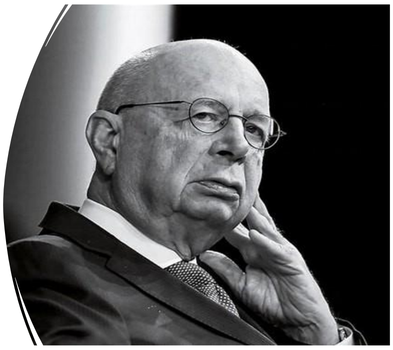
International Organizations

Context

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting Was conducted from January 20 to 24 in Davos, Switzerland.
- Attendees included European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, China's Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, and other leaders in business and politics.

Klaus Scwab

- German professor Klaus Schwab founded the WEF.
- He founded WEF in 1971, originally known as the European Management Forum.
- It introduced the concept of "stakeholder capitalism.

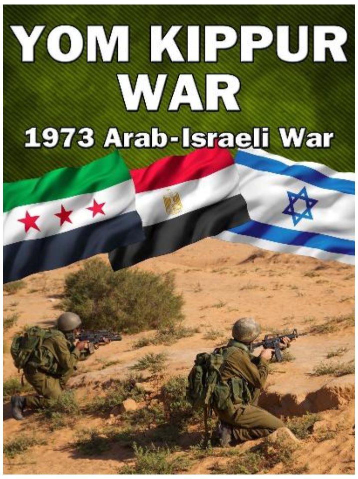


Stakeholder Capitalism

- It is a form of capitalism in which companies do not only optimize short-term profits for shareholders, but seek long term value creation, by taking into account the needs of all their stakeholders, and society at large.

Agenda @ WEF

- Events in 1973, namely the collapse of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate mechanism and the Arab-Israeli War, saw the Annual Meeting expand its focus from management to economic and social issues.



Agenda @ WEF

- In 1975 , the organisation introduced a system of membership for 'the 1,000 leading companies of the world'.

- The European Management Forum was the first non-governmental institution in 1979 – the same year China and the US established diplomatic ties.

Stakeholders @ Davos

- Davos brings together some 3,000 participants (including paying members and selected invitees), among whom are investors, business leaders, political leaders, economists, celebrities and journalists, for up to five days to discuss global issues across 500 sessions.

Funding of WEF

- The WEF is largely funded by its partnering corporations. These are generally global enterprises with annual turnover greater than $5 billion.

Diplomacy in Action At Davos

- East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (1989)

Idea of G20 Was Born @ WEF Summit in 1998

Agenda WEF- 2025

- A perfect storm of challenges — rising global temperatures, economic instability and geopolitical tensions — demands bold action and collaboration.
- At the heart of this year's agenda is its theme, Resilience and Renewal: **Pathways to a Sustainable Future.**
- The spotlight will be on decarbonisation efforts, water security and the equitable distribution of resources.
- Another distinguishing feature of the 2025 summit is its expanded emphasis on youth and grassroots voices.
- Terms like green energy transition, circular economy, and net zero emissions are commonplace in the summit's discussions and its focus aligns closely with directives given by the UN, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reports Published by WEF

SERIES

Global Risks Report

The annual Global Risks Report explores some of the most severe risks we may face in the coming years. Underpinned by the Forum's Global Risks Perception Survey, the report brings together leading insights from over 1,200 experts across the world.

Latest edition: 2025
16 editions

SERIES

Global Cybersecurity Outlook

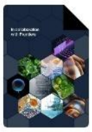
The Global Cybersecurity Outlook reports examine the cybersecurity trends that will impact our economies and societies in the year to come.

Latest edition: 2025
4 editions

SERIES

Top 10 Emerging Technologies

The annual Top 10 Emerging Technologies report highlights the technologies set to positively impact society within the next three to five years. The report provides a qualitative assessment of each technology's potential impact on people and the planet.

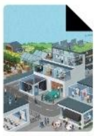


Latest edition: 2024
7 editions

SERIES

Future of Jobs

The annual Future of Jobs Report explores how jobs and skills will evolve. The report is based on unique survey data that details the expectations of a cross-section of the world's largest employers related to how socio-economic and technology trends will shape the workplace of the future.



Latest edition: 2025
5 editions

SERIES

Global Gender Gap Report

The annual Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

Latest edition: 2024
16 editions

SERIES

Chief Economists Outlook

The Chief Economists Outlook summarizes the emerging contours of the current economic environment. The quarterly report incorporates the latest policy research and the results of a Forum survey with leading chief economists from both the public and private sectors.

Latest edition: 2025
13 editions

SERIES

Travel & Tourism Development Index

The World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index provides a strategic benchmarking tool for business, governments, international organizations and others to develop the Travel & Tourism sector.

SERIES

Fostering Effective Energy Transition

The annual Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report uses the Energy Transition Index (ETI) to benchmark 120 countries on their current energy system performance, focusing on balancing equity, security and sustainability, and on their transition readiness.

SERIES

New Nature Economy

These reports provide pathways for business to be part of the transition to a nature-positive economy.

WEF Gender Gap Report- 2025

Global Gender Gap Report 2025

- The Global Gender Gap Report 2025 rev ealthat the global gender gap has closed by 68.8%, with full parity still projected t o take 123 years at the current rate of pr ogress.
- India ranked 131st out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum, down from 129th in 2024, with a gender parity score of 64.1%,
- The report comprehensively evaluated gender parity across 148 countries.

- Published annually since 2006, it is the longest-standing global index for assessing gender equality, measuring countries' progress in closing gender gaps across 4 key dimensions:
    - Economic Participation and Opportunity
    - Educational Attainment
    - Health & Survival
    - Political Empowerment
- Each dimension is scored on a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 represents full gender parity and 0 denotes complete inequality.
- The index aims to act as a **strategic benchmarking tool**, enabling countries to assess and compare gender disparities.

Global Gender Gap Report 2025-India

- Achieving gender parity by 2030 would require a collective investment of $360 billion per year.
- **Targeted interventions** and ensuring equitable access to emerging technological competencies are needed.
- Businesses need to have effective diversity, equity and inclusion policies and upskilling.

Financial Action Task Force

More on FATF

- The FATF currently has **39 members**.
- **The decision-making body of the FATF is known as its plenary**, which **meets thrice a year**.
- Its meetings are attended by **206 countries of the global network**, including members, and observer organisations.
- **World Bank**, some offices of the United Nations and regional development banks are **observer organizations** within the FATF.

The 39 Members of the FATF

The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.

>> FATF Heads of Delegation

Argentina	France	Japan	Russian Federation
Australia	Germany	Republic of Korea	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Greece	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belgium	*Gulf Co-operation Council*	Malaysia	South Africa
Brazil	Hong Kong, China	Mexico	Spain
Canada	Iceland	Netherlands, Kingdom of	Sweden
China	India	New Zealand	Switzerland
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	Türkiye
European Commission	Israel	Portugal	United Kingdom
Finland	Italy		United States

3 Mandates of FATF

1. Anti-money laundering (AML)
2. Combating financing of terrorism (CFT)
3. Proliferation Financing (PF)

Grey List:

- Countries that are **considered safe haven** for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.

- This inclusion **serves as a warning** to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Blacklist:

- Countries known as **Non-Cooperative Countries** or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist.
- These **countries support terror funding** and money laundering activities.
- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- Myanmar has been placed on the blacklist from the grey list
- Myanmar has failed to address a large number of strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter terrorist-financing systems.
- Myanmar has become the third country, after North Korea and Iran, to be blacklisted by the FATF.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- FATF member nations include 39 nations, which include the **United States, India, China, Saudi Arabia**, and European countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, as well as the **European Union**.
- Ukraine is not one of the members.
- FATF was founded in July 1989 by a **Group of Seven (G-7) Summit** that took place in Paris, initially to investigate and develop anti-money laundering measures.
- The FATF enlarged its mandate in October 2001 to include efforts to fight terrorist financing as well as money laundering.
- Its secretariat is based at **the OECD.**

Latest News on FATF

- On 23 February 2024, the UAE was removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) list of "Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring", the so-called "grey list".
- The UAE had been on the grey list since its inclusion on 4 March 2022.
- At its October 2023 plenary meeting, the FATF recognised that the UAE had taken various actions to improve its overall AML/CFT compliance.
- On a regulatory level, the UAE has implemented several key reforms since its inclusion on the grey list.

Latest News on FATF- 2025

- As of February 2025, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has updated its list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring, commonly known as the "grey list."
- This list includes countries actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing

Addition to Grey List

- Laos: Despite legislative amendments in 2024 to align with FATF standards, Laos has struggled with implementation and enforcement, particularly in financial sector oversight, prosecutorial effectiveness, and regulatory compliance.
- Nepal: Similar to Laos, Nepal made legislative changes in 2024 but faces challenges in effective implementation and enforcement of anti-money laundering measures.

Removal from Grey List

- **Philippines**: The FATF recognized the Philippines' significant progress in improving its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures, leading to its removal from the grey list.

FATF as on November 2025

- **Four African countries were removed** from the FATF's *List of Jurisdictions Under Increased Monitoring* (commonly known as the *grey list*):
  - Burkina Faso
  - Mozambique
  - Nigeria
  - South Africa
- Their removal reflects progress in anti–money laundering and counter–terrorist financing (AML/CFT) frameworks

Mutual Evaluations

- The plenary adopted the first mutual evaluation reports under the FATF's new risk-based and time-bound assessment methodology, covering:
  - Belgium
  - Malaysia
- These reports focus on real-world outcomes in fighting money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring - 24 October 2025

- Algeria
- Angola
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Haiti
- Kenya
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Lebanon
- Monaco
- Namibia
- Nepal
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Virgin Islands (UK)
- Yemen

Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring - 24 October 2025

Publication details

Language
English, French

Country
Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Monaco, Namibia, Nepal, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (UK), Yemen

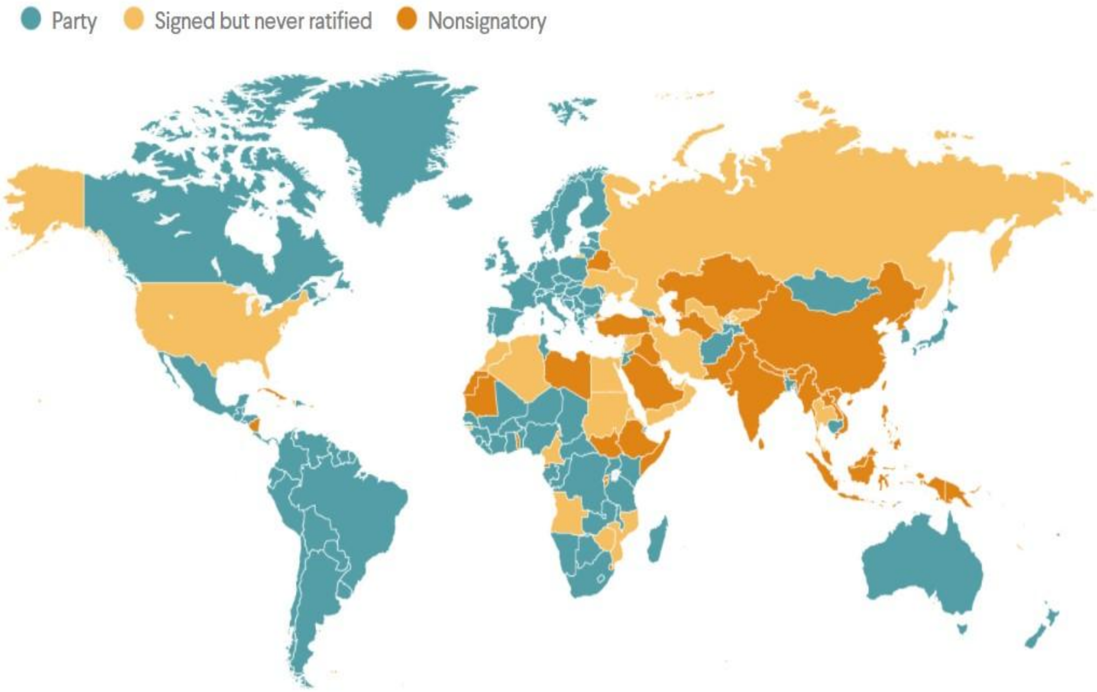
NO LONGER SUBJECT TO FATF INCREASED MONITORING
Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa

International Criminal Court

What is ICC?

- The ICC was established under a 1998 treaty called the "**Rome Statute**".
- Its headquarter is situated in **The Hague, Netherlands.**

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, **tries individuals** charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: **genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression**.
- ICC's jurisdiction and prosecutions:
  - Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which deals with countries and inter-state disputes, the ICC prosecutes individuals.
  - Additionally, the offences should be committed either in a country that ratified the agreement or by a national of a ratifying country.
- ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
- The ICC can also practice its jurisdiction over **cases referred by the UN Security Council** to it.
- Presently, 123 countries are party to the Rome Statute, including Britain, Japan, Afghanistan, and Germany.
- Russia, India, the USA and China have abstained from membership.



ICC vs ICJ

- Unlike the International Court of Justice, **the ICC is not a component of the United Nations framework.**
- The cooperation between the UN and the ICC is controlled by a separate agreement.
- The **ICJ is one of the UN's six main organs**.
- It primarily considers litigation involving countries.
- It was **founded in 1945** and is headquartered in **The Hague** (Netherlands).

Rome Statue

Before the ICC became **functional in 2002**, its founding treaty was adopted by the **UN General Assembly in 1998 in Rome, Italy**, thereby making it the Rome Statute.

- To become a member of the ICC or State party to the Rome Statute, countries have to **sign the statute and ratify it** under their respective legislatures
- 123 countries are currently members of the ICC, with African countries making up the largest bloc.
- India, China, Iraq, North Korea and Turkey never signed the Rome Statute.
- Others including the US, Russia, Israel and Syria signed, but never ratified it.

How Does ICC Function?

- The court carries out its investigations through the **Office of the Prosecutor and has 18 judges.**
- Both the judges and prosecutors hold non-renewable nine-year terms.
- There are pre-trial, trial, and appellate benches in the ICC.
- The prosecutor **conducts a preliminary examination** in a matter, before seeking permission from **pre-trial judges** to open a full investigation.

