

GENERAL STUDIES

*Revised &
Improved Edition
for*

2017

for

• UPSC • SSC • Railways
• PSUs • Banks

*Also useful for State Public Services &
other competitive exams*

by

B. Singh & A.P. Singh



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General Studies

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Dedicated to

.....

All **PERSONS**,
contributing to development of **nation**. . .



PREFACE

This comprehensive text book on General Studies explains the subject matter in a brief and simple style. The authors are very well aware of the requirements of examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Examinations, Railways Examinations and Public Sector Examinations. This book has been very well targeted covering all the aspects of subject matter required for various examinations.

Since last one decade, authors have closely studied the marks of various candidates appeared & selected in government sectors and other examinations and found that those who have scored below average or poor marks in General Studies section, are either not able to get selection or get poor ranks, hence it has been realized that general studies section should be given significant importance.

There is no good book available to the readers in the market, which covers all the aspects of Geography, Polity, History, Life Science, Economy & General knowledge, that may satisfy the requirements of various competitive examinations conducted for aspirants. In this edition authors have put sincere efforts to satisfy all the requirements of various examinations. The book is thoroughly revised and updated. Authors have tried to incorporate previous year questions of UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Examinations, Railways examinations and Public Sector Examinations..

The authors feel that this book will be sufficient and highly useful for all the competitive examinations conducted for graduates from every discipline.

Any suggestions from the readers for the improvement of the book are most welcome.

B. Singh
A.P. Singh

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A

Section

General Knowledge

International Organizations

IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)

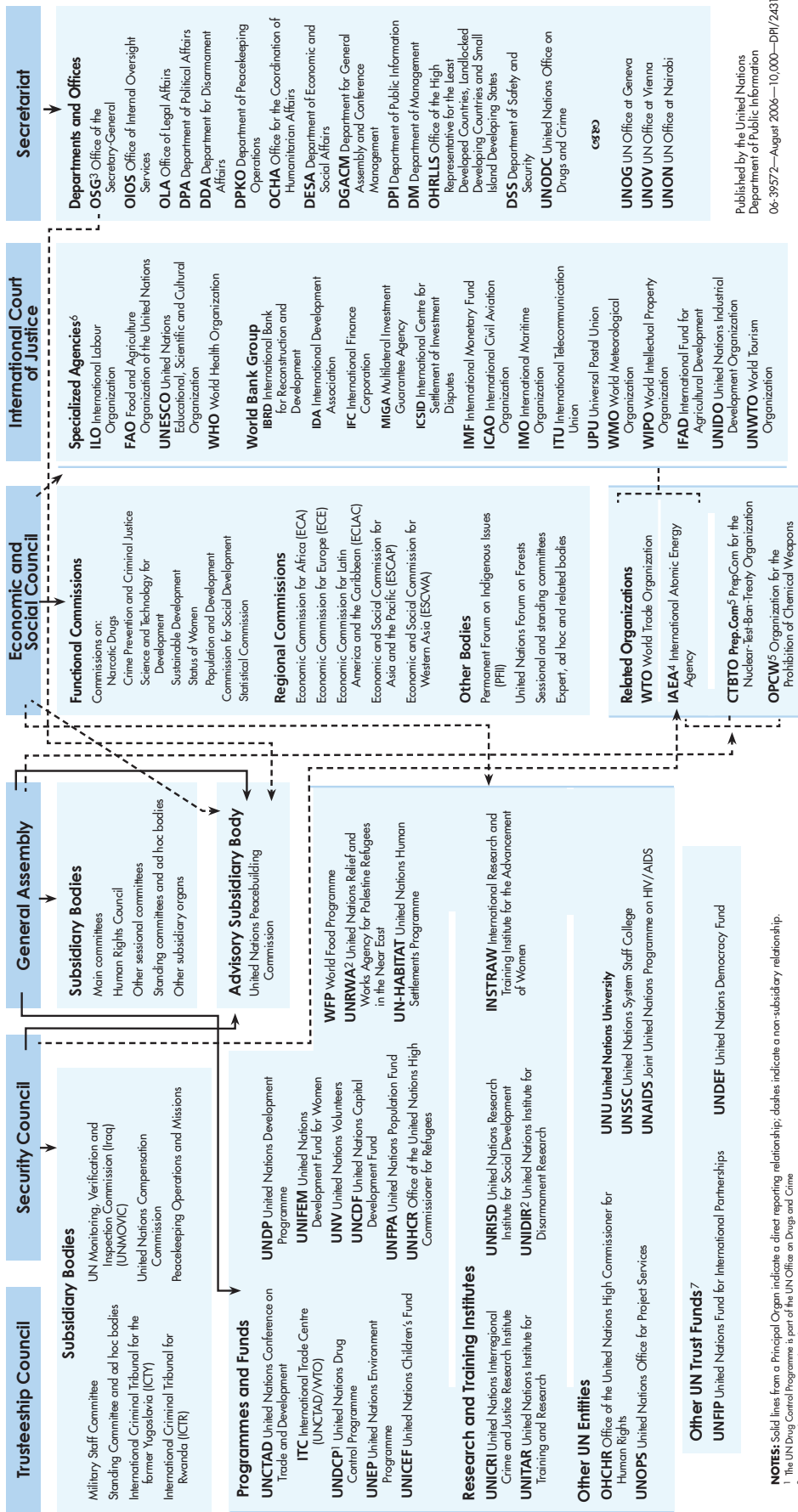
- In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter.
- The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.
- Original founding members of UN are 51 (Poland signed it later but is considered as original member). India is also a founding member.
- The original members of UN are those countries which signed the January 1942 declaration by UN or took part in the San-Francisco Conference or which signed and ratified the Charter.
- United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October.
- The Charter is the constituting instrument of the Organization, setting out the rights and obligations of member states, and establishing the United Nations organs and procedures.
- The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.
- The United Nations family, however, is much larger, encompassing 15 agencies and several programmes and bodies.
- The United Nations family of organizations (the "United Nations system") consists of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations funds and programmes (such as UNICEF and UNDP), the specialized agencies (such as UNESCO and WHO) and related organizations.
- The funds and programmes are subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.
- The specialized agencies are linked to the United Nations through special agreements and report to the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly.
- The related organizations including IAEA and the World Trade Organization address specialized areas and have their own legislative bodies and budgets.
- Headquarters of UN are in **New York city** (USA).
- US President Franklin D. Roosevelt devised the name United Nations.
- Its total membership is 193 at present.

Country	Member
Tuvalu	189th
Switzerland	190th
Timor Leste (East Timor)	191st
Montenegro	192nd
South Sudan	193rd

- Vatican City and Taiwan are not members of the UN.
- Vatican City (Holy See) and Palestine have been given a permanent observer status by the UN.
- UN flag consists of the global map projected from the North pole and embraced in twin olive branches (symbol of peace). The flag was adopted on October 20, 1947 by the General Assembly.
- New members can be admitted to the General Assembly on the recommendation of Security Council and members can be suspended also.
- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was set up in 1945.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by General Assembly of the UN on December 10, 1948. It is observed as Human Rights day every year.
- There are six official languages of UN, namely Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Arabic. Arabic was added by General Assembly in 1973 and by the Security Council in 1982. Although, Arabic is not used as its working language.

The United Nations System

Principal Organs



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NOTES: Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-substantive relationship.

- The UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNRWA and UNDIR report only to the GA
- The United Nations Ethics Office and the United Nations Ombudsman's Office report directly to the Secretary-General
- IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA)
- The CTBTO Prep.Com and OPCW report to the GA
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level
- UNEP is an autonomous trust fund operating under the leadership of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. UNEP's advisory board recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.

