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Classroom Study Material

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

JULY 2015 – APRIL 2016

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A. INDIA AND WORLD

A.1. INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

Prime Minister visited to the five Central Asian States - Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. All central Asian countries are very rich in energy resources. At present the five Central Asian republics account for trade of only about \$1.6 billion with India, compared to about \$50 billion with China.

- **Tajikistan:** India and Tajikistan pledged to intensify cooperation against terrorism, with Prime Minister noting that the two countries are located in the “proximity of the main source” of the menace.
- **Turkmenistan:** Prime Minister pitched for early implementation of the \$ 10 billion TAPI gas pipeline project during his talks with Turkmenistan.
- **Kazakhstan:** India and Kazakhstan focused on boosting trade, energy, defence and security cooperation. Kazakhstan, a leading uranium producer globally, will supply 5,000 tonnes of uranium to India during 2015-19.
- **Uzbekistan:** India and Uzbekistan discussed ways to implement the contract for supply of uranium signed in 2014.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** India and Kyrgyzstan signed agreements to boost defence cooperation and hold annual joint military exercises.

A.2. INDIA AND BANGLADESH

100th Amendment to the Indian constitution (Amendment of First Schedule to Constitution):

Exchange of certain enclave territories with Bangladesh and conferment of citizenship rights to residents of enclaves consequent to signing of **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) Treaty** between India and Bangladesh.

- 100th Amendment Act paves the way for the operationalization of the 1974 India-Bangladesh Land Boundary agreement.
- Under the Agreement (LBA), 111 border enclaves will be transferred to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 that will become part of India.
- **Border Haats:** Government approved proposal to set up more Border Haats on India-Bangladesh Border.
- Already four markets (Border Haats) - Kalaichar (Meghalaya-Bangladesh border), Balat (Meghalaya-Bangladesh border), Kamlasagar (Tripura-Bangladesh border) and Srinagar (Tripura-Bangladesh border) - are operational.

A.3. INDIA-AUSTRALIA

- India had finalized a civil nuclear deal that would allow it to buy uranium from Australia.
- India, which has nuclear energy contributing just 3 per cent of its electricity generation, will be the first country to buy Australian uranium without being a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

- India currently has nuclear energy agreements with 11 countries and imports uranium from France, Russia and Kazakhstan.
- Australia has about 40% of the world uranium reserves and exports nearly 7,000 tonnes of yellow cake annually.



A.4. INDIA-AFGHANISTAN

Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), consisting of the **U.S., China, Pakistan and Afghanistan**, has been created to facilitate the process of direct talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

National Unity government (NUG): The U.S. had finessed the highly controversial 2014 presidential election by pushing the two contenders into a **National Unity Government** and the creation of the position of a **chief executive**.

- Differences between President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah have paralyzed the governance.
- The Afghan constitution provides for a **Presidential system**; however, the understanding was that within two years, by September 2016, the constitution would be suitably amended to convert the **chief executive's position into that of a Prime Minister**, and executive power would be shared.

India has played an important role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. The cumulative level of committed Indian assistance to Afghanistan amounts to US\$ 2 billion.

- Some of the major projects are: Construction of a 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram, Construction of 220kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20 kV sub-station at Chimtala, Construction of Salma Dam in Herat province, Construction of Afghan Parliament.
- India and Afghanistan had signed **the Strategic Partnership Agreement in 2011**.
- India had transferred three **Mi-25 attack helicopters to the Afghan Air Force (AAF)**.

A.5. INDIA-UAE

Prime Minister paid his first official visit to UAE. The last time an Indian PM visited UAE was Indira Gandhi in 1981.

- The Joint Statement between the United Arab Emirates and India is an important articulation of a significant shift in the **Arab world's view of India**.
- The new strategic partnership outlined by the UAE and India is not just defined by India's **"Look West" policy** but that it is equally defined by the **GCC's (Gulf cooperation council) "Look East" policy**.
- In **2014-2015**, trade between India and the UAE crossed **\$59 billion** with the **balance of trade in favour of India**, making the **UAE one of India's biggest trading partners**.



A.6. INDIA-IRAN

- Iran and India have signed an agreement to develop the Chabahar port. This will provide an alternative route for India to trade with **Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.**
- **Chabahar** port is suitably located to serve India's outreach in the region to Afghanistan and beyond as well as link with INSTC to which India is one of the initial signatories.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** is the ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between **India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.**
- India's presence in Chabahar will offset the Chinese presence in the Pakistani port of **Gwadar.**
- India is also willing to partner to develop the prolific gas project, **Farzad B, in the Persian Gulf.**
- Iran is an important country for India for its **energy security** as well as **to get access to oil and gas-rich Central Asian nations.**

A.7. INDIA –SAUDI ARABIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid first official visit to Saudi Arabia. He is the fourth Indian Prime Minister to visit Saudi Arabia after Dr. Singh in 2010, Indira Gandhi in 1982 and Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956.

