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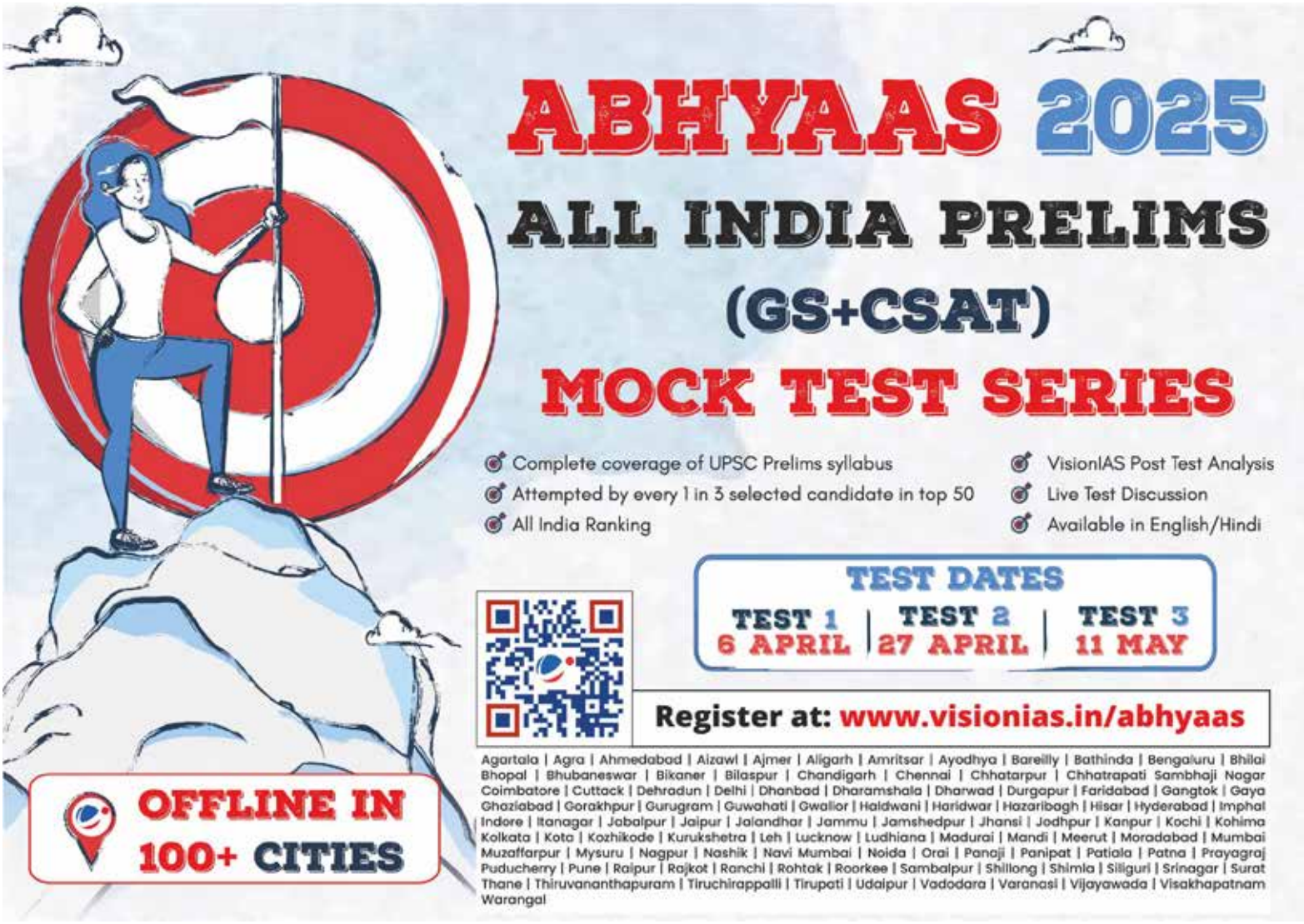


1 International

1. 1 UN Related

1.1.1 UN General Assembly (UNGA)

UNGA passes a Resolution calling the Security Council (SC) to admit Palestine as a member of the UN.

Quick Overview of UNGA

United Nations

- **Genesis:** Founded in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- **Members:** Comprises all 193 UN member states.
- **Voting:** Each member state has one vote; decisions on important issues require a two-thirds majority
- **Sessions:** Meets annually in regular sessions starting in September, with special sessions as needed.
- **Presidency:** Rotates annually among member states, elected from five geographic groups.

Overview of UN General Assembly Functions

Pass Resolutions	Issue non-binding resolutions with political and moral influence.
Elect Members	Elect non-permanent Security Council members and other UN bodies.
Approve Budget	Sanction the UN budget and assess member states' financial contributions.
Discuss GlobalIssues	Engage in dialogue and provide recommendations on worldwide challenges.

1.1.2 United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia** to serve as non-permanent members on the UNSC for two-year terms.

Quick Overview of UNSC

United Nations Security Council

- **Role:** UNSC holds the primary responsibility for maintaining **international peace and security.**
- **Established:** By UN Charter in 1945.
- **Composition:** 15 Members:
  - **5 Permanent Members** (China, France, Russia, UK, and US) – Enjoy **veto power.**
  - **10 Non-Permanent Members,** elected by UNGA for a **two-year term** through secret ballot.
    - Africa (3), Asia (2), Latin America (2), Western Europe and others (2) & Eastern Europe (1).

- **Other Key facts on UNSC**
  - **Decision Power:** UNSC has the power to make **binding decisions** that member states must implement under the UN Charter.
  - India has been elected to the **non-permanent seat of the UNSC eight times**, with the most recent term **being 2021-2022.**

1.1.3 United Nation Internal Justice Council (IJC)

Retired Supreme **Court judge Madan B. Lokur** has been appointed as **the chairperson** of the **UN Internal Justice Council (IJC).**

Quick Overview of UN Internal Justice Council (IJC)

Establishment: The General Assembly established the IJC to ensure independence and accountability in the UN's internal justice system.

Composition: Consists of five members.

Appointment: Members are appointed by the Secretary-General.

Functions:
- The Council is tasked with finding suitable candidates for vacant judge positions in the UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and the UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT).
- It also provides its views on the administration of the justice system to the General Assembly.

1.1.4 United Nations Conference on the Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The United Nations Trade and Development formerly known as **the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** had celebrated its **60th Anniversary.**

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

Quick Overview of UN Trade and Development

Genesis: Established in 1964 by UN General Assembly.
- UNCTAD has rebranded to 'UN Trade and Development'.

Objective Aid developing countries in integrating into global economy

Membership: 195 nations (including India)

- **Other key facts on UNCTAD**
  - **Key Reports**: Trade & Development Report, World Investment Report, Least Developed Countries Report.
  - **Key Achievements**: **Implementation of Financing for Development**, as mandated by the global community in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015); **Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme.**

1.1.5 UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat released the *"World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action"*, highlighting the critical role of cities in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable urban development.

HQ: Nairobi, Kenya.

Quick Overview of UN-Habitat

Genesis: Established in 1978 following Habitat I, which laid the foundations for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Objective: Mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities.

Partners: Collaborates with governments, intergovernmental UN agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector.

Flagship Publications: *State of the World's Cities, World Cities Report.*

1.1.6 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

"**Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2024", an** annual flagship publication since 1947, **was released**.

HQ: Bangkok, Thailand.

About UNESCAP

Genesis: Established in **1947** as **Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE)** and in **1976**, it became **ESCAP**.

About: It is the **intergovernmental platform** supporting inclusive, resilient and **sustainable development** in the **Asia-Pacific region** by generating action-oriented knowledge, technical assistance and capacity-building.
» **UNESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.**

Function: It provides **a forum for all governments of region to review and discuss economic and social issues** and to strengthen regional cooperation.

Members: 53 members and 9 associate members (**India** is a member).

Publications: Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024

1.1.7 UN Peacekeepers (UNPK)

India-led **Group of Friends** (GOF) launched a **new database designed to record crimes against Peacekeepers** & monitor progress in **holding perpetrators accountable.**

Quick Overview of UN Peacekeeping

Genesis: Started in 1948 with UN military observers in West Asia for the Armistice Agreement.

Aim: Assists countries in transitioning from conflict to peace.

Principles: Consent, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence/mandate defence.

Blue Helmets: UN peacekeepers wear distinctive blue helmets.

- **Deployment Of Peacekeepers**
  - The Security Council determines UN Peacekeeping (UNPK) deployment by adopting a resolution.
  - The budget and resources are subject to General Assembly approval.
    - > Every Member State of the UN is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping.
  - The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) of the UN provides political and executive direction to peacekeeping operations.
- **Success:** UNPK received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988.
- **India's Contribution:**
  - India was the first to send **an all-women unit under UNPK**, which was sent to **Liberia.**
  - India is **one of the largest UNPK** contributors of military personnel.

1.1.8 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

India recently released the **second tranche of USD 2.5 million to the UNRWA,** fulfilling its annual contribution of **USD 5 million for 2024-25.**

HQ: Amman (Jordan) and Gaza

Quick Overview of UNRWA

Genesis: Formed by a UN General Assembly Resolution in 1949, following the 1948 Arab-Israel war, to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees.

Funding: Funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.

Mandate: Extended until 30 June 2026.

Area of Work: Operates in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

1.1.9 UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

The **UN Secretary-General** recently paid tribute to **Brigadier Amitabh Jha**, who was serving with the United Nations **Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at Golan Heights.**

HQ: Camp Faouar (Syrian side of the Golan Heights).

Quick Overview of UNDOF

Genesis: Established by UN Security Council (UNSC) in (1974), following the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria.

Mandate:

- Maintain the ceasefire and supervise the area of separation — a demilitarized buffer zone.
- Supervise the area of limitation — where Israeli and Syrian troops are restricted — in the Golan.
- The mandate is renewed every 6 months by the UNSC and has been renewed till June 2025.

India's Role: India is the third-largest military contributor to UNDOF.

Deployment: UNDOF is stationed along the Alpha Line (the Israeli line) and the Bravo Line (the Syrian line) in the Golan Heights.

1.1.10 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The **UNODC** released two key reports: **Annual Report on World Drug Day** (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) & **World Wildlife Crime Report 2024**.

HQ: Vienna, Austria

Quick Overview of UNODC

- **Genesis:** 1997.
- **Members:** Works with all UN member states.
- **Objectives:** Combat **drug abuse, illicit trafficking, organized crime, corruption,** and **terrorism.**
- It supports international conventions like **UNTOC** and **UN Convention against Corruption.**

1.1.11 UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNCND)

- India has been chosen to chair **the 68th Session of the UNCND** for the **first time**, marking a significant milestone **in global drug control efforts.**

About UNCND

- **Origin**: Established in 1946 by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to supervise international drug control treaties.
- **Members**: 53 member states elected by ECOSOC.
- **Functions**:
  - Serves as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
  - Reviews and analyzes the global drug situation, focusing on supply and demand reduction.

1.1.12 UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC)

Assam's Charaideo Moidam was officially inscribed on the **UNESCO's World Heritage List,** during the **46th World Heritage Committee (WHC)** session in Delhi.

About UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- **Genesis:** Established in 1972 under the World Heritage Convention during UNESCO's 17th session.
- **Objectives:** Known as the "Five Cs" – Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building, Communication, and Communities.
- **Key Role:**
  - Makes final decisions on World Heritage List inscriptions.
  - Manages the World Heritage Fund and provides financial aid to State Parties.
  - Monitors conservation efforts of listed sites.
- **Members:** Includes 21 State Party representatives elected by the General Assembly for six-year terms. India was elected for the 2021–2025 term.
- **Key Partners:**
  - **International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM):** Promotes cultural heritage conservation.
  - **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):** Works on preserving architectural and landscape heritage.

1.1.13 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

HQ: Nairobi, Kenya

- An **international environmental authority** engaged in **establishing a global environmental agenda** and promoting the efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Programme.

Genesis: Established in **1972,** following **UN Conference on the Human Environment.**

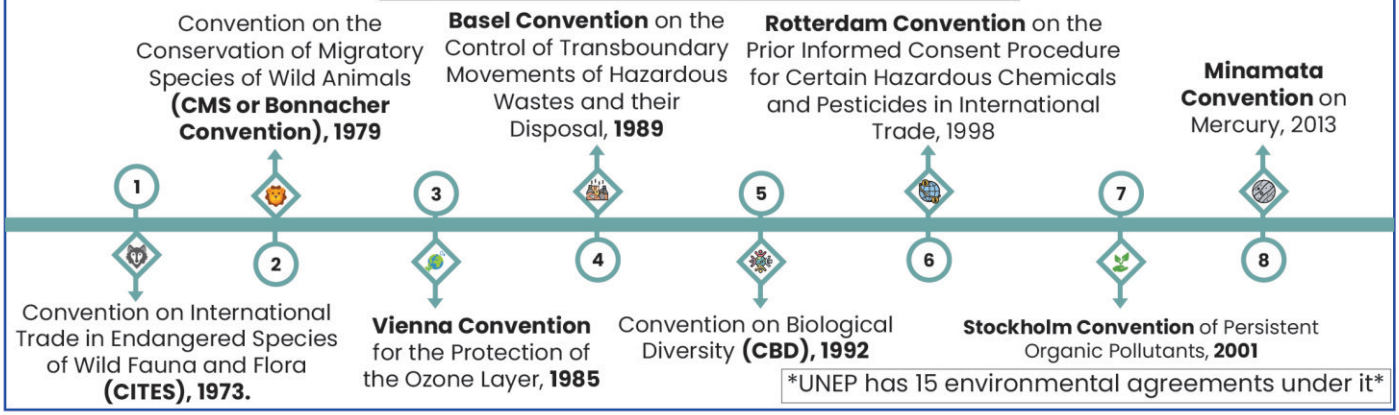
Members: 193 UN Member States **(including India)**
- Approve the programme of work and budget.

Funding: Relies on voluntary contributions for over 95% of funding needs.
- **Environment Fund** is UNEP's core fund.

Hosts the secretariats of various conventions (see infographic) and Entities:
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) –** hosted jointly by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Common Carbon Metric', supported by UNEP, has been developed for assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world.

Major Global Multilateral Agreements under UNEP



UNEP has 15 environmental agreements under it

Reports/Indices

Emissions Gap Report 2024
- **Tracks** the gap between where global emissions are heading with current country commitments and where they ought to be to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Key Findings:
- GHG emissions rose to a new high of **57 gigatons(Gt)** of CO2
- India ranks **3rd in total GHG emissions** [China (1st) & US (2nd)].

Adaptation Gap Report 2024
- Adaptation Gap is the difference between actually implemented adaptation and a societally set goal, reflecting resource limitations and competing priorities.

Key Findings:
- Adaptation gap is estimated at **US$187-359 billion per year.**
- International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries increased to US$27.5 billion in 2022.

Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR) 2024
- Published jointly with **Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).**
  - **Founded at COP21,** it is leading global platform for all built environment stakeholders committed to zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector.

Key findings
- Building and Construction Sector (BCS) accounts for ~**21% of global GHG Emissions.**
- India is attributing **40% of its CO2 emissions to buildings.**

Navigating New Horizons, A Foresight Report

- Identifies various critical global shifts which accelerate the triple planetary crisis of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Key finding: Global polycrisis, i.e, multiple shocks such as wars, extreme weather, pandemics etc. faced today are interwoven and are a consequence of globalization.

1.1.14 UNFCCC

COP29 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)was held in **Baku, Azerbaijan,** ending with **the Baku Climate Unity Pact** and various agreements.

HQ: Bonn, Germany.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Genesis: Adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and entered into force in 1994.

Objective: Stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Membership: 198 Parties, including India.

Key Agreements:

- **Kyoto Protocol (1997):** Binding commitments for developed nations to reduce GHG emissions.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):** Global accord to limit temperature rise below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C.

1.1.15 UNCCD

Recently, some new initiatives and reports were launched at the **CoP 16 of the UNCCD** under the chairmanship of **Saudi Arabia.**

HQ: Bonn, Germany.

About UNCCD

About: It is the **sole legally binding international agreement** linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

Genesis: 1994

Members: 197 countries and the **European Union.**

Objectives

- **To protect and restore land**
- It is committed to a **bottom-up approach**, encouraging the **participation of local people**.

Report: Global Land Outlook.

Flagship initiatives:

- In 2015, **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting programme (LDN TSP)** : Parties were invited to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN.
  - > **LDN:** It refers to the **sustainable management of land resources** to support ecosystem services and food security.
  - > India committed to **restore 26 million hectares by 2030.**
- In 2017, **the Strategic Framework 2018-2030:** urging nations to incorporate desertification/land degradation and drought concerns into national policies.
- **Other initiatives:** the Great Green Wall (2007), The Changwon Initiative (2011), International Drought Resilience Alliance (2022), G20 Global Land Initiative (2020), etc.

1.1.16 UNCBD

Recently, **16th Conference of Parties** (CoP-16) to the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** (UNCBD) concluded in **Cali, Colombia**.

- Theme of this year's conference was '**Peace with Nature**'.
- It is the **first CoP**, **since adoption of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (**KMGBF**).
- CoP-17, 2026 is to be held in **Yerevan, Armenia.**

About UNCBD

Origin: International **legally binding treaty adopted** at the **United Nation's Conference on Environment and Developmen**t (UNCED), **Earth Summit,** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in **1992.**

- **Entered** into force in **1993, operates under United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP).

Objectives: Conservation of biological diversity; **sustainable use** of its components; and **fair and equitable sharing** of the benefits.

Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.

Members: Ratified by 196 members (India became a party in 1994).

- **USA hasn't ratified** the convention.

Governing mechanism: CoP **meets every two years** (biennial).

Protocols and Targets under the UNCBD

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Aims to **ensure the safe handling, transport and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)** resulting from modern biotechnology.

Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol: Provides **international rules and procedures** in the field of **liability and redress relating to LMOS.**

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing: Aims at **sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.**

Aichi Biodiversity Targets: 20 global biodiversity targets divided under 5 goals, adopted under **'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020'** to conserve biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

1.1.17 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

HQ: New York, USA

- **UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)** aims to promote international cooperation on economic, social, and environmental issues.

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Genesis: Established in **1948** to promote international cooperation on **economic, social, and environmental issues.**

Objective: Supports **sustainable development** by providing **policy analysis, capacity-building,** and **coordination** among UN member states.

Key Initiatives:

- **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF):** Monitors progress on SDGs.
- **DESA Global Policy Dialogues:** Engages stakeholders to address pressing economic and social challenges.

Membership: Comprises all **193 UN member** (including **India**)

Reports/Indices

World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP): Analysis of global economic trends and challenges.
World Social Report: Insights into social trends affecting inequality and development.
Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR): Tracks progress toward SDGs.
Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Examines strategies to fund the 2030 Agenda.

1.1.18 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

- Body under the UN aims to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Genesis: Established in **2012**.

Objective: Mobilizes global expertise for **sustainable development solutions** at local, national, and global levels.

Membership: Over 2,000 member institutions, **primarily universities,** coordinated by 57 National and Regional Networks.

Functions: Provides **policy advice,** promotes **research,** and fosters **collaboration** across sectors for achieving SDGs.

Key Initiatives:

- **Youth Solutions Program:** Engages young innovators.
- **SDSN Networks:** Adapts SDG solutions to regional and local contexts.
- **Thematic Networks:** Focus on **climate, energy**, and **biodiversity.**

Reports/Indices

Sustainable Development Report: Tracks SDG progress.
SDG Cities Guide: Localizing SDGs in urban areas.
Global Happiness Policy Report: Links happiness with sustainable development.
SDG Transformation Roadmaps: Strategies for SDG acceleration.

1.1.19 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

The **10th Global Forum of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** adopted **Cascais Declaration** in **Portugal**.

About UNOAC

Established in **2005** to serve as a **soft-power political tool** of UN Secretary-General for **conflict prevention & conflict resolution**.

Five Priority Areas for action: Education, Youth, Migration, Media, and Women as peace mediators.

Objectives:

- Facilitate the **global conversation** on the challenges and opportunities of **intercultural interactions**, promoting innovation to uphold **mutual respect and cooperation**.
- Prevent intercultural tensions and crises; combat **stereotypes, misperceptions, discrimination and xenophobia**.

Group of Friends: A community of countries and international organizations which actively promotes the UNAOC's objectives. It consists of 160 members (**India** is a member).

1.1.20 International Labour Organisation (ILO)

International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released its **World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 report.**

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

International Labour Organization

About: It is the **only tripartite UN agency,** since 1919, it brings together governments, employers, and workers from 187 member states to set labor standards, create policies, and promote decent work for all.

- **India is a founding member.**

Genesis: It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I.

Objective:

- To promote and realize standards, and fundamental principles and rights at work.
- To create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- To enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- To strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

1.1.21 World Health Organization (WHO)

HQ: Geneva

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Genesis: Founded in 1948 as a specialized agency of the UN.

Objective: Leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance to live a healthy life.

Membership: 194 Member States (including India)

Governance: The **World Health Assembly** is the Supreme decision-making body

Key Initiatives

- **MeDevIS** (Medical Devices Information System)
- **Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT),** evaluates national regulatory systems for various products like medicines, vaccines, blood products, and medical devices.
- **Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP),** aims to tackle dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses (Zika and chikungunya) by fostering a global coordinated response.
- **Coronavirus Network** (CoViNet)
- **Global Initiative on Digital Health** (GIDH)

1.1.22 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

HQ: Geneva (Switzerland)

- **A Specialized agency of UN and** UN's authoritative **voice on the state of Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans and the climate.**

Genesis: Established in **1950,** replaced the then **International Meteorological Organization (1873).**

Members: 193 members (Including **India**)

Reports/Indices

State of Global Climate Report 2023
Key Findings
- **2023 was the warmest year** on record
- Global average near-surface temperature at **1.45°C above** the pre-industrial baseline.
- GHG levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, etc. reached record high.

WMO Ozone and UV Bulletin
Key findings
- **Ozone layer is recovering,** with ozone-depleting substances (ODS) decreasing.
- **Full recovery to 1980 levels** is expected by **2066** over Antarctica; by 2045 over the Arctic and **by 2040 for the rest of the world.**

Air Quality and Climate Bulletin
- Reports on the state of air quality and its **connections to climate change.**

Key findings
- **Global Particulate Matter (PM) hotspots:** Include agricultural areas in Central Africa, Pakistan, India, China and South-East Asia.

Other: State of Global Water Resources Report; Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update (2024-2028); Greenhouse Gas Bulletin (GGB) etc.

1.1.23 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Recently, the **Global Innovation Index (GII), 2024** was released by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.**

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Genesis: Established in **1967** through **WIPO Convention**, which **transformed earlier BIPRI** (United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property) into WIPO.

Objective: A specialized **UN Agency** acting as a global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation.

Membership: 193 member states including **India**

WIPO administered treaties: Berne Convention, Washington Treaty, Paris Convention, Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, etc.

1.1.24 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

ITU Released Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024 which will **assess** country-level cyber security commitments**.**

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

Quick Overview of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Genesis: On 17th May 1865, the first International Telegraph Convention signed in Paris by established the International Telegraph Union (the first incarnation of ITU).
- ITU is the UN's **oldest specialized agency** and, **17th May** became **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.**

Members: 193 Member States (including India) other members include companies, universities, etc.

Flagship reports: Global Connectivity Report, Global e-waste Monitor.

1.1.25 Universal Postal Union

Department of Posts, India has released commemorative postage stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of the **Universal Postal Union.**

HQ: Berne, Switzerland

Quick Overview of Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Genesis: Established as **General Postal Union in 1874, through Treaty of Bern.**

Second oldest international organization after International Telecommunication Union (ITU), formed in 1865.

World Post Day is celebrated on anniversary of establishment of UPU.

Members: 192 countries. India is one of its oldest and most active members.

Other key facts

- UPU is a **United Nations specialized agency.**
- India Post, world's largest postal network is also observing 170 years of its formation.

1.2 Others

1.2.1 India is a Member

1.2.1.1 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board completed the Reviews of the extended arrangement under the **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** for Egypt.

HQ: Washington, D.C. (USA).

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Genesis: Bretton Woods Conference 1944

Mandate: Promotes global **macroeconomic** and **financial stability** and also provides short-and medium-term loans to help countries that are experiencing **balance of payments problems.**

Membership: 191 Countries. **(India is a member)**

Organizational Structure:
- **Board of Governors: Highest decision making body of IMF** composed of 1 governor and 1 alternate governor from each member countries.
- **Executive Board: 25-member** board oversee day-to-day work.
- **International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC): A 25-member** advisory body represents member countries or groups of countries.

Key Reports: World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report etc.

1.2.1.2 World Bank

Recently, the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform (WBG – GP) went **live for business.**

HQ: Washington DC, USA.

World Bank

THE WORLD BANK

- **Genesis: Bretton Woods Conference 1944**
- **Objective:** To **reduce poverty and support development** by providing **financial and technical assistance** to developing countries.
- **Membership: 189 Countries** (India is member).
  - Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group.
- **World Bank Group:** World Bank Group consists of **5 organizations - IBRD, IFC, IDA, MIGA & ICSID.**
- **Key Reports**
  - **Global Economic Prospects, Recipe for a Liveable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System' report,** Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report etc.

World Bank Group

WORLD BANK GROUP

- **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):** Provides loans and financial services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
- **International Development Association (IDA):** Offers **concessional loans and grants** to the world's poorest countries.
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC):** Supports **private sector development** in developing countries.
- **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA):** Offers political risk insurance and credit enhancement to **promote foreign investment in developing countries**
- **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):** Provides **arbitration and conciliation services for investment disputes** between governments and foreign investors.

Note: World Bank refers only to the **IBRD** and **IDA, whereas World Bank Group refers to all 5 institutions. India is member of all except ICSID.**

1.2.1.3 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

IAEA's **Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB)** reported 168 incidents of nuclear material theft by 31 states in 2023.

HQ: Vienna, Austria

Quick Overview of IAEA

IAEA

- **Genesis:** 1957 as an autonomous organization under the UN.
- **Members:** 180 members (India is a member).
- **Functions:** Monitors compliance with the NPT and independently verify governments' adherence to peaceful nuclear technology commitments.
- **Reporting:** Reports annually to the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council.

Key IAEA Programmes:

- **Incident and Trafficking Database**: From 1995 and focuses on monitoring and reporting illicit nuclear trafficking.
- **Atoms4Food:** Uses nuclear techniques to improve global food security.
- **Atoms4NetZero:** Promotes nuclear energyto help achieve net-zero emissions.
- **International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles**: Innovates in nuclear reactor technologies.
- **Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action:** Integrates nuclear science in managing zoonotic diseases

1.2.1.4 WTO

Recently, the Marrakesh Agreement marked its 30th anniversary in 2024.

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

World Trade Organization (WTO)

About: WTO is international organization whose primary purpose is to **open trade for benefit of all.**
- It is only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

Genesis: Established in **1995**, It is **successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade,** 1948 (GATT).

Members: 166 (including Comoros and Timor-Leste, 2024). **India is a founding member of WTO.**

Organizational Structure
- **Ministerial Conference: Highest decision-making body** of the WTO and usually meets every two years.
- **General Council:** Decision-making body in Geneva, meeting regularly to carry out functions of WTO.
  - **It also meets as Dispute Settlement Body & as Trade Policy Review Body.**

Reports published by WTO: World Trade Report; **World Trade Statistical Review,** Global Trade Outlook etc.

1.2.1.5 BRICS

16th BRICS Summit held in **Kazan**, Russia.

Quick Overview of BRICS

Genesis: It has been coined by British economist **Jim O'Neill in 2001;** BRIC formalized at the **G8 Outreach Summit (2006).**
- **1st BRIC Summit** held in **Russia (2009).**

Members: Original 5: Brazil, Russia, India, China.
- **South Africa** joined the group in 2010.

New Members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.
- **Indonesia** has become the first Southeast Asian Member of BRICS.
- **Saudi Arabia** still had not made a formal decision as of the end of 2024.

BRICS partner countries: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan, Nigeria.

Secretariat: No permanent secretariat or office.

- **BRICS initiatives:**
  - **New Development Bank (HQ: Shanghai, China):** Fund infrastructure in BRICS and emerging economies, ensure equal representation and voting power for all members.
    > **Genesis:** Founded at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza Brazil in 2014.
  - **Contingent Reserve Arrangement:** Provides essential short-term liquidity support to member nations encountering balance of payment challenges.
  - **BRICS Grain Exchange:** A Russian-led initiative focused on creating a fair and equitable trading system for agricultural products within the BRICS community, enhancing food security.
  - **Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation:** Strengthens partnership in space technologies.
  - **BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative (BCBPI)** or **BRICS Pay:** A blockchain-based payment service for settlements, offering an alternative to SWIFT for BRICS nations.

1.2.1.6 G20

The 18th G20 Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the theme *Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*.

HQ: The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat or headquarters.

Quick Overview of G20

Genesis:

- **Founded in 1999**, following **the Asian financial crisis**, as a forum for **finance ministers and Central Bank Governors** to discuss **global economic** and **financial issues.**
- Upgraded to the level of **Heads of State/Government** in the wake of the **2007 global economic** and **financial crisis.**

Decisions made at G20 meetings are not legally binding.

Members: The G20 comprises **19 countries** (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States) plus **the European Union**, and **since 2023, the African Union**

Purpose: Plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

Annual Summit:

- Held annually under the leadership of a rotating Presidency.
- The Presidency is supported by the Troika (previous, current, and incoming Presidency).

1.2.1.7 G4 Nations

The Minister of External Affairs meets foreign ministers of G4 nations in New York.