- The Charter established six principal organs of the United Nations. They are :
 - (i) The General Assembly
 - (ii) The Security Council
 - (iii) The Economic and Social Council
 - (iv) The Trusteeship Council
 - (v) The International Court of Justice
 - (vi) The Secretariat

1. General Assembly

- It is called as the '**Town meeting of the world**' or '**Parliament of the World**'.
- The General Assembly meets at least once in a year, and the session commences on the third Tuesday of September.
- The Assembly can also meet for special emergency sessions.
- The Presidency of the Assembly rotates each year among the five geographical groups of the countries viz. African, Asian, East European, Latin American and West European & other States.
- It appoints the Secretary General of UN Secretariat on the recommendation of the Security Council. It is also empowered to admit new members.

2. Security Council

- The Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of the international peace and security.
- It is designed to be the UN's only action agency and is often described as the enforcement wing of the UN.
- The Security Council originally consisted of eleven members but expanded to fifteen in 1965. Security Council comprises of five permanent members namely, China, France, Russia, UK and USA and 10 non-permanent members, elected for a term of 2 years by a two-third majority of the General Assembly. Five non-permanent members retire every year. Retiring members cannot be re-elected immediately.
- The permanent members have the power to VETO any move. If a permanent member abstains, it is not considered as a VETO.
- The presidency of the security council is held in turn by the members of the security council in the English alphabetical order of their names. Each president holds office for one calendar month.
- Decision on procedural as well as substantive matters are taken by an affirmative vote of 9 members. On substantive matters involving action

by member nations, all permanent members must vote in the affirmative. A single VETO can prevent the proposals from being accepted.

Present Non-permanent Members	
1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017	1 January 2015 – 31 December 2016
Egypt	Angola
Japan	Malaysia
Senegal	New Zealand
Ukraine	Venezuela
Uruguay	Spain

3. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Its objective is to promote social progress and better standards of life.
- ECOSOC comprises 54 members, 18 (one third) of whom are elected every year by the General Assembly of UN, to serve a three-year term. The retiring members as well as the President are eligible for immediate re-elections.
- The functions of ECOSOC are performed by nine functional commissions, five regional commissions and a number of standing committees.

4. Trusteeship Council

- The Trusteeship Council aims at helping countries under foreign rule to attain independence.
- There were eleven such countries that had come under this system after the Second World War. Most of them have attained independence by now. Palau was the last country to get freedom in 1994.

5. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The headquarters of ICJ are located in "**The Hague**" (De-Facto capital of The Netherlands).
- It comprises 15 Judges, elected by General Assembly and Security Council for a term of 9 years. Each one of them has to be from a different country.
- The ICJ itself elects its President and Vice President for a term of 3 years.
- All decisions are made by majority vote of the Judges present, with nine Judges constituting the quorum.
- The President of the ICJ may cast the second deciding vote in case of a tie.
- English and French are the official languages of the ICJ.
- At present, **Ronny Abraham** (France) is the president of ICJ.

6. The Secretariat

- The Secretariat - an international staff working in duty stations around the world carries out the diverse day to day work of the organisation.
- It services the other principle organs of the UN and administers the programmes and policies laid down by them.
- The Secretariat is treated as headquarters of UN.
- Secretary General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the UN.
- Secretary General has a tenure of five years and he can be re-elected.
- Secretary General can appoint his own staff including Deputy Secretary General and also he defines his own work.
- Deputy Secretary General is the second highest rank official of the UN. This post was created by **Kofi Annan**.

Secretaries-General of UN

Sl.	Name	Country	Period
1.	Trygve Lie	Norway	1946-52
2.	Dag Hammarskjöld	Sweden	1953-61
3.	U. Thant	Myanmar	1961-71
4.	Kurt Waldheim	Austria	1972-81
5.	Javier Perez de Cuellar	Peru	1982-91
6.	Boutros Boutros-Ghali	Egypt	1992-96
7.	Kofi Annan	Ghana	1997-06
8.	Ban Ki Moon	S. Korea	2007-till date

Deputy Secretary General of UN

Name	Country	Period
Louise Fréchette	Canada	1997 - 2006
Mark Malloch Brown	United Kingdom	1 April 2006-31 December 2006
Asha-Rose Migiro	Tanzania	5 February 2007-1 July 2012
Jan Eliasson	Sweden	1 July 2012 to present

Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to UN

Year	UN Body/Person
1950	Ralph Bunche
1954	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
1961	Dag Hammarskjöld
1965	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
1969	International Labour Organization
1981	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
1988	United Nations Peacekeeping Forces
2001	United Nations, Kofi Annan
2005	International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed El Baradei
2007	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold(AI) Gore Jr.
2013	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS OF UN

1. UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations system in 1953, when its name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund. However, UNICEF retained its original acronym. It is headquartered in New York (USA). Its headquarters are in **New York (USA)**.
- It aims to provide a better quality of life to children and mothers in developing countries through improved health services, nutrition, sanitation, water availability and education.
- UNICEF brings annual report titled *The State of the World's Children Report*.
- UNICEF received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965 "for the promotion of brotherhood among nations".
- UNICEF was established on 11 December 1946 by the United Nations to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China.
- Its full name was the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- In 1950, its mandate was broadened to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere.

2. UN Development Programme (UNDP)

- It was established in 1965 and its headquarters is in New York (USA).
- It is the largest agency in the world for technical and pre-investment cooperation at the multilateral level.
- UNDP brings out the **Human Development Report** every calendar year.
- It helps developing countries in exploiting their human and natural resources by providing expert assistance and training local personnel.

3. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

- It was established in 1972 and its headquarters are in **Nairobi (Kenya)**. Its aim is to protect and conserve the natural environment.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP established the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988.
- **Present Head** : Achim Steiner (Brazil).

4. UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

- It came into existence in 1967 and its headquarters are in New York (USA).
- Its aim is to build up capacity to respond to the needs in population and family planning, and to deal with population problems, specially in developing countries.
- *"The State of the World's Population Report"* is published by UNFPA annually.

5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Established in 1964, UNCTAD promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- UNCTAD has progressively evolved into an authoritative knowledge-based institution whose work aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.
- The organization works to fulfill this mandate by carrying out three key functions:
 - (i) It functions as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, supported by discussions with experts and exchanges of experience, aimed at consensus building.
 - (ii) It undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection for the debates of government representatives and experts.

(iii) It provides technical assistance tailored to the specific requirements of developing countries, with special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and of economies in transition. When appropriate, UNCTAD cooperates with other organizations and donor countries in the delivery of technical assistance.

- The Present Secretary-General of UNCTAD is **Mukhisa Kituyi (Kenya)**, who took office on 1st September 2013.
- *The World Investment Report* has been published annually since 1991 by UNCTAD. Each year's Report covers the latest trends in foreign direct investment around the World and analyses in depth one selected topic related to foreign direct investment and development.
- **Headquarter**:- Geneva (Switzerland)

SPECIALISED AGENCIES OF THE UN

1. World Bank Group

- The World Bank is made up of two unique development institutions owned by 188 member countries—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). In addition to the IBRD and the IDA, three other institutions are closely associated with the World Bank. They are the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). All five of these institutions together make up the World Bank Group.
- The mission of World Bank is to have a world free of poverty.
- As per data released in February 2016, the share of top ten countries as follows:
 - (i) USA (16.88%)
 - (ii) Japan (7.80%)
 - (iii) China (5.03%)
 - (iv) Germany (4.56%)
 - (v) UK (4.26%)
 - (vi) France (4.26%)
 - (vii) India (3.16%)
 - (viii) Saudi Arabia (3.14%)
 - (ix) Russia (2.93%)
 - (x) Canada (2.75%)

(i) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

- IBRD along with IMF was conceived at the

Brettonwoods Conference in July, 1944 and hence they are also known as “*Brettonwoods Twins*”.

- It is the part of the World Bank that works with the middle income and creditworthy poorer countries to promote sustainable, equitable and job-creating growth, reduce poverty and address issues of regional and global importance.
- Its headquarters are located at Washington DC.
- It grants long term loans generally, repayable after 20 years with a five year grace period.

