. territorial waters
3. contiguous zone
4. exclusive economic zone (EEZ)
5. continental shelf
6. archipelagic waters.

- **What is an 'Innocent Passage'?**
- UNCLOS III defines innocent passage as the passage of a vessel passes through coastal states' waters under the following three conditions:
  1. The vessel is undertaking an **expeditious** passage
  2. The passage is conducted in a **continuous** manner
  3. The passage that is not "prejudicial to the peace, good order or security" of the coastal state.

# UNCLOS Maritime and Airspace Zones



**Q 65. Which one of the following statements best reflects the issue with Senkaku Islands, sometimes mentioned in the news?**

- a) It is generally believed that they are artificial islands made by a country around South China Sea.
- b) China and Japan engage in maritime disputes over these islands in East China Sea.
- c) A permanent American military base has been set up there to help Taiwan to increase its defence capabilities.
- d) Through International Court of Justice declared them as no man's land, some South-East Asian countries claim them

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- d) Through International Court of Justice declared them as no man's land, some South-East Asian countries claim them

- The Senkaku Islands are a **group of uninhabited islands** in the East China Sea.
- They are known in mainland China as the **Diaoyu Islands**.
- The islands are the focus of a territorial dispute between **Japan and China**.
- China claims the discovery and ownership of the islands from the 14th century, while **Japan maintained ownership** of the islands from 1895 until its surrender at the end of World War II.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**



# Japanese Claim

- **The East China is a region of high strategic value.**
- Overall, the geopolitical priorities identified by Japan, China and the US towards the Senkaku Islands have led to an increase in the military presence in the region.



SOUTH KOREA  
Sea of Japan  
JAPAN

Yellow Sea

CHINA

East China Sea  
Inleodo

Pacific Ocean

Chunxiao gas field  
(Approximate area)

OKINAWA

SENKAKU/ DIAOYU ISLANDS

TAIWAN

## Q 66 Consider the following pairs:

Country	Important reason for being in the news recently
1. Chad	- Setting up of permanent military base by China.
2. Guinea	- Suspension of Constitution and Government by military
3. Lebanon	- Severe and prolonged economic depression
4. Tunisia	- Suspension of Parliament by President

**How many pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

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- On 5 September 2021, **President of Guinea Alpha Condé** was captured by the country's armed forces in a coup d'état after gunfire in the capital, Conakry.
- Military leaders detain president, declaring dissolution of government and suspension of constitution.
- The African Union (AU) declared that it was suspending Guinea's membership in the bloc after a military junta overthrew the government. Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.

- Lebanon is grappling with a deep economic crisis after successive governments piled up debt following the **1975-1990 civil war**.
- Lebanon's financial collapse since 2019 is a story of how a vision for *rebuilding a nation once known as the Switzerland of the Middle East*.
- Tunisia- Kais Saied July 25 last year *sacked the government, froze the assembly* and seized wide-ranging powers.

- There are recurring claims that China is building, or attempting to create, a string of military bases around the world.
- **In early December 2021, media reports alleged that China was trying to build its first Atlantic military base in Equatorial Guinea.**
- **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**