- The group reaffirmed its **commitment to urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council** through text-based negotiations.

Quick Overview of G4 Nations

Participants: Includes Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.

Aim: Supports each other's bids for permanent UNSC seats.

Objective: Proposes increasing UNSC membership to 25-26 with six permanent and 4-5 non-permanent

1.2.1.8 QUAD

US House of Representatives has passed '**Strengthen US-Australia-India-Japan Cooperation**' or **Strengthening the Quad Act** and the **Prime Minister of India attended the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington (US).**

Quick Overview of QUAD

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: A plurilateral framework comprising **India, Australia, Japan, and the USA.**

Timeline:
- **2004:** Originated from Tsunami relief efforts, fostering collaboration among the four nations.
- **2007:** Formalized by Japan; first Quad meeting held during the ASEAN Regional Forum.
- **2017:** First official talks held in the Philippines during the East Asia Summit.

Objective: Promoting a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region

1.2.1.9 The Commonwealth

2024 marks **75 years** of the modern Commonwealth, commemorating the **London Declaration (1949)**.

Quick Overview of the Commonwealth

Members: Voluntary association of 56 countries (including India), mainly former British colonies, focusing on democracy, trade, and climate change.

Genesis:
- 1926: British Commonwealth of Nations formed at the Imperial Conference.
- 1947: India remained a member after independence.
- 1949: London Declaration enabled republics to join, forming the Modern Commonwealth.

Working of CHOGM: Held over 2 years (latest in Rwanda, 2022) to address key issues and issue a communiqué.

India's Relations with the Commonwealth

- **Largest Member:** India represents nearly **60%** of the Commonwealth's total population.
- It is **the fourth largest contributor** to the Commonwealth.
- **Hosted Events:** Organized **CHOGM (1983)** and **Commonwealth Games (2010)** in New Delhi.
- **Commonwealth Sub Window:** Established under the **India-UN Development Fund (2018)** with **$50 million** over 5 years.
- **Other Key facts:**
  - Decisions made by **consensus**; all members are considered equal.
  - Members choose the **Head of the Commonwealth**.
  - **Past Leaders:** Examples include **Queen Elizabeth II** (longest-serving Head) and **King Charles III** (current Head).
  - **King Charles** is the head of state in **14 Commonwealth countries - or realms** - in addition to the UK.
  - Most countries in the club are republics - with **Barbados the last to remove the UK monarch as its head of state in 2021.**

Major Initiatives of the Commonwealth

- **Agreements such as the 1971 Declaration of Commonwealth Principles** and the **1991 Harare Commonwealth Declaration.**
- **Commonwealth charter (2012)** sets out 16 core shared principles such as Rule of Law, etc.
- Commonwealth's advocacy and support played a significant role in ending apartheid in South Africa.
- **Only intergovernmental organisation to have a dedicated youth programme, Commonwealth Youth Programme(CYP).**
- **Commonwealth Cyber Declaration (2018)** to support the development of a cyberspace.
- **Commonwealth Secretariat Countering Violent Extremism Unit.**

1.2.1.10 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

RBI announces SAARC Currency Swap Framework for **2024-2027.**

Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal

Quick Overview of SAARC

- **Established in 1985,** through SAARC Charter in Dhaka.
- **Membership:** India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Objective status:** 9 Countries. Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, Myanmar and the United States of America.

- **Other key facts on SAARC**
  - **Decisions** at all levels in SAARC are **taken on the basis of unanimity**. **Bilateral and contentious issues are excluded** from its deliberations.
  - **Some key SAARC initiatives:** South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement – 2006**, SAARC Food Bank – 2007, SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) – 2010,** India launched the **South Asia Satellite** (GSAT-9) in 2017, etc.
  - **SAARC has been largely dysfunctional since 2016**.

1.2.1.11 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

BIMSTEC acquires 'legal personality' after **BIMSTEC Charter** comes into force

Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Quick Overview of BIMSTEC

Genesis: Established in 1997 with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration.**

Membership: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan

Objective: Promote rapid economic development, social progress, and ensure peace and stability across the Bay of Bengal region.

- **Other Key facts on BIMSTEC**
  - **Major Projects**: BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity
  - **BIMSTEC's Principle**: Sovereign equality, Territorial integrity, Political independence, Non-interference in internal affairs, Peaceful co-existence, etc.
  - **7 Focus areas**: Trade; Environment and Climate Change; Security; Agriculture and Food Security; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology, and Innovation; Connectivity.
  - **Exercises**: BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DMEX)

1.2.1.12 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Recently, India signed and exchanged first-of-its-kind agreements under **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity**.

Quick Overview of IPEF

Launch: Initiated on 2022, in Tokyo by the United States.

IPEF is structured around 4-pillars:
- **Pillar I:** Trade
- **Pillar II:** Supply Chain Resilience
- **Pillar III:** Clean Economy
- **Pillar IV:** Fair Economy
  - India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has maintained an observer status in Pillar-I.

Member: Includes 14 countries: Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States.

Objective: To advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

IPEF Initiatives

- **IPEF Upskilling Initiative:** Launched in 2022, it provides digital skills training, primarily for women and girls in emerging economies.
- **Critical Mineral Dialogue:** Focuses on mapping mineral resources, trade flows, and fostering recycling collaboration.
- **Cooperative Work Program:** Advances clean economy goals via collaborative projects among IPEF countries.

1.2.1.13 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The 24th summit of the Council of Heads of State of the **SCO** held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.

HQ: Beijing, China.

Quick Overview of SCO

- **Genesis:** It was founded at the Shanghai summit in 2001 by Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **SCO has 10 members:** China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran (2023) and Belarus (2024).
- In **2015** at Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit **India** and **Pakistan** as full members.
- **Observer States: Afghanistan and Mongolia have observer status.**
- **Objective:** Addresses issues like terrorism, separatism, and extremism through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- **'Kasshi'(Varanasi)** has been declared the first tourism and cultural capital of SCO.

1.2.1.14 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

NAM Calls for Cuba's Removal from Unilateral Terrorism List of US

Quick Overview of NAM

- **Origins:** Traces roots to the Bandung Conference (1955), which laid non-alignment principles.
- **Formation:** Formally established at the first NAM Summit in Belgrade, Serbia (1961).
- **Principles:** Advocates independent foreign policies, reducing Cold War tensions, and providing a platform for newly independent nations.
- **Membership:** Comprises 120 countries, primarily developing nations.
- **Policy of Non-Alignment:** Members pledge to avoid formal alignment with major power blocs.

1.2.1.15 Asian Development Bank (ADB)

India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB**) signed a $500 million loan to aid sustainable infrastructure projects.

HQ: Manila, Philippines

Quick Overview of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Genesis: A multilateral development finance institution established in 1966.

Aim: To achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

Functions: Provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to member countries & focuses on sectors like infrastructure, education, health, etc.

Membership:
- 69 members (49 from within Asia and the Pacific and 20 from outside).
- India is a founding member.

Other key facts on ADB

- **ADB's top shareholders (As of 2023**): **Japan** and **the US** (15.6% each), **China** (6.4%), **India** (6.3%), and **Australia** (5.8%).
- **Secretariat:**
  - ADB serves as a Secretariat for the SASEC.
  - Acting **as TAPI secretariat since 2003**, ADB has been instrumental in the progress of the TAPI pipeline.

1.2.1.16 New Development Bank (NDB)

India has contributed **nearly $2 billion** to the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB**), as per the **Ministry of Finance.**

HQ: Shanghai (China)

Quick Overview of NDB

Establishment:
- **Agreement signed in 2014** during **the 6th BRICS Summit** in Fortaleza, Brazil, by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS).
- Membership is open to members of the United Nations.

Purpose: Mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs).

Capital:
- Initial authorized capital is $100 billion.
- The initial subscribed capital is $50 billion, with equal contributions from founding members.

Other key facts on NDB

- **New Members: In 2021, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt and Uruguay** were included as New NDB members.
- **Voting power: the voting power of the founding members will not fall below 55 (fifty-five) per cent of the total voting power**
- **In 2022:** NDB's India Regional Office in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City** was established.

1.2.1.17 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Union Finance Minister asked **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** to assist low-income countries to avail financial resources.

HQ: Beijing (China)

AIIB ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK

Quick Overview of AIIB

- **Genesis:** It is a **multilateral development bank** established in 2016.
- **Mission:** Financing Infrastructure for tomorrow in Asia and beyond.
- **Members: 110 members (World wide) – 96 Full Members** and **14 Prospective Members.** (India is a member)
- **China is the largest shareholder,** with 26.6% of the current voting share and veto power, followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6%).
- **In 2018,** AIIB was granted **Permanent Observer status in the deliberations** of **United Nations General Assembly and UN Economic and Social Council**

1.2.1.18 International Solar Alliance (ISA)

HQ: Gurugram, Haryana, India

Recently, **Armenia** became the 104th country to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA).**

ISA INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

- **Genesis:** Jointly announced by **India and France in 2015** at the UN Paris Climate Change Conference (COP-21 of the UNFCCC).
- **Objective:** Promotes the efficient use of solar energy, facilitates solar energy projects, and fosters cooperation to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, addressing energy security and climate change.
- **Guided by 'Towards 1000' strategy:**
  - Mobilise **USD 1,000 billion of investments** in solar energy solutions by 2030
  - Deliver **energy access to 1,000 million people** using clean energy solutions
  - Installation of **1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.**
  - Mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of **1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.**
- **Membership: 104** countries (signed and ratified)
  - Eligibility: All UN Member States (2020 Amendment to Framework Agreement)
- **Key Initiatives:**
  - **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG): Connects different regional grids** with common grid.
  - **Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR C):** Capacity-building, institutional strengthening.
  - **Global Solar Facility: To catalyze solar investments** in underserved segments across Africa.
  - **MIGA Solar Facility: Multi-donor trust fund** was established by **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency** (part of World Bank Group) and ISA to support solar investments in Sub-Saharan Africa.
    - This is the **first program under guarantee component of ISA's Global Solar Facility (GSF).**
  - **Others: Development of Large-Scale Solar Power Projects** under **Solar Park** Concept; **ISA Solar Fellowship for Mid-Career Professionals; International Solar Festival etc.**
- **Reports/Indices**

Ease of Doing Solar 2020: Assesses solar energy-friendly policies in member nations.
Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture: Focuses on solar-based agricultural solutions.
Solar Investment Roadmap: Guides investments in solar energy.

1.2.1.19 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

HQ: Abu Dhabi (UAE)

A leading **global intergovernmental agency** for energy transformation.

Genesis: Proposal for an international agency dedicated to renewable energy was made in **1981 at the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Nairobi, Kenya.** IRENA was **founded in Bonn (Germany) in 2009** with 75 states signing the IRENA Statute at the time.

Members: 169 countries and the EU **(India is also a member).**

Functions: Serves as the **principal platform for international cooperation,** supports countries in their energy transitions, and provides state of the art data and analyses on technology, etc.

Reports/Indices

A World Energy Transitions Outlook Brief: Tracking CoP 28 outcomes

- Tracks global progress towards the **energy transition commitment to triple renewables by 2030 as outlined in COP 28 of UNFCCC (held in November 2023).**
- **Key findings**
  - 2023 added **473 GW** (73% contributed by Solar energy) additional **Renewable** to global energy mix.
  - However, annual addition must **reach almost 1100 GW** to meet tripling target.
  - With a growth of 20.1% **Asia was leader** in renewable deployment and its growth was driven by China.

Other reports: Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN; Renewable Energy for Agriculture; Renewable Energy and Jobs etc.

1.2.1.20 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

HQ: New Delhi, India

Recently, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** marked its 5th anniversary

Genesis: UN Climate Summit (2019) by **India.**

Members: 40 countries and **7** organisations
43

About: Global partnership of **nations, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector.**

Objective: Promote the **resilience of infrastructure systems** to climate and disaster risks ensuring sustainable development.

Significance: Global mechanism for funding and coordination; Technical support and capacity building.

Initiatives Taken by CDRI

- **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **DRI Connect platform,** a Knowledge exchange, learning and collaborative platform
- **International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)** annual conference to identify good practices.
- **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)** established with support of UNDP and UNDRR.

Reports/Indices

- **Global Infrastructure Resilience Report**

1.2.1.21 International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Union Cabinet approved the proposal of India to become a member of IBCA by signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement.

HQ: India

About IBCA

Launched: By India on **50th years of India's Project Tiger** in **2023.**

- Apart from India, Nicaragua, Eswatini and Somalia have also joined.

Aim: Strengthen global cooperation for the **conservation of seven big cat species** (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma) and their habitats.

- India inhabits all cats except **Puma and Jaguar.**

Multi-country and multi-agency coalition: Participants consist of 95 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and related scientific organizations.

- **All UN member countries are eligible** for becoming the member of IBCA.
- **Nine International Organizations** have also consented to be partner organization.
- **Funding:** Support of Rs. 150 crores for five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

1.2.1.22 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** plenary in Singapore adopted the **Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) of India**, assessing its measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

HQ: Paris, France

Quick Overview of FATF

Genesis: 1989.

Members: 40 (38 jurisdictions + 2 regional organizations: Gulf Cooperation Council and European Commission). India joined in 2010.

- **Russia:** Suspended in February 2023.

Objective: Protect financial systems from money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Functions: Promotes **financial inclusion;** Launched **'project on unintended** consequences' which includes a focus on financial exclusion.

High-Risk Jurisdictions

- **Black List:** Countries with serious deficiencies (e.g., North Korea, Iran, Myanmar).
- **Grey List:** Countries under increased monitoring for strategic deficiencies.

1.2.1.23 International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

India's Jagjit Pavadia has been **re-elected to INCB** for the third term from 2025 to 2030.

Quick Overview of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

Genesis: 1998.

Members: 13 members (elected by UN Economic and Social Council for five years).

Objectives: Independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for implementing

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961;
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 &
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

1.2.1.24 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Union Cabinet approved the proposal of India to become a member of IBCA by signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement.

HQ: The Hague, Netherlands

Quick Overview of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- **Genesis: 1997,** in accordance with the CWC.
- **Members:** 193 States committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Chemical Weapons Destruction: Verifying the destruction of chemical weapons,** like those in **Syria** (destroyed it under OPCW supervision) and **Libya.**
- **Nobel Peace Prize:** In **2013,** the OPCW was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its efforts to eliminate chemical weapons globally, particularly in Syria.

About Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

- **Adopted:** The CWC was adopted in **1992**, and entered into force in **1997**.
- **Objective:** Eliminate **chemical weapons** and prevent the use of such weapons in the future. It seeks to **ban the development, production, stockpiling**, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- **Signatories:** The CWC currently has **193 member states**, making it one of the most universally ratified arms control treaties.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - **Destruction of Chemical Weapons:** All chemical weapons stocks of member states must be destroyed within a specific timeframe.
  - **Verification:** The CWC includes detailed **verification measures** to ensure compliance, including inspections of chemical weapons stockpiles, facilities, and research programs.
  - **Non-Diversion:** The Convention prohibits the diversion of **chemical materials** to use as weapons or for military purposes.
- **Non-signatories:** Only **four countries** are not parties to the CWC: **Israel, Egypt, North Korea**, and **South Sudan**.
- **Implementation:** Member states are required to adopt **national laws** and regulations that align with the CWC's provisions and provide for the destruction and monitoring of chemical weapons.
- **India is a signatory** and party of CWC and enacted Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.

1.2.1.25 Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) Network

India has been elected to steering committee of **GlobE (Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities) network.**

Quick Overview of GlobE Network

- **Genesis:** Established in 2021 at UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS).
- **Members:** Includes **121 member countries**.
  - **Ministry of Home Affairs** serves as Central Authority for GlobE Network in India.
  - **While CBI and ED** represent India as member authorities.
- **Objective:** Operational law **enforcement authorities with an anti-corruption mandate** can join forces to counter transnational corruption cases.
- **Governance:** Governed by its members and supported by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime **(UNODC) (Its secretariat).**

1.2.1.26 Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

Indian Navy seized drugs in Arabian Sea as a part of multi-nation Combined Task Force-150 under CMF.

- Drugs were seized under **Operation Crimson Barracuda**, first such operation conducted by an Indian Navy after India joined CMF in 2022.

Quick Overview of CMF

Genesis: 2001.

Members: 46 countries. India joined in 2022. Participation is purely voluntary.

It comprises five Combined Task Forces.

Aim: It is a multinational maritime partnership, which aims to uphold the **Rules-Based International** Order by countering **illicit non-state actors** on the high seas and promoting security, stability and prosperity in international waters.

It is commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral.

1.2.1.27 Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

India participated in the 86th session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

- **FSSAI** represented India (as a member elected on a geographic basis (Asia)), in the **session.**

HQ: Rome

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Genesis: An international food standards body established jointly by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **WHO** in 1963.

Objective: Protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. Develops food standards called **Codex Alimentarius (CA)**.

- CA is a collection of **international standards, guidelines, and codes of practice** to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
  - These standards are **voluntary.**
- **WTO Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)** encourages members to harmonize national regulations with CA.

Members: 189 (188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (EU))

1.2.1.28 C10 & L69

Indian External Affairs Minister participated in the **first-ever** Joint Ministerial Meeting of the **C-10** and **L.69 groupings**.

Quick Overview of L.69 groupings.

Genesis: Established in 2007 by a group of developing countries to push for UN Security Council reform

Advocacy: Advocates for an expansion in both categories of **UNSC membership** to include more developing countries and to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

Members: L69 is a grouping that includes countries from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific Island states and Asia.
India is also member.

Name Origin: Named after the document **"L.69" which was a resolution tabled in the General Assembly in 2007-2008,** leading to the Intergovernmental Negotiation (IGN) process on UNSC reform.

Activities: Engages in regular consultations and meetings to align strategies on UNSC reform, often in coordination with other reform-minded groups like the African Group.

1.2.1.29 Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

Recently, CSC officially included **Bangladesh** as its **fifth member.**

Quick Overview of CSC

- **Genesis:** Formed in **2011** as a **trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.** Later joined by **Mauritius and Bangladesh.**
- It was re-branded as the CSC in 2020.
- **Seychelles** is an observer member.

1.2.1.30 Colombo Process

India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the Colombo Process.

Quick Overview of Colombo Process

- **Genesis:** 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- **Members:** 12 Member States of Asia such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc. India is one of the **founding members.**
- **Objective:** Regional Consultative Process that provides platform for consultations on the management of **overseas employment** and **contractual labour.**
- **Thematic priority areas are:** Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes; etc.
- **Support:** UN's **International Organization for Migration** provides technical and administrative support to the Colombo Process.

1.2.1.31 International Energy Efficiency Hub (IEEH)

International Energy Efficiency Hub

- Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a letter of intent enabling India to join the IEEH.
- A global platform dedicated to **fostering collaboration and promoting energy efficiency worldwide.**

- **Genesis:** Established in **2020** as the successor to the **International Partnership for Energy Efficiency (IPEEC)** in which **India** was a member.
- **Members: 17** members, including countries like the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and Germany, and the European Commission.
- **Mandate:** It is a **global platform** dedicated to fostering collaboration and **promoting energy efficiency worldwide.**
- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has been designated as the **implementing agency** for the Hub on behalf of India.

1.2.2 India is not a member

1.2.2.1 International Criminal Court (ICC)

ICC prosecutor sought arrest warrants for Israel's PM and Hamas leaders for crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Quick Overview of ICC

- **Establishment:** First permanent international court to prosecute serious international crimes.
- **Rome Statute:** Adopted in 1998, enforced in 2002.
- **Types of Crime:** Genocide, Crimes against humanity, War crimes, Crimes of aggression.
- **Membership:** 125 members (Ukraine became the 125th Member in 2024; Palestine is also the member).
  - India, Israel, US, Russia, and China are not members.
- **Enforcement:** ICC decisions are binding.

Comparison between ICC and ICJ

Parameters	ICC	ICJ
Genesis	**Rome Statute**	**Established in 1945 by UN Charter.**
HQ	**Hague (Netherlands).**	**Peace Palace** in The Hague (Netherlands).
Composition	**18 judges,** with 9-year, non-renewable term, **in 3 divisions**: Pre-Trial, Trial, and Appeals elected by Assembly of States Parties.	**15 judges** elected to 9-year terms by UN General Assembly and the Security Council.
Cases	Holds only **individuals criminally responsible for offences.**	The court can rule on **two types of case:** • **"Contentious cases":** Legal disputes between States who are parties to ICJ and explicitly given consent. • **"Advisory proceedings":** Requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and certain specialized agencies.

1.2.2.2 International Energy Agency (IEA)

HQ: Paris, France

Autonomous inter-governmental organisation within the OECD framework.

- **Genesis: Established** in 1974 to ensure the **security of oil supplies after the oil crisis (1973)**
- **Members:** 32 members and 13 associate members **(India Associate member since 2017).**
  - To be a member, the country should be an OECD member along with a capacity to hold a crude reserve for 90 days of the previous year's import.

Reports/Indices

World Energy Outlook 2024
Key Findings
- Around 20% of today's global oil and LNG supplies flow through the **Strait of Hormuz**, a **maritime chokepoint** in the Middle East.
- **More than half of the world's electricity** will be generated by low-emission sources before 2030.

Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2024
- Released in collaboration with other **SDG 7 custodian agencies-** International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO).
- **SDG 7** is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Other reports: Global EV Outlook; World Energy Employment 2024; etc.

1.2.2.3 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Prime Minister (PM) of India participated in the **21st ASEAN-India Summit** in **Vientiane, Lao PDR**.

HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia.

Quick Overview of ASEAN

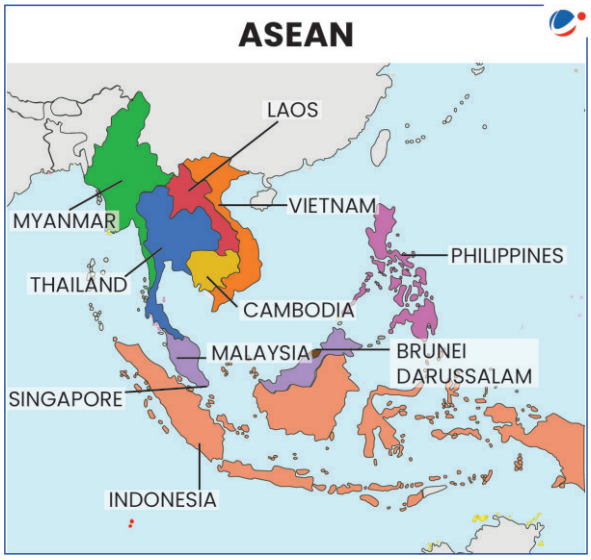
Genesis: It was **established in 1967** in Bangkok with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)** by **five members** (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand).

Members: Presently it has **10 members.**

Delhi Dialogue is an annual **track 1.5** forum for discussing issues between ASEAN and India.

Dialogue Partners: Australia, Canada, China, India, the EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia Federation, U.K, U.S.

- **Key ASEAN Institutions**
  - **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**:
    - > **Established:** 1994. **India joined ARF in 1996**.
    - > **It comprises 27 members:** 10 ASEAN member states 10 **ASEAN Dialogue Partners**.
    - > **Objective:** Platform for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues among ASEAN member countries and their partners.
  - **ASEAN Future Forum:**
    - > **Proposed by Vietnam** at the **43rd ASEAN Summit** in 2023.
    - > It is a **common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries** to share new ideas and policy recommendations.
    - > **India is a founding member**.



- **ASEAN Future Forum:**
  - > **Proposed by Vietnam** at the **43rd ASEAN Summit** in 2023.
  - > It is a **common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries** to share new ideas and policy recommendations.
  - > **India is a founding member**.

- **Other Key ASEAN Institutions**
  - **ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation** includes ASEAN member states, China, Japan and Republic of Korea.
  - **India is an active participant** ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting + (ADMM+) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

About India-ASEAN

- **Genesis:** India began formal engagement with ASEAN in 1992.
  - India became a **Dialogue Partner in 1996, Summit-level Partner in 2002, and forged a Strategic Partnership in 2012.**
  - **Exercises:** ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, ASEAN Solidarity Exercise.

1.2.2.4 European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed a **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).**

- **Other Key facts**
  - **Not a Customs Union:** Unlike the EU, EFTA is not a customs union, meaning member countries have their own external tariffs for countries outside the association.
  - **Relations with the EU:** Three EFTA members (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) participate in the **European Economic Area (EEA)**, which allows them to access the EU's single market.
    - > **Switzerland has a series of bilateral agreements with the EU instead.**

- **India-EFTA Trade Relations**
  - **Largest trading partner among EFTA: Switzerland** is the largest trading partner followed by Norway.
  - India has a **trade deficit with Switzerland due to gold imports.**

1.2.2.5 Group of 7 (G7)

India participated in the **50th Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Apulia, Italy,** where India was invited as an Outreach Country.

Quick Overview of G7

Genesis: Established in 1975 in response to the need for economic and financial cooperation following the 1973 energy crisis.

Nature: Informal group of advanced democracies addressing global economy, migration, climate change, and conflicts.

Member: The United States, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, and France.
- **Russia joined** the group **in 1998**, forming the **G8**, but was excluded in **2014** for its **annexation of Crimea.**
- **The European Union is not a G7 member** but participates in the annual summit.

- **Other Key facts on G7**
  - **Working Mechanism:** The G7 **lacks a permanent structure;** its **rotating Presidency** sets the agenda annually.
  - **Initiatives**:
    - > **The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII):**
      - ✓ Launched in **2022** to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations.
      - ✓ It aims to mobilize up to **$600 billion by 2027**, focusing on sustainable, inclusive, and quality infrastructure.
    - > **The "Energy for Growth in Africa" initiative is a G7**-led effort aimed at facilitating access to external investment for clean energy projects in Africa
    - > **Other Initiatives**: G7 Future of the Seas and Oceans Initiative (FSOI), G7 Oil Price Cap Coalition, Apulia Food Systems to enhance food security and sustainable agriculture.

1.2.2.6 African Union (AU)

G20 Rio de Janeiro summit marked the first time the African Union (AU) participated as a full member.

HQ: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Quick Overview of African Union (AU)

Genesis: Launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).

Members: 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.

Aim: Promoting Africa's growth and economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased cooperation and integration of African states.

Other key facts: Recently, AU has suspended Niger from all its activities due to a military coup.

1.2.2.7 NATO

Recently, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) marked 75 years of its formation and **Sweden** has joined NATO as its **32nd** member.

HQ: Brussels, Belgium

Quick Overview of NATO

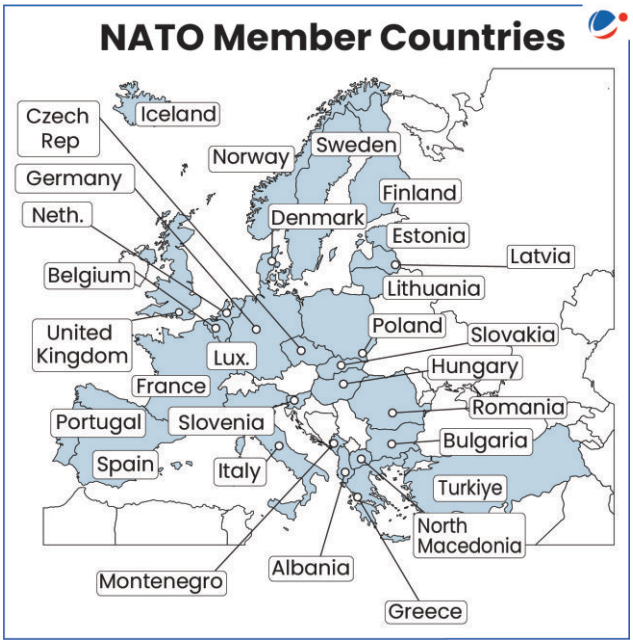
Genesis: 1949 with the North Atlantic Treaty.

Nature: Political and military alliance of 32 countries

Membership: 12 founding members; Notable additions: Finland (2023).

Core objective: Collective defence: An attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies. (Article 5)

- **Other Key facts on NATO**
  - **Ukraine** has applied in 2022 and is not a member yet.
  - **Functions:** Provides transatlantic link between Europe and North America; Facilitates defence cooperation and crisis management.
  - **Funding:** Contributions from all members based on **Gross National Income (GNI).**
  - **Programs:** Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.



1.2.2.8 Five Eyes Alliance

Australia decides to allow non-citizen residents from **the Five Eyes Alliance** to join its armed forces.

Quick Overview of Five Eyes alliance

It's a multilateral intelligence-sharing network.

Members: US, UK, Canada, Australia, & New Zealand.

Nature:
- These partner countries share a broad range of intelligence with one another.
- It includes the **non-political intelligence** oversight, review, and security entities of **the Five Eyes countries.**

1.2.2.9 Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) +

OPEC+ agreed to extend its deep oil output cuts into 2025.

HQ: Vienna, Austria.

Quick Overview of OPEC+ & OPEC

Genesis

- **OPEC+ Formation:** Established in 2016 when OPEC signed an agreement with 10 other oil-producing countries.
- **OPEC Formation:** Founded at the Baghdad Conference in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.

Members:

- **OPEC Members:** Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, Congo, UAE, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **Non-OPEC Members:** Russia, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Oman, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Bahrain, South Sudan, Brunei, and Sudan.

About OPEC

- **Objective:** To coordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.

1.2.2.10 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

At the recently held **India-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue**, the **Joint Action Plan 2024-2028** was adopted.

HQ: Riyadh

Quick Overview of GCC

Established in 1985.