(ii) International Development Association (IDA)

- The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world’s poorest countries. Established in 1960, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing interest-free credits and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve people’s living conditions.
- IDA complements the World Bank’s other lending arm—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)—which serves middle-

income countries with capital investment and advisory services.

- IBRD and IDA share the same staff and headquarters and evaluate projects with the same rigorous standards.
- IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world’s 79 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa.
- It is the single largest source of donor funds for basic social services in the poorest countries.
- IDA lends money (known as credits) on concessional terms. This means that IDA credits have no interest charge and repayments are stretched over 35 to 40 years, including a 10 year grace period.
- IDA also provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress.
- Its headquarters are located at **Washington DC**.
- IDA membership is open only to members of IBRD.

International Specialised Agencies

Sl.	Name	Foundation Year	Head-quarters
1.	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	1946	Paris
2.	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	1947	Berne
3.	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1945	Washington
4.	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or World Bank Group	1945	Washington
5.	World Health Organization (WHO)	1948	Geneva
6.	International Labour Organization (ILO)	1946	Geneva
7.	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	1974	Geneva
8.	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	1950	Geneva
9.	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	1947	Geneva
10.	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	1945	Rome
11.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	1977	Rome
12.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	1967	Vienna
13.	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	1948	London
14.	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	1947	Montreal
15.	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	1974	Madrid
16.	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	1961	Paris
17.	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	2009	Abu Dhabi

(iii) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- It was established in 1955 and became effective from July 20, 1956. It acts as a multilateral development bank and a private financial institution. Its headquarters are located at Washington DC.
- Only IBRD members can become members of IFC.
- IFC also shares the institutional structure of IBRD.
- The President of IBRD is also the President of IFC.

(iv) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

- MIGA became operational in April 1988 and acts as the insurance wing of the World Bank and its headquarters are located at Washington DC.
- MIGA aims at providing protection to investor against the losses resulting from non-commercial risks.
- The President of World Bank is also the President of MIGA.

(v) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

- It was established under the *Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States* which came into force on October 14, 1966. Its headquarters are located at Washington DC.
- It has an Administrative Council, chaired by the President of World Bank, and a Secretariat.
- It provides facilities for the conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes between member countries and individual investors.

Institution of World Bank Group	Member Countries
IBRD	189
IDA	173
IFC	184
MIGA	181
ICSID	152

2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- The IMF was established on July 22, 1944 at Brettonwoods (USA). It began its formal operation on March 1, 1947.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organisation of 188 countries (187 members of UN and Republic of Kosovo) working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote

high employment and sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty around the world.

- The capital resources of the IMF comprise Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and currencies that members pay under quotas calculated for them when they join the IMF.
- Its members are represented through a quota system broadly based on their relative size in the global economy.
- The members with the largest quotas are the US (first position), Japan (second position), Germany (third position), France and UK (joint fourth).
- SDRs were created by the IMF in 1969.
- A member of IMF only can become the member of IBRD.
- By convention, the Managing Director of the IMF is a European while the President of World Bank is a US National.

Note: In 2012, South Sudan joined the IMF and became the 188th member.

UN RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

- There are four UN related organizations namely,
 1. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 2. Preparatory commission for the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
 3. Organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons (OPCW)
 4. World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. World Trade Organization (WTO)

- The WTO began life on 1 January 1995, but its trading system is half a century older. Since 1948, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had provided the rules for the system
- The last and largest GATT round, was the Uruguay Round which lasted from 1986 to 1994 and led to the WTO's creation. Whereas GATT had mainly dealt with trade in goods, the WTO and its agreements now cover trade in services, and in traded inventions, creations and designs (intellectual property).
- Its headquarters are located in **Geneva**.
- The WTO is the legal and institution basis of the multilateral trading system which aims at liberalization of world trade.
- It has a General Council, Ministerial Conference and Director General as its organs.
- Two year ministerial meeting is the ultimate decision making-body of the WTO.
- At present, WTO has 164 members and its Director General is **Roberto Azevedo** (Brazil).

Country	Member
Yemen	160
Seychelles	161
Kazakhstan	162
Liberia	163
Afghanistan	164

WTO Ministerial Conferences

Sl.	Venue	Year
1st Conference	Singapore	1996
2nd Conference	Geneva (Switzerland)	1998
3rd Conference	Seattle (USA)	1999
4th Conference	Doha (Qatar)	2001
5th Conference	Cancun (Mexico)	2003
6th Conference	Hong Kong	2005
7th Conference	Geneva (Switzerland)	2009
8th Conference	Geneva	2011
9th Conference	Bali (Indonesia)	2013
10th Conference	Nairobi (Kenya)	2015

2. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- The IAEA is the world's center of cooperation in the nuclear field. It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies
- The Agency's genesis was US President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" address to the General Assembly of the UN on 8 December 1953. These ideas helped to shape the IAEA Statute, which 81 nations unanimously approved in October 1956. The Statute outlines the three pillars of the Agency's work - nuclear verification and security, safety and technology transfer.
- The IAEA Secretariat is headquartered at the Vienna International Centre in **Vienna**, Austria. Operational liaison and regional offices are located in Geneva, Switzerland; New York, USA; Toronto, Canada; and Tokyo, Japan. The IAEA runs or supports research centers and scientific laboratories in Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria; Monaco; and Trieste, Italy.

- As an independent international organization related to the United Nations system, the IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. In terms of its Statute, the IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their safeguards obligations as well as on matters relating to international peace and security.
- Dwight David Eisenhower (the then USA President,) in 1953 called for the establishment of an agency like IAEA.
- The statute of IAEA was signed by 70 governments in 1956 at UN International Conference on the Peaceful uses of Atomic Energy held at New York. The Agency became effective from July 29, 1957.
- IAEA is an autonomous international organization related to the UN. *It is not a specialised agency of UN.*
- The main organs of IAEA are the General Conference, the Board of Governors and the Secretariat.
- The General Conference consists of all members, who meet annually.
- The Board of Governors usually meet four times a year. It consists of 35 members of which 22 are elected and 13 are nominated.
- The Secretariat is headed by the Director General appointed by the Board of Governors for four year term.
- The headquarters of IAEA are located in **Vienna** (Austria) and its present Director General is Mr. **Yukiya Amano** (Japan).

India and UN

- On India's initiative, the UN passed a resolution on December 14, 1960 called as "*the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.*"
- India was the first country to seek for a complete ban on all nuclear testing in 1954 and in 1988 India proposed for the total elimination of weapons of human destruction in a phased manner.
- Even after the Chinese aggression, India persistently campaigned for the inclusion of China into UN and even into Security Council. Finally, China was granted admission to UN in 1971.
- Ramaswamy Mudaliar** led the Indian team and signed the UN Charter on behalf of India to become as one of the founder members of UN.
- Vijayalakshmi Pandit** was elected as President of the United Nations General Assembly.

- **Nagendra Singh** and **B.N. Rau** served as the Judges of the International Court of Justice. Nagendra Singh later on became the President of the International Court of Justice.
- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** and **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan** served as the Chairpersons of the UNESCO.
- **B.R. Sen** has served as the President of Food and Agricultural Organization.
- **Dr. H.J. Bhabha** has served as the Chairperson of the **Atoms for Peace Commission**. The commission later on known as **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**.
- **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** was the Chairperson of World Health Organization

NON ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

- It is a group of 120 developing countries, making it, the world's largest forum after the UN.
- The principles of non-alignment were defined in the Bandung (Indonesia) Declaration, 1955 by the efforts of
 - Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - Marshal Tito (President of Yugoslavia)
 - Sukarno (President of Indonesia)
 - Gamel Nasser (President of Egypt)
 - Nkrumah (Ghana)
- NAM formally came into existence in 1961 as the first NAM Summit held in former Yugoslavia at Belgrade through the efforts of Josip Broz Tito, the then President of Yugoslavia. All 25 countries participated in this Summit.
- There are 17 countries, and 9 organizations which have an observer status in NAM.
- The term "Non-Alignment" was coined by the first Indian Prime Minister Nehru during his speech in 1954, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- In this speech, Nehru described the five pillars to be used as a guide for Sino-Indian relations, which were first put forth by the contemporaneous Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai called **Panchsheel** (five restraints).
- NAM is based on the ideology of Panchsheel which are as follows:
 - Mutual respect for each others territorial integrity and sovereignty.
 - Mutual non-aggression.
 - Mutual non-interference in each others domestic affairs.
 - Equality and mutual benefits.
 - Peaceful co-existence.
- Generally, NAM Summits take place every three years. After each summit, the President or Prime Minister of the country where the Summit takes place becomes Chairman of the movement for the next three years.