Present Prosecutor of International Criminal Court

- As of March 2025, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is **Karim Ahmad Khan**.
- A British lawyer specializing in international criminal and human rights law, Khan assumed office on June 16, 2021, succeeding Fatou Bensouda.
- During his tenure, Khan has been involved in several high-profile investigations and actions:
- **Arrest Warrants for Israeli Leaders**: In November 2024, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, charging them with war crimes and crimes against humanity related to military actions in Gaza.
- **Sanctions by the United States**: In February 2025, the U.S. government imposed economic and travel sanctions on Khan in response to the ICC's investigations involving U.S. citizens and allies.

How Does The Prosecutor Open Investigation?

- When a case is **referred by a member country** in its own territory
- When a case is **referred by the UN Security Council**.
- When the prosecutor takes up a case on his own.

Can Non-Member States Be Prosecuted?

- If alleged crimes were **perpetrated by non-members** in member states.
- If the **non-members accept the court's jurisdiction**.
- When the **Security Council** authorises it.

Criticism of ICC

- Some experts question whether the **time, efforts and financial resources invested** in the court by member countries is worth the outcome.
- After 23 years of being active, the **court has convicted 10 persons** accused in a small number of **cases and acquitted four individuals**

- Criticisms also hint at the fact that the **court may be shying away** from taking on western powers like the United States.
- Court, since its formation, largely **took up investigations** into alleged crimes committed in African countries.
- The African Union in 2016 had **endorsed a proposal** led by Kenya for a mass **withdrawal from the Rome Statute**.

Why Was International Criminal Court in News in 2025

Arrest of Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

- On March 11, 2025, former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested at Manila's international airport upon returning from Hong Kong.
- The ICC had issued an arrest warrant accusing him of crimes against humanity related to his aggressive anti-drug campaign during his presidency (2016–2022), which allegedly led to thousands of extrajudicial killings.
- Duterte was subsequently transferred to The Hague to face trial.

Arrest Warrants for Israeli Leaders

- In November 2024, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.
- They were charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of starvation as a method of warfare and attacks against civilians during the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- These warrants led to international debates, with some countries affirming their commitment to uphold the ICC's decisions, while others, including the United States, criticized the court's actions

USA Sanctions Against ICC

- In response to the arrest warrants against Israeli officials, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order in early February 2025, imposing sanctions on ICC officials involved in investigations targeting the U.S. and its allies, notably Israel.
- These sanctions included financial penalties and travel bans, reflecting longstanding U.S. opposition to the ICC's jurisdiction over non-member states.

Investigations Against Taliban Leaders

- On January 23, 2025, the ICC's Chief Prosecutor announced applications for arrest warrants against Taliban Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and Chief Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani.
- They were accused of crimes against humanity, particularly the oppression and persecution of Afghan women and girls since the Taliban's return to power in 2021.
- In early 2025, Italian authorities arrested Osama Elmasry Njeem, a Libyan military officer wanted by the ICC for war crimes, including murder, torture, and rape.
- However, due to procedural issues, Italy released Njeem, allowing him to return to Libya.

- This decision prompted the ICC to investigate Italy's actions, considering potential referrals to the court's governing body or the United Nations Security Council.

USA on ICC

- The United States is considering imposing sanctions as soon as this week against the entire International Criminal Court, putting the court's day-to-day operations in jeopardy in retaliation for investigations of suspected Israeli war crimes.
- Washington has already imposed targeted sanctions on several prosecutors and judges at the court, but naming the court itself in the sanctions list would be a major escalation.

Withdrawal from ICC

- In **September 2025**, *Mali*, *Niger* and *Burkina Faso* — all ruled by military governments — jointly announced they are **exiting the International Criminal Court**, branding it a tool of "neocolonial repression.
- These countries are part of the *Alliance of Sahel States*, a bloc that has also pulled out of regional organisations. Their decision undermines ICC jurisdiction in those territories and signals worsening cooperation with global justice mechanisms.
- On **December 11, 2025**, *Venezuela's National Assembly voted to repeal the law that had ratified the ICC's founding *Rome Statute*, opening the formal process for withdrawal.
- This step follows ICC scrutiny of alleged abuses in Venezuela and rhetoric from the government calling the court an "instrument of imperialism.
- Hungary *announced its intention* to pull out of the ICC in **April–May 2025**, with its parliament ratifying the withdrawal decision.
- Under the Rome Statute's rules, withdrawal becomes legally effective **one year after notification to the United Nations Secretary-General**, meaning Hungary will *officially leave* likely in **April 2026**.
- Hungary would be the *only European Union member state* to leave the ICC, which has drawn criticism within the EU and from rights groups.
- Some sources indicate that **the Taliban government declared a withdrawal** from the ICC in 2025, claiming to nullify Afghanistan's past accession.
- However, because the ICC membership is governed by the *Rome Statute* and recognized governments, this move is **legally disputed internationally** and not universally accepted as ending ICC obligations.

Addition to ICC

Ukraine Became ICC Member (January 2025)

- Ukraine officially became the **125th State Party to the Rome Statute as of early 2025**, strengthening cooperation with the ICC in investigations linked to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

International Court of Justice

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) serves as the primary judicial body of the United Nations, specialising in the resolution of legal disputes between States in adherence to international law.
- Unlike the International Criminal Court (ICC), the ICJ does not function as a criminal court, and it does not undertake trials of individuals.
- Notably, both of these judicial bodies are situated in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- It is crucial to understand that the ICJ does not possess the automatic authority to adjudicate all cases involving breaches of international law; rather, it can only address cases that are formally presented to it by States that have explicitly consented to its jurisdiction.
- Consent to the ICJ's jurisdiction can be expressed in various ways.
- In the present case, such consent originates from a provision in the Genocide Convention.
    - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) succeeded the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), established in 1920 by the League of Nations.
    - Following the Second World War, the United Nations replaced the League, and the ICJ succeeded the PCIJ.
    - The ICJ's Statute, outlining its purpose and structure, draws heavily from that of its predecessor, and the decisions of the PCIJ remain valid.
    - **All United Nations member states are parties to the ICJ Statute, enabling them to initiate contentious legal cases**.
    - However, only certain UN organs and agencies are eligible to submit advisory proceedings.
    - Comprising 15 judges serving nine-year terms, the ICJ's panel is elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
    - The court adheres to the principle that no more than one judge from each nationality can be represented concurrently, ensuring a collective representation of the **principal civilizations and legal systems globally**.
    - Situated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, the ICJ **distinguishes itself as the sole principal UN organ not based in New York City.**
    - The official working languages of the ICJ are English and French.
- **Dalveer Bhandari,** a former judge of the Supreme Court of India, was re-elected as a judge to the ICJ in 2017.
- Bhandari was nominated by the Government of India as its official candidate in January 2012 for the post of a judge of the ICJ.
- The vacancy arose after the resignation of Judge Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh from Jordan on being appointed Prime Minister.

South Africa at ICJ

- In December 2023, South Africa initiated legal proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), alleging that Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip amounted to genocide against the Palestinian people.
- This move was grounded in the 1948 Genocide Convention, to which both nations are signatories.
- South Africa's application to the ICJ highlighted several actions by Israel that it claimed were indicative of genocidal intent, including:-
    - A prolonged blockade of the Gaza Strip, restricting the movement of people and goods.
    - Military operations resulting in significant civilian casualties.
    - Policies and statements perceived as aiming to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian national, racial, and ethnic group.
- The South African government framed these allegations within the broader context of Israel's historical conduct towards Palestinians, referencing what it described as a 75-year apartheid, 56-year occupation, and 16-year blockade of Gaza.
- On January 26, 2024, the ICJ issued provisional measures, acknowledging the plausibility of South Africa's claims and ordering Israel to
    - Ensure that its military forces do not commit acts of genocide.
    - Prevent and punish incitement to genocide.
    - Allow the delivery of essential humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza.
- In March 2024, South Africa filed a further request with the ICJ, citing concerns over widespread starvation among the Gazan population and alleging ongoing violations of the Genocide Convention by Israel.
- In response, on May 24, 2024, the ICJ ordered Israel to immediately halt its military operations in the city of Rafah, located in the Gaza Strip

The Genocide Convention

- The Genocide Convention, formally known as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ***is an international human rights treaty*** that established and **defined the crime of genocide**.
- This significant treaty was the inaugural human rights accord adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1948, and it has been in force since January 12, 1951.
- The Convention delineates genocide as encompassing five acts:
    - The killing of members of a group;
    - Causing serious bodily or mental harm;
    - Inflicting conditions on the group calculated to result in their physical destruction;
    - Implementing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and
    - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

- These acts must be committed with the specific intent "to destroy, in whole or in part," a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- It is important to note that
  - the concept of genocide comprises two essential elements:
    - the actual physical acts
    - the specific intent to destroy a particular group, wholly or partially.
- India has ratified the Genocide Convention, although it lacks a specific domestic law that explicitly defines genocide.
- The constitutional framework of India, as outlined in Article 51, **imposes an obligation** to uphold international law and honour treaty commitments.
- Furthermore, according to Article 253, Parliament is mandated to enact legislation concerning the **implementation of treaties, agreements, or conventions**.

What the ICJ has Not Yet Ruled On

- The court has not declared Israel guilty of genocide under the Convention.
- The court has not issued a comprehensive judgment on the legal merits of South Africa's claims.
- There is no binding determination yet on the totality of the facts or legal responsibility — only interim protection orders.

NATO

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO, is a political and military alliance of 30 European countries and two countries in North America (United States and Canada).
- It was set up in 1949 by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union.

NATO Countries

ALBANIA (2009)	GREECE (1952)	POLAND (1999)
BELGIUM (1949)	HUNGARY (1999)	PORTUGAL (1949)
BULGARIA (2004)	ICELAND (1949)	ROMANIA (2004)
CANADA (1949)	ITALY (1949)	SLOVAKIA (2004)
CROATIA (2009)	LATVIA (2004)	SLOVENIA (2004)
CZECHIA (1999)	LITHUANIA (2004)	SPAIN (1982)
DENMARK (1949)	LUXEMBOURG (1949)	TÜRKIYE (1952)
ESTONIA (2004)	MONTENEGRO (2017)	UNITED KINGDOM (1949)
FINLAND (2023)	NETHERLANDS (1949)	UNITED STATES (1949)
FRANCE (1949)	NORTH MACEDONIA (2020)	
GERMANY (1955)	NORWAY (1949)	

Security in our daily lives is key to our well-being. NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

POLITICAL - *NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.*

MILITARY - *NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty - Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations.*

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation came into being after World War II as a counter to the Soviet Union's possible expansion attempts in Europe.
- Then-US President Harry S Truman signed the 12-member treaty on April 4, 1949.
- **After the collapse of USSR in 1991, several eastern European nations previously members of the Soviet Union joined NATO.**

Foundation Treaty of NATO

Signing of the Washington Treaty, 4 April

NATO is committed to the principle that an attack against one or several of its members is considered as an attack against all. This is the principle of collective defence, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

So far, Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

You Must Know

- Article 4 of the treaty mandates that the member nations consult each other when faced with threat. "The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened,".
- Article 5 spells out the 'one-for-all, all-for-one' nature of the treaty.
- India held its first political dialogue with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels on December 12, 2019.

Major NON-NATO Allies

- Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status is a designation under U.S. law that **provides foreign partners** with certain benefits in the areas of defense trade and security cooperation.
- The **Major Non-NATO Ally designation is a powerful symbol** of the close relationship the United States shares with those countries and demonstrates deep respect for the friendship for the countries to which it is extended.
- While MNNA status provides military and economic privileges, it does not entail any security commitments to the designated country
- Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, **Saudi Arabia**, South Korea, Thailand, and Tunisia.

NATO Plus

- NATO plus" refers to a security arrangement of NATO and the five treaty allies of the U.S. — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea as members.
- Essentially to enhance "global defence cooperation" and win the "strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party".
- Interestingly, the term 'NATO Plus' is not an officially recognised or established concept within NATO itself but has been used in discussions and debates regarding the potential expansion of the alliance.

- The inclusion of these countries as members would require a complex process of negotiation and assessment of their compatibility with NATO's principles, obligations, and defence commitments.
- NATO's earlier target was the Soviet Union and now Russia, the focus of NATO Plus is clearly on containing China.
- Therefore, considering its disputes with China, India remains a missing link in the framework.

- **Defense spending: 2% target met alliance-wide; new 5% pledge in focus.** NATO data/reports show all allies are projected to hit the **2% of GDP** benchmark in 2025; leaders at the **June 24–25, 2025 Hague Summit** also backed moving toward a **5% of GDP** investment goal.

Signatories of NATO

- Greece and Turkey (1952)
- West Germany (1955, from 1990 as Germany)
- Spain (1982)
- the Czech Republic, Hungary Poland (1999)
- Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004)
- Albania and Croatia (2009)
- Montenegro (2017)
- North Macedonia (2020).
- Finland (2023)
- France withdrew from NATO's combined military command in 1966 but remained a member of the organisation; it rejoined in 2009.
- Sweden (2024)

Nato Atlantic Council

Highest decision-making body

- Comprises representatives (usually Ambassadors) of all **31 member countries**.
- Meets weekly at ambassadorial level and periodically at ministerial and summit levels.
- **Decisions are made by consensus**, meaning all members must agree.

Secretary General

The chief administrative officer and spokesperson of NATO.

- Appointed by member states for a 4-year term (renewable).
- Chairs the North Atlantic Council and other major committees.
- Coordinates the implementation of decisions and diplomatic engagement.

Military Committee (MC)

The senior military authority of NATO-

- Provides military advice to the North Atlantic Council.
- Composed of the Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) of all member countries.
- Supported by the **International Military Staff (IMS)**, a body of military experts.

NATO's Strategic Command

Allied Command Operations (ACO)

- Headquartered at **Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)** in Mons, Belgium.
- Responsible for the **planning and execution of all NATO military operations** worldwide.
- Headed by the **Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)** — traditionally a U.S. general.

Allied Command Transformation (ACT)

- Headquartered in **Norfolk, Virginia, USA**.
- Focuses on **modernization, training, and development of NATO's military capabilities**.
- Headed by the **Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT)** — usually a European officer.

International Staff

- Supports the Secretary General.
- Provides policy advice, coordination, and administrative support for all NATO activities.

Funding Structure

Funded through three main budgets:

- **Civil Budget** – administrative costs, paid by all members.
- **Military Budget** – operational and command expenses.
- **NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP)** – infrastructure and communication systems.