Membership: The GCC consists of **six Gulf states: UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait.**

Aim: Foster **coordination, integration**, and **interconnection** between the member states in all fields, including politics, economy, and security.

1.2.2.11 Arab League

The 2024 Arab League Summit was held in Bahrain.

HQ: Cairo, Egypt

Quick Overview of Arab League (League of Arab States)

It is an **intergovernmental organization** encompassing all Arab states in Middle East and North Africa.

Genesis: Established in Cairo, Egypt, in **1945** following adoption of **Alexandria Protocol in 1944.**

Mandate: Strengthening relations between member states, coordination of policies, and cooperation on political, security, economic front.

Members: 22 member states (**India has observer status**).

1.2.2.12 MERCOSUR

Bolivia became a full member of **MERCOSUR.**

Quick Overview of MERCOSUR

Name: It is **Southern Common Market** (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) in Latin America.

Genesis: in 1991.

Members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in 1991 and subsequently joined by Venezuela and Bolivia.
- India has a **Preferential Trade Agreement** with MERCOSUR.
- **Venezuela** has been suspended since December 1, 2016.

Objective: Facilitating the free movement of goods, services, capital and people among the four member countries

1.2.2.13 AUKUS

AUKUS completes 5 years of establishment.

- The group reaffirmed its **commitment to urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council** through text-based negotiations.

Quick Overview of AUKUS

Genesis: Announced in 2021.

Nature: A new three-way strategic defense alliance.

Member: Australia, the UK, and the US (India is not a member).

Objective: To boost defense capabilities, accelerate technological integration, and expand the industrial capacity of all three countries.

- **Key Features of AUKUS**
  - AUKUS aims to **counter China's** growing influence in the **Indo-Pacific region.**
  - AUKUS is **not a formal military alliance** like NATO.
  - AUKUS primarily serves as a framework for **advancing defense technologies**.
  - For facilitating the sharing **of critical technology**, **a legally binding tripartite agreement** known as the **Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Agreement (ENNPIA**) was signed in **2021.**

AUKUS' Structure

Pillar I – Conventionally Armed, Nuclear-Powered Submarines:
- UK and USA are helping Australia acquire
- nuclear-powered submarines.
- Supporting Australia to acquire its first conventionally armed, SSN submarine fleet

Pillar II – Advanced Capability Development:
- Focused on developing joint capabilities to enhance interoperability.
- **Cooperation in advanced military capability areas:** cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, etc.
- **E.g.**, Hypersonic Flight Test and Experimentation (HyFliTE) Project Arrangement.

1.3 Miscellaneous

1.3.1 World Wide Fund for Nature

HQ: Gland, Switzerland

- An **international nonprofit organization** working in nearly 100 countries.
- **Aim:** To develop and deliver innovative solutions that protect communities, wildlife, and the places in which they live.

Genesis: Established in **1961** as **World Wildlife fund** at IUCN's headquarters in **Morges, Switzerland**

- Renamed as **World Wide Fund for Nature in 1985**
- WWF India established as a **Charitable Trust in 1969.**

Organizes worldwide movement **'Earth Hour'**

- **Genesis: 2007,** started as a **"lights off"** movement in Sydney
- Observed **every year** in **March between** in country's local time

Reports/Indices

Living Planet Report

Key findings:

- Wildlife **population declined by 73%** over the past 50 years (1970–2020).
  - Freshwater populations have suffered heaviest declines followed by terrestrial and marine populations.
- Adopting India's consumption patterns worldwide would need **less than one Earth by 2050.**

1.3.2 IUCN

HQ: Gland, Switzerland

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is 1st global environmental organization focused on nature conservation and sustainable resource use.

Genesis: Established in **1948.**

Membership: Governments, NGOs, and research institutions.

Objective: Promotes biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and influences environmental policy globally.

Key Initiatives:

- **IUCN Green List:** Recognizes effective conservation areas.
- **World Conservation Congress:** Global platform for conservation dialogue.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS):** Uses nature to tackle challenges like climate change.

Reports/Indices

Agriculture and Conservation: Explores complex relationship between agriculture and conservation.

Key findings:

- Agriculture **directly threatens 34% of species** assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- About **17% of species** on IUCN Red List have agriculture documented as a habitat.

Global Biodiversity Outlook: Assesses global biodiversity trends.

Protected Planet Report: Evaluates protected area effectiveness

Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change: Promotes nature in climate solutions.

1.3.3 World Economic Forum

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.

World Economic Forum

About: WEF is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

Genesis: Established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation.

Functions: To demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance.

Annual Meeting: Held in Davos, Switzerland.

Key Initiatives:

- **The First Movers Coalition:** Global coalition of companies working to scale the innovative technologies needed to decarbonize the world's heavy-emitting sectors
- **EDISON Alliance** (for digital Inclusion); **Net-Zero Industry Tracker** (to monitorprogress on hard-to-abate sectors' decarbonization) etc.

Important Reports: Future of Jobs Report 2025, Global Competitiveness Report and the Global Gender Gap Report, Energy Transition Index, Global Risk Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report etc.

1.3.4 Interpol

INTERPOL introduced **the Silver Notice** as part of a **pilot phase involving 52 countries**, including **India,** to **combat transnational organized crime** by **targeting criminal assets.**

HQ: Lyon, France

Quick Overview of International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Genesis: Founded in 1923, INTERPOL is the **world's largest international police organization**.

Member Countries: 196

Purpose: Facilitates global cooperation among law enforcement agencies to combat international crime.

Other Key Information:

- **Interpol** facilitates communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies **but cannot arrest or conduct investigations independently.**
- **About INTERPOL Notices:** 8 types of Notices, plus the INTERPOL-UNSC Special Notice.
- **A Red Notice** is not an international arrest warrant, but requests provisional arrest for potential extradition.

Other Key Facts

- **India** joined Interpol in **1949**. **CBI** is designated as **National Central Bureau of India for ICPO-INTERPOL.**
- **Important Operations:** Operation Thunderstorm, Operation Blackfin, Operation Pangea, Operation Lionfish, Operation Prey, etc.

INTERPOL NOTICES

RED NOTICE
WANTED PERSONS

GREEN NOTICE
WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE

YELLOW NOTICE
MISSING PERSONS

ORANGE NOTICE
IMMINENT THREAT

BLUE NOTICE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PURPLE NOTICE
MODUS OPERANDI

BLACK NOTICE
UNIDENTIFIED BODIES

INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE
GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS

1.3.5 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

HQ: Bonn, Germany

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Genesis: 2012

Aim: Strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, human well-being and sustainable development.

Membership: Independent intergovernmental body comprising 147 member states. **India** is a founding member.

Secretariat: Not a **UN** body but **UN Environment Programme provides secretariat services to IPBES.**

Reports/Indices:
Transformative Change

- **Definition: It is a fundamental system-wide shifts** in **views** (ways of thinking), **structures** (ways of organizing & governing) and practices (ways of doing & behaving).
- Four principles to guide transformative change: equity and justice; pluralism and inclusion; respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships; and adaptive learning and action.

1.3.6 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)

Consumer Bankers Association (CBA) released a White Paper, 'The Impact of the **Basel III Endgame Proposal**'.

About Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)

- **Established in 1974, BCBS** is the **primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks** and provides a forum for regular cooperation on banking supervisory matters.
- Its 45 members comprise central banks and bank supervisors from 28 jurisdictions.
- Its decisions do not have legal force.

Basel Norms

- **Overview:** These are a **set of measures** developed by the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision** to strengthen the regulation, supervision, and risk management of banks.
- **Basel I (1987):** Introduced credit risk and asset risk-weighting.
- **Basel II (2004): Focused on the credit risk and risk-weighting of assets.** These norms set minimum level of capital requirements that banks should have.
- **Basel III (2010):** Released to build robust capital base for banks and **ensure sound liquidity & leverage ratios**.

1.3.7 Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

As per Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Project mBridge reached minimum viable product (MVP) stage in mid-2024.

HQ: Basel, Switzerland

Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

- **Genesis:** Created in 1930 at the **Hague Conference**
- **Mandate:**
  - To support central banks' pursuit of monetary and financial stability through international cooperation
  - Act as a bank for central banks.
- **Structure:** Owned by **63 central banks including Reserve Bank of India**

1.3.8 World Energy Council

HQ: London, United Kingdom

WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL

- The 26th World Energy Congress, co-hosted by the World Energy Council (WEC), concluded in Rotterdam (Netherlands).

Genesis: Formed in 1923, the WEC is an **UN-accredited not-for-profit global energy body.**

Mission: Enabling access to **clean, affordable and reliable energy** for better lives and a healthier planet.

Role: Develop **practical solutions and convene network of global energy transition** leaders and practitioners.

Members: More than 3000 member organizations (public, private and academic sectors) located in around 90 countries.

Reports/Indices

Humanising Energy: A look at the G20 Agenda	**World Energy Scenario Foundations 2024**
World Energy Trilemma Report 2024	**World Energy Issues Monitor 2024**

1.3.9 International Cryosphere Climate Initiative

Operates as 2 entities-

International Cryosphere Climate Initiative

- **Global organization:** Non-profit organization in USA based in Burlington, Vermont.
- **ICCI-Europe:** Charitable organization under Swedish regulation based in Stockholm, Sweden.

Genesis: Founded in **2009** to address the impacts of climate change on the cryosphere (frozen regions of Earth).

Objective: Advocates for **reducing cryosphere warming** to mitigate global climate risks, including glacier melt, sea-level rise, and permafrost thaw.

Collaborations: Works with governments, NGOs, and climate organizations (e.g., UNFCCC, IPCC).

Reports/Indices

State of the Cryosphere 2024-Lost Ice, Global Damage

- Assesses the current state of the cryosphere (Frozen part) and its response to climate change.

Key Findings:

- Ice shelves in northern Greenland have **lost 35% of their total volume** since 1978.
- Rate of global sea-level rise has **doubled in the last 30 years.**

1.3.10 International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) - South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC)

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

- **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)- South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC),** marks a significant expansion of IRRI beyond its headquarters in the Philippines.

Established in **2018** through MoU between **India's Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and IRRI.**

- **IRRI (HQ: Philippines)** is dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; etc.
- To achieve this, ISARC is promoting adoption of best **agronomic and management practices like Dry Seeded Rice and Alternate Wet and Drying.**

Dedicated to **strengthening rice-based agri-food system** in South Asia region by developing climate-resilient, bio-fortified rice varieties for farmers and consumers.

1.3.11 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

The **33rd Session of the CCPCJ** called for steps to combat **Transnational Organised Crimes (TOC)** and launched the **Generation Justice (GenJust)** initiative to engage youth in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Quick Overview of CCPCJ

CCPCJ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- **Genesis:** 1992 by UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- **Members:** 40 member states elected by ECOSOC for three-year terms.
- **Functions:** Principal UN policy-making body for crime prevention and criminal justice.

1.3.12 International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA**) Global Cooperative Conference is being organized in India for the first time in the 130-year-long history of ICA.

Quick Overview of ICA

About International Co-operative Alliance

- **Founded:** In 1895, London.
- **Role:** A global organization that unites, represents, and serves cooperatives worldwide.
- **Members:** 306 member organizations across 105 countries.
- **Function:** Serves as the apex body for the cooperative movement, providing a global platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action.

2 National

2. 1 Constitutional

2.1.1 Election Commission of India (ECI)

Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated 75th Years of its establishment and also observed 25th January as National Voters Day.

About ECI

Genesis: ECI is a **permanent Constitutional Body** established in on 25th January 1950.

Constitutional Provision: Part XV of Constitution entailing Articles **324 to 329.**

Statutory provisions: Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) **Act, 2023** regulates their appointment, service conditions, tenure, etc.

Key role: ECI Administers elections to

- Lok Sabha
  Rajya Sabha
  State Legislative Assemblies
  Offices of the President and Vice President

Composition: Consists of **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (EC).**

- Initially, the commission had only a CEC. In 1989, two Election Commissioners were appointed who served until 1st January 1990.
- **Since 1993,** commission has **permanently included two Election Commissioners.**

Functions:

- Disqualifies candidates failing to lodge timely account of election expenses.
- Ensures inner party democracy and grants status of National and State Parties.
- Advisory jurisdiction on matters of post- election disqualifications

2.1.2 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

Senior IAS officer, K Sanjay Murthy appointed as next CAG of India.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

About: CAG is the **head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.**

Article 148:

- **Appointment:** By **President of India** by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Salary and service condition:** Determined by **Parliament by law,** and charged on **Consolidated Fund of India.**
- **Reappointment:** Not eligible for both central and state government.

Article 149: Duties and powers of CAG to be determined by **parliament.**

Article 151: Reports of CAG shall be submitted to President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

CAG of India (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971:

- **Tenure: 6 years** or up to age of **65 years** whichever is earlier.
- **Removal: By President** on same grounds and in **same manner as a judge of Supreme Court.**

2.1.3 National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

NCBC is reviewing state list of OBCs.

About NCBC

Constitutional Body: Under **Article 338B** (inserted through 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018).

- Article 338 B mandates Union and every State Government to consult the NCBC **on all major policy matters affecting the rights of OBCs.**

Composition: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three other members **appointed by President.** Their **service conditions are also determined by President.**

Power: Commission has all the **powers of a civil court.**

Duties of NCBC

- Investigate and monitor safeguards for backward classes
- Inquire into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights of the backward classes
- Advise on socioeconomic development of the OBC and also evaluate their progress
- Such other functions in relation to advancement of the OBCs as the President may by rule specify
- Annually present reports to the President on safeguard implementation and make recommendations

2.1.4 National Commission for Scheduled castes (NCSC)

Recently, Delhi High Court said that **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is not empowered to investigate or issue any directions in the nature of a civil or criminal court.**

About NCSC

Constitutional body under Article 338 of the Constitution.

Composition: Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and three other members, **appointed by the President of India.**

Tenure: Hold office **for a term of 3 years** and shall **not be eligible for appointment** for more than 2 terms.

Functions

- **Investigate and monitor all matters** relating to constitutional and other legal safeguards for SCs.
- Inquire into specific complaints with respect to **deprivation of rights and safeguards of SCs.**

2.1.5 Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

Recently, UPSC Chairperson resigned 5 years before expiration of his term.

About UPSC

Article 315 states that there shall be a **Public Service Commission for the Union and a Public Service Commission for each State.**

About UPSC Chairman (Article 316)

Appointment: By the President

Term: 6 years/ 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Eligibility: Held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State.

He/she is **ineligible for further employment** either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State

Removal: By President, if he/she is
- an adjudged insolvent;
- engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office;
- unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

2.1.6 State Public Service Commission (SPSC)

Recently, Vice President addressed the **25th National Conference of Chairpersons of SPSC.**

State Public Service Commission (SPSC)

About: Conducts examinations for appointments to the services of the state.

Constitutional Body: Article 315-323 (Part-XIV) contains provisions on Public Service Commissions for Union and States.