BIOKO □ Malabo

CAMEROON

EQUATORIAL GUINEA □ Bata

*Atlantic  
Ocean*

CORISCO

GABON

ANNABON





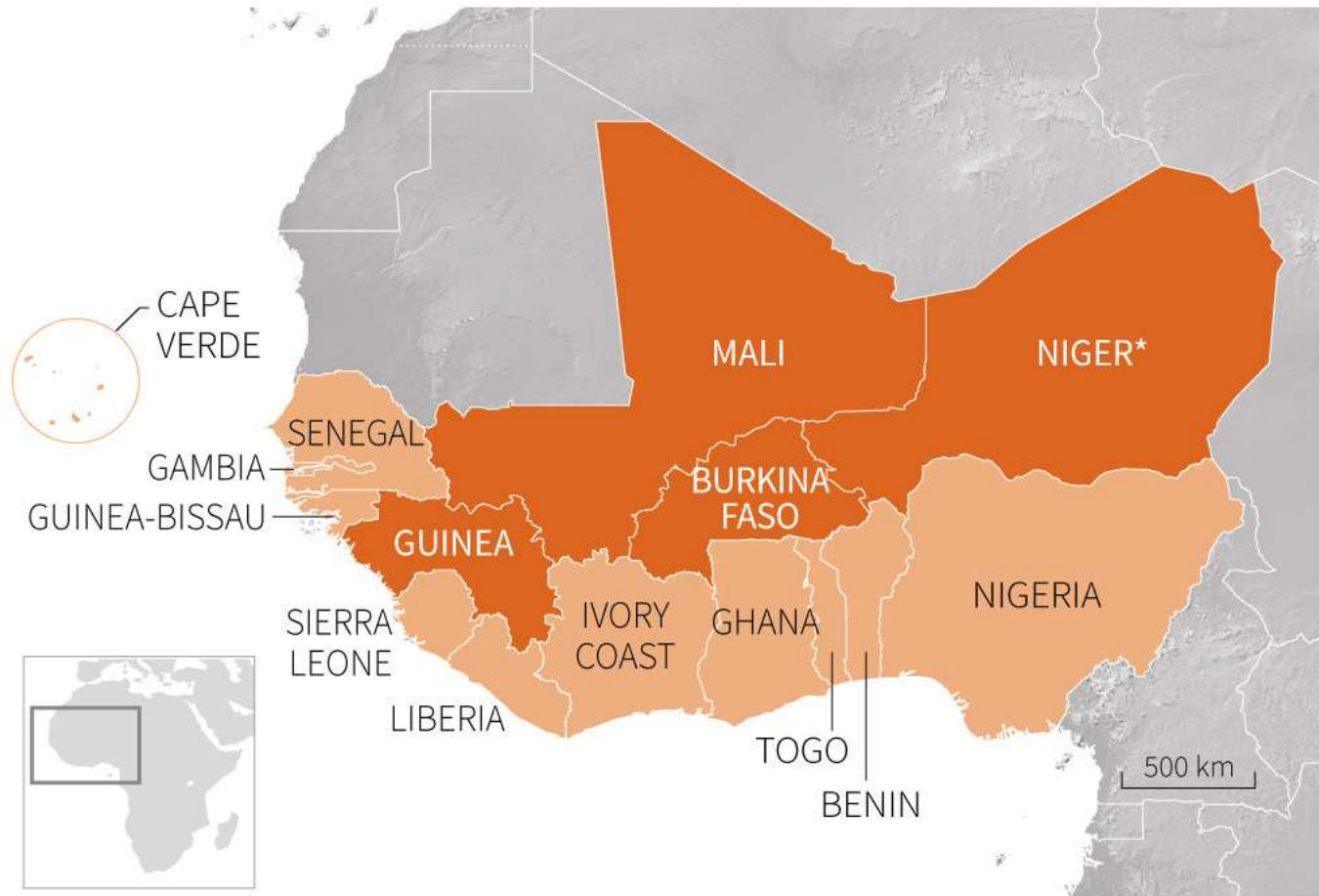
# Equatorial Guinea

- Equatorial Guinea is a small country on the west coast of Africa which struck oil in 1995, and which since has been cited as a textbook case of the resource curse - or the paradox of plenty.
- The country consists of the mainland, called Rio Muni, and five islands including Bioko, where the capital Malabo is located.
- **The former Spanish colony is now one of sub-Saharan's biggest oil producers, but a large proportion of the population still lives in poverty.**

# Economic Community of West African States

15-member countries, including four affected by coups since 2020

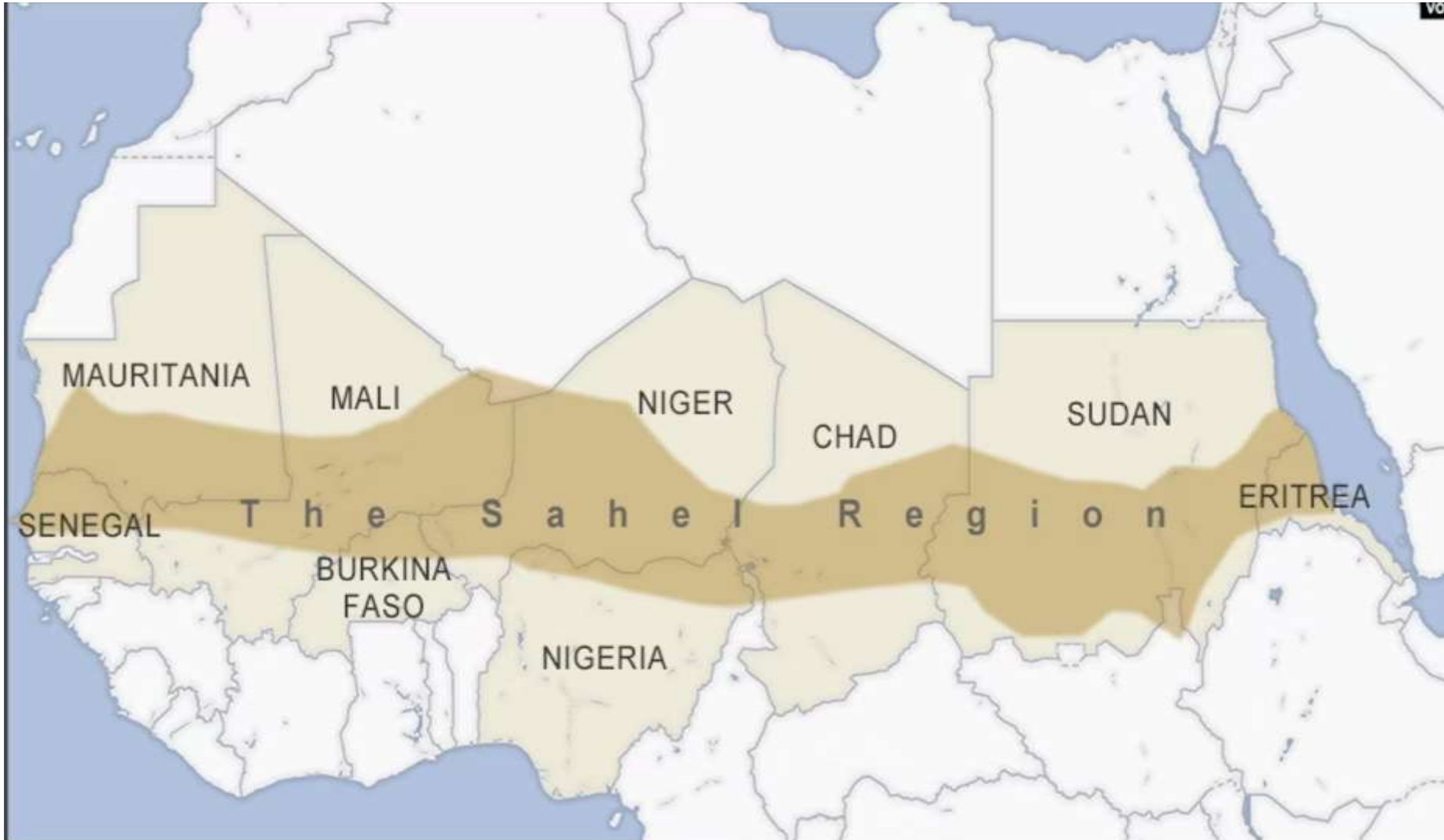
■ Suspended and/or sanctioned after a coup