SG of NATO

- The Secretary General of NATO is appointed through a consensus-based process involving informal diplomatic consultations among the 32 member countries, who put forward senior political figures for the role.
- There is no formal election process; instead, allies must agree on one candidate through a consensus that is often reached through back-channel discussions.
- The chosen candidate is then appointed by the North Atlantic Council for an initial four-year term, which can be extended.

Selection Process

- **Informal consultations:** Member countries engage in informal diplomatic negotiations to find a candidate with broad support.
- **No formal election:** The decision is not made through a formal vote but by reaching a consensus on a single candidate.
- **Consensus is key:** The process relies on all 32 Allies agreeing to support a specific individual to avoid a contested appointment.

Appointment & Term

- Appointment: Once a consensus is reached, the candidate is appointed by the North Atlantic Council.
- Term length: The initial term is four years, but it can be extended if all allies agree to the extension.

Mark Rutte

- The Secretary General is NATO's top international civil servant and has three principal roles.
  - Chair of all major committees, responsible for steering discussions, facilitating the decision-making process and ensuring that decisions are implemented.
  - Principal spokesperson for the Organization.
  - Head of the International Staff, whose role it is to support the Secretary General directly and indirectly.

Mark Rutte

- The person is nominated by member governments for an initial period of four years, which can be extended by mutual consent.
- The post is currently held by Mark Rutte, the former Dutch Prime Minister, who took up his responsibilities on 1 October 2024.

United Kingdom Joins CPTPP

Context

- The United Kingdom has officially joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming its first European member.
- This strategic move aims to strengthen the UK's trade relationships within the Indo-Pacific region, encompassing countries like Australia, Japan, and Canada
- **Accession Process:** The UK formally applied to join the CPTPP in February 2021. After comprehensive negotiations, an agreement was reached in March 2023, and the accession protocol was signed in July 2023.
- Following ratification by the UK and the requisite number of member countries, the agreement is set to come into force by December 15, 2024.

Economic Implications

- Membership in the CPTPP is anticipated to eliminate tariffs on over 99% of UK goods exports to member countries, potentially boosting the UK economy by £2 billion annually by 2040.
- However, it's important to note that these gains are relatively modest compared to the economic impact of Brexit, which has been estimated to reduce the UK's GDP by approximately 4%.
- **Trade Diversification:** This accession aligns with the UK's post-Brexit strategy to diversify its trade partnerships beyond Europe.

- o By engaging with rapidly growing economies in the Indo-Pacific, the UK aims to enhance its global trade footprint and reduce reliance on any single market.
- The UK's entry into the CPTPP marks a significant shift in its trade policy, reflecting a broader pivot towards the Indo-Pacific region.
- As the agreement comes into effect, businesses and policymakers will be closely monitoring its impact on trade dynamics, economic growth, and the UK's positioning in global markets.

What is CPTPP?

- CPTPP is a free trade agreement (FTA) that was agreed in 2018 between 11 countries – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.
- Britain will become the 12th member, and the first to join since the partnership since its inception.
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership was signed by ***only 12 member*** nations of Pacific rim (***except China and Russia).***
- Initially the Members were: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.
- 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.

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.
- Not to forget it's state-sponsored Belt and Road Initiative.
- Als the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

IPEF

- In May 2022, the United States launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Fiji was the most recent country to join the framework on May 27, 2023, becoming the first Pacific Island nation to do so.
- This framework will advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for 14 economies.
- Through this initiative, the IPEF partners aim to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity, development, and peace within the region.
- The 14 IPEF partners represent 40% of global GDP and 28% of global goods and services trade.
- The launch began discussions of future negotiations on the following pillars: (1) Trade; (2) Supply Chains; (3) Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure; and (4) Tax and Anti-Corruption.
- The IPEF is designed to be flexible, meaning that IPEF partners are not required to join all four pillars.
- The IPEF represents a new age economic framework which promises to ***allow each participating member*** to pick and choose the pillars of negotiations based on its own domestic political sensitivities.
- India is the only country which has so far not joined the trade pillar of IPEF negotiations.
- IPEF Negotiations are is likely to focus on digital trade standards, labour laws and environmental financing issues

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.
- The IORA Council of Ministers (COM) is the organization's highest decision-making body, comprising the Foreign Ministers (or equivalents) of all Member States.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by the COM and serve two-year terms.
- Typically, the Vice-Chair succeeds the Chair after their term concludes.

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**.

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.

- **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.
- Population and Trade Hub:
  - Home to a third of the world's population, approximately 2.6 billion people.
  - Crucial for global trade, with 80% of the world's oil trade, 50% of containerized cargo, and 33% of bulk cargo passing through this region.
- Economic Output and Intra-Trade:
  - The region collectively generates over $1 trillion in goods and services.
  - Intra-trade within IORA accounts for around $800 billion, highlighting its economic importance.
- Challenges Faced by Other Regional Organisations:
  - Regional groups like SAARC and BIMSTEC encounter their unique obstacles.
  - **QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**) has made progress but remains U.S.-led, involving military allies like Australia and Japan.
- IORA as a "Safe Space":
  - IORA provides a stable environment for India and other regional countries, free from constant big-power rivalries.
  - **Membership is consensus-based, with Pakistan not admitted due to the absence of extending MFN (most favoured nation) status to India.**
  - This makes IORA a less contentious option compared to groupings like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

IORA's Areas of Focus

IORA Charter Priorities:

The IORA's core focus areas, as defined in its charter, encompass:

1. Maritime safety and security.
2. Trade and investment facilitation.
3. Fisheries management.
4. Disaster risk management.
5. Academic, science, and technology.
6. Tourism and cultural exchanges.
7. Gender empowerment.

Special Fund and Climate Change

- The IORA administers a special fund, providing project grants of $80,000 to $150,000 to its members.
- The organisation places specific emphasis on addressing climate change concerns.

IORA- 2025

- May 21, 2025 – 24th IORA Council of Ministers (virtual, Colombo): Adopted the Colombo Communiqué, new Guidelines to combat IUU fishing, and an IORA Climate Change Strategic Agenda; also approved India to host the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (“Indian Ocean in a Transforming World”).

- Chairmanship update: Sri Lanka was the Chair for 2023–25; India (then Vice-Chair) is slated to assume the Chairmanship for 2025–27.
- IORA's agenda in 2025 continues to revolve around its key **priority areas and cross-cutting issues**, which include:
    - Maritime safety and security
    - Trade and investment facilitation
    - Fisheries management and sustainable blue economy
    - Disaster risk reduction and climate resilience
    - Academic, science and technology cooperation
- **Women's economic empowerment** These areas aim to boost socio-economic cooperation around the Indian Ocean Region, encompassing both coastal states and wider partners.

European Union

EU

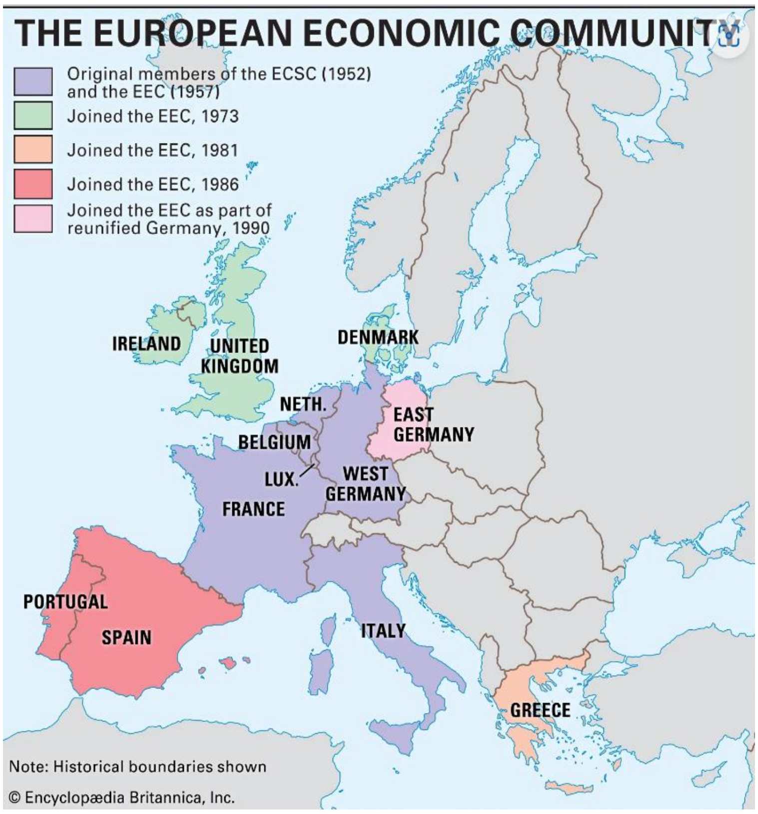
- The European Union (EU) is a political and economic alliance of 27 countries.
- The EU promotes democratic values in its member nations and is one of the world's most powerful trade blocs.
- Nineteen of the countries share the euro as their official currency.
- The EU grew out of a desire to strengthen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

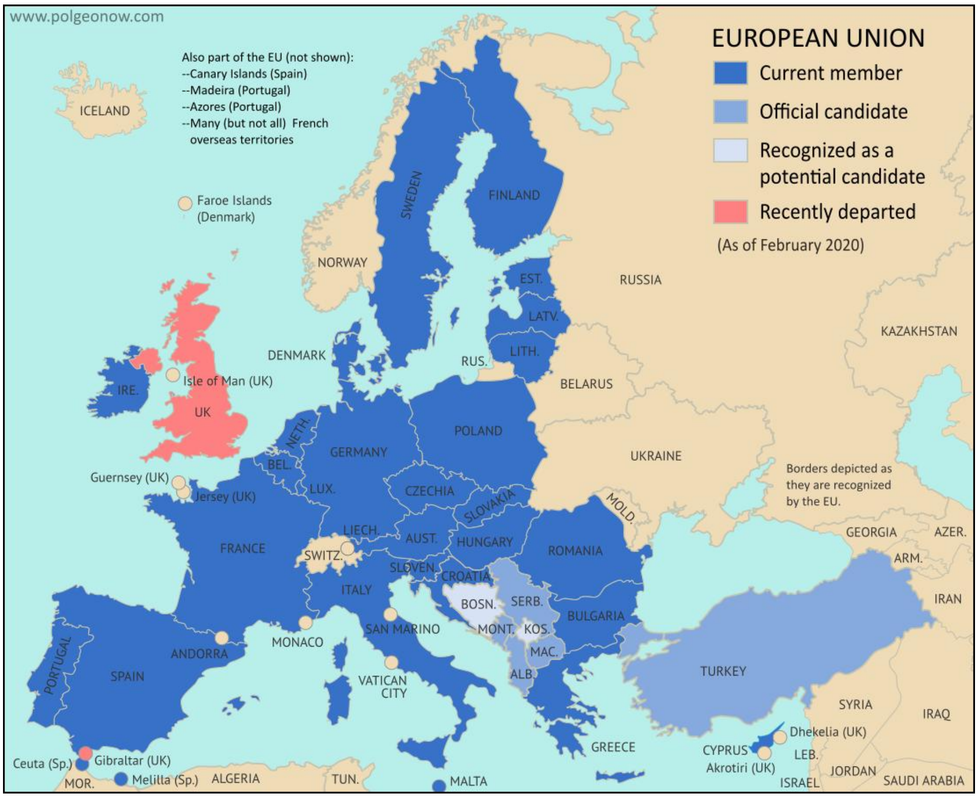


Creation of Common Market

- In 1986, the Single European Act embarked on a six-year plan to create a common European market by harmonizing national regulations.
- The Maastricht Treaty took effect in 1993, replacing the EC with the European Union (EU).
- The euro debuted as a common single currency for participating EU members on Jan. 1, 1999

- Denmark and the U.K. negotiated "opt-out" provisions that permitted countries to retain their own currencies if they chose

Explanation



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.

Membership criteria – Who can join?

The Treaty on the European Union states that any European country may apply for membership if it respects the democratic values of the EU and is committed to promoting them.

The first step is for the country to meet the key criteria for accession. These were mainly defined at the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993 and are hence referred to as 'Copenhagen criteria'. Countries wishing to join need to have:

- stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces in the EU;
- the ability to take on and implement effectively the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

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.
- 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.
- With 2.9 billion citizens representing roughly 60 percent of global GDP and 48 percent of global trade, APEC economies hold a substantial position in the global economy.
- India has expressed interest in joining APEC since 1991, citing its geographical location, economic potential, and extensive trade interactions with the Asia-Pacific region.

- The country's formal request for membership reflects its recognition of the economic benefits and opportunities that APEC offers.
- Despite India's long-standing interest in joining APEC and the United States' support for India's membership, APEC has maintained an informal moratorium on expanding its membership for several years.

APEC 2025

- APEC 2025 was hosted by South Korea under the theme "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper."
- The main Economic Leaders' Meeting took place in Gyeongju on 31 October – 1 November 2025.

APEC 2025 centred on responding to global economic uncertainties by:

- **Enhancing regional connectivity ("Connect")** — boosting trade links and supply chain resilience.
- Embracing digital and technological transformation ("Innovate") — with emphasis on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitalisation.
- Promoting inclusive, sustainable growth ("Prosper").

Gyeongju Leaders' Declaration

APEC economies adopted this political declaration reaffirming commitments to:

- **Inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic development** across the region.
- **Strengthening cooperation on AI, digital economy, and green technologies.**
- **Addressing demographic changes** (ageing populations, urbanisation) with shared policy tools for social and economic resilience.
- **Supporting the long-term *Putrajaya Vision 2040*** for an open, dynamic, peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

Interpol

Interpol

- International Criminal Police Organization.
- An inter-governmental organization have 195 member countries.
- Interpol helps police in all of them to work together to make the world a safer place.
- The idea was born at the first International Criminal Police Congress held in Monaco in April 1914.
- At the invitation of Prince Albert I of Monaco, lawyers and police officials from 24 countries discussed cooperation on solving crimes, identification techniques and extradition.
- The meeting was highly successful, but plans had to be put on hold due to the outbreak of the First World War.
- The idea of an international police body was revived by Dr Johannes Schober, President of the Vienna Police.