Some Important NAM Summits

Sl.	Year	Venue	Chairperson	Member Countries
1st	1961	Belgrade (Yugoslavia)	Josip Broz Tito	25
2nd	1964	Cairo (Egypt)	Gamel Abdel Nasser	47
14th	2006	Havana (Cuba)	Fidel Castro Ruz	118
15th	2009	Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt)	Md. Hosni Mubarak	118
16th	2012	Tehran (Iran)	Mohammad Morsi	120
17th	2016	Caracas (Venezuela)	—————	120

THE COMMONWEALTH

- The Commonwealth of Nations, usually known as the Commonwealth and formerly as the British Commonwealth, is a voluntary association of 53 independent sovereign States, all of which are former possessions of the British Empire, except for Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Kingdom itself.
- Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Common-wealth, recognized by each State. Although the Queen heads the Commonwealth in a symbolic capacity, it is the Commonwealth Secretary-General who is the Chief Executive of the organization.
- The five largest Commonwealth nations by population are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Tuvalu is the least populous member of the Commonwealth.

- The three largest Commonwealth nations by area are Canada, Australia, and India.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is a significant decision making body which hold bi-annual meetings.
- Marlborough House, London houses the headquarters of The Commonwealth.
- **Members**
Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Australia, Kenya, Samoa, The Bahamas, Kiribati, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Barbados, Malawi, Singapore, Belize, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Botswana, Maldives, South Africa, Brunei Darussalam, Malta, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Mauritius, Swaziland, Canada, Mozambique, Tonga, Cyprus, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Nauru*, Tuvalu, Fiji Islands**, New Zealand, Uganda, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Ghana, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Zambia, India and St. Lucia and Rwanda (Joined in November 2009).

Note:

- * Nauru is a Member in Arrears.
- ** Following the decisions taken by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on 31st July 2009, Fiji Island was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth on September 1, 2009.
- On 3rd October 2013, The Gambia withdrew from commonwealth group of nations.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Year	Location
2011.....	Perth (Australia)
2013.....	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
2015.....	Malta
2018.....	To be held in United Kingdom
2020.....	To be held in Malaysia

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (SAARC)

- SAARC Secretariat is in **Kathmandu** (Nepal).
- It was formed on December 1985 in Dhaka on the idea put forward by the then Bangladesh President Zia-ur-Rahman.

- Its members are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives and Afghanistan.
- On April 3, 2007 Afghanistan became the latest member country to join SAARC at the 14th summit in New Delhi.
- SAARC aims to promote people's welfare, social and cultural development and combat terrorism in South Asian region and to strengthen co-operation with other developing countries.
- Decade of 2001 to 2010 has been declared by SAARC as *the Decade of the Rights of the Child*.
- SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Area) became effective from January, 2006.
- Maldives President Maumun Abdul Gayoom is the only South Asian leader who have attended first fourteen SAARC summits.
- Present Secretary General of SAARC is **Arjun Bahadur Thapa** from Nepal, who took office on 1 March, 2014.

SAARC Summits

Sl.	Year	Venue
1st	1985.....	Dhaka (Bangladesh)
14th	2007.....	New Delhi (India)
15th	2008.....	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
16th	2010.....	Thimpu (Bhutan)
17th	2011.....	Addu City (Maldives)
18th	2014.....	Kathmandu (Nepal)
19th	2016	Islamabad (Pakistan)

BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (BIMST-EC)

- On June 6, 1997 a sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Co-operation). Myanmar joined the organization as a full member at a Special Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on December 22, 1997, upon which the name of the grouping was changed to BIMST-EC. Full membership has been granted to Nepal and Bhutan in 2003. During the first summit in Bangkok on July 31, 2004 the grouping's name was changed to the '*Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation*', or *BIMST-EC*.
- BIMST-EC provides a unique link between South Asia and Southeast Asia bringing together 1.3 billion people-21 per cent of the world population,

a combined GDP of US \$750 billion, and a considerable amount of complementaries. A study shows the potential of US\$ 43 to 59 billion trade creation under BIMST-EC FTA.

- BIMST-EC covers 13 priority sectors lead by member countries in a voluntary manner namely. Trade & Investment, Technology, Energy, Transport & Communication, Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, Cultural Co-operation, Environment and Disaster Management, Public Health, People-to-People Contact, Poverty Alleviation and Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called as the North Atlantic Alliance, the Atlantic Alliance or the Western Alliance. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a military alliance established by the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949.
- Its headquarters are in **Brussels**, Belgium.
- The Treaty of Brussels, signed on March 17, 1948 by Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and the United Kingdom is considered the precursor to the NATO agreement. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia joined NATO in 2002.
- It may be noted that Albania and Croatia became the 27th and 28th members of NATO respectively in 2009.
- **Current Members:**
Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK and USA.

Latest NATO Summits

Year	Venue
2006.....	Riga (Latvia)
2008.....	Bucharest (Romania)
2009.....	Strasbourg/Kehl (France/Germany)
2010.....	Lisbon (Portugal)
2012.....	Chicago (USA)
2014.....	Wales (UK)
2016.....	Warsaw (Poland)

EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

- European Union (EU) was established as the European Economic Community in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome and has undergone many changes since, most notably in 1993 by the Maastricht Treaty. This treaty established the European Union.
- Important EU institutions and bodies include the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. Citizens of EU member States are also EU citizens. EU citizens directly elect the European Parliament every five years.
- EU citizens can freely invest, live, travel, and work in other member States (with some temporary restrictions on new member states). Passport control and customs checks between most member States were abolished in the Schengen Agreement.
- The combined economy of the EU is the largest in the world with a nominal GDP of €11.6 (US\$15.7) trillion in 2007. The EU has a single market between member States with a common trade policy, a Common Agricultural/Fisheries Policy, and a regional development policy. It introduced a common currency, the Euro, which has been adopted by thirteen member States. Since 1993, the EU has developed a limited Common Foreign and Security Policy, and co-operation in police and judicial matters.
- The total territory of the EU is the seventh largest territory in the world by area.
- The Treaty of Lisbon (initially known as the Reform Treaty) is an international agreement that amends the treaties governing the European Union (EU).
- The Lisbon Treaty was signed by the EU member states on 13 December 2007, and entered into force on 1 December 2009.
- It amends the Treaty on European Union (more commonly known as the Maastricht Treaty) and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the Treaty of Rome).
- In this process, the Rome Treaty was renamed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- **Member countries:** There are total 28 member countries in European Union, that are primarily located in Europe. These are:-
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Milestone steps in EU formation	
1951	The European Coal and Steel Community is established by the six founding members (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands).
1957	The Treaty of Rome establishes a common market.
1973	The Community expands to nine member States and develops its common policies (Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom decided to join the Community).
1979	The first direct elections to the European Parliament.
1981	The first Mediterranean enlargement (In 1981, Greece joined the Community, followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986).
1993	Completion of the single market.
1993	The <i>Treaty of Maastricht</i> establishes the European Union.
1995	The EU expands to 15 members (Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU on January 01, 1995).
2002	Euro notes and coins are introduced
2004	Ten more countries join the Union. Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia join the European Union.
2007	Romania & Bulgaria joined EU bringing its membership to 27. Slovenia adopts the Euro.
2009	The Treaty of Lisbon came into force on December 1, after the Czech Republic Instrument of ratification was deposited in Rome on November 13.
2013	Croatia joined EU as its 28th member.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT (BIS)

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international organization which fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for Central Banks.
- The head office is in Basel, Switzerland and there are two representative offices in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and in Mexico City.
- It was established on 17 May 1930 and the BIS is the world's oldest international financial organization.