Source: ECOWAS

\*Suspension of commercial and financial transactions





## 7 Military Coups took place in Africa in Last 3 years

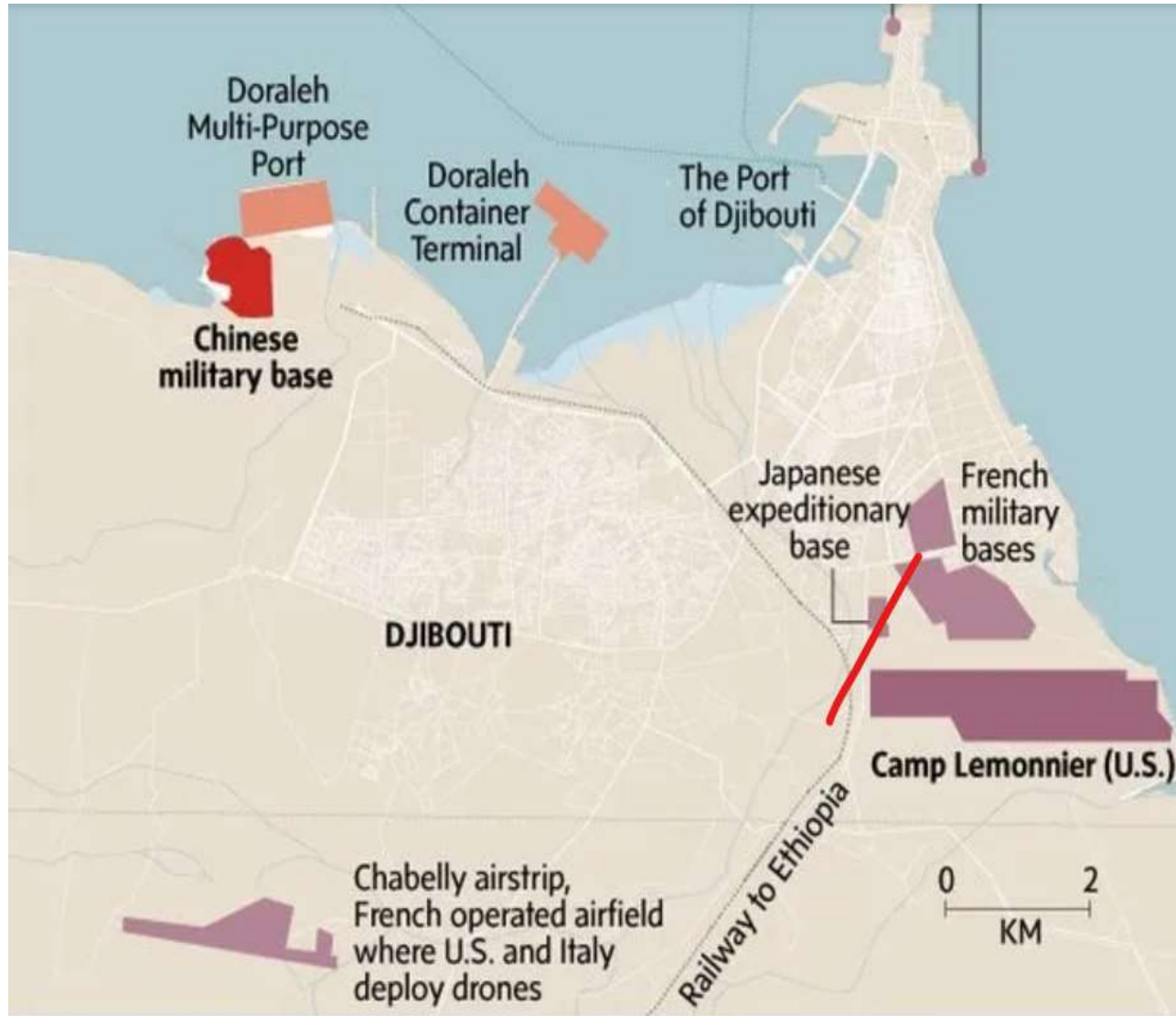
- Niger
- Burkina Faso (Twice)
- Sudan
- Guinea
- Mali (Twice)

# Additional Information

- According to the World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor (LEM), Lebanon is suffering from a dangerous depletion of resources, including human capital, with brain drain becoming an increasingly desperate option.
- World Bank also said that Lebanon is in a Deliberate Depression with Unprecedented Consequences for its Human Capital, Stability, and Prosperity.
- Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.