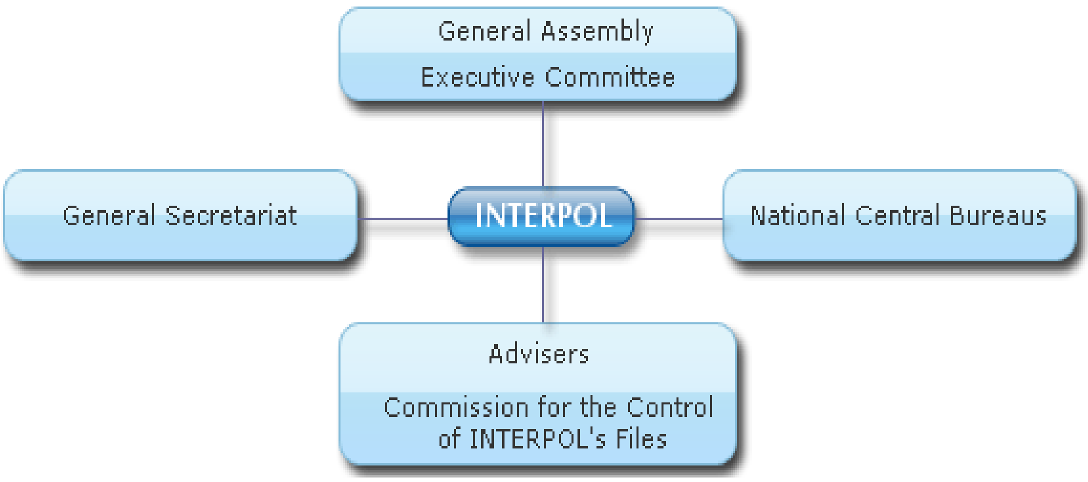
- He convened the second the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in Vienna, Austria in 1923.
- It was attended by representatives from 19 other countries.
- The International Criminal Police Commission was established in September 1923 with headquarters in Vienna.
- **The aim of the ICPC was to provide mutual assistance between police in different countries.**

INTERPOL: International Criminal Police Organisation

- Today INTERPOL has 195 member countries, making us the world's largest police organisation.
- The organisation moved to its present headquarters in Lyon in 1989.
- At the **89th General Assembly** of Interpol the **Federated States of Micronesia** became the organisation's **195th** member country.

Structure

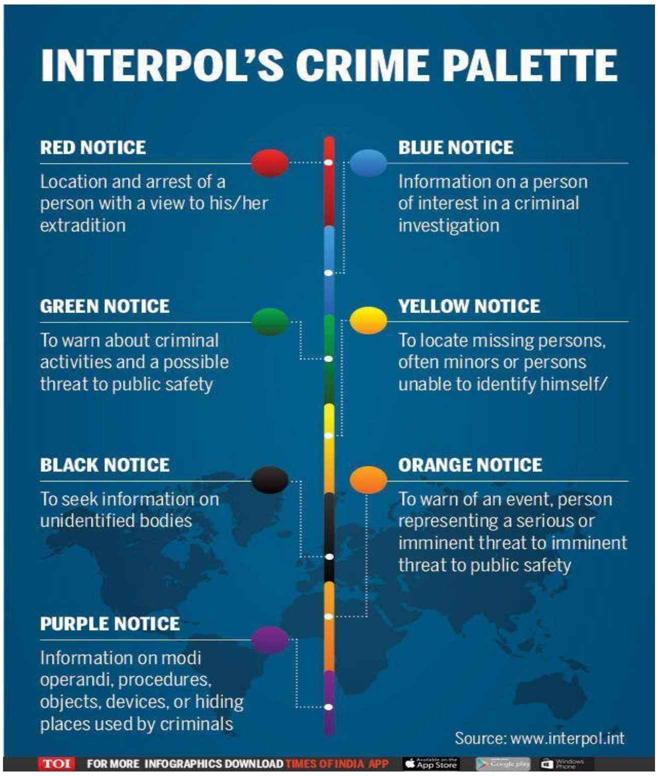
- The General Assembly consists of one delegate from each country.
- It is Interpol's supreme decision-making body.
- Interpol's day-to-day operation is managed by a General Secretariat under the direction of a secretary general.
- Secretary General is appointed for a five-year term by the General Assembly.
- The General Secretariat coordinates day-to-day activities to fight a range of crimes.
- Run by the Secretary General, it is **staffed by both** police and civilians and comprises a headquarters in Lyon, a global complex for innovation in Singapore and several satellite offices in different regions.
- In each country, an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) provides the central point of contact for the General Secretariat and other NCBs.
- An NCB is run by national police officials and usually sits in the government ministry responsible for policing



- Today's crimes are increasingly international.
- It is crucial that there is coordination among all the different players in maintaining a global security architecture.
- Since INTERPOL is a global organization, it can provide this platform for cooperation
- Interpol enable police to work directly with their counterparts, even between countries which do not have diplomatic relations.

You Must Know

- INTERPOL is an international organization with administrative capabilities to help countries work together to fight international crime.
- It does not have executive powers.
- Therefore its officials do not arrest suspects or act without the approval of national authorities
- Through I-24/7, INTERPOL's secure global police communications network, countries can send messages and also access multiple global databases.
- Including on wanted persons, stolen motor vehicles, stolen and lost travel documents, fingerprints, DNA and face recognition.



Who Issues these Notices?

- Interpol's color-coded notices are international alerts designed to facilitate cooperation and information sharing among law enforcement agencies worldwide.
- These notices are issued by Interpol's General Secretariat at the request of a member country's National Central Bureau (NCB) or authorized international entities, such as the United Nations or the International Criminal Court.

To Sum Up

Interpol acts as a bridge between two national police agencies.

- Interpol is not meant for dispute resolution.
- **Neither it is an investigative agency, rather it is designed to assist the police forces of member nations.**
- Interpol cannot act on its own.

- The legal course of action depends on bilateral arrangements like mutual legal assistance treaties between concerned nations.

Why was the RCN against Choksi Withdrawn?

- Interpol withdrew the Red Notice against Mehul Choksi, a fugitive businessman wanted in connection with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, following his representation alleging an attempted abduction.
- Choksi claimed that in May 2021, he was kidnapped from Antigua and Barbuda and taken to Dominica, purportedly as part of an effort to deport him to India.
- Interpol's Commission for the Control of Files (CCF) found a "credible possibility" that his abduction was aimed at returning him to India, raising concerns about the fairness of potential legal proceedings there.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of India contested this decision, arguing that there were significant shortcomings and procedural violations in the CCF's ruling.
- Despite the withdrawal of the Red Notice, Indian authorities have stated that their investigations and extradition requests in Antigua remain unaffected.
- Despite the removal of the RCN, Indian authorities continued to pursue Choksi.
- In April 2025, he was arrested in Belgium based on arrest warrants issued by Indian courts.
- His detention demonstrates that extradition efforts can proceed through bilateral legal channels, even without an active Interpol notice.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has challenged the RCN's withdrawal, arguing that the CCF's decision involved procedural errors and overstepped its mandate.
- The CBI contends that Choksi's claims were unsubstantiated and that he remains a flight risk.
- Indian authorities, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), are actively pursuing Choksi's extradition to face charges related to the PNB fraud.
- The Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed ongoing collaboration with Belgian officials to facilitate this process.

RCN

- A Red Notice, according to the Interpol, is "a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action".
- The withdrawal of the RCN against Choksi — issued by the Interpol in 2018 — means he can now travel without restrictions anywhere in the world, except in India.
- CBI has appealed to the Commission for Control of Interpol's Files (CCF) to restore it.

India's Engagement at INTERPOL

- The most recent INTERPOL General Assembly, its supreme governing body, convened for its 92nd session from November 4 to 7, 2024.

- This annual assembly brings together representatives from INTERPOL's 195 member countries to discuss and set policies, approve programs, and address global crime trends.
- Asian Regional Conference — Singapore (18–19 Sep 2025): Held at INTERPOL's Global Complex for Innovation; ~165 participants from 49 countries. Focus areas: cybercrime, fugitive tracking, human exploitation online, drug trafficking, and environmental/wildlife crime. Outcome note emphasizes tighter regional cooperation against these threats.
- The 93rd INTERPOL General Assembly wass held in Marrakech, Morocco, 24–27 Nov 2025

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

About IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries.
- It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being.
- The IMF is governed by and accountable to its member countries.

Mission of IMF

- Furthering international monetary cooperation
- Encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth
- Discouraging policies that would harm prosperity
- POLICY ADVICE
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Who Runs The IMF

- The IMF is accountable to its member country governments.
- At the top of the organizational structure is the Board of Governors, consisting of one governor and one alternate governor from each member country, usually the top officials from the central bank or finance ministry.
- The Board of Governors meets once a year at the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings.
- Twenty-four of the governors serve on the International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC, which advises the IMF's Executive Board.
- The day-to-day work of the IMF is overseen by its 24-member Executive Board, which represents the entire membership and is supported by IMF staff

- The IMF was conceived in July 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference.

- The 44 countries in attendance sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation and avoid repeating the competitive currency devaluations that contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- Countries were not eligible for membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) unless they were members of the IMF.

IMF

- Unlike the United Nations General Assembly, where each country has one vote, voting power and decision-making at the IMF reflect its member countries' relative economic position.
- The IMF works to ensure that its governance structure keeps pace with changes in the world economy, including the larger role that emerging market and developing economies now have.
- The money the IMF loans to its members on its general – or non-concessional – terms comes from member countries, mainly through their payment of quotas.
- Multilateral and bilateral arrangements can supplement quota funds and plays a critical role in the IMF's support for member countries in times of crisis.
- The IMF's current total resources of about SDR 982 billion translate into a capacity for lending of about SDR 695 billion (around US$932 billion), as at mid-December 2023.

What are IMF Quotas?

- Quotas are the building blocks of the IMF's financial and governance structure.
- An individual member country's quota broadly reflects its relative position in the world economy.
- Quotas are denominated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's unit of account.

Special Drawing Rights

- The IMF issues an international reserve asset known as Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, that can supplement the official reserves of member countries.
- Total global allocations are currently about SDR 204.2 billion, about $293 billion.
- IMF members can voluntarily exchange SDRs for currencies among themselves.
- The SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries.
- The SDR is not a currency. It is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. As such, SDRs can provide a country with liquidity.
- A basket of currencies defines the SDR: the US dollar, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen, and the British Pound.

Basket of Currencies

Currency	Weights determined in the 2022 review	Fixed number of units of currency for a 5 year period Starting Aug 1, 2022
US dollar	43.38	0.57813
Euro	29.31	0.37379
Chinese Renminbi	12.28	1.0993
Japanese Yen	7.59	13.452
Pound Sterling	7.44	0.080870

FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

World Economic Outlook

Global Financial Stability Report

Fiscal Monitor

External Sector Report

IMF vs Development Banks

- Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects.
- Instead, the IMF provides financial support to countries hit by crises to create breathing room as they implement policies that restore economic stability and growth.
- It also provides precautionary financing to help prevent crises.

Board of Governor

- It is the highest decision-making body of the IMF.
- It normally meets once a year.
- It consists of one governor and one alternate governor for each member country.
- The governor is appointed by the member country and is usually the minister of finance or the governor of the central bank.
- All powers of the IMF are vested in the Board of Governors.
- The Board of Governors may delegate to the Executive Board all except certain reserved powers.

Source of Money for IMF

- Member quotas, multilateral and bilateral borrowing agreements.
- Quotas are the IMF's main source of financing, wherein each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.

Executive Board

- As per the IMF, the Executive Board is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF.
- It is composed of 25 Directors, who are elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing Director, who serves as its Chairman.
- The Board usually meets several times each week. It carries out its work largely on the basis of papers prepared by IMF management and staff.

- In a general sense, a bailout means extending support to an entity facing a threat of bankruptcy.
- Countries seek IMF bailouts when they are facing macroeconomic risks, currency crises and need assistance to meet external debt obligations, to buy essential imports and push the exchange value of their currencies.

IMF Lends Money

- The IMF lends money to the economies in peril in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which is a basket of five currencies – US dollar, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen and British Pound.
- It can be executed in the form of loans, cash, bonds, or stock purchases.

Various Programs by IMF

- Standby arrangement
- Standby credit facility
- Extended fund facility
- Extended credit facility
- Rapid financing instrument
- Rapid credit facility,
- Flexible credit line
- Resilience and sustainability facility

Conditions Applicable to IMF Bailout

- Among the conditions laid down for a country seeking financial assistance from the IMF could be certain structural reforms, such as fiscal transparency, tax reforms and reforms in state-owned enterprises.
- Conditions for IMF lending also relate to macroeconomic variables, like monetary and credit aggregates, international reserves, fiscal balances, and external borrowing, as per the IMF.

Extended Fund Facility

- An EFF is a financial assistance package offered by the IMF to countries facing serious medium-term balance of payments problems because of structural weaknesses that require time to address.
- Notably, the assistance under the EFF is in the form of a loan that has to be paid back, and not in the form of a grant or aid.
- EFF offers longer program engagement and a longer repayment period.

Resilience & Sustainability Facility

- The Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) is a financial tool created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help countries address long-term structural challenges, especially those related to climate change and pandemic preparedness, without harming their economic stability.

The RSF gives long-term, low-interest loans to vulnerable countries so they can:

- Invest in **climate resilience** (e.g., renewable energy, flood control, green infrastructure)
- Strengthen **healthcare systems** for future pandemics
- Promote **sustainable development**

RSF

Launched	April 2022 (as part of IMF's post-COVID recovery plan)
Target Countries	Low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries
Loan Tenure	Up to **20 years**, with **10.5 years grace period**
Funding Source	Comes from rechanneling **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** by advanced economies
Conditions	Countries must already have a **standard IMF-supported program** (like an Extended Fund Facility)
Focus Areas	Climate change, disaster resilience, pandemic preparedness, etc.

Reform at IMF

- In **2024–2025**, the IMF **expanded its Executive Board from 24 to 25 seats** by adding an **additional chair dedicated to *Sub-Saharan Africa*** — effectively increasing Africa's direct representation within the Fund's decision-making body.
- This expansion was approved by the **IMF Board of Governors in July 2024**, with the change taking effect on **1 November 2024**.
- The creation of this **25th Executive Director seat** was aimed at improving the voice and representation of Sub-Saharan African countries in IMF governance, something African leaders and the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) had long advocated.