- As its customers are Central Banks and international organizations, the BIS do not accept deposits from, or provide financial services to, private individuals or corporate entities.
- The BIS currently has 60 member Central Banks, all of which are entitled to be represented and vote in the General Meetings. Voting power is proportionate to the number of BIS shares issued in the country of each member represented at the meeting.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

- ADB is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people.
- Its headquarters are located in **Manila** (Philippines).
- ADB's main partners are governments, the private sector, nongovernment organizations, development agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations.
- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 67 members - of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Georgia is the 67th and newest member, having joined ADB effective from February 2, 2007.
- ADB launched Asian Development Fund with a view to provide concessional credits to needy members.
- ADB finances public as well as private capital.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC)

- The idea of APEC was firstly publicly broached by former Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Bob Hawke, during a speech in Seoul, Korea in January 1989. Later that year, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra, Australia to establish APEC.
- The founding members were: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.
- China, Hong Kong, China and Chinese Taipei joined in 1991. Mexico and Papua New Guinea followed in 1993. Chile acceded in 1994. And in 1998, Peru, Russia and Vietnam joined, taking the full membership to 21.
- The membership is frozen till 2010, because of this India is waiting for becoming its member.
- Its headquarters are located in **Singapore**.
- Together, APEC countries account for approximately 41% of the world's population, 55% of the world GDP and 49% of world trade.

• Current Members

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

Recent & Forthcoming APEC Ministerial Meetings

Year	Host city	Country
2006	Hanoi	Vietnam
2007	Sydney	Australia
2008	Lima	Peru
2009	Singapore	Singapore
2010	Yokohama	Japan
2011	Honolulu	United States
2012	Vladivostok	Russia
2013	Bali/Manado	Indonesia
2014	Beijing	China
2015	Pasay	Philippines
2016	Lima	Peru

GROUP OF 8 (G-8)

- The Group of Eight (G-8, and formerly the G-6 or Group of Six and also the G-7 or Group of Seven) is a forum, created by France in 1975, for governments of six countries in the world: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- In 1976, Canada joined the group (thus creating the G-7).
- In becoming the G-8, the group added Russia in 1997.
- In addition, the European Union is represented within the G-8, but cannot host or chair. "G-8" can refer to the member states or to the annual summit meeting of the G-8 heads of government.
- Each calendar year, the responsibility of hosting the G-8 rotates through the member states in the following order: France, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada.
- The holder of the presidency sets the agenda, hosts the summit for that year, and determines which ministerial meetings will take place.
- Lately, both France and the United Kingdom have expressed a desire to expand the group to include five developing countries, referred to as the Outreach Five (O-5) or the Plus Five: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa. These

countries have participated as guests in previous meetings, which are sometimes called G-8+5.

- With the G-20 major economies growing in stature since the 2008 Washington summit, world leaders from the group announced at their Pittsburgh summit on September 25, 2009, that the group will replace the G-8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations.

Recent & Forthcoming Summits of G-8

Summit	Year	Venue	Country
33rd	2007	Heiligendamm	Germany
34th	2008	Toyako	Japan
35th	2009	L'Aquila	Italy
36th	2010	Ontario	Canada
37th	2011	Nice	France
38th	2012	Harrisburg	USA
39th	2013	Lough Erne	UK
40th	2014	Brussels	Belgium
41st	2015	Schloss Elmau	Germany
42nd	2016	Ise-Shima	Japan
43rd	2017	----	Italy

GROUP OF 15 (G-15)

- The Group of Fifteen (G-15) was established at a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries in September 1989, following the conclusion of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit Meeting in Belgrade. The Group was originally founded by 15 developing countries. While there are now 17 member countries, the original name of the Group has been retained.
- In 2007, G-15 countries accounted for one-third of the world's population, and 27% of total exports and 30% of total imports of goods and services by developing countries. In terms of GDP size, 12 member countries counted among the world's 50 biggest economies, with three (India, Brazil, Mexico) ranking among the biggest 15.
- Six G-15 countries (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, India, Malaysia, Argentina) ranked among the top 30 destinations for foreign direct investment, and three (Malaysia, Chile, India) figured among the first 30 countries on the global competitiveness index.
- African G-15 nations are Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. Those from Asia are India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. Latin American G-15 nations include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela.

G-15 Summits

Sl.	Year	Place	Country
1st	1990	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
13th	2006	Havana	Cuba
14th	2010	Tehran	Iran
15th	2012	Colombo	Sri Lanka
16th	2015	Tokyo	Japan

GROUP OF 20 (G-20)

- The Group of Twenty (G-20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was established in 1999 to bring together systemically important industrialized and developing economies to discuss key issues in the global economy.
- The inaugural meeting of the G-20 took place in Berlin, on December 15-16, 1999, hosted by German and Canadian finance ministers.
- The G-20 is made up of the finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries viz. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA.

G-20 Heads of Government Summits

Sl.	Year	Location
1st	Nov. 14-15, 2008	Washington DC (USA)
2nd	April 2, 2009	London (UK)
3rd	Sept. 24-25, 2009	Pittsburgh (USA)
4th	June 26-27, 2010	Toronto (Canada)
5th	Nov. 11-12, 2010	Seoul (South Korea)
6th	2011	Cannes (France)
7th	2012	Los Cabos (Mexico)
8th	2013	St. Petersburg (Russia)
9th	2014	Brisbane (Australia)
10th	2015	Antalya (Turkey)
11th	2016	Hangzhou (China)
12th	2017	Germany
13th	2018	India

- The European Union, who is represented by the rotating Council presidency and the European Central Bank, is the 20th member of the G-20. To ensure global economic fora and institutions work together, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the

President of the World Bank, plus the chairs of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and Development Committee of the IMF and World Bank, also participate in G-20 meetings on an ex-officio basis.

GROUP OF 77 (G-77)

- The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June, 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.
- The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing states in the United Nations, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South cooperation for development.
- The South Summit is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77. It is convened once in every five years. The First and the Second South Summits were held in Havana, Cuba, on 10 – 14 April 2000 and in Doha, Qatar, on 12 – 16 June 2005, respectively. In accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, the Third South Summit is due to be held in Africa in 2010.
- The Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 is convened at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.
- Its present membership is 134.
- India is also a member of G-77.