# Strategic Military Estate

- Djibouti is known as the **‘most valuable military real estate in the world’**.
- It hosts the military bases of the **United States (US), China, France, Japan and European Union**.
- During 2007-12 Piracy was at its peak in the Gulf of Aden.



**Q 67. Consider the following pairs:**

**Region often mentioned in the news Country**

1. Anatolia – Turkey
2. Amhara – Ethiopia
3. Cabo Delgado – Spain
4. Catalonia – Italy

**How many pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs



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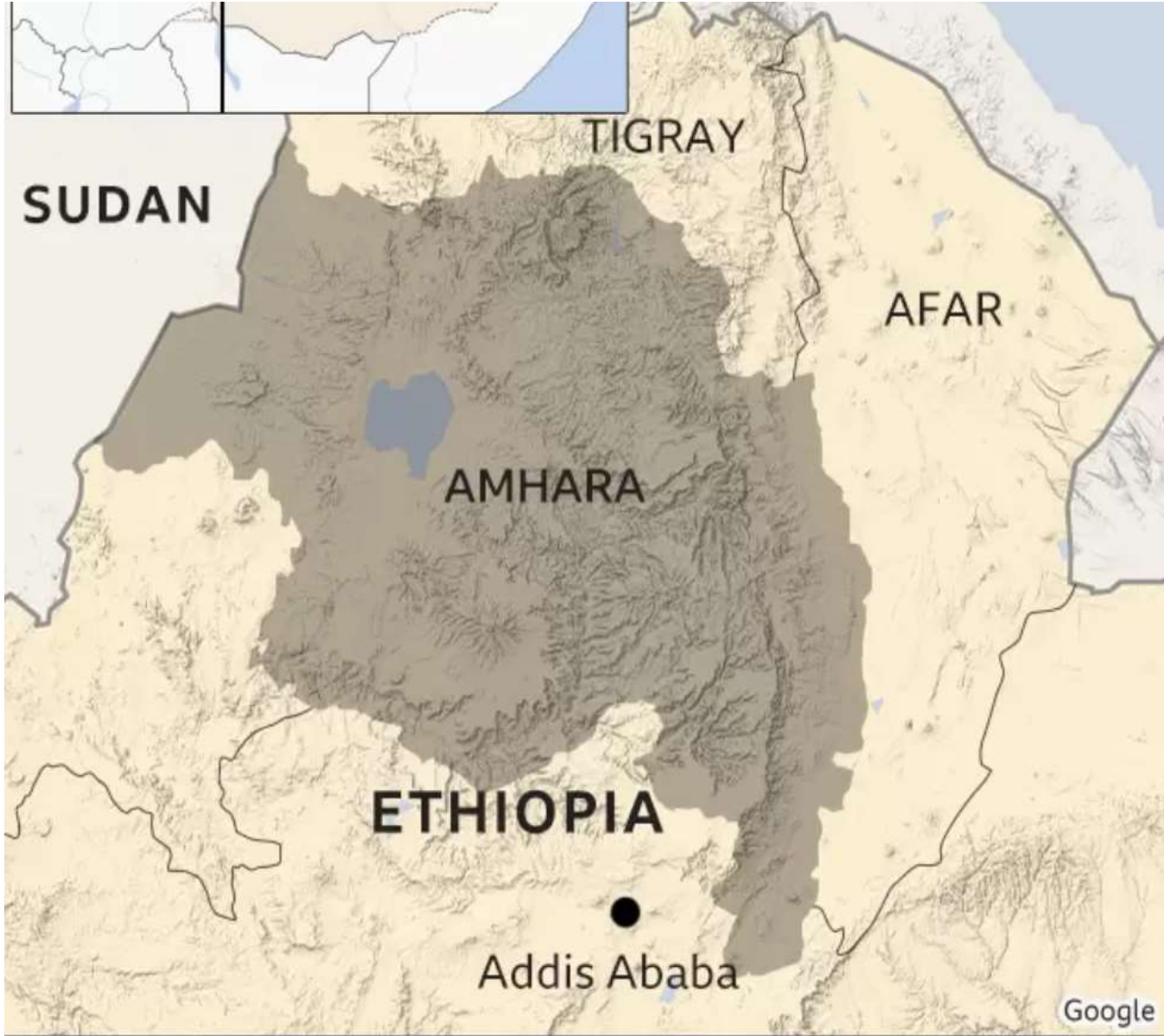
**How many pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs**
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

- Anatolia is the peninsula of land that today constitutes the Asian portion of Turkey.
- Because of its location at the point where the continents of Asia and Europe meet, Anatolia was, from the beginnings of civilization, a crossroads for numerous peoples migrating or conquering from either continent.
- **Hence Pair 1 is Correctly Matched.**