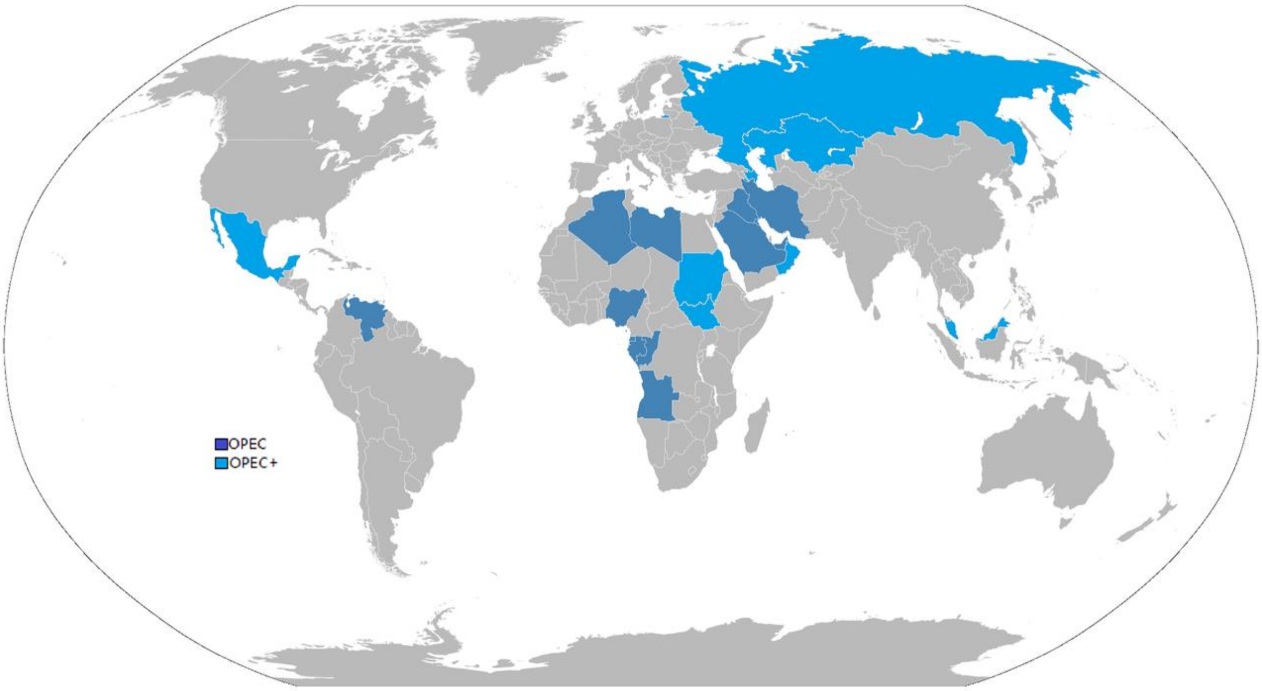
OPEC

Context

The grouping of the world's largest oil-producing countries, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, together known as OPEC+.

What is OPEC?

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a **permanent, intergovernmental Organization**
- It was created at the **Baghdad Conference** on September 10–14, 1960, by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.



OPEC

- The 5 Founding Members were later joined by:
  - Qatar (1961) – Terminated its membership in January 2019
  - Indonesia (1962) – Suspended its membership in January 2009 reactivated it in January 2016, but decided to suspend it again in November 2016
  - Libya (1962)
  - United Arab Emirates (1967)
  - Algeria (1969)
  - Nigeria (1971)
- Ecuador (1973) – suspended its membership in December 1992, reactivated it in October 2007, but decided to withdraw its membership effective 1 January 2020;
- Angola (2007);
- Gabon (1975) - terminated its membership in January 1995 but rejoined in July 2016;
- Equatorial Guinea (2017);
- Congo (2018).

Objectives of OPEC

- To coordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries
- In order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers
- An Efficient, Economic and Regular Supply of Petroleum to Consuming nations
- A Fair return on capital to those investing in the Industry

What is OPEC?

- OPEC Nations produce around 30% of the world's crude oil.
- Saudi Arabia is the biggest single oil producer within OPEC, producing more than 10 million barrels a day.
- In 2016, when oil prices were particularly low, OPEC joined forces with 10 other oil producers to create OPEC+.
- Those new members included Russia, which also produces over 10 million barrels a day.
- OPEC & OPEC+ together produce about 40% of all the world's crude oil.

Latest News

- Some members of oil cartel OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, and allied producers like Russia are again deepening their voluntary crude supply cuts.
- Announcements from several OPEC+ countries extend reductions of some 2.2 million barrels a day.
- Saudi Arabia led the pack by extending its previously-implemented cut of 1 million barrels a day through the end of 2024's second quarter.
- The OPEC+ countries participating in production cuts, which have gradually piled up since October 2022, have pointed to goals of balancing the oil market — noting that volumes will be gradually returned subject to market conditions.
- In October 2022, OPEC decided to cut oil production by 2 million barrels per day.

You Must Know!

- According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), OPEC's combined rate of oil production (including gas condensate) represented 44% of the world's total in 2016, and OPEC accounted for 81.5% of the world's "proven" oil reserves.
- Approval of a new member country requires agreement by three-quarters of OPEC's existing members, including all five of the founders.
- In October 2015, Sudan formally submitted an application to join, but it is not yet a member.
- Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan.
- As of March 2025, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) comprises 12 member countries.
- Recent changes in membership include Angola's departure and Brazil's association with OPEC+.
- In early 2025, Brazil joined OPEC+, a coalition of OPEC members and other major oil-producing nations.
- As a non-OPEC member, Brazil does not have binding production obligations but participates in discussions on industry strategies.
- Energy Minister Alexandre Silveira emphasized Brazil's need for growth and job creation, despite environmental concerns.
- The current OPEC members are Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

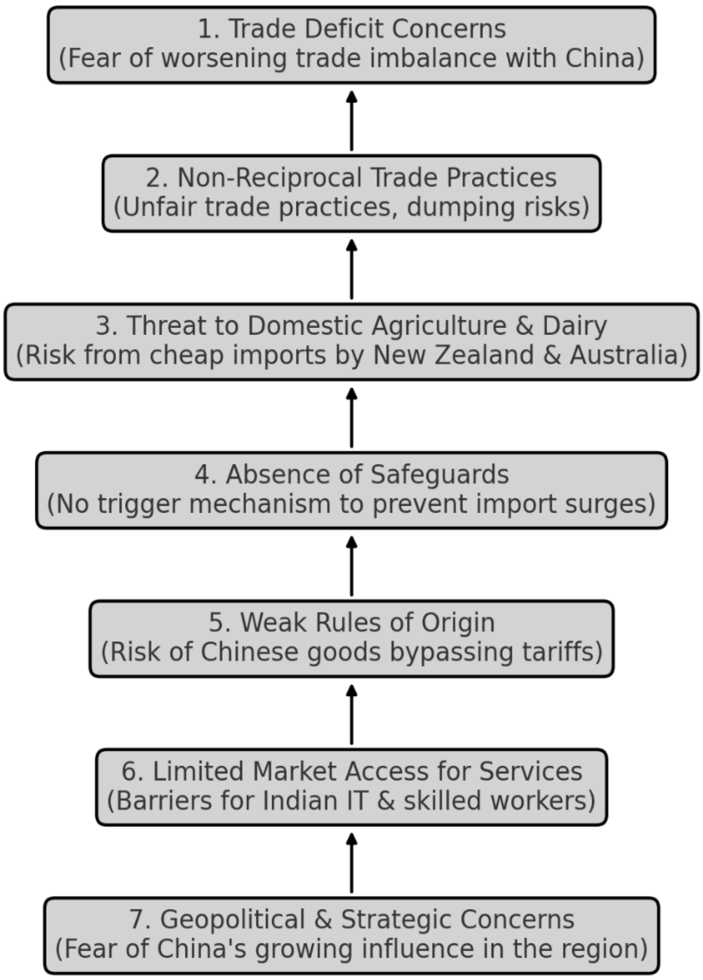
- On November 15th, 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific have come together after 8 years of strenuous negotiation to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- The 15 member countries account for about 30% of the world's population (2.2 billion people) and 30% of global GDP ($26.2 trillion) as of 2020, making it the biggest trade bloc in history.

- The RCEP includes the 10 ASEAN member countries of Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos as well as China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea.
- While China is party to 17 bilateral free trade agreements , this is the first multilateral regional trade agreement China has signed itself to and represents the first trade deal between China, Japan and South Korea – 3 of the 4 largest economies in Asia.
- Notably missing from the RCEP is India, who withdrew from negotiations in 2019 due to concerns that the RCEP could be detrimental to domestic producers as they compete against relatively cheaper goods coming in from other markets.
- The primary goal of the RCEP is to broaden and deepen engagement amongst its member countries through a comprehensive, modern, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership.
- The new bilateral trade agreements build upon the many existing trade agreements in the region and formalizes new trade relationships between countries who had no prior free trade agreement in place.
- India's decision was to safeguard the interests of industries like agriculture and dairy and to give an advantage to the country's services sector.
- According to officials, the current structure of RCEP still does not address these issues and concerns
- Major issues that were unresolved during RCEP negotiations were related to the exposure that India would have to China.
- This included India's fears that there were "inadequate" protections against surges in imports.
- It felt there could also be a possible circumvention of rules of origin— the criteria used to determine the national source of a product — in the absence of which some countries could dump their products by routing them through other countries that enjoyed lower tariffs.
- The move could potentially leave India with less scope to tap the large market that RCEP presents —the size of the deal is mammoth, as the countries involved account for over 2 billion of the world's population.
- India has trade deficits with 11 of the 15 RCEP countries, and some experts feel that India has been unable to leverage its existing bilateral free trade agreements with several RCEP members to increase exports.
- RCEP came into effect in January 2022 with the potential to strengthen supply chains, increase incomes and generate millions of jobs.
- During the RCEP summit in November 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated:
- "The RCEP agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP. It also does not address satisfactorily India's outstanding issues and concerns."

Present Position

- India continues to engage with ASEAN and RCEP countries through separate bilateral and regional agreements.
- India's focus remains on improving domestic competitiveness and addressing structural trade imbalances before reconsidering joining RCEP.
- Some RCEP members, including Japan and Australia, have encouraged India to reconsider its decision to strengthen the Indo-Pacific trade framework.

Reasons Why India Did Not Join RCEP



AIIB & NDB

AIIB

- 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.
- 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 2nd 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.

Who We Are

We enable clients to build Infrastructure for Tomorrow (i4t)—green infrastructure with sustainability, innovation and connectivity at its core. We do this by unlocking finance that brings this vision to fruition. As our clients succeed in building i4t, society shares in that success.

As a multilateral development bank focused on developing Asia, but with members from all over the world, our investments in infrastructure and other productive sectors seek to foster sustainable economic development, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity.

We adapt and innovate constantly to deliver customized investment solutions that overcome the challenges our clients face. They count on our resilience to help them meet their objectives even during the most difficult times.

Prosperity and economic development for Asia is our goal. To realize this, we facilitate the i4t that empowers regions and their people with access to physical, digital and social services. This in turn contributes to local, regional and global sustainability.

Nonregional members		Regional members	
$25 billion		$75 billion	
Top-10 contributors		**Top-10 contributors**	
Germany	$4.5 bil.	**China**	**$29.8 billion**
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

Rapid Growth in Worldwide Membership

AIIB began operations in 2016 with 57 founding Members (37 regional and 20 nonregional). By the end of 2020, we had 103 approved Members representing approximately 79 percent of the global population and 65 percent of global GDP.

AIIB- Founding Members

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.

Permanent Observer Status in the United Nations

In 2018, AIIB was granted Permanent Observer status in the deliberations of both the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the two development-focused principal organs of the global body.

Shareholders of AIIB

- China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank, followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%), and Germany (4.2 %)

AIIB & India

- India is the largest beneficiary of AIIB financing for infrastructure projects and is the second-largest shareholder (7.6%) in the bank only to China.
- The AIIB has approved more loans for India than any other bank member and has funded 28 projects in India, amounting to USD6.7 billion.
- India, in October 2021, India applied for loans from the AIIB and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) initiative.
- The projects in India span a range of sectors such as energy, water, transport, etc.
- The bank has also approved $500 million for a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and Health Systems Preparedness Project.
- AIIB also approved a USD 356.67 million loan to the Indian government to support the expansion of the Chennai metro rail system.

AIIB– Addition Of Members

- **Republic of Nauru**: In September 2024, during its Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the AIIB approved the Republic of Nauru as its 110th member.
- **El Salvador, Solomon Islands, and Tanzania**: In 2023, the AIIB's Board of Governors approved the applications of these three countries, increasing the Bank's membership to 109.

Strategic Incentives

- **Climate-Focused Policy-Based Financing**: In 2024, the AIIB introduced this instrument to support members in implementing climate-positive policy reforms and scaling up climate finance. This approach moves beyond traditional project-by-project lending.
- **Health Strategy Launch**: The AIIB launched its first health strategy aimed at strengthening the resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability of health systems among its member countries.