- Prime Minister presented a gold-plated replica of the **Cheraman Juma Masjid** to King Salman of Saudi Arabia.
- Prime Minister was conferred the Arabian country's highest civilian honour - **the King Abdulaziz Sash.**
- In 2010, India and Saudi Arabia signed the Riyadh Declaration, which set the framework for enhanced cooperation in the security, defence and economic spheres.
- **Saudi Arabia is India's largest supplier of crude oil.**
- India is the **largest recipient of foreign remittances from the kingdom.**
- Of the **11 million** Indians working in West Asia, nearly **three million** are in Saudi Arabia. Therefore, stability in the region, and particularly in Saudi Arabia, is high on India's core agenda.
- In recent years, bilateral ties had acquired a security dimension with both countries stepping up cooperation in **counter-terrorism and intelligence-sharing.**

A.8. INDIA-USA

During the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, both sides reached an 'in-principle' understanding to conclude **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).**

- Once concluded, the agreement would give **American aircraft and warships access to Indian military bases** for logistical purposes, including **refueling and repair.** In turn, India's military will enjoy similar access to U.S. bases.
- Recently the **U.S.-India Defence Technology and Partnership Act** was introduced in the US Congress, which places India on a par with its **NATO allies**

in terms of trade and technology transfer, specifically elevating its status as a defence exports market.

- The Act would “institutionalize” the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)** framework between the two countries and the **India Rapid Reaction Cell (IRRC)** in the Pentagon.
- **Maritime security cooperation:** India’s continuously sustained multi-year commitment of participating in the **Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC)** multilateral naval exercise. It is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.



Solar dispute

The US has filed a complaint in the **WTO against India's domestic content requirement (DCR)** under the country's Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission.

- US have claimed that the DCR violates WTO agreements such as **national treatment principle** and agreement on **Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS)**.

WTO ruling

- India’s domestic content requirements in question were trade-related investment measures for the purposes of the Illustrative List in the TRIMs Agreement’s Annex and were therefore inconsistent with **Article 2.1 of the TRIMs Agreement**.
- The Panel also found that the **domestic content requirements** in question do accord “**less favourable treatment**” within the meaning of Article III:4 of the GATT 1994.
- The panel, however, did not pronounce a verdict on the financial subsidies provided by India its solar power projects.

A.9. INDIA – SEYCHELLES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Seychelles after 34 years. The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the protocol for cooperation in the field of **blue economy**.
- India has been involved with Seychelles in helping bolster its need for maritime security as it has a large **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of 1.3 million square kilometers.
- India secured a pact to develop infrastructure of **Assumption Island** in Seychelles. It is strategically located in the Indian Ocean, north of Madagascar.
- Indian navy has for the **first time deployed maritime reconnaissance** aircraft to Seychelles for surveillance of the island nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone.

A.10. INDIA- CHINA

- **Daulat Beg Oldie** in Ladakh was designated as **fifth border meeting point** between India and China.
- Four other border meeting points between India and China are: Kibithoo (Arunachal Pradesh), Spangur Gap (Chushul, Ladakh), Bum-La (Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh) and Nathu-La (Sikkim).



- The **dam at Zangmu**, Tibet in the middle of the Brahmaputra, or Yarlung Zangbo as it is known in China, is now fully operational.
- China has, in its current five-year plan, also given the go-ahead to start work on three other dams, one of which is even bigger than the 510 MW Zangmu dam – a 640 MW dam scheduled for construction at Dagu, 18km upstream. Two smaller dams will be built at Jiacha and Jiexu.

A.11. INDIA- CLMV SUMMIT

India seeks to invest in the **CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam)** countries (which are part of the 10-member ASEAN group) to **take advantage of the free trade agreements** they have with various countries such as China.

The CLMV Summit is a very important meeting under the ASEAN framework as these four states are part 10-member ASEAN grouping.