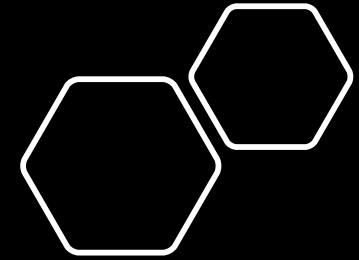


- The Amhara Region is located in the northwestern part of Ethiopia.
- It is the homeland of Amhara people.
- Amhara is the site of the largest inland body of water in Ethiopia, Lake Tana.
- Amhara region is often mentioned in the news due to historical conflicts among Oromo, Amhara and Tigrayan groups of Ethiopia.
- **Hence Pair 2 is Correctly matched.**

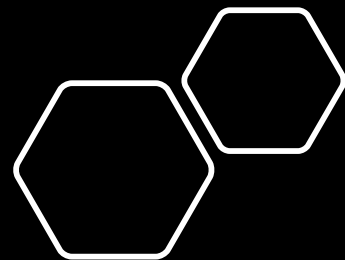


Google

BBC



- Cabo Delgado is the northernmost province of Mozambique.
- It was in news because Mozambique's Al-Shabaab extremist group, has been carrying out attacks in the country's most northern province, Cabo Delgado, since 2017.
- **Hence Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**



- Catalonia occupies a triangular area in the northeastern corner of Spain.
- It is bordered by France and Andorra to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the east, the autonomous community of Valencia to the south, and the autonomous community of Aragon to the west.
- Recently, mass protests broke out across Spain's Catalonia region after its former separatist leader Carles Puigdemont was arrested.
- **Hence pair 4 is not correctly matched.**





# 2023

**Q 68. Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Regions often mentioned in news</b>	<b>Reason for being in news</b>
1. North Kivu and Ituri	War between Armenia and Azerbaijan
2. Nagorno-Karabakh	Insurgency in Mozambique
3. Kherson and Zaporizhzhia	Dispute between Israel and Lebanon

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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- d) None**

### CONFLICT IN THE EASTERN DRC



# Explanation

- As of October 30, the **UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM)** stated that **the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has witnessed a surge in internal displacement, **affecting 6.9 million individuals.**
- **The conflict with the rebel group Mouvement du 23 Mars (M23)** has led to the displacement of nearly one million people in the eastern province of North Kivu



# Current Situation

- Over 120 insurgent groups operate in **North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika**, causing violence over territory and resources.
- The **M23 rebel group**, resurfacing in November 2021, intensified conflict by seizing towns, leading to a failed ceasefire in November 2022

# Humanitarian Challenges

- According to the **World Food Programme (WFP)**, the crisis has left more than 1.1 million people in need of food support across North Kivu, Ituri, and South Kivu.
- And finally, the feeble international response. International actors have failed to make a considerable effort to address the crisis.
- According to organizations such as **WFP and the Norwegian Refugee Council**, **lack of funding** is a major challenge in assisting Congolese people facing hunger, starvation and humanitarian crises.

# What is Nagorno Karabakh?

- Nagorno-Karabakh is a **landlocked, mountainous** and forested region with a population of around 150,000, falling within the boundaries of Azerbaijan.
- Nagorno-Karabakh, called Artsakh in Armenian.
- It hosts a predominantly ethnic Armenian population with an Azeri minority.
- Nagorno-Karabakh has been part of Azerbaijan territory since the Soviet era.
- When the Soviet Union began to collapse in the late 1980s.
- Armenia's regional parliament voted for the region's transfer to Armenia.



# Explanation



Q 69. Area of conflict mentioned in news located

1. Donbas :

2. Kachin :

3. Tigray :

Country where it is

Syria

Ethiopia

North Yemen

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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Country where it is located

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3. Tigray :

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The Map of Myanmar



# Ethiopia's Tigray Crisis



**Q 70. Consider the following statements about G-20**

1. The G-20 group was originally established as a platform for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss the international economic and financial issues.
2. Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Q 71. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:**

Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

**Statement-II:**

The 'Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and Arab League.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
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- c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect**
- d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

# Arab Peace Initiative

- This initiative is a 10-sentence proposal for an end to the Arab–Israeli conflict that was endorsed by the Arab League in 2002 at the Beirut Summit and re-endorsed at the 2007 and at the 2017 Arab League summits.
- The initiative offers normalization of relations by the Arab world with Israel, in return for a full withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories (including the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights, and Lebanon)

# Arab Peace Initiative

- The Israeli government under Ariel Sharon rejected the initiative as a "non-starter" because it required Israel to withdraw to pre-June 1967 borders.
- In 2015, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed tentative support for the Initiative, but in 2018, he rejected it as a basis for future negotiations with the Palestinians.

## Q 72. Consider the following statements:

### **Statement-I:**

Recently, the United States of America (USA) and the European Union (EU) have launched the Trade and Technology Council'.

### **Statement-II**

The USA and the EU claim that through this they are trying to bring technological progress and physical productivity under their control

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
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# Trade & Technology Council

- The European Union and the United States are partners strongly committed to driving digital transformation and cooperating on new technologies based on their shared democratic values, including respect for human rights.



# Trade & Technology Council

- The EU-US Trade and Technology Council serves as a forum for the United States and European Union to coordinate approaches to key global trade, economic, and technology issues and to deepen transatlantic trade and economic relations based on these shared values.
- It was established during the EU-US Summit on 15 June 2021 in Brussels.