New Development Bank

About NDB

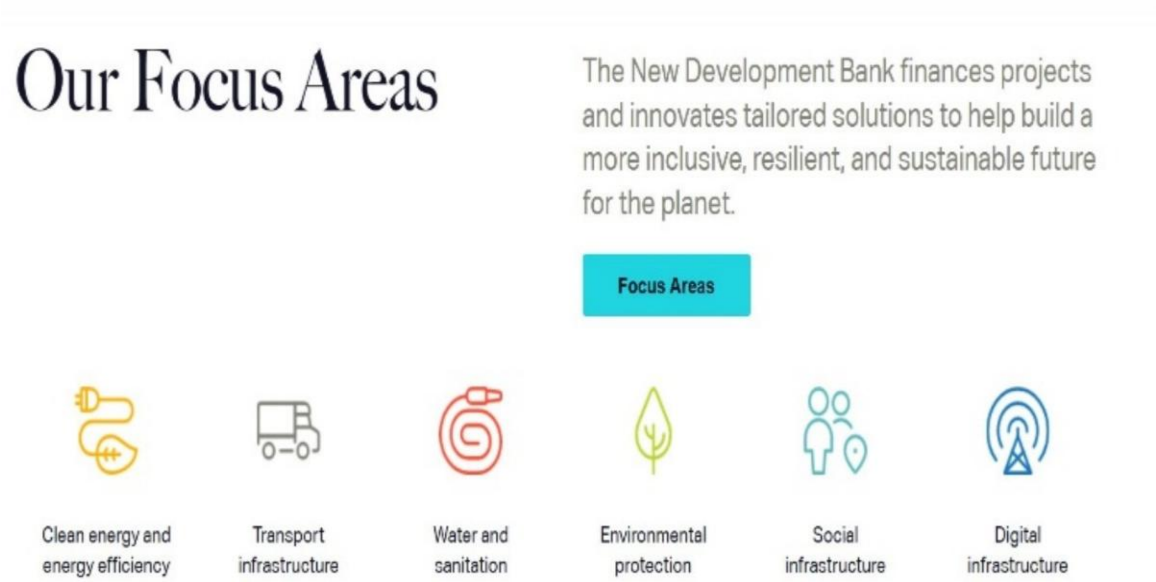
- The New Development Bank (NDB) BRICS group of nations comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa .
- This was established in 2015.
- To begin with, the bank will start operating with $50 billion in initial capital with the five BRICS contributing $10 billion each.
- According to the pact, the ***capital of the bank will be divided equally*** among the five participating nations and ***initially it will focus on infrastructure projects member countries.***
- The headquarters of the bank will be located in Shanghai, China.
- Eminent **banker Kondapur Vamana Kamath** was appointed as first President New Development Bank. NDB) of BRICS nations.
- Bangladesh & UAE became members of NDB in September & October 2021 respectively

Founding Members

Additional Information

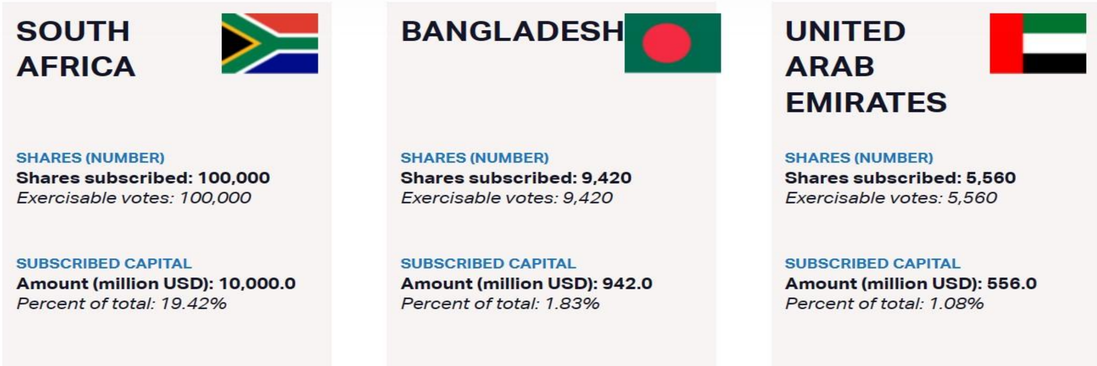
- The Bank shall ***mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS*** and other emerging economies
- Unlike the World Bank, ***which assigns votes based on capital share***, in the ***New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote***, and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

- 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.
- Egypt & Uruguay are Prospective Members to NDB.



Capital Structure & Subscription

- NDB has the initial authorised capital of USD 100 billion, which is divided into one million shares that have a par value of one hundred thousand dollars each.
- NDB's founding members made an initial subscription of five hundred thousand shares totalling USD 50 billion.
- Which include one hundred thousand shares corresponding to a paid-in capital of USD 10 billion.
- And four hundred thousand shares corresponding to a callable capital of USD 40 billion.
- The initial subscribed capital was equally distributed amongst the founding members.



Addition of Members

- **Bangladesh**: Admitted in September 2021.
- **United Arab Emirates**: Joined in September 2021.
- **Uruguay**: Became a member in September 2021.
- **Egypt**: Admitted in December 2021.
- **Algeria**: Authorized to join in August 2024.

United Nations Emblem and Flag

Emblem of UN

- With a pair of olive tree branches and a map of the world.
- The emblem and the flag on which it rests are also **aspirational symbols for people all over the world**, for they speak to their hopes and dreams of peace and unity.

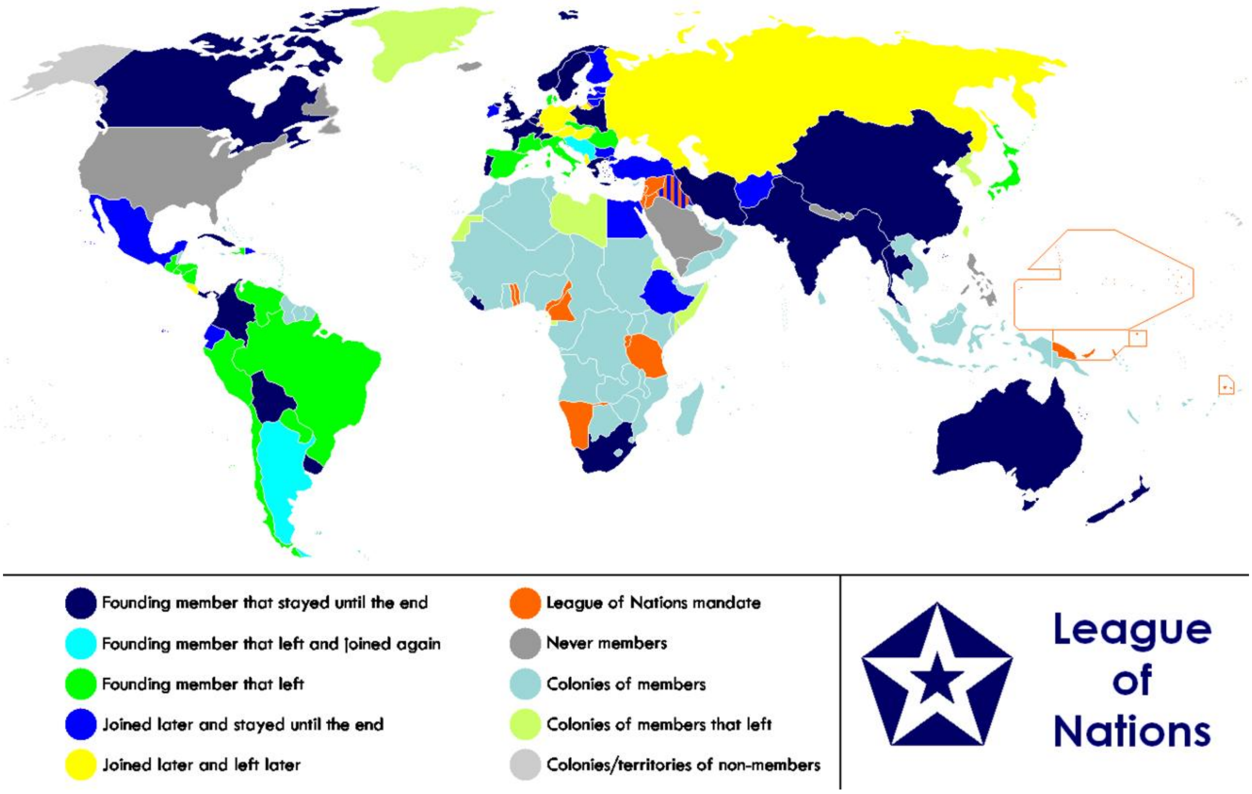
Secretary General of UN

- The **Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer** of the UN – and is also a **symbol of the Organization's ideals** and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the **recommendation of the Security Council** for a 5-year, renewable term.
- The current Secretary-General, and the 9th occupant of the post, is **António Guterres of Portugal**, who took office on 1 January 2017.

- On the 18th of June, 2021, Guterres was re-appointed to a second term, **pledging as his priority to continue helping** the world chart a course out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Predecessor of UN

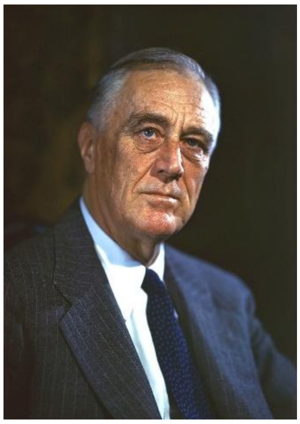
- The predecessor of the United Nations was the **League of Nations, established in 1919**, after World War I, **under the Treaty of Versailles** "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security."
- As of **20 April 1946, the League of Nations ceased** to exist, **having handed over all of its assets** to the United Nations, and **having granted the new UN** Secretariat full control of its Library and archives.



The League of Nations was established at the end of World War I as an international peacekeeping organization. Although US President Woodrow Wilson was an enthusiastic proponent of the League, the United States did not officially join the League of Nations due to opposition from isolationists in Congress.

History of Foundation of UN

- The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, **an organization conceived in circumstances** of the First World War and **established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles** "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** was also created in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League.
- **The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt.**



The San Francisco Conference

| The audience at the opening session of the United Nations Conference on International Organization (also known as the San Francisco Conference) on 25 April, 1945. UN

United Nations Conference on International Organization (1945)

- The United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO), commonly known as the San Francisco Conference.
- It was a convention of delegates from 50 Allied nations that took place from 25 April 1945 to 26 June 1945 in San Francisco, California, United States.
- **Conference held in San Francisco (USA)**, was attended by **representatives of 50 countries** and signed the United Nations Charter.
- The UN Charter of 1945 is the foundational treaty of the United Nations, as an inter-governmental organization.
- 24 October 1945 (now observed annually as United Nations Day)

Founding Member States

- In accordance with Article 110, the Charter entered into force on **24 October 1945**, after ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and **a majority of the other countries.**

The original members of the United Nations were: China (then the Republic of China), France (then the Provisional Government), Russia (then the Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, the United States (these first five forming the Security Council), Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil (then the Vargas Era Brazil), Belarus (then the Byelorussian SSR), Canada, Chile (then the 1925–73 Presidential Republic), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (then the 1902–59 Republic), Czechoslovakia (then the Third Republic), Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt (then the Kingdom of Egypt), El Salvador, Ethiopia (then the Ethiopian Empire), Greece (then the Glücksburg Kingdom), Guatemala, Haiti (then the 1859–1957 Republic), Honduras, India, Iran (then the Pahlavi dynasty), Iraq (then the Kingdom of Iraq), Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand (then the Dominion of New Zealand), Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines (then the Commonwealth), Poland (then the Provisional Government of National Unity), Saudi Arabia, South Africa (then the Union of South Africa), Syria (then the Mandatory Republic), Turkey, Ukraine (then the Ukrainian SSR), Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia (then the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia).[7]

Additional Information

- There are **<u>two permanent non-member</u>** observer states (**Palestine and Vatican City/Holy See**).
- Every member state has **equal representation** in the UN General Assembly.
- Its mission is to **maintain international peace and security** by preventing conflict, **mediating for nations in conflict**, and creating the conditions to hold peace.
- Additionally, **the UN also protects human rights**, delivers humanitarian aid, **upholds international law**, and promotes sustainable development.

193 United Nations member states
2 UN General Assembly observer states (Holy See (Vatican City), State of Palestine)
2 eligible non-member states (Cook Islands, Niue)
17 non-self-governing territories
Antarctica (assertion of territorial claims suspended under the Antarctic Treaty System)

UN System

MAIN BODIES

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

Principal Organs of the United Nations

- **General Assembly** – Main deliberative and policymaking organ of the UN.
- **UNDP** – United Nations Development Programme
- **UNHCR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **UNICEF** – United Nations Children's Fund
- **WFP** – World Food Programme
- **Security Council** – Responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- **Peacekeeping Operations** – Oversees peacekeeping missions worldwide.
- **Sanctions Committees** – Monitors and enforces sanctions.
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** – Promotes economic, social, and environmental cooperation.
- **WHO** – World Health Organization
- **ILO** – International Labour Organization
- **UNESCO** – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **IMF** – International Monetary Fund

- **World Bank** – Provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries.
- **FAO** – Food and Agriculture Organization
- **UNEP** – United Nations Environment Programme
- **Trusteeship Council** – Oversaw trust territories (inactive since 1994).
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** – Settles legal disputes between states.
- **Secretariat** – Administers the programs and policies of the UN.
  - Led by the Secretary-General.
  - Manages UN peacekeeping operations and global programs.

Specialized Agencies of the United Nations

- **IAEA** – International Atomic Energy Agency
- **WMO** – World Meteorological Organization
- **IFAD** – International Fund for Agricultural Development
- **ITU** – International Telecommunication Union
- **UPU** – Universal Postal Union
- **UNCTAD** – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Other UN Entities

- **WTO** – World Trade Organization (cooperates with the UN)
- **ICAO** – International Civil Aviation Organization
- **IMO** – International Maritime Organization
- **UNFCCC** – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the **main deliberative**, policymaking and **representative organ of the UN**.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, **making it the only UN body** with universal representation.
- Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and **general debate**, which many heads of state attend and address.
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.
- Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.
- The General Assembly, each year, elects a GA President to serve a one-year term of office.

Security Council

- The **Security Council has primary responsibility**, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- It has 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members).
- Each Member has one vote.
- Under the Charter, **all Member States are obligated** to comply with Council decisions.
- The **Security Council takes the lead in determining** the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression.

- It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
- In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- The Security Council has a Presidency, which rotates, and changes, every month.

Economic & Social Council

- The Economic and Social Council is the **principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue** and recommendations on **economic, social and environmental issues**, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.
- It is the United Nations' central platform for **reflection, debate**, and **innovative thinking** on sustainable development.

Few Important Bodies Under the Purview of ECOSOC

- International labour Organization (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Bretton Woods Twins (World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Trusteeship Council

- The Trusteeship Council, one of the main organs of the UN, was established to supervise the administration of trust territories as they transitioned from colonies to sovereign nations.
- The Council suspended its activities in 1994, when Palau, the last of the original 11 trust territories, gained its independence.
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994.
- Although under the United Nations Charter it continues to exist on paper, its future role and even existence remains uncertain.

G20

How Does G20 Works?

- The G20 consists of two parallel tracks: the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track.
- Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors lead the Finance Track.
- The ***G20 process is led by the Sherpas of member countries***, who are personal emissaries of the Leaders.
- The Sherpas, ***oversee negotiations over the course of the year***, discussing agenda items for the Summit and coordinating the substantive work of the G20.

Origin and Evolution

- The G20 was ***founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis*** as a forum for the ***Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors*** to discuss global economic and financial issues.
- The G20 was later upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government and was designated the ***"premier forum for international economic cooperation".***
- ***Since 2011, the G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency.***
- The G20 initially focused largely on ***broad macroeconomic policy.***
- Ever since it has expanded its ambit to ***include trade, climate change, sustainable development, energy, environment***, climate change, anti-corruption etc.