GROUP OF 24(G-24)

- The Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24) was established in 1971.
- Its main objective is to concert the position of developing countries on monetary and development finance issues.
- Member countries are as follows:
 - (i) **Region I (Africa):** Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
 - (ii) **Region II (Latin America and the Caribbean):** Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

- (iii) **Region III (Asia and developing countries of Europe):** India, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Syrian Arab Republic.
- Countries that are members of the G-77 are welcome to attend G-24 meetings as Observers while the People's Republic of China enjoys the status of "Special Invitee" and addresses the plenary sessions of the G-24.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference between September 10-14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (Founder member).
- The five founding members were later joined by nine other members, viz.
 - (i) Qatar (1961)
 - (ii) Indonesia (1962): Suspended its membership in January 2009 and rejoined in January 2016.
 - (iii) Libya (1962) (iv) UAE (1967)
 - (v) Algeria (1969) (vi) Nigeria (1971)
 - (vii) Ecuador (1973): Suspended its membership from December 1992. However Ecuador resumed its membership from Nov. 2007.
 - (viii) Angola (2007)
 - (ix) Gabon (1975): Suspended its membership in 1994.
- Currently there are 13 members in the OPEC.
- The OPEC Statute stipulates that: "any country with a substantial net export of crude petroleum, which has fundamentally similar interests to those of Member Countries, may become a Full Member of the Organization, if accepted by a majority of three-fourths of Full Members, including the concurring votes of all Founder Members".
- The Statute further distinguishes between three categories of membership: Founder Member, Full Member and Associate Member.
- Founder Members of the Organization are those countries which were represented at OPEC's first Conference, held in Baghdad, Iraq, in September 1960, and which signed the original agreement establishing OPEC.
- Full Members are the Founder Members, plus those countries whose applications for Membership have been accepted by the Conference.
- Associate Members are the countries which do not qualify for full membership, but which are nevertheless admitted under special conditions as may be prescribed by the Conference.
- The Secretariat was originally established in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1961. It moved to Vienna, Austria, in 1965. The 8th (Extraordinary) OPEC Conference approved the Host Agreement with the Austrian Government in April 1965, prior to the opening of the Secretariat in Vienna on September 1, 1965.
- OPEC Member Countries produce about 42 per cent of the world's crude oil and 18 per cent of its natural gas. However, OPEC's crude oil exports represent about 58 per cent of the crude oil traded internationally. Therefore, OPEC can have a strong influence on the oil market, especially if it decides to reduce or increase its level of production.
- At the end of 2009, world proven crude oil reserves stood at 1,337,200 million barrels, of which 1,064,288 million barrels, or 79.6 per cent, was in OPEC Member Countries.
- The countries with the world's largest proven crude oil reserves (in million barrels) are Saudi Arabia (264,590), Venezuela (211,173), Iran (137,010), Iraq (115,000) and Kuwait (101,500).
- The countries with most crude oil production (in '000' barrels per day) are Russia (9,650), Saudi Arabia (8,184), USA (5,310), China (3,793) and Iran (3,557).

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

- ASEM was initiated in 1996. ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together initially 15 EU member States and the European Commission, with ten Asian countries (Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam).
- The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.
- At 5th ASEM Summit, 10 new EU members and 3 Asian countries become part of the process viz. Cambodia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Myanmar, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
- In 2007, India, Pakistan, Mongolia, Romania, Bulgaria and the ASEAN Secretariat became its partners.
- Currently there are 53 partners in ASEM.
- Its headquarters is located at **Singapore**.
- India is a member of ASEM.

ASEM Summits

Sl.	Year	Place	Country
1st	1996	Bangkok	Thailand
7th	2008	Beijing	China
8th	2010	Brussels	Belgium
9th	2012	Vientiane	Laos
10th	2014	Milan	Italy
11th	2016	Ulaanbaatar	Mangolia

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a geo-political and economic organization of 10 countries located in Southeast Asia.
- ASEAN was formed on August 8, 1967 by the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore as a display of solidarity against communist expansion in Vietnam and insurgency within their own borders.
- Following the Bali Summit of 1976, the organization embarked on a programme of economic co-operation, which floundered in the mid-1980s only to be revived around a 1991 Thai proposal for a regional "Free Trade Area".
- The British protectorate of Brunei joined ASEAN six days after the country became independent from the United Kingdom on January 8, 1984.
- Vietnam joined ASEAN on July 28, 1995. Laos and Myanmar were admitted into ASEAN on July 23, 1997. Cambodia became the latest member when it was admitted on April 30, 1999.
- The ASEAN secretariat is located at **Jakarta**, Indonesia.

Note: ASEAN +3 includes ASEAN member countries + China, Japan and South Korea.

ASEAN Summits

Sl.	Year	Country	Place
1st	1976	Indonesia	Bali
13th	November 2007	Singapore	Singapore
14th	Feb-March 2009	Thailand	Cha-am
15th	October 2009	Thailand	Cha-am, Hua-Hin
16th	April 2010	Vietnam	Hanoi
17th	October 2010	Vietnam	Hanoi
20th	April 2012	Cambodia	Phnom Penh
21st	November 2012		

Sl.	Year	Country	Place
22nd	April 2013	Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan
23rd	October 2013		
24th	May 2014	Myanmar	Naypidaw
25th	November 2014		
26th	April 2015	Malaysia	Langkawi
27th	Nov 2015		Kualalumpur
28th	Nov 2016	Vientiane	Laos

EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)

- The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a pan-Asia forum to be held annually by the leaders of 18 countries in East Asia and the region, with ASEAN in a leadership position.
- The 18 countries involved are ASEAN plus China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. Earlier, it was a group of 16 countries but in 6th EAS in 2011, the membership expanded to 18 countries including USA and Russia.
- The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur on December 14, 2005 and subsequent meetings were held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings.

East Asia Summits

Sl.	Year	Host City	Country
1st	2005	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
2nd	2007	Cebu	Philippines
3th	2007	Singapore	Singapore
4th	2009	Cha-am, Hua-Hin	Thailand
5th	2010	Hanoi	Vietnam
6th	2011	Bali	Indonesia
7th	2012	Phnom Penh	Cambodia
8th	2013	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei
9th	2014	Naypidaw	Myanmar
10th	2015	Kualalumpur	Malaysia
11th	2016	Vientiane	Laos

THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

- The organization was founded on December 8, 1991 by Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.
- Its headquarters are in **Minsk**, Belarus.
- The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is the international organization or alliance consisting of 10 former Soviet Republics viz. Armenia, Azerbaijan,

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

- Turkmenistan discontinued permanent membership as of August 26, 2005 and is now an associate member.
- Due to South Ossetian war in 2008, Georgia announced its withdrawal from the CIS which became effective on August 17, 2009.

Note: Ukraine is a de-facto participating, officially not a member of CIS.

SHANGHAI CO-OPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

- The Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization which was founded on June 14, 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Except for Uzbekistan, the other countries had been members of the **Shanghai Five**. After the inclusion of Uzbekistan in 2001, the members renamed the organization. Many have looked at this organization as a counter to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The **Shanghai Five** grouping was originally created on April 26, 1996.
- The official working languages of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization are Chinese and Russian.
- **Member countries** are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **Observer countries** are Belarus, Iran, Mongolia and Afghanistan. Mongolia was the first country to get the status of observer.
- Its headquarters are located at Beijing, China.
- The dialogue partners of SCO are Armenia, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal and Turkey.
- India and Pakistan have been approved as member in July 2015. Currently they are acceding states.

AFRICAN UNION

- The African Union (AU) is an organization consisting of 54 African States. Established in 2001, the AU was formed as a successor to the amalgamated African Economic Community (AEC) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Eventually, the AU aims to have a single currency and a single integrated defence force, as well as other institutions of State, including a Cabinet for the AU Head of State.
- The purpose of the Union is to help securing Africa's democracy, human rights and a sustainable economy, especially by bringing an end to intra-African conflict and creating an effective common market. Its headquarter is located at **Addis Ababa** (Capital of Ethiopia).

- 23rd summit of the African Union held at Malabo (Guinea) from 20-27th June 2014.
- 24th summit of the African Union held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23 - 31st January 2015.
- 25th summit of the African Union held at Johannesburg, South Africa from 7 June-15th June 2015.

MERCOSUR

- Mercosur or Mercosul is a RTA (Regional Trade Agreement) between Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, founded in 1991 by the Treaty of Asunción, which was later amended and updated by the 1994 Treaty of Ouro Preto. Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, peoples and currency.
- Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru currently have associate member status.
- Venezuela signed a membership agreement on June 17, 2006 but before becoming a full member its entry has yet to be ratified by the Congress of Paraguay.
- **Montevideo** (Capital of Uruguay) is the seat of the Secretariat of the Mercosur.
- Portuguese and Spanish are the official languages of the Mercosur.