**Q 73. In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?**

- a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- d) Successful coups

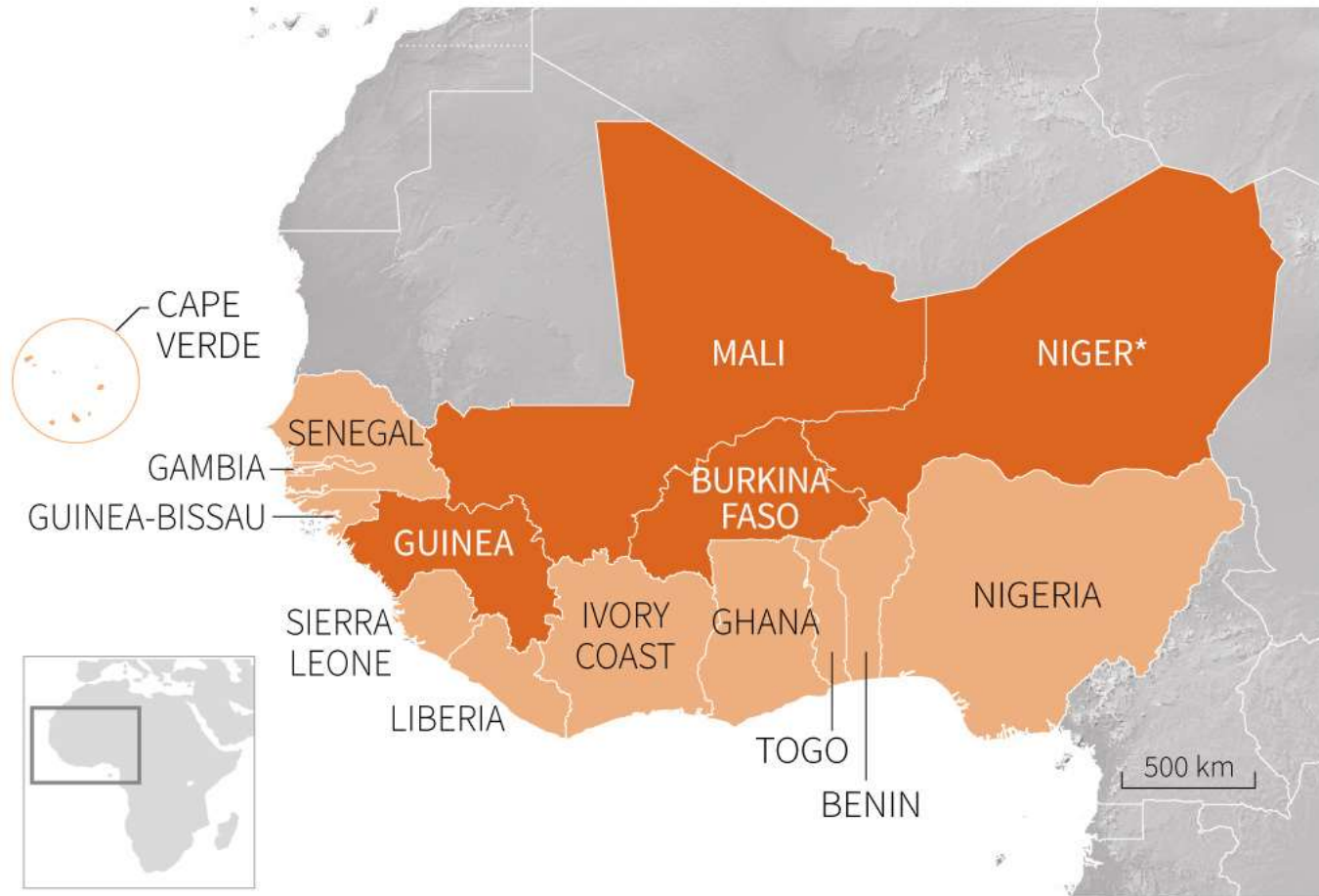
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# Economic Community of West African States