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

G-20 Event in 2025

- The G20 Summit 2025 held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from November 22 to 23 marked a moment in global governance.
- Hosting the gathering for the first time on African soil, South Africa brought developmental priorities of the Global South to center stage.
- Despite American objections, G20 leaders on Saturday (November 22) adopted the Summit Declaration, addressing the climate crisis and other global challenges.
- The 20th G20 Leaders' Summit was held at the Johannesburg Expo Centre on November 22-23.
- The summit was most notable for the absence of US President Donald Trump and Washington's boycott of the South Africa's presidency — because the country was allegedly committing "genocide" against white South Africans.
- In that context, the G20 leaders' declaration, especially one which mentions climate change, a term that has been anathema to the Trump White House, is significant.
- The declaration was drafted without input from the US.

Highlights of G-20 Event, 2025

Acknowledges historic African summit

- This declaration acknowledged the first G20 Leaders' Summit convened on the African continent.

- The document mentions the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which translates to "I am because we are", underscoring the interconnectedness of individuals within communal, societal, economic, and environmental contexts.
- It is this spirit of interconnectedness that, the declaration says, drives the "commitment to ensure that no one is left behind through multilateral cooperation, macro policy coordination, global partnerships for sustainable development and solidarity."

Enhances African representation in global finance

- The G20 this year has made concrete efforts to enhance the voice and representation of the developing world, particularly Africa, in global financial governance.
- The leaders welcomed the creation of a 25th chair at the IMF Executive Board specifically designed to enhance the voice and representation of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Moreover, the G20 noted the achievement of exceeding $100 billion in voluntary channelling of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or equivalent contributions for countries in need, and the transfer to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust.
- SDRs are supplementary foreign exchange reserve assets defined and maintained by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Comprehensive action on debt sustainability

- The G20 declaration recognised that high debt severely limits the ability of many developing economies to invest in infrastructure, healthcare, and education.
- The leaders, thus, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the implementation of the G20 Common Framework (CF) for debt treatments in a predictable, timely, and coordinated manner.
- They also supported exploring the voluntary use of liability management operations and debt-for-development or debt-for-climate swaps, emphasising the need to enhance debt transparency from all stakeholders, including private creditors.

Scaling climate action & disaster resilience finance

- The declaration emphasised on the urgency of tackling climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- It highlighted the devastating impact of increasing disasters on vulnerable states, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- To address this, the leaders welcomed the G20 Voluntary High-Level Principles for Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and reiterated the urgent need for universal coverage of early warning systems.

- Crucially, the declaration underscored the need to scale up global climate finance from "billions to trillions" and noted that developing countries require an estimated $5.8-5.9 trillion for their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) before 2030.
- This was particularly notable given the United States' opposition to the inclusion of climate change in the G20 declaration.
- After the declaration was made, the White House criticised South Africa for "weaponising" its presidency.

Mobilising finance for just energy transitions

- The declaration emphasised on energy inequalities, noting that over 600 million Africans lack electricity and an estimated 1 billion lack access to clean cooking fuels, which contributes to two million African deaths annually.
- To combat this, the G20 supports efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally and double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
- The declaration welcomed the Mission 300 platform, led by the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, dedicated to connecting 300 million people to electricity in Africa by 2030.
- This commitment includes mobilising varied financial sources to facilitate low-cost financing for energy transitions in developing countries.

Establishes a critical minerals framework

- The G20 declaration states, "as the world economy is undergoing significant changes, including sustainable transitions, rapid digitisation and industrial innovations, the demand for critical minerals will increase."
- Based on this recognition, the leaders welcomed the G20 Critical Minerals Framework, a voluntary, non-binding blueprint designed to secure sustainable, transparent, stable, and resilient critical mineral value chains.
- The Framework aims to "unlock investment in mineral exploration, promote local beneficiation at source, and strengthen governance for sustainable mining practices."
- It specifically calls for investment for critical minerals exploration in developing countries

On global food security and the Right to Food

- Alarmed that as many as 720 million people experienced hunger in 2024, the G20 declaration reaffirmed the progressive realisation of the Right to Food and the importance of open, non-discriminatory trade policies.
- The declaration welcomed the work of the G20 Food Security Task Force, established under the South African Presidency, which aligns with other existing frameworks on food security.

- The G20 leaders also encouraged targeted support for African smallholder farmers and fishers, supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and investing in local food production to reduce dependency on volatile global supply chains.

On AI and digital inclusion for development

- Recognising the transformative potential of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), the declaration welcomed the work of the G20 Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development.
- Notably, the declaration identified a number of issues that must be addressed "to ensure safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment and use".
- The declaration specifically highlighted the launch of the AI for Africa Initiative, a voluntary platform for multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation between the G20 and the African Union.

New targets for youth employment & gender parity

- The declaration made crucial new commitments to social equality and employment targets.
- Building on previous goals, the leaders adopted the Nelson Mandela Bay Target, which aims to reduce the rate of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET) by a further 5 per cent by 2030 (compared to 2024 levels).
- The G20 leaders also adopted the revised Brisbane-eThekwini Goal to reduce the gender gap in labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2030 (from 2012 levels).
- Additionally, the Leaders committed to progressively working towards reducing the unadjusted wage gap between men and women by 15 per cent by 2035.

Commitment to global governance & UN Reform

- A recurrent theme across the declaration was a commitment to strengthening multilateralism (framed as a part of the Ubuntu philosophy).
- The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to act in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.
- The call for UNSC reform was also made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting with Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

Initiatives Proposed by Indian PM at G-20

- **G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus**: Flagging the issue of drug trafficking including that of fentanyl, Prime Minister Modi told the G20 leaders' that this poses a serious challenge to global security and is a major means of financing terrorism. To effectively address this global threat, he proposed the "G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus" to "weaken" the "drug-terror economy"
- **G20-Africa Skills Multiplier initiative:** PM Modi proposed a G20-Africa Skills Multiplier initiative that will train one million certified trainers in Africa over the next 10 years.
- Other Initiatives: He also proposed formation of a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, creation of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, an Open Satellite Data Partnership and a Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative.
- Underlining that India's approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) is anchored on access, skilling and responsible deployment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the world needs a **"global compact on AI"**, which should include effective "human oversight, safety-by-design, transparency", and strict prohibitions on the use of AI for "deepfakes, crime, and terrorist activities".

- Addressing G20 leaders during a session on "A Fair and a Just Future for All – Critical Minerals; Decent Work; Artificial Intelligence" on the second day of the summit in Johannesburg, PM Modi also extended an invitation to all G20 countries to participate in the **AI Impact summit** to be held in India in February 2026.

ON IBSA- Views of PM Modi

- On the sidelines, PM Modi addressed the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Summit.
- He said reforming the UN Security Council was no longer optional but essential, urging the IBSA grouping to send a strong message for fairer global governance
- Modi proposed institutionalising an IBSA-level NSA meet, creating an IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance, and forming an IBSA Fund for Climate-Resilient Agriculture.
- He highlighted opportunities for cooperation in digital public infrastructure, green energy, natural farming, disaster resilience and traditional medicine.

ACITI Partnership

- The leaders of the three nations announced the launch of the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership to boost trilateral cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, complementing the existing bilateral initiatives
- The initiative will leverage the natural strengths of the three countries, with an emphasis on green energy innovation and building resilient supply chains, including those for critical minerals. It will deepen the respective ambition and strategic collaboration towards net zero and drive further diversification of supply chains towards a secure, sustainable, and resilient future, according to a joint statement issued by the three sides.

Win Win for 3 Countries

- Canada is a global heavyweight in foundational AI research, home to some of the pioneers of deep learning.
- Australia possesses significant deep-tech research ecosystems in quantum and robotics.
- India, conversely, brings the world's largest democratic talent pool.
- Discussions at the upcoming India-Canada Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee meeting are expected to prioritise this integration, specifically exploring how Canadian foundational AI models can be deployed atop India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

About G 20

- The G20, or the Group of Twenty, is an informal grouping of 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States) and the European Union and African Union.

- These members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.
- As a forum for international economic cooperation, it plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.
- Unlike the United Nations (UN), G20 **does not have a permanent secretariat** or staff.
- Rather, the G20 presidency rotates annually among the members and is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda, organising its workings and hosting summits.
- The presidency is supported by the **"troika"** – previous, current and incoming presidencies.
- During South Africa's Presidency, the members of the G20 troika are Brazil, South Africa and the United States.

G-7

About G7

- The G7, originally G8, ***was set up in 1975*** as an ***informal forum*** bringing together the leaders of the world's leading industrial nations.
- The summit gathers leaders from the European Union (EU) and the following countries: ***Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.***
- The major purpose of the G-7 is to ***discuss and deliberate*** on international economic issues.
- It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a ***special focus on economic issues***.
- Russia was formally inducted as a member in the group in 1998, which led G7 to become G8

You Must Know

- The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office.
- It is organized through a presidency that rotates annually among the member states.
- With the presiding state setting the group's priorities and hosting and organizing its summit.

G7 Summit, 2025

- The 51st G7 Summit, held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15–17, 2025, brought together leaders of the G7 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, and invited guest countries, including India.
- The summit, marking the 50th anniversary of the G7's founding, addressed critical global issues under Canada's presidency, themed around protecting communities, energy security, digital transition, and future-oriented partnerships.

Global Security and Geopolitical Tensions

- **Israel-Iran Conflict**: The summit was overshadowed by escalating tensions in the Middle East, particularly the Israel-Iran conflict, which entered its fifth day during the summit. G7 leaders issued a joint statement supporting Israel's right to self-defense, condemning Iran as a source of regional instability and terrorism, and opposing Iran's nuclear ambitions. However, U.S. President Donald Trump's early departure on June 16 to address the conflict limited consensus on broader Middle Eastern strategies.
- **Russia-Ukraine War**: Discussions on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict failed to produce a joint statement due to U.S. resistance, marking a departure from previous summits where the G7 coordinated sanctions against Russia.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's presence highlighted the issue, but Trump's early exit prevented a planned bilateral meeting with him.

Economic and Trade Challenges

- **Global Trade War**: Trump's reinitiation of a global trade war through U.S. tariffs dominated economic discussions. The summit's first session focused on global economic stability, but no unified communique was issued, reflecting disagreements.
  - Canada's decision to forgo a final communique in favor of six short joint statements on issues like wildfires and critical minerals aimed to avoid public disputes.
- **World Bank Outlook**: The World Bank's prediction of the slowest decade for global growth since the 1960s, exacerbated by U.S. tariffs, underscored the need for economic cooperation, but G7 leaders struggled to align

Energy Security and Digital Transition

- **Energy Security Session**: The Outreach Session, attended by India, focused on "Energy Security: Diversification, Technology, and Infrastructure to Ensure Access and Affordability in a Changing World."
  - Leaders discussed diversifying energy sources and accelerating clean energy transitions to mitigate global energy market disruptions, particularly due to the Israel-Iran conflict.
- **AI and Digital Governance**: The G7 emphasized ethical AI governance, quantum technology, and digital inclusion. Statements on AI regulation aimed to establish frameworks for responsible use, aligning with global calls for equitable technology access.

Global South Advocacy

- **Outreach to Guest Nations**: Guest countries, including India, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, and Ukraine, were invited to ensure Global South perspectives. India's participation highlighted its role as a bridge between developed and emerging economies

- **India's Advocacy**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the Global South's priorities, including development financing, debt relief, and equitable energy access, reinforcing India's leadership in representing developing nations.

Takeaways for India

- Leadership Role: PM Modi's address at the Outreach Session on energy security emphasized India's commitment to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy, aligning with Global South priorities. India's advocacy for development financing, debt relief, and equitable energy access reinforced its position as a voice for developing nations
- AI and Technology Governance: India called for inclusive AI regulations and shared its success with Digital Public Infrastructure (e.g., UPI, Aadhaar) as scalable global solutions. The invitation to the 2026 AI Impact Summit in India positioned it as a leader in ethical tech governance
- **Bilateral Progress between India & Canada**: The agreement to appoint new High Commissioners marked a step toward normalizing ties strained since 2023 over the Nijjar assassination allegations. Modi's bilateral meeting with Carney focused on clean energy, technology, AI, food security, and critical minerals, offering opportunities for collaboration.
- **Strong Stance**: Modi urged G7 leaders to take unified action against terrorism, criticizing double standards and calling for consequences for countries supporting terrorism. He highlighted India's concerns about state-sponsored extremism and proxy violence, though the summit's vague reference to "transnational repression" diluted specific commitments.

Outreach Sessions

- Outreach Sessions are side meetings or extended discussions held during G7 Summits where leaders of invited non-G7 countries, regional organizations, or international bodies join G7 leaders to address specific global challenges.
- These sessions aim to ensure the G7's agenda reflects broader global perspectives, particularly from the Global South or emerging economies.
- Inclusivity: The G7, representing major advanced economies, recognizes its limited scope in a multipolar world. Outreach Sessions bring in voices from emerging economies, developing nations, or conflict-affected regions to make discussions more representative.
- Global Challenges: Issues like climate change, terrorism, energy security, and digital governance require global cooperation. Inviting non-G7 countries ensures broader input and alignment on solutions.

- Diplomatic Engagement: Outreach Sessions provide a platform for G7 leaders to engage bilaterally with guest leaders, fostering trade, security, and diplomatic ties. For instance, at the 2025 Summit, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with leaders from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, France, South Korea, Ukraine, and Mexico.
- Legitimacy and Relevance: By including non-G7 nations, the G7 counters criticisms of being an exclusive "rich nations' club" and strengthens its relevance in addressing global issues.