ARAB LEAGUE

- It is the outcome of a national awakening among the Arabs, following the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. It was formally instituted on March 22, 1945.
- The Arab League consists of a Council, a Secretary General and a few permanent committees.
- After the Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the Secretariat was shifted to Cairo (Capital of Egypt).
- It has 22 Arab states and 4 non-Arab observer states viz. Brazil, Eritrea, India and Venezuela.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)

- INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 190 member countries.
- Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.
- INTERPOL aims to facilitate international police co-operation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries.

- Action is taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- INTERPOL's constitution prohibits 'any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.'
- Located in **Lyon**, France, the General Secretariat operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Officials from more than 80 countries work side-by-side in any of the organization's four official languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- The Secretariat has seven regional offices; in Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Kenya, Thailand and Zimbabwe, and a liaison office at the United Nations in New York.
- The current Secretary General is Jurgen Stock (Germany).

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

- The organization for economic co-operation and development (OECD) is an international organization of 34 countries that accept the principles of representative democracy and free market economy.
- OECD originated in 1948 as the organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) to help administer the Marshall plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.
- OECD took over from OEEC in 1961. Since then, its mission has been to help its member countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and employment and to raise the standard of living in member countries while maintaining financial stability.
- The headquarters of OECD are located at Chateau de la Muette in **Paris** (France).
- There are 34 members countries of the OECD, 20 being the founding members and 14 were admitted later.
- Founding members in 1961 were Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA.
- The members which were admitted later are Japan (1964), Finland (1969), Australia (1971), New Zealand (1973), Mexico (1994), Czech Republic (1995), South Korea (1996), Hungary (1996), Poland (1996), Slovakia (2000), Chile (2010) and Slovenia (2010), Israel (2010), Estonia (2010).

NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG)

- The NSG is a group of nuclear supplier countries which seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear related exports. It was created in 1974 following the explosion of a nuclear device by a non-nuclear weapon state (India).
- The NSG guidelines were published in 1978 to apply to nuclear transfers for peaceful purposes to help ensure that such transfers would not be diverted to unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities.
- In 1992, the NSG decided to establish guidelines for transfers of nuclear related dual use equipment, material and technology which could make a significant contribution to an unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activity.
- Member countries: As of Feb. 2016, there are 48 member countries of NSG. These are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA.

IOR-ARC

- The Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC), initially known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, is an international organization with 20 member States. It was first established in Mauritius on March 1995 and formally launched on 6-7 March 1997.
- Its headquarters is located at **Port Louis** (Capital of Mauritius)

Full Members

Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Yemen, Bangladesh, Iran, Seychelles, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Comoros (Joined in 2012 as 20th Member).

- Countries with the status of dialogue partners are China, Egypt, France, Japan, United Kingdom.

Note: Seychelles joined the IOR-ARC in March 1999 but withdrew in July 2003. Again in November 2011, it rejoined as 19th Member.

ASIA CO-OPERATION DIALOGUE (ACD)

- The Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) is a body created in 2002 in Cha-am (Thailand) to promote Asian co-operation at a continental level, helping to integrate the previously separate regional organizations of political or economical co-operation such as ASEAN, SAARC or the Gulf Co-operation Council.
- The idea of an Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) was initiated by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
- India is a founding member of ACD. The ACD currently brings together 33 countries from Asia.
- All ten members of ASEAN are also the members of ACD.

THE CO-OPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF

- Formerly named and still commonly called Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is a regional organization involving the six Arab Gulf States with many economic and social objectives in mind.
- Created on May 25, 1981, the Council is comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The unified economic agreement between the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council was signed on November 11, 1981 in Riyadh.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

- A world-wide human rights organization with headquarters in London, was founded by a British lawyer **Peter Benenson**, in 1961.
- It aims to secure the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience; ensure fair and prompt trial for all political prisoners and abolish torture and execution.
- The organization enjoys the support of the UN and has more than 2.2 million members in more than 150 countries.
- It won Nobel Prize for Peace in 1977.
- The international secretariat of Amnesty International is based in **London**.

GREEN PEACE

- Green Peace is an international environmental organization founded in Canada in 1971.
- It works to highlight and change government and industrial policies and actions that threaten the environment or the natural world.
- Its headquarters are located at **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands.

RED CROSS

- Its headquarters are in **Geneva** (Switzerland).
- It came into existence in 1863 to help all victims of war and internal violence, attempting to ensure implementation of humanitarian rules restricting armed violence.
- It was founded on advocacy of J.H. Dunant.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

- ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards.
- It was founded in 1947 as a non-governmental federation of national standards bodies.
- ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 162 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in **Geneva**, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.
- ISO is a non-governmental organization that forms a bridge between the public and private sectors. On the one hand, many of its member institutes are part of the governmental structure of their countries, or are mandated by their government. On the other hand, other members have their roots uniquely in the private sector, having been set up by national partnerships of industry associations.

(i) ISO 9000 family

- The **ISO 9000** family addresses "Quality management".
- This means what the organization does to fulfil:
 - (i) the customer's quality requirements, and
 - (ii) applicable regulatory requirements, while aiming to
 - (iii) enhance customer satisfaction, and
 - (iv) achieve continual improvement of its performance in pursuit of these objectives.

(ii) ISO 14000 family

- The **ISO 14000** family addresses "Environmental management".
- This means what the organization does to:
 - (i) minimize harmful effects on the environment caused by its activities, and to
 - (ii) achieve continual improvement of its environmental performance.

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

- The World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization working on issues regarding the conservation, research

and restoration of the environment formerly named the World Wildlife Fund.

- WWF's was conceived on the 29th April 1961, and its first office opened on 11th September that same year in the small Swiss town of Morges.
- Its goals are to preserve genetic species and ecosystem diversity and ensure that the use of renewable resources is sustainable.
- It is the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organization.
- Julian Huxley, Max Nicholson, Peter Scott and Guy Mountfort were the founders of WWF.
- WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations.
- It is an independent foundation registered under Swiss law.
- The central secretariat for the network (called WWF International) is located in **Gland**, Switzerland.
- WWF originally stood for "World Wildlife Fund".
- However, in 1986, WWF had come to realize that its name no longer reflected the scope of its activities, and changed its name to "**World Wide Fund For Nature**".
- WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
 - (i) conserving the world's biological diversity
 - (ii) ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
 - (iii) promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES & AGREEMENTS

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

- NPT was opened for signature on July 1, 1968 to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.
- It came into force in 1970.
- There are 190 sovereign States party to the treaty. However, two (India and Pakistan) out of eight confirmed nuclear powers (i.e. those who have openly tested nuclear weapons) and one unconfirmed nuclear power (Israel) neither signed nor ratified the treaty.
- One further nuclear power (North Korea) ratified the treaty and then later withdrew.
- **The treaty was proposed by Ireland, and Finland was the first to sign.** In New York City, on May 11, 1995, the parties to the treaty decided by consensus to extend the treaty indefinitely and without conditions.
- It provides no transfer of nuclear weapons to a non-nuclear country except for using nuclear

energy for peaceful purposes.

- Initially, it was signed for a period of 25 years but was extended indefinitely in 1995 in New York.
- Five States are permitted by the NPT to own nuclear weapons viz. France (signed 1992), the People's Republic of China (1992), the Soviet Union (1968; obligations and rights now assumed by Russia), the United Kingdom (1968), and the United States of America (1968). These were the only States openly possessing such weapons at the time the treaty was opened to signature, and are also the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- Palestine is the most recent state to have joined by submitting its instrument of accession on 10th February, 2015.

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

- The Treaty was opened for signature in New York on September 24, 1996 when it was signed by 71 States.
- India wanted adoption of a time bound programme for elimination of the nuclear weapons and not a discriminatory treaty.
- Annexure 2 states are those 44 states that formally participated in the 1996 session of the conference on Disarmament and possessed nuclear power or research reactors at the time, all of whom must ratify the treaty for it to enter into force.
- 36 out of 44 **Annexure 2** states have already ratified the treaty.
- Among the **Annexure 2** states China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and USA have signed but not ratified the treaty. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), India and Pakistan have neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

Status of Signature and Ratification (as of May 2015)	
Total Countries : 196	Total Signatory Countries : 183
Total Ratifying Countries : 164	
Not Ratified : 32	Not Signed : 13
Latest Signatory country : Niue (09-04-2012)	
Latest Ratifying country : Angola (20-03-2015)	

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (NTBT)

- It was signed in 1963 by USA, Britain and Former USSR along with approval by more than 105 nations.