Appointment: Governor of State **(Article 316).**

Term of office: 6 years or 62 years of age whichever is earlier.

Removal: By **President** in same manner as members of Union Public Service Commission on grounds like:
- Adjudged insolvent, engages in paid employment outside his office, unfit, misbehaviour (after an enquiry by Supreme Court).

2.1.7 State Finance Commission (SFC)

Recently, first of its kind finance commissions' conclave organised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj with significant emphasis was placed on strengthening State Finance Commission (SFC).

State Finance Commission (SFCs)

About: Article 243I requires **Governor to constitute SFC within one year from commencement of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.**

Tenure: Every 5 years.

Mandate: SFCs to review financial position of **Panchayats (243 I) and municipalities (Article 243 Y)** and make suggestions to the **Governor** about-

- **Distribution of taxes** between State and Local Bodies (Panchayats/Municipalities).
- **Determination of taxes, duties,** etc., which may be assigned to or appropriated by Local Bodies.
- **Grants in aid** to Local Bodies by the State.

2.1.8 Inter-State Council (ISC)

Inter-State Council has been reconstituted.

Inter-State Council (ISC)

About: It is a forum through which **Centre and the state co-ordinate and co-operate** with each other.

Genesis: Established under **Article 263** of Constitution through a Presidential Order in **1990** on recommendation of **Sarkaria Commission.**

Composition: It consists of:

- **Chairman:** Prime Minister
- **Members:**
  - CM of all States.
  - CM of Union Territories having a **Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs** not having a Legislative Assembly.
  - **6 Ministers** of Cabinet rank in Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by Prime Minister.

2.2 Statutory

2.2.1 Lokpal

Recently, Lokpal of India has established an **inquiry wing under Section 11 of Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013** to probe graft cases against public servants.

About Lokpal

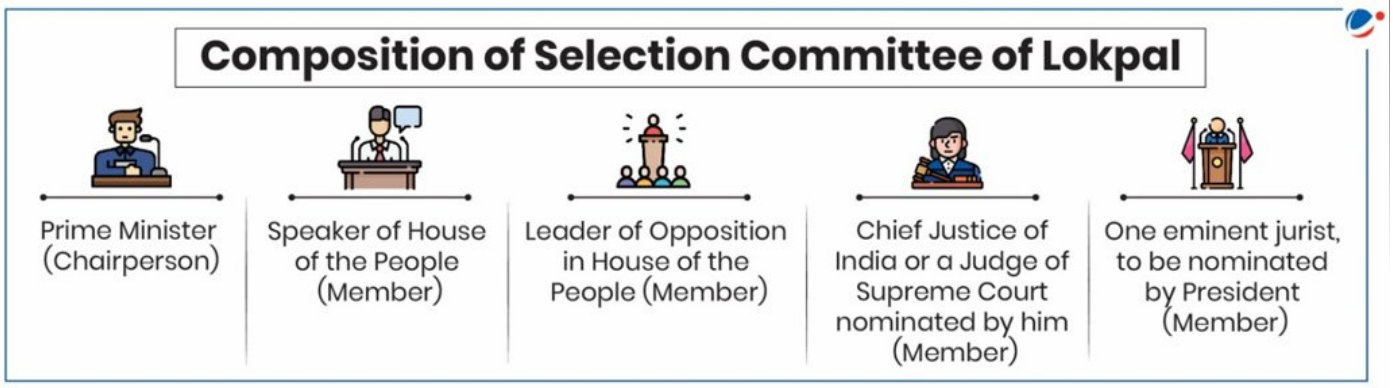
Genesis and Aim: Anti-corruption ombudsman at Centre level established by **Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013** to investigate & prosecute corruption cases involving public servants.

- Both 1 and 2 Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended establishment of Lokpal institution
- Lokayukta is at State-level. Its structure is not uniform across all states.
  - Lokayukta Appointment: By Governor (generally in consultation with Chief Justice of State HC, and Leader of Opposition in State Legislative Assembly)

Composition of Lokpal: Consists of **chairperson** (person who is or has been a CJI or is or has been a Judge of SC) and **8 members** with 50% being judicial members, **appointed by President**

- **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh** (2019) was first Lokpal. **Justice AM Khanwilkar is current Lokpal.**
  - Chairperson and Members shall be appointed after obtaining **recommendations of Selection Committee.**

- Their term of office is **five years** from date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains **age of seventy years,** whichever is earlier.
- On ceasing to hold office, Chairperson and every Member shall be **ineligible for reappointment** as Chairperson or Member of Lokpal.
- However, **a Member shall be eligible to be appointed as Chairperson** of Lokpal if his **total tenure does not exceed five years.**



Two wings of Lokpal

Wings	Detail
Inquiry wing	• **Conducts a preliminary inquiry into any offense** alleged to have been committed by a public servant punishable under **Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988.** • Submits inquiry report to Lokpal **within 60 days**. • Headed by **Director of Inquiry** under Lokpal chairperson. **Director will be assisted by 3 Superintendents of Police** (SPs) - SP (general), SP (economic and banking) and SP (cyber). ○ Each SP will be further assisted by **inquiry officers** and other staff. • Have **all powers of civil court**, under Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
Prosecution wing	• **Headed by Director of Prosecution** for prosecution of public servants in relation to any complaint by Lokpal. • Director of Prosecution shall file a case based on investigation report before Special Court and **prosecute public servants in relation to any offence punishable under PCA, 1988.**

Powers of Lokpal:

- **Superintendence & direction over any central investigation agency** including CBI for cases referred to them by Lokpal.
- **Issue appropriate directions to public servant** entrusted with preparation/custody of any document/record to protect/prevent such document etc.
- **Powers under Civil Procedure Code** for conducting preliminary inquiry & investigation for eradication of corruption.
- **Serves as final appellate authority** for redressal of public grievances by any public authority in cases where decision contains corruption findings under PCA, 1988.

Jurisdictions of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption

Prime Minister, or Minister in Union government, or Member of Parliament, and officials of Union Government under **Groups A, B, C, D**	**Chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society,** trust or autonomous body either established by Act of Parliament or wholly/partly funded by Union or State government	Any **society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution** above Rs. 10 lakh

2.2.2 Central Vigilance commission

Recently, CVC in its **Annual Report 2023** highlighted Ministry/ Department/ Sector-wise corruption complaints received and disposed against public officials

About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

Genesis: It is a **statutory body** under **CVC Act, 2003.**
- **Established in 1964** through a **Resolution of Government of India** on recommendations of **K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.**
- **In 1998**, it was **conferred statutory status through an ordinance** promulgated by Union Government.

Members: 3-member body, with Central Vigilance Commissioner and 2 Vigilance Commissioners.

Appointment: By President on recommendations of a High-Powered Committee consisting of **PM, Union Minister of Home Affairs,** and **Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.**

Role and functions
- **Supervises vigilance administrations** across Central Ministries, Departments, and Organizations.
- **Conducts preliminary inquiries into complaints referred by Lokpal** for officials across various grades.
- **Oversees functioning of Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI)** in investigating corruption-related offenses, etc.

2.2.3 National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Recently, United Nations-linked Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) **deferred accreditation of NHRCI (National Human Rights Commission of India) for the second year** in a row.

HQ: New Delhi

About NHRC

Genesis: Statutory body, established **under Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993** as amended in 2006 and in 2019.

Appointment: Chairperson and Members of Commission are appointed by President of India, on recommendations of a committee, headed by Prime Minister, consisting of:
- Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Minister-in-Charge of Ministry of Home Affairs

- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

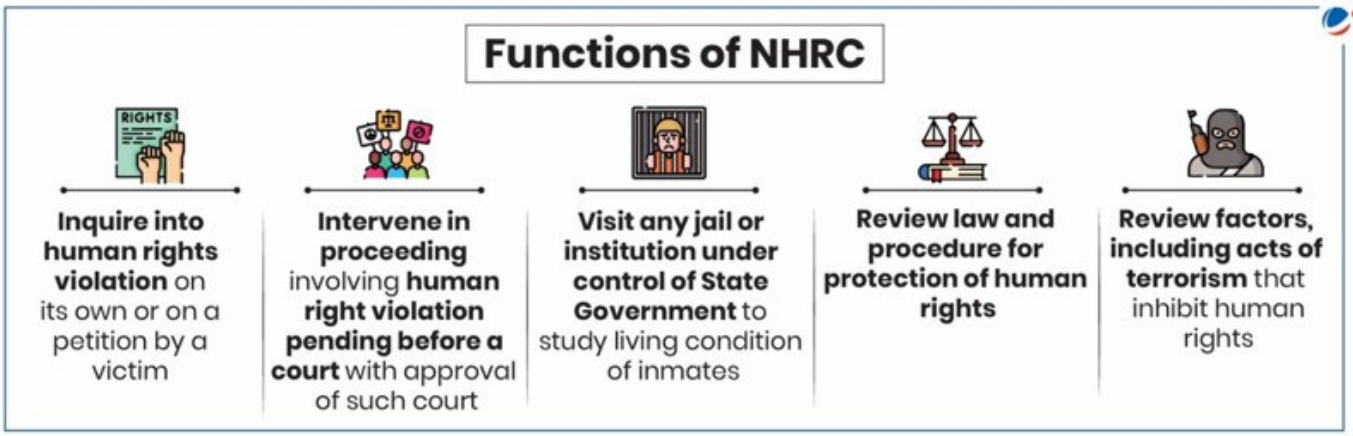
Tenure: Chairperson and members of NHRC will hold office for t**hree years or till the age of seventy years,** whichever is earlier.

- Chairperson and members both are eligible for reappointment.

Removal: Both Chairperson and members can be removed from office **by President order on ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity** after consultation with **Supreme Court**

Powers of NHRC: It has all the **powers of a civil court trying a suit under Code of Civil Procedure, 1908** and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath;
- Discovery and production of any document;
- Receiving evidence on affidavits;
- Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.



2.2.4 National Investigation Agency (NIA)

The Supreme Court, **in *Ankush Vipan Kapoor vs. NIA***, ruled that **the National Investigation Agency (NIA)** can **investigate non-scheduled offences** linked to **scheduled offences** under **the NIA Act.**

HQ: New Delhi

About NIA

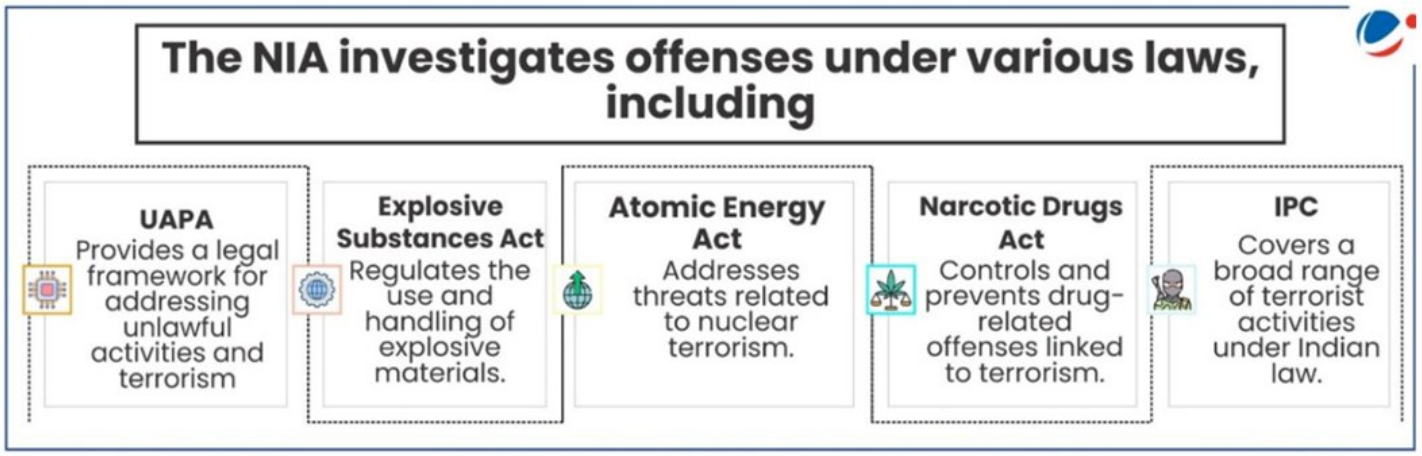
Formation: The NIA was established in **2008** by the **National Investigation Agency Act**, following the **2008 Mumbai attacks** to counter terrorism and other national security threats.

Objective: The NIA's primary objective is to investigate and prosecute offenses related to terrorism, organized crime, and other offenses that threaten national security.

Jurisdiction: The NIA has jurisdiction over the **entire country** and is empowered to investigate cases beyond state boundaries.

Authority: The NIA is a **central agency**, and its investigations are authorized by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- It has the authority to arrest, investigate, and prosecute accused individuals.



2.2.5 Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

EPFO wins International Social Security Association's (ISSA) 'Good Practice Award' for Asia and Pacific.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation

Genesis: Employees' Provident Funds Ordinance, 1951 established EPFO. It was replaced by **Employees' Provident Funds Act of 1952.**
- The act is now referred as **Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act** of 1952

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Mission: To extend the Reach & Quality of Publicly Managed Old-Age Income Security Programs.

Administers following schemes:
- Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme 1952,
- Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 1995 and
- Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme 1976.

2.2.6 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Recently, The IBBI issued new guidelines to streamline the process of appointing Insolvency Professionals (IPs) as resolution professionals.

HQ: New Delhi

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA (IBBI)

About: Statutory body under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**

Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Functions:
- It has **regulatory oversight over the service providers** in the insolvency ecosystem.
- It has responsibility to **provide a regulatory framework for insolvency and resolution** processes of corporates and individuals.

Governing Board: Functioning of IBBI is governed by a **Governing Board constituted by Central Government. It consist of -**
- Chairperson,
- 3 members from amongst the officers of Central Government not below rank of Joint Secretary or equivalent,
- 1 member to be nominated by RBI,
- **5 other members** to be **nominated by Central Government,** of whom at least 3 shall be whole-time member.

2.2.7 Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Securities and Exchange Board of India issued (Foreign Venture Capital Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 to amend existing **SEBI (FVCI) Regulations, 2000.**

HQ: Mumbai

Securities and Exchange Board of India

Genesis: Constituted as a non-statutory body in 1988 through a resolution of Government of India
- Established as a statutory body in 1992 under SEBI Act 1992.

Objectives: To **protect the interests of investors** in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

Functions:
- To **protect the interests of investors** in securities market and regulate it.
- To **regulate the business operations** of the securities market.
- Providing a **regulatory platform for stockbrokers,** portfolio managers & other intermediaries.
- Prohibiting fraudulent and **unfair trade practices** including **insider trading.**
- To **educate investors about securities markets** and their intermediaries

2.2.8 Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) identified Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Company as **D-SIIs.**

HQ: Hyderabad

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Genesis: Formed based on recommendations of the Malhotra Committee as an autonomous body in 1999
- Incorporated as a **statutory body** in 2000 under **IRDAI Act, 1999.**

Objectives: Speedy & orderly growth of the insurance industry, speedy settlement of genuine claims, etc.