15-member countries, including four affected by coups since 2020

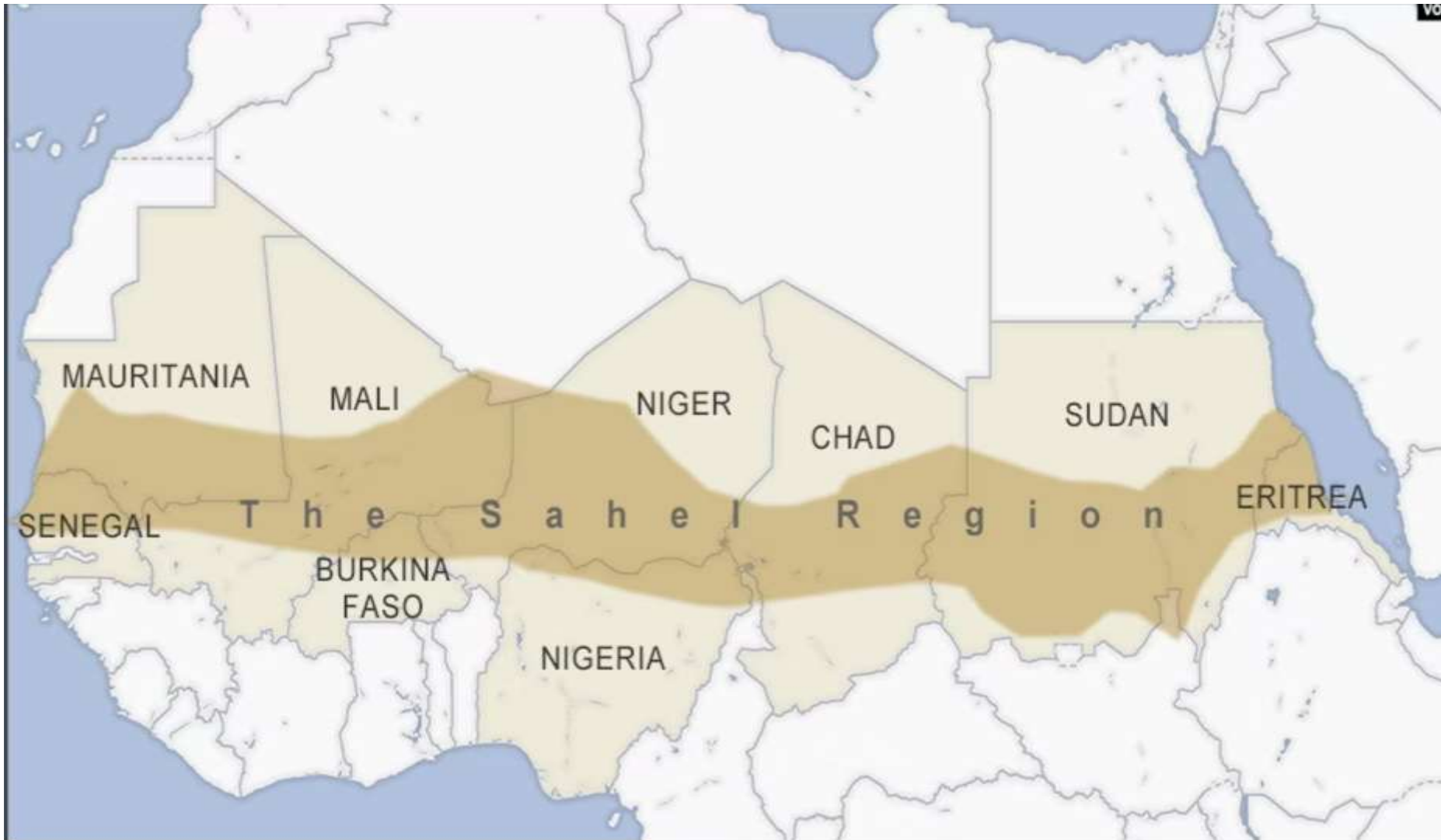
■ Suspended and/or sanctioned after a coup



Source: ECOWAS

\*Suspension of commercial and financial transactions





# 7 Military Coups took place in Africa in Last 3 years

- Niger
- Burkina Faso (Twice)
- Sudan
- Guinea
- Mali (Twice)

**Q 74. Consider the following statements:**

1. Recently, all the countries of the United Nations have adopted the first-ever compact for international migration the 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).
2. The objectives and commitments stated in the GCM are binding on the UN member countries.
3. The GCM addresses internal migration or internally displaced people also in its objectives and commitments.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- This is the first intergovernmental agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.
- It was adopted at an intergovernmental conference on migration in Marrakesh, Morocco on 10 December 2018.

# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- The Global Compact is grounded in international human rights law and reaffirms States' commitment to respecting, protecting, and fulfilling all human rights for all migrants. The Global Compact rests on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and each of the nine core international human rights law instruments, and contains a Guiding Principle on human rights.

# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- Global Compact is an important framework for improved migration governance that puts migrants and their human rights at the centre and that provides a significant opportunity to strengthen human rights protection for all migrants, regardless of status.
- **The Compact is a "non-binding cooperative framework", meaning it has limited weight under International Law**

# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- On 10 December 2018, the document was approved by 164 nations during the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- On 19 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the compact through a vote.

# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- 152 countries voted in favor of the resolution to endorse it, while the United States, Hungary, Israel, Czech Republic and Poland voted against it.
- 12 countries abstained from the vote.

# Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- The agreement makes no distinction between illegal and legal migrants, but does distinguish repeatedly between regular and irregular migrants, affirms the right of states to distinguish between regular and irregular migration status, and commits signatories to "preventing irregular migration".

**Q 75. Which one of the following countries has been suffering from decades of civil strife and food shortages and was in news in the recent past for its very severe famine?**

- a) Angola
- b) Costa Rica
- c) Ecuador
- d) Somalia

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# Crisis In Horn of Africa

# Context

- The Horn of Africa is experiencing a **food and health crisis**.
- African nations are working to increase food security and nutritional resilience throughout the continent.
- For this reason, **the African Union proclaimed 2022 to be the Year of Nutrition (AU)**.

# The Horn of Africa

- Also known as the **Somali Peninsula**, is a large peninsula and geopolitical region in East Africa.
- Located on the **easternmost part** of the African mainland, it is the **fourth largest peninsula** in the world.
- The Horn of Africa is believed to be the **birthplace of humanity**.
- The oldest known **australopithecine remains**, dating back to 3.2 million years ago, were found in the **Afar Triangle** in Ethiopia in 1974.