About BRICS

- ***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)[56][57]	Nom. GDP bil. USD (2022 est.)[58]	PPP GDP bil. USD (2022 est.)[58]	Nom. GDP per capita USD (2022 est.)[58]	PPP GDP per capita USD (2020 est.)[58]	GDP growth (2018 est.)[59]	Foreign Exchange Reserves (2021)[60]
Brazil	▲210,869.000	1,363	4,593	6,450	17,016	▲1.0%	$355,620 million
Russia	▲143,964.709	1,464	4,519	9,972	30,820	▲1.6%	$600,900 million
India	▲1,367,089.879	3,440	14,363	2,505	9,027	▲7.1%	$633,894 million
China	▲1,415,045.928	14,860	29,471	10,873	20,984	▲6.7%	$3,198,200 million
South Africa	▲57,398.421	370	834	6,193	13,965	▲1.4%	$53,760 million
Average	▲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.[43]
2nd	15 April 2010	Brazil	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	Brasília (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.[43]
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.[43]
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.[44]
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.[44]
6th	14–17 July 2014	Brazil	Dilma Rousseff	Fortaleza (Centro de Eventos do Ceará)[45]	BRICS New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed. Guest: Leaders of Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)[46][47] The members of BRICS conversed with each other about political coordination, development, and economic growth. They established the Fortaleza Declaration and Action Plan.[48]

7th	8–9 July 2015	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Ufa (Congress Hall)[49]	Joint summit with SCO-EAEU. The seventh summit discussed global, economic problems, and better ways to foster cooperation among member states.[48]
8th	15–16 October 2016	India	Narendra Modi	Benaulim (Taj Exotica)	Joint summit with BIMSTEC. 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.[50]
9th	3–5 September 2017	China	Xi Jinping	Xiamen (Xiamen International Conference Center)	Joint summit with EMDCD. 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.[50]
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	Brasília (Itamaraty Palace)[55]	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)[63] 17 November 2020 (video conference)[64]	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Saint Petersburg[65]	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.[66]
13th	9 September 2021 (video conference)	India	Narendra Modi	New Delhi	BRICS Games 2021[67]

14th	23 June 2022 (video conference)	China	Xi Jinping	Beijing	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.
15th	22–24 August 2023	South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa	Johannesburg (Sandton Convention Centre)	Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates were invited to join the bloc. Full membership was scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2024.[47][48] On December 29, 2023, the Government of Argentina sent a letter to all BRICS leaders officially declining the invitation to join the bloc.[51] Saudi Arabia has not yet confirmed its acceptance.[68]
16th	October 2024	Russia	TBD	Kazan	[69]

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

BRICS Expansion

- The concept of expansion within the BRICS group can be traced back to **2013** when the African Union was invited by the South African Presidency, signifying early efforts to reach out.
- In **2017**, **China** introduced the **'BRICS Plus' idea**, indicating a willingness to be more inclusive.
- In 2022, BRICS agreed to accept new member countries, leading to applications for membership from Iran and Argentina.
- However, complexities arose due to a lack of clarity regarding the criteria and procedures for joining.
- In the year 2023, the BRICS summit extensively discussed the topic of expansion, with more than 40 countries expressing interest and 23 formally applying for membership.

- Following thorough deliberations, the summit extended invitations to six countries—**Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**—to become full-fledged **members of BRICS starting from January 1, 2024**.
- This expansion significantly augments the economic influence of BRICS and enhances its envisioned role as a geopolitical alternative to Western-dominated global institutions.
- With the addition of these new members, the BRICS grouping will represent approximately **46.5%** of the **world's population** and account for roughly **30% of the global GDP**.

Table 3: Expanded BRICS GDP

Country	*GDP (USD billions)*	*Share of Global %*
Brazil	$2,081	2.0%
Russia	$2,063	2.0%
India	$3,737	3.6%
China	$19,374	18.4%
South Africa	$399	0.4%
Saudi Arabia	$1,062	1.0%
Iran	$368	0.4%
Ethiopia	$156	0.1%
Egypt	$387	0.4%
Argentina	$641	0.6%
UAE	$499	0.5%

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook 2023, *International Monetary Fund*, April 2023.

Highlights

- "Introducing new members enhances the group's influence as a representative body for emerging nations.
- Presently, BRICS embodies roughly 40% of the global population and over 25% of the world's economic output.

- With these new inclusions, it will encompass nearly 50% of the world's population and count among its members three of the largest oil-producing countries: Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran."

Significance of 15th Summit

- The group's enlargement enhances its position as a representative of the interests of the "**Global South.**"
- Currently, BRICS constitutes around 40% of the world's population and more than a quarter of the global GDP.
- With these additional members, it will encompass nearly half of the world's population and include three of the largest oil-producing nations: **Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Iran**.
- This expansion aligns with the desire for a **multipolar world** and provides a forum for Global South countries to express their unity and cooperation.

BRICS and the Emerging World Order

- BRICS has become a **significant actor** in **redefining** the **global landscape**.
- It offers a forum to tackle issues related to **global governance imbalances** and the **dominance** of **Western powers**.
- With an ambitious agenda mirroring their increasing influence, BRICS countries aspire to shape a world order characterized by **multiple centers of power**.
- Their focus on collaboration as opposed to acting unilaterally presents an alternative perspective to traditional power structures.
- As a coalition of emerging economies, BRICS advocates for a **more inclusive and fair global system** that accommodates various interests.
- BRICS seeks to establish a multipolar world order that challenges prevailing power dynamics while maintaining a spirit of cooperation.
- The wide-ranging effects of BRICS' expansion, from enhanced economic influence on a more varied **approach to energy strategies**, underscore the group's ***proactive engagement in a turbulent global landscape***.

Argentina Declines BRICS

- Argentina's new President, Javier Milei, has withdrawn the country from its planned entry into the expanding BRICS club of nations.
- In a letter to the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, Mr. Milei said decisions taken by the preceding government had been revised.
- The BRICS countries are often seen as a counterweight to the Western-led world.

Inclusion of New Full Members

- **Indonesia:** On January 6, 2025, Indonesia officially became a full member of BRICS, marking the bloc's expansion into Southeast Asia. This addition underscores Indonesia's strategic importance and its robust economic growth.
- In January 2025, BRICS introduced a new category of "partner countries," expanding its collaborative framework. The nations granted this status include:
  - Belarus
  - Bolivia

- Cuba
- Kazakhstan
- Malaysia
- Nigeria
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Uzbekistan

- This initiative aims to strengthen economic and political ties with these countries, enhancing BRICS' global reach.

Brazil Presidency, 2025

- On January 1, 2025, Brazil assumed the presidency of BRICS.
- Under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil seeks to promote sustainable development, deepen economic cooperation, and address climate change challenges within the BRICS framework.
- The recent expansions have positioned BRICS as a formidable global entity, representing approximately half of the world's population and over 41% of the global GDP (Purchasing Power Parity).
- This growth enhances BRICS' role in advocating for the Global South and challenging traditional Western-dominated economic structures.

BRICS

- The bloc accounts for 46% of the world’s population and 25% of its landmass, positioning it as a formidable economic entity.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), established in 2015, has been a cornerstone of BRICS’ economic strategy, providing funding for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets, offering an alternative to Western-dominated institutions like the World Bank and IMF.
- By 2025, the NDB has strengthened financial cooperation, particularly in supporting Global South countries.
- The push for de-dollarization is another critical aspect of BRICS’ economic agenda. In 2025, 69% of intra-BRICS trade is conducted in national currencies, reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar.
- This shift is particularly significant for countries like Iran, which views BRICS as a platform to counter Western financial dominance.
- However, U.S. President Donald Trump’s threats of 100% tariffs on BRICS nations pursuing de-dollarization, announced in November 2024 and reiterated in January 2025, highlight the challenges to this strategy.
- Despite these threats, BRICS countries continue to expand local currency trade, with Russia reporting over 90% of its BRICS trade in national currencies by July 2025.
- The 2025 BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro emphasized economic cooperation, with Brazil’s presidency focusing on reforms to global financial governance and sustainable development.

- The inclusion of new members like Indonesia, which joined in January 2025, and partner countries like Nigeria and Vietnam, has bolstered the bloc's economic diversity and influence in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Diplomatic Influence

- BRICS serves as a vital diplomatic platform for the Global South, fostering coordination on issues such as global governance reform, counterterrorism, and regional stability.
- The bloc's annual summits, including the 2025 Rio de Janeiro summit, have prioritized cooperation in science, technology, innovation, and digital economies, as well as combating transnational crime like money laundering and drug trafficking.
- The establishment of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum in 2024 further enhances inter-parliamentary exchanges, strengthening diplomatic ties.
- The bloc's expansion to 11 members in 2024–2025, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, has increased its geopolitical weight, particularly in the Middle East and Africa.
- For instance, Ethiopia's membership aligns with its nonaligned foreign policy and strengthens its strategic partnership with China, while Iran leverages BRICS to counter its international isolation.
- The creation of a "partner country" category in 2024, including nations like Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, has expanded BRICS' diplomatic reach, with over 40 countries expressing interest in joining by 2025.
- However, internal divisions limit BRICS' diplomatic cohesion. The bloc comprises democracies (Brazil, India, South Africa) and authoritarian regimes (China, Russia), leading to divergent priorities.
- For example, Brazil, India, and South Africa maintain multi-aligned strategies, balancing ties with the West and BRICS, while Russia and China push for a more anti-Western stance.
- The absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 2025 Rio summit underscores these tensions, signaling potential challenges in unified decision-making.
- BRICS positions itself as a counterweight to Western-led institutions like the G7, World Bank, and UN Security Council, advocating for a "just and reasonable post-Western order." The 2024 Kazan summit and 2025 Rio summit declarations called for a reformed multilateral system, emphasizing greater representation for emerging economies.
- The bloc's focus on issues like cybersecurity, energy trade, and carbon-unit trading reflects its ambition to shape global governance.

- The strategic alignment of Russia and China has driven BRICS' geopolitical agenda, particularly in challenging U.S. hegemony. Russia's hosting of the 2024 Kazan summit, despite its invasion of Ukraine, highlighted BRICS' role as a "safe haven" for diplomatically isolated nations.

Challenges & Limitations

- **Internal Divisions**: Political diversity and differing strategic priorities hinder consensus. Brazil, India, and South Africa's multi-alignment contrasts with Russia and China's anti-Western rhetoric, limiting unified action.
- **Western Pushback**: U.S. tariffs and dismissive rhetoric, such as Trump's February 2025 claim that "BRICS is dead," pose economic and diplomatic challenges. The G7's dominance in global financial systems remains a barrier to BRICS' de-dollarization efforts.
- **Cohesion vs. Expansion**: The 2024–2025 expansion has increased BRICS' global representation but risks diluting its cohesion, as new members bring diverse interests and agendas.
- **Lack of Formal Structure**: As an informal coalition, BRICS lacks the binding mechanisms of organizations like the EU or NATO, relying on consensus-based decision-making, which can be slow and ineffective.
- In 2025, BRICS demonstrates notable efficacy in contemporary geopolitics through its economic clout, diplomatic coordination, and advocacy for a multipolar world order.
- The bloc's expansion, de-dollarization efforts, and institutions like the NDB enhance its global influence, particularly for Global South nations seeking alternatives to Western dominance.
- However, internal divisions, Western opposition, and the absence of a formal structure limit its ability to fully challenge the existing global order. Brazil's 2025 presidency offers an opportunity to strengthen Global South cooperation, but BRICS' long-term efficacy will depend on its ability to navigate internal fissures and external pressures.

Concept of Partner Countries

- The concept of **"Partner Countries"** was introduced in **January 2025** as part of BRICS' expansion strategy to enhance its global reach and influence.
- It allows BRICS to engage with additional countries **without granting them full membership**, thereby expanding its political and economic influence while maintaining the core structure of the original bloc.

Objectives

Strengthening Global South Influence:

- Partner country status gives emerging economies and developing nations a platform to engage with BRICS' agenda without becoming full members.
- This aligns with BRICS' goal of creating a **multipolar world order** and reducing Western dominance in global economic and political affairs.

Broader Economic and Trade Ties:

- Partner countries can participate in BRICS-led economic projects and trade agreements.
- They may also have access to funding from the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which finances infrastructure and development projects.

BRICS Summit, 2024

- The **16th BRICS Summit** took place from **October 22 to 24, 2024**, in **Kazan, Russia**, under the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security."
- This summit marked a significant milestone in BRICS' evolution, reflecting its expanding influence on the global stage.

Expansion of Membership

- Effective **January 1, 2024**, BRICS welcomed four new full members: **Egypt**, **Ethiopia**, **Iran**, and the **United Arab Emirates**.
- This expansion increased BRICS' representation to approximately **45% of the world's population** and **37.3% of global GDP**, underscoring its commitment to fostering a multipolar world order.

Introduction of Partner Countries

The summit introduced a new "partner country" status, extending engagement to **13 nations**: **Algeria**, **Belarus**, **Bolivia**, **Cuba**, **Indonesia**, **Kazakhstan**, **Malaysia**, **Nigeria**, **Thailand**, **Turkey**, **Uganda**, **Uzbekistan**, and **Vietnam**. This initiative aims to strengthen ties with the Global South and enhance BRICS' global influence.

Kazan Declaration

- Support for **United Nations reforms**, including the Security Council.
- Advocacy for a **multipolar world order**.
- Condemnation of **unilateral coercive measures** and economic sanctions.
- Calls for an **immediate ceasefire** in conflict zones, notably the **Gaza Strip** and **West Bank**.
- Support for the **State of Palestine's full membership** in the UN within a two-state solution framework.

BRICS Pay

- The summit unveiled **BRICS Pay**, a payment system designed to facilitate transactions and financial information exchange between central banks of member nations.
- This initiative aims to reduce reliance on Western financial systems like SWIFT and promote the use of national currencies in international settlements.

Diplomatic Convergence

- The summit saw participation from over **30 delegations**, including **22 heads of state or government** and representatives from international organizations like the **United Nations**.
- Notably, **Türkiye**, a NATO member, attended and applied to join BRICS, signaling the bloc's growing geopolitical significance.

BRICS 2025

- On the morning of 6 July 2025, the two-day 17th BRICS Leaders Summit officially opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- The summit was held under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Promoting a More Inclusive and Sustainable Global Governance", focusing on six major agenda items.
- These included global health, trade, investment and development financing, climate change response, governance of artificial intelligence, reform of the global security architecture, and the institutional development of the BRICS mechanism.
- On 6 July 2025, the declaration reaffirmed the BRICS commitment to the BRICS spirit and stated that, building on previous summit achievements, cooperation would be further enhanced under the expanded BRICS framework.
- The focus will be on three pillars: political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- The declaration also announced that India will assume the BRICS rotating chairmanship in 2026 and host the 18th BRICS Leaders Summit.
- On 7 July 2025, the BRICS leaders adopted a declaration on the global governance of artificial intelligence (AI). The declaration expressed the desire to promote the establishment of international principles for the development and application of AI technologies that are inclusive, sustainable, and respect human rights.
- The BRICS leaders also passed a declaration calling on the United Nations to take the lead in formulating global rules for AI, emphasizing that this rapidly evolving technology must not deepen
- The document described AI as a "unique opportunity" to drive inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainability, while warning that without fair governance, it could exacerbate the "digital divide.