Composition: IRDAI is a **10-member body** (chairman, 5 full-time & 4 part-time members) under **Ministry of Finance.**

Role of IRDAI:
- **Issue, renew, modify, withdraw, suspend/cancel certificates** of registration for insurance companies.
- **Protect the interests of policyholders**
- **Adjudicate disputes between insurers and intermediaries or insurance intermediaries.**
- Promote & regulate **professional organizations connected with the insurance and reinsurance business.**

2.2.9 NABARD

NABARD released Second All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22.

HQ: Mumbai

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

About: It is India's **apex development bank** to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and **rural development**

Genesis: Established in 1982 under the **NABARD Act 1981** on r**ecommendation of B. Sivaraman Committee**

Mandate: Providing and regulating credit and other facilities for promotion and development of agriculture, small scale industries, cottage & village industries, handicrafts and other allied economic activities in rural areas.

Ownership: NABARD is wholly owned by Government of India

2.2.10 National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

Recently, NFRA recommended the **revision of Standards on Auditing** aligning it with the global Standard ISA 600.

HQ: New Delhi

National Financial Reporting Authority

Constitution: Constituted in 2018 under the **Section 132(1) of the Companies Act, 2013.**

Objectives: Continuously improve the quality of all corporate financial reporting in India

Functions: Recommend accounting and auditing policies and standards; Monitor and enforce compliance; oversee service quality, etc.

2.2.11 Monetary Policy Committee

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released study on Monetary Policy Transmission.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

About: Under Section 45ZB of the amended (in 2016) **RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered** to constitute a MPC.

Objective: To **maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.**

Members: 6 Members- Governor, RBI (ex-officio chairperson); five other members (2 from RBI and 3 appointed by the Government).

Voting: Each member has one vote (Governor exercises casting vote).

Meeting: At least **4 times** in a year

Quorum: 4 members

2.2.12 National Green Tribunal

Recently, NFRA recommended the **revision of Standards on Auditing** aligning it with the global Standard ISA 600.

New Delhi

- **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** stated that Ganga River is facing floodplain encroachment.

Principal Place of Sitting: New Delhi
- **Other 4:** Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai

Genesis: Established as a **statutory body** under the **NGT Act, 2010.**

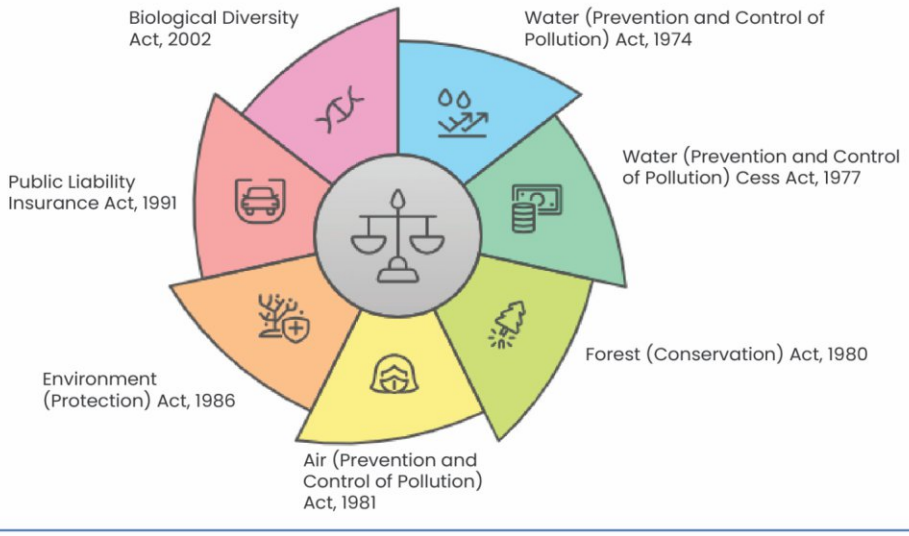
Composition: Headed by a **chairperson** with **10-20 judicial** as well as **expert** members.

Guided by: Principles of **natural justice** and not bound by the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.**

Powers:
- Power of the **civil court**
- Power to take **suo motu cognizance.**
- Power to **grant relief** in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.

Mandate: A **specialized judicial body** equipped with expertise **solely to adjudicate environmental cases in the country** (refer to the infographics)

NGT's Legislative Framework



Disposal of applications or appeals **within 6 months of filing** of the same.

Appeal: Its orders are binding but not final (it can review its judgements or an appeal could be made in SC within ninety days.)

Benches: NGT has a **presence in five zones- North** (Principal Bench, headquartered in Delhi), Central, East, South and West.

2.2.13 Committee for Air Quality Management

Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas

- A **statutory body** established under **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021.**
  - Replaced **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control Authority).**

Mandate: Air Quality Management in **National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas** including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

- It aims to achieve **better co-ordination, research, identification and resolution of problems** surrounding the air quality index.

Key Functions:

- Releases **Statutory Directions for environmental pollution to the state government.**
- **Imposes penalties for non-compliance:** Offence punishable with imprisonment **up to 5 years or fine up to 1 crore rupees or both.**

2.2.14 Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** intends to **delist 18 centrally protected monuments out of 24 "untraceable" monuments.**

HQ: **New Delhi**

About The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

Genesis: Founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham** also known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology".

Ministry: Ministry of Culture

About: Premier organization for the **archaeological researches, protection and maintenance of ancient monuments** of the cultural heritage.

Mandate:

- Regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.**
- In charge of **protection and maintenance of centrally Protected Monuments (CPMs)/Sites of national importance** including World Heritage Property etc.

2.2.15 National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

Supreme Court set aside the 2008 NCDRC ruling in Awaz & Others vs. RBI, which barred banks from charging over 30% interest on credit card dues, deeming it an unfair trade practice.

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

About: Quasi-judicial commission set up in **1988** under **Consumer Protection Act, 1986.**

Headed by: A sitting or retired Judge of SC or a sitting or a retired **Chief Justice of a High Court.**

- Appeal against the order of NCDRC lies with Supreme Court.

Functions:

- Entertain complaints valued more than two crores.
- Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction from the orders of State Commissions or the District fora.

2.2.16 Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

IEPFA has **launched a new toll-free number — 14453** — to better serve claimant queries.

About IEPFA

Under aegis of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and established under **the Companies Act, 2013.**

Responsible for managing the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).**

- IEPF focuses on **safeguarding investor interests by facilitating the refund of shares, unclaimed dividends, and matured deposits/debentures.**

2.2.17 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA) celebrated 100 years of establishment.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

About: Apex body for **co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture** including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

Genesis: Formerly known as **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**, it was **established on 16 July 1929** as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- It was recommended by report of **Royal Commission on Agriculture** (1928)
- **Status:** It is an **autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education** (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture. It headquarters at New Delhi.

2.2.18 Central Silk Board

Recently, the platinum jubilee of the Central Silk Board was celebrated.

HQ: Bengaluru

Central Silk Board (CSB)

About: Statutory body established in 1948 by an Act of Parliament

Ministry: Ministry of Textiles

Mandate:

- **Advise the government** on all matters concerning sericulture and silk industry.
- Standardization of various production processes, etc.

International Sericulture Commision: Member Secretary of CSB is was elected as the **Secretary General of International Sericulture Commission (ISC) for the tenure 2025-27.**

- **The ISC is an UN registered inter-governmental organization** engaged in the **development of sericulture and silk industry in the world.**

2.2.19 Spices Board of India

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry approved SPICED (**Sustainability in spice sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative interventions for Export Development)** Scheme.

HQ: Cochin, Kerala

Spices Board India

Genesis: Constituted in 1987 under the Spices Board act 1986.

Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Role: Autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled species and development of Cardamom

Codex Alimentarius Committee: India hosts and **chairs Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary herbs (CCSCH)** set up under Codex Alimentarius Committee

- **SBI serves as its secretariat.**

2.2.20 Tobacco Board

On its formation day, Tobacco Board highlights that earnings of Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco farmers have more than doubled between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

HQ: Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Tobacco Board

Ministry: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Genesis: Established on **1st January 1976** by an Act of Parliament **'Tobacco Board Act, 1975'.**

Objective: Promote development of tobacco industry, including regulation of production, distribution, and export of FCV tobacco.

2.2.21 Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

Union Ministry of Power launches National Electricity Plan (Transmission), **developed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).**

HQ: New Delhi

Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

Genesis: It was established under the r**epealed Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948,** which has been substituted by **Electricity Act 2003.**

Members: CEA consists of **not more than 14 members** including Chairperson, of whom not more than 8 members are full-time members **appointed by Central Government.**

Functions: Advise Central Government on National Electricity Policy, **specify technical standards** for construction of electric plants, electric lines and grid connectivity.

2.3 Non-Statutory

2.3.1 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Recently, Supreme Court in **State of West Bengal v. Union of India case (2024)** upheld maintainability of West Bengal government's suit against Union over registration and investigation of cases by CBI despite revocation of its general consent in 2018.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Genesis: Established in 1963 on recommendation of **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64).**

Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.

Status: **Non-statutory** and **non-constitutional body.** It is governed by **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**

About: Premier investigating police agency in India, which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

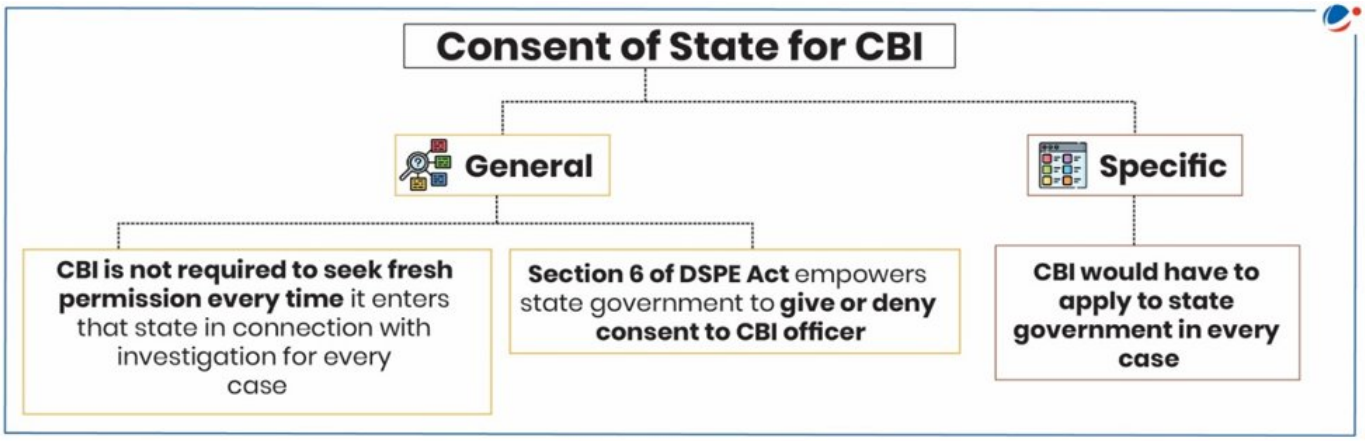
Motto: Industry, Impartiality and Integrity.

Vision: **Combating corruption** in public life, curbing economic and violent crimes through meticulous investigation and prosecution; **fight cyber and high technology crime** etc.

Composition: Headed by **Director** (assisted by special director or an additional director), joint directors, deputy inspector generals, superintendents of police and all other usual ranks of police personnel.

- The panel that selects the CBI chief consists of the **Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and Chief Justice of India.**
- In 2021, **President promulgated two ordinances** to extend the **tenures of Directors of CBI** and **Enforcement Directorate (ED) for up to five years**, from fixed tenure of two years.

Types of cases investigated by CBI: Anti-corruption, Economic offences, Special crimes and Suo-moto**.**



2.3.2 NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog has celebrated 10 years of its foundation.

About NITI Aayog

Genesis: Government think-tank formed in **2015** via a **resolution of Union Cabinet,** replacing the **erstwhile Planning Commission.**

Composition:

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India
- **Governing Council:** Prime Minister; CMs of all States and UTs with legislature; Lt. Governors of other UTs, Ex-Officio Members; Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog; Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog; and Special Invitees.
  - **Ex-officio Members** include maximum 4 members of Union Council of Ministers nominated by PM.
  - **Special Invitees** include experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge nominated by PM.
- **Regional Councils:** To address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region.
- **CEO:** Appointed by PM for a fixed tenure, in rank of Secretary to GoI.

Twin mandate:

- To oversee **adoption and monitoring of the SDGs** in country.
- Promote **competitive and cooperative federalism** among States and UTs.

Reports Release by NITI Aayog: SDG India Index; National Multidimensional Poverty Index; Systemic Transformation of School Education- SATH-E Report; Export Preparedness Index etc.

2.3.3 India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)

Recently, India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) marked its 7th Foundation Day.

About IPPB

Established in 2018 under the **Department of Posts,** Ministry of Communication with **100% equity owned by the Government of India**

Aim: To provide every household in India an access to efficient banking services and enable them to become financially secure and empowered by **leveraging postal network.**

Services offered: Saving/Current account, Direct Benefits Transfers, Bill and Utility Payments, access to 3 Party products such as loans, insurance, etc.

2.3.4 Law Commission

President approves the constitution of 23rd Law Commission for a **three-year term,** that is, from **1st September 2024 to 31st August 2027.**

23rd Law Commission

- **Mandate:** To review and recommend legal reforms to enhance the Indian legal system.
- **Composition:** It will include a full-time chairperson, four members, and additional ex-officio and part-time members

सत्यमेव जयते
Law Commission of India

Law Commission of India

History: First constituted in **1834 by Governor-General** under **Charter Act of 1833**, chaired by Lord Macaulay.

- **The first Law Commission** of independent India was established in the **year 1955** and it was chaired by **Sri. M. C. Setalvad.**

Type: Non-statutory body constituted by a notification of **Ministry of Law and Justice**

Aim: Reform laws to maximize justice and promote good governance under the rule of law

Function: Conducts research and provides recommendations based on defined ToRs.

2.3.5 Pay Commission

Union government approved the establishment of the Eighth Pay Commission.

About Pay Commission

Constitution: by central government

Since 1947, seven Pay Commissions have been constituted

- The 7th pay commission was implemented in 2016 and is set to complete its term in 2026.
- **Chairman** of 7th Pay Commission was: **Justice Ashok Kumar Mathur.**

Importance: It plays a vital role in determining salary structures, allowances, and other benefits for government employees

2.3.6 National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)

Recently, the government has appointed the **Additional National Security Advisor (NSA)** to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

National Security Council (NSC)

Constituted in 1999 based on K.C. Pant-led task force recommendations.

Apex advisory body headed by the PM, comprising Ministers of Finance, Defense, Home, and External Affairs.