- France and China refused to sign the treaty.
- All tests on the ground, atmosphere and under the sea banned, but no ban has been imposed on underground tests.

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

- The Convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their Destruction (usually referred to as the Biological Weapons Convention, (BWC) or Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons (with exceptions for medical and defensive purposes in small quantities).
- It was the result of prolonged efforts by the international community to establish a new instrument that would supplement the 1925 Geneva Protocol.
- It was opened for signature on April 10, 1972 and entered into force March 26, 1975 when twenty-two governments had deposited their instruments of ratification.
- India is also a party to the convention.
- As of March 2015, total of 173 parties have ratified the convention.

KYOTO PROTOCOL

- The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh in 2001, and are called the "Marrakesh Accords."
- The Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to the year 1990 (but note that, compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without the Protocol, this target represents a 29% cut). The goal is to lower overall emissions from six greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, HFCs, and PFCs - calculated as an average over the five-year period of 2008-12. National targets range from 8% reductions for the European Union and some

others to 7% for the US, 6% for Japan, 0% for Russia, and permitted increases of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland.

- The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.
- The major distinction between the Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialised countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so.
- Under the Treaty, countries must meet their targets primarily through national measures. However, the Kyoto Protocol offers them an additional means of meeting their targets by way of three market-based mechanisms.
- The Kyoto mechanisms are:
 - (i) Emissions trading known as "the carbon market"
 - (ii) Clean development mechanism (CDM)
 - (iii) Joint implementation (JI).
- The mechanisms help stimulate green investment and help Parties meet their emission targets in a cost-effective way.
- Currently, there are 192 Parties (191 States and 1 regional economic integration organization) to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC. The total percentage of Annex I Parties emissions is 63.7%.
- Countries, like India and China, which have ratified the protocol, are not required to reduce carbon emissions under the present agreement despite their relatively large populations.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL

- **The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer** is an international treaty under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. The treaty was opened for signature on September 16, 1987 and entered into force on January 1, 1989.
- The Protocol provides that the use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are the main cause of depletion of ozone layer, should be stopped by 2000 by developed countries and by 2005 by developing countries. ■■

National Symbols

National Flag

- It was adopted by Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.
- A tricolour flag was first accepted by the Indian National Congress in 1931, having Charkha in place of today's Chakra.
- It is a horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron at top (stands for courage, sacrifice and renunciation), White at middle (shows truth and purity in thoughts), dark Green at the bottom (symbol of life abundance and prosperity).
- A wheel (Chakra) in centre of the white strip is the symbol of progress and movement. It has 24 spokes.
- Supreme Court declared the right to hoist flag as a Fundamental Right under Article 19 (i) (a) of the Constitution in 2002. Flag hoisting in India is regulated by flag code of India, 2002.
- The Flag was designed by **Pingali Venkayya** and first time, the flag was hoisted by **Sachindra Prasad Bose** in 1906 in Calcutta and later on in year 1907, another tricolour flag was unfurled by **Madam Bhikaji Cama** in Stuttgart.
- The first flag committee was headed by **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**.

National Emblem

- It is adopted from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka on January 26, 1950.
- In this emblem, only three lions are visible, the fourth lion being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a **bull on right** and a horse on left. The bell shaped lotus (as in the original) has been omitted. The other animals present in the emblem are :- An Elephant and a Lion.
- The words **Satyameva Jayate** are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script. These words are taken from **Mundaka Upanishad**.
- Similar structure of Sarnath Lion Capital was also found in **Thailand**.

National Anthem

- The song **Jana gana mana** is the National Anthem

of India which, was composed by **Rabindra Nath Tagore** in 1911, originally in Bengali.

- It was adopted by Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950 in its Hindi version.
- The song Jana gana mana was first published in January, 1912 under the title '**Bharat Vidhata**' in Tattva Bodhini Patrika.
- The song was translated in English in 1919 with the title "**Morning song of India**".
- It was first sung at the Calcutta Session of Congress on December 27, 1911.
- Playing time of full version of National Anthem is 52 seconds while it is 20 seconds for first and last lines of the stanza.

National Song

- "**Vande Mataram**" is the National song of India, which was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, originally in Sanskrit.
- It was adopted on January 24, 1950, providing it equal status with National Anthem **Jana gana mana**.
- It is taken from his novel **Anand Math** published in 1882. Its English translation was done by Sri Aurobindo.
- It was sung for the first time at the Congress Session of 1896.

National Calendar

- National Calendar is based on Saka Era (began on 78 A.D.) with Chaitra as its first month and Phalgun as its last month with a normal year of 365 days adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian Calendar.
- Chaitra 1, falls on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

National Animal

- The Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the National Animal of India. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes.
- Lion was the National Animal of India till 1972. Later on, it was replaced by Tiger.

Indian National Symbols

National Bird	Peacock (<i>Pavo Cristatus</i>)
National Flower	Lotus (<i>Nelumbo Nucipera Gaertn</i>)
National River	Ganga
National Tree	Banyan (<i>Ficus Benghalensis</i>)
National Fruit.....	Mango (<i>Mangifera Indica</i>)
National Aquatic Animal	Ganges River Dolphin
National Heritage Animal	Elephant
National Game (De-facto).....	Hockey
National Drink	Tea (Declared to be soon)

Note: National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is headed by Prime Minister.

Official Publications of Different Countries/Organizations

Publication	Issued/Released by
Blue Book	Report by the British Government
Green Book.....	Government of Italy and Iran
Grey Book.....	Japanese and Belgium Government
Orange Book.....	Government of the Netherlands
White Book.....	Official publication of Germany, Portugal and China
White Paper (Shwet Patrika)	Issued by the Government of India
Yellow Book.....	Issued by the Government of France
Economic Survey	Ministry of Finance (Government of India)
Report on Currency and Finance.....	Reserve Bank of India
Wholesale Price Index	Ministry of Industry
National Accounts Statistics	Central Statistical Organization

National Emblems

Country	Emblem
India.....	Sarnath Lion Capital
Australia.....	Kangaroo
Bangladesh	Water Lily
Canada.....	White Lily
France.....	Lily
Germany.....	Corn flower
Iran	Rose
Italy	White Lily
Japan.....	Chrysanthemum
Pakistan	Crescent
Spain	Eagle
Sri Lanka.....	Sword & Lion
Russia.....	Sickle and Hammer
Norway.....	Lion
Spain	Eagle
United Kingdom.....	Rose
USA	Golden Rod

Significance of Signs and Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
Red triangle	Family planning
Red cross	Hospital/Ambulance
Red light	Danger/Emergency
Green light.....	Line clear signal
Olive branch	Peace
Black arm-band	Sign of mourning/protest
Dove	Peace
Black flag.....	Demonstration of protest
Red flag	Sign of danger, revolution
Yellow Flag.....	Displayed by ship with infectious disease on board or ship in quarantine
White Flag.....	Truce
Tricolour	National Flag of India
Lotus.....	Culture and civilization
Wheel.....	Progress
Flag flown half mast.....	National mourning
Flag flown upside down.....	Distress
A blind-folded woman holding a balance.....	Justice

Country Symbols

Country	Symbol
India.....	Royal Bengal Tiger
China	Dragon
Russia.....	Brown Bear
USA	Bald Eagle
Spain	Red Carnation
Japan.....	Cherry Blossom
England	Rose
Australia.....	Golden Wattle Flower
South Africa	Blue Crane
Greece	Olive Branch