# The Horn of Africa

- The Horn of Africa's recent history has been filled with **conflict, dictatorship, and instability.**
- Horn of Africa includes **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.**

# The Horn of Africa



# Crisis

- Over Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, a crisis has been building for years.
- Another failed rainy season this year has brought the disaster to a breaking point, **affecting at least 36.4 million people and continuing to rise.**
- Food hunger has a long history in the HOA area.
- **The area experienced two food crises in the last ten years, in 2011 and again in 2017–18.**
- A 6<sup>th</sup> unsuccessful season in March–May 2023 is a real possibility if the area continues to get below-average rainfall.

## Q 76. Consider the following countries:

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

**How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) Only five



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2. Czech Republic
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How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

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- d) Only five



# Ukraine Land Border- 7 Countries

- Poland, Slovakia, **Hungary, Romania,** Moldova, Russia, and Belarus.

**Q 77. With reference to India's projects on connectivity, consider the following statements:**

1. East-West Corridor under Golden Quadrilateral Project Connects Dibrugarh and Surat.
2. Trilateral Highway connects Moreh in Manipur and Chiang Mai in Thailand via Myanmar.
3. Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor Connects Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh with Kunming in China.

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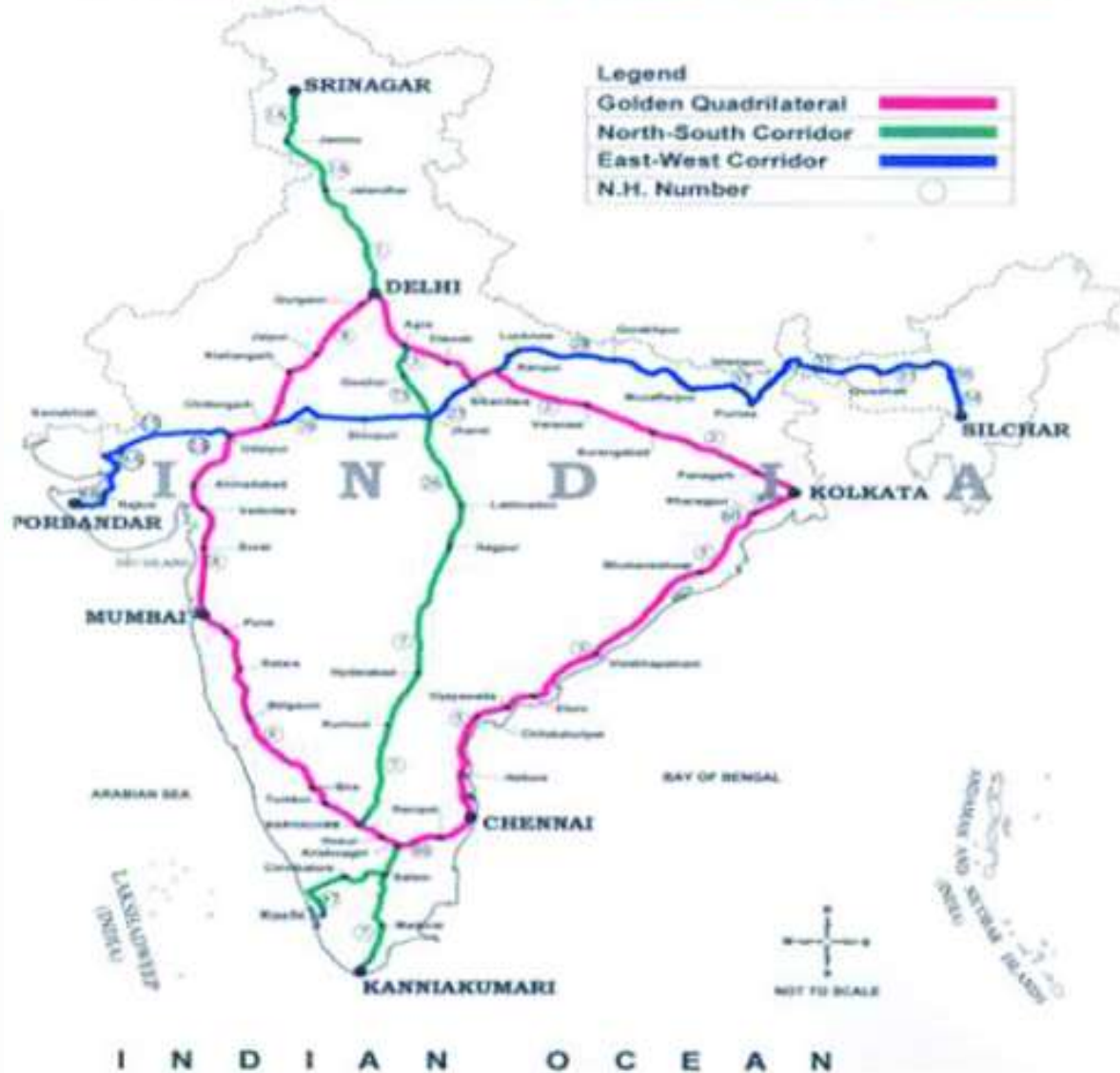
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## NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



## Route of the BCIM Economic Corridor