Structure of NSC

- **Strategic Policy Group (SPG): Headed by NSA, ensures inter-ministerial coordination for national security policies**
- **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB): Headed by NSA, provides long-term analysis and policy recommendations to NSC**
- **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).**

National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)

Core Characteristics

Establishment and Purpose

- Created in **late 1990s** as secretariat for **National Security Council (NSC)**
- Apex advisory body for intemal and external security matters
- Provides strategic direction and long-term vision for national security

Leadership

- **Headed by National Security Adviser (NSA)**
  - NSA holds rank of Cabinet Minister
- Can generate **Cabinet notes** and access relevant papers

Governance and Amendments

2019 Business Rules Amendment

- NSA and **NSCS** brought under specific governance rules
- Expanded powers to generate and access **Cabinet documents**
- Enables participation in **inter-ministerial consultations**

2.3.7 ISRO

HQ: Bengaluru

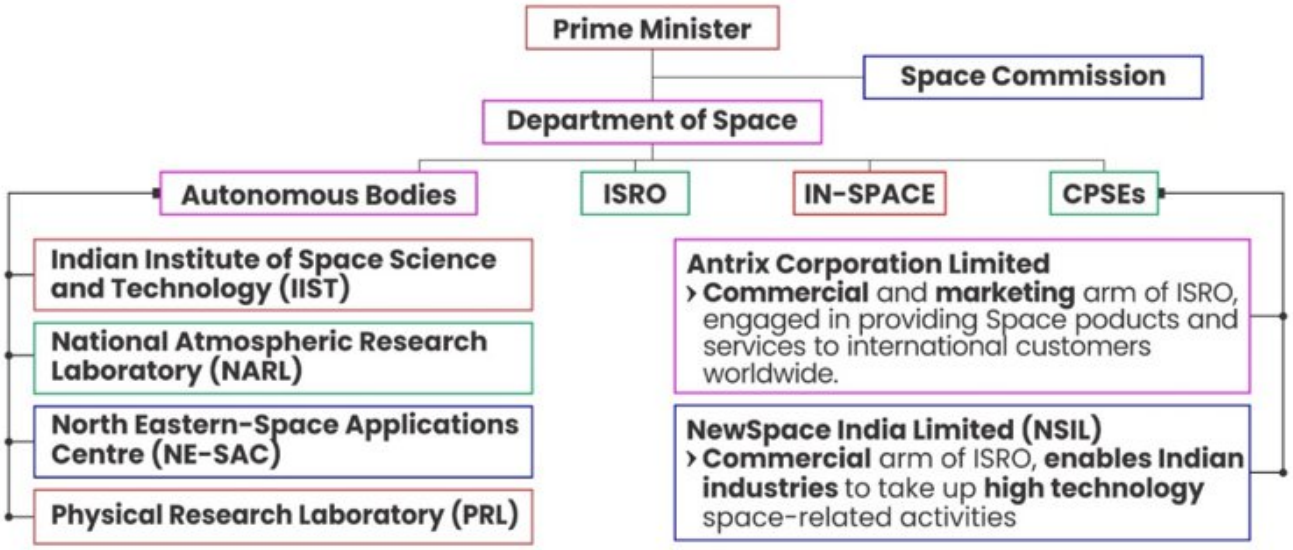
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Genesis: Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was set up by in 1962.
- ISRO was formed in 1969 superseding INCOSPAR.
- Brought under **Department of Space (DOS)** in 1972.

Mandate: As **National Space Agency,** development and application of space technology for various national needs.

Chairman: Headed by Chairman, who is secretary of DOS and Chairman of Space commission.

Overview of Organisation Structure



2.3.8 Commission of Railway Safety

Recently, several incidents of train derailment/collision in last six months raised concern over railways safety.

HQ: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Commission of Railway Safety (CRS)

Genesis: Earlier, it was Railway Inspectorate. It was re-designated as the Commission of Railway Safety in 1961

Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation

Mandate:
- Deals with matters related to safety of rail travel and operations.
- Has statutory functions - inspectorial, investigatory, and advisory - under Railways Act, 1989.
- Investigates serious train accidents

2.3.9 National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released the results of the HCES 2023-24.

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

Establishment: Founded in **1950,** NSSO **is part of NSO** and a subordinate office under the control of MOSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation).

- The National Statistics Office (NSO) consists of the Central Statistics **Office (CSO) and NSSO**

Purpose: To conduct large-scale sample surveys in diverse fields on an All-India basis.

Survey Frequency:

- **Annual Surveys:** Smaller sample studies on specific topics.
- **Quinquennial Surveys:** Large-scale, detailed surveys conducted every five years.

Major Surveys Conducted:

- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- Annual Survey of Industries.
- Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households

2.3.10 Central Ground water Board (CGWB)

Recently, several incidents of train derailment/collision in last six months raised concern over railways safety.

HQ: Faridabad, Haryana, India.

- **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** aims to develop and disseminate technologies, and monitor and implement national policies for management of India's Ground Water Resources.

Genesis: Established in **1970** by renaming the **Exploratory Tube wells Organization** under the **Ministry of Agriculture.**

Ministry: Subordinate office under **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

Functions:

- **Groundwater Assessment:** Maps aquifers and evaluates availability and quality.
- **Monitoring:** Operates 25,000+ observation wells to track groundwater levels and quality.
- **Regulation**: Develops guidelines and policies for sustainable groundwater use.
- **Scientific Studies:** Conducts hydrogeological, geophysical, and chemical analyses.

Key Initiatives:

- **National Aquifer Mapping and Management Program (NAQUIM):** Maps aquifers and suggests region-specific groundwater management plans.
- **Artificial Recharge Projects:** Promotes rainwater harvesting and recharge techniques to replenish groundwater.
- **Groundwater Regulation:** Recommends state-specific regulatory mechanisms for controlling groundwater overuse.

Reports/Indices

- **Dynamic Ground Water Resources Of India:** Annual report assessing groundwater availability and trends.
- **Groundwater Yearbook:** Summarizes the status of groundwater levels and quality.
- **Aquifer Mapping Report:** Documents detailed aquifer characteristics and management strategies.

2.3.11 National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB)

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation attended Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB).

About NAFSCOB

National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd

Genesis: Established in 1964 with a view to facilitate the operations of State and Central Co-operative Banks in general and Development of Co-operative Credit in particular.

Objective:

- To facilitate the growth and development of cooperative banking in India, ensuring financial inclusion and supporting the rural economy
- **Promote and protect the interests of the member banks** in all spheres of their activities and to give expression to the views of the member banks.

Three wings of NAFSCOB: Planning, Research and Development, All India Mutual Arrangement Schemes and Computer Services Division.

2.3.12 Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

The Supreme Court restored Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officers authority to issue notices and recover dues under the Customs Act, 1962.

Quick Overview of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

It is a premier intelligence and **enforcement agency on anti-smuggling matters.**

Working: under **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance**

Objective:

- **Detect and curb smuggling of contraband**, including drug trafficking and **illicit international trade in wildlife** and environmentally sensitive items.
- **Combating commercial frauds related to international trade** and evasion of customs duty.

2.3.13 National Turmeric Board

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launches National Turmeric Board.

HQ: Nizamabad, Telangana (a major turmeric-producing region).

About National Turmeric Board (NTB)

Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Prominent Members:

- **Key Department & Ministries:** Representatives of Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Department of Commerce.
- **States: Will** be represented on the Board by rotation.

Type: NTB is an executive body (not a Statutory Body).

2.4 Others

2.4.1 Sahitya Akademi

Ruskin Bond was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.**

HQ: **New Delhi**

साहित्य अकादेमी

About Sahitya Akademi

Genesis: Formally inaugurated in **1954** and Registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**

Ministry: An autonomous body under **Ministry of Culture.**

Role: Undertakes **literary activities in 24 languages** (22 scheduled languages and **English** and **Rajasthani).**

Its major awards: Sahitya Akademi Award, Bhasha Samman.

2.4.2 India Meteorological Department (IMD)

Marking 150 years of IMD, the Prime Minister launched Mission Mausam.

HQ: New Delhi. (Initially it was Calcutta).

History and Background of Meteorology in India

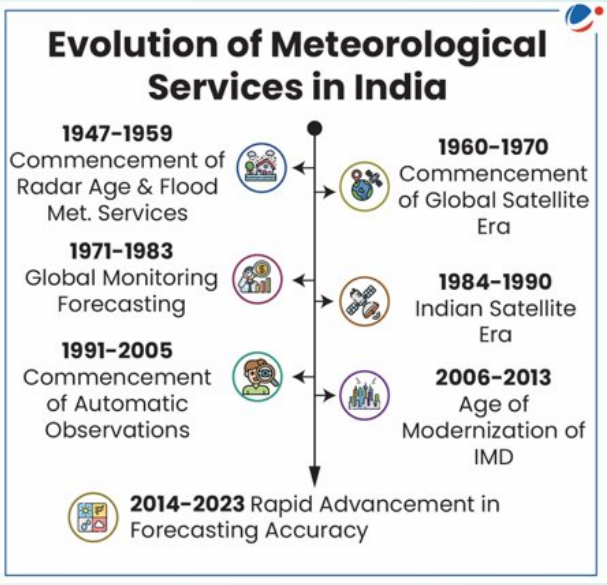
Background: In 1636 Halley, a British scientist published **treatise on the Indian monsoon,** which he attributed to a seasonal reversal of winds due to the differential heating of the Asian land mass and the Indian Ocean.

History of IMD

- **Genesis: 1875.**
- **The first Director General of** Observatories was **Sir John Eliot,** who was appointed in **May 1889 at Calcutta headquarters.**

Evolution post 1947

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **First organization in India to have a message switching computer:** For supporting its global data exchange.
- **One of the first few electronic computers introduced in the country** was provided to IMD for scientific applications in meteorology.



India was the first developing country in the world to have its own geostationary satellite, **INSAT,** for continuous weather monitoring of this part of the globe and particularly for cyclone warning.

International help: It provides Cyclone forecast and warning services to 13 north Indian Ocean countries along with forecast and warning services to SAARC nations.

2.4.3 National Stock Exchange (NSE)

SEBI approves ten times hike in NSE's authorized share capital to ₹500 crore.

HQ: Mumbai.

About National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Establishment: Incorporated in 1992, recognized as stock exchange by SEBI in 1993 and commenced operations in 1994.

- Stock exchange is a centralised marketplace where securities such as stocks, bonds, and derivatives are bought and sold by investors

India's largest stock exchanges by market cap.

Nifty 50 (owned and managed by NSE Indices Limited) is **flagship stock market index of NSE.** It is consists of diversified **50 stock indexes from various sectors** of economy.

Pioneer in Technology: First exchange in India to implement electronic/screen-based trading.

NSE Indices launched **India's first Electric Vehicle (EV) index** i.e. Nifty EV & New Age Automotive Index, to **track performance of companies** which form a part of EV ecosystem

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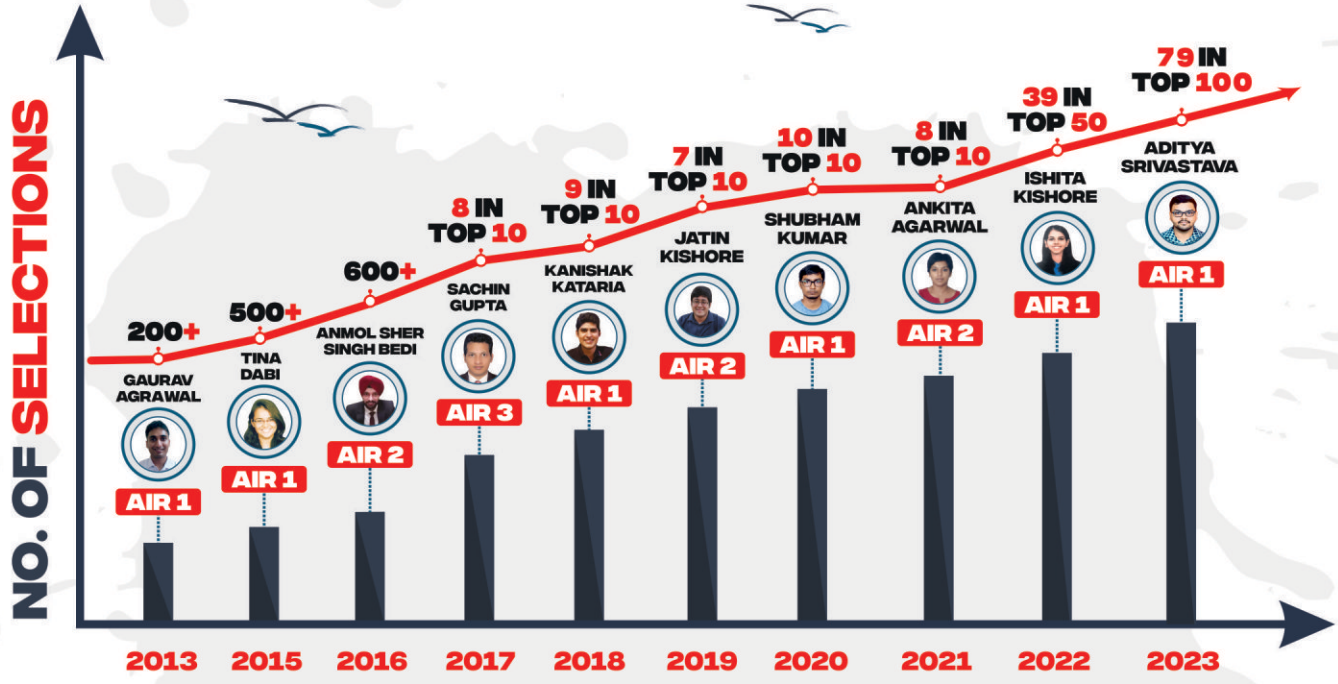

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16 in **TOP 20** Selections in **CSE 2023**

from various programs of **Vision IAS**

Animesh Pradhan

Ruhani

Srishti Dabas

Anmol

Nausheen

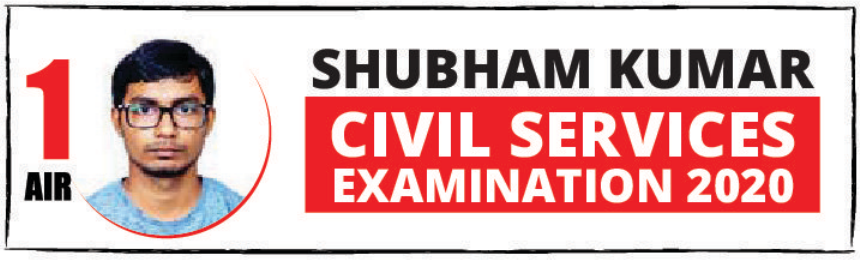
Aishwaryam Prajapati

39 Selections in **TOP 50** in **CSE 2022**

Ishita Kishore

Garima Lohia

Uma Harathi N



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