A.12. JAIPUR SUMMIT: FORUM FOR INDIA-PACIFIC ISLANDS COOPERATION (FIPIC)

- India hosted the second summit of the Pacific Islands countries, **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)**.
- The summit in Jaipur underlined the **growing geostrategic importance of the 14 South Pacific islands** that lie at the centre of a **key maritime route** rich in **resources** and **one of the largest voting blocs in the United Nations**.
- **Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC)** is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations which include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- All Head of state/head of government of the above countries met in **Suva, Fiji** in November 2014 for the first time where the annual summit was conceptualized.

A.13. INDIA- SRI LANKA:

- India and Sri Lanka signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, the first such deal signed by Sri Lanka with any foreign country. Mr. Modi became the first Indian PM and the third Indian leader to visit Jaffna, after Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

A.14. INDIA-AFRICA

The 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit took place in New Delhi. 41 heads of state and government from 54 countries in Africa were present at Summit. The summit was the largest gathering of foreign dignitaries in New Delhi since the 1983 Non-Aligned Summit.

The two previous India-Africa summits were held in 2008 and 2011, in New Delhi and Addis Ababa respectively.



Convergence of interest-India and Africa

- India and Africa said that the two partners are aligned on the outstanding issues at the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** and are in favour of multilateral trading systems.
- **Cooperation to tackle terrorism:** India strongly advocated stepped-up cooperation through intelligence exchange and training with 54 African countries.
- **Cooperation on climate change** between India and Africa, both who had “contributed the least to global warming,”
- There’s a convergence of interest for **reforming the Security Council**.

A.15. INDIA-GERMANY

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel travelled to India for the **Third Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations**.
- **“Fast-track clearance mechanism”:** In a bid to attract German investment, India decided to set up a “fast-track clearance mechanism”. The only other such country-specific mechanism is for Japan.

A.16. INDIA AND IBSA

Recently the cabinet approved the signing of the Tripartite Agreement among India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA), on the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger.

- The **IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil, and South Africa)** is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among these countries. It represents three important poles for galvanizing South-South cooperation and greater understanding between three important continents of the developing world namely, Africa, Asia and South America.

2006	September, 2006	Brazil	Brasilia
2007	October, 2007	South Africa	Pretoria
2008	October, 2008	India	New Delhi
2010	15 April 2010	Brazil	Brasília
2011	18 October 2011	South Africa	Pretoria
2013	16 May 2013 (canceled)	India	New Delhi

A.17. 13TH INDIA-EU SUMMIT

The 13th EU-India Summit was held in Brussels on March 2016.

Outcome of summit

The 13th India-EU Summit concluded in Brussels **without a consensus on a bilateral free trade deal** even as progress was made in bilateral cooperation in other fields - from **foreign policy to outer space**.

Deadlock in Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)

EU's main Demands

- EU has been keen on **reducing or abolishing tariffs** in several sectors, including in the automobile and wine and spirits sectors.
- India's import duty on cars is between 60 and 120 per cent as against the EU's 10 per cent.

India's main demands

- India's main demands on **data security status, easier temporary movement of skilled professionals and seamless intra-corporate movement.**
- The EU should do away with **their non-tariff barriers.**
- India has also sought **agricultural market access** in the EU as well as disciplining of **Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary** (norms related with plants and animals) and **Technical Barriers to Trade.**

Other major issues between India and EU

- **Human rights violation:** One of the ostensible reasons for stalled talks between the European Union (EU) and India had been the EU concern over **human right violations in India.**
- **Italian marine's case** has also played a spoiler in the EU-India relationship.
- **Arbitrary Ban:** In August 2015, India had deferred negotiations on the FTA over the EU imposing a ban on sale of around 700 pharmaceutical products

A.18. INDIA-MALDIVES

Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom paid official visit to India. Maldives is important country in Indian Ocean region (IOR). Relations between India and Maldives have witnessed many ups and downs.

- India is mainly concerned about growing ties between **Maldives and China.**
 - ✓ China is assisting Maldives in some infrastructure and developmental projects.
 - ✓ Maldives is also part of **China's Silk Road project.**
 - ✓ Male had terminated the agreement it entered into with **GMR** in 2010 for the modernization of the International Airport. The project was subsequently given to a **Chinese company.**
- India's help to Maldives.
 - ✓ Indian Army's '**Operation Cactus**' foiled a coup in Maldives that was attempted by a pro-Eelam group in 1988. India maintains a naval presence in Maldives, at the request of the Maldives, since 2009.
 - ✓ In December 2014 India dispatched "**water aid**" to the Maldivian capital of Male.

A.19. INDIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA

President of India paid first ever official visit to Papua New Guinea since the establishment diplomatic ties between the two countries.



- India is looking to explore and develop Papua New Guinea's vast **oil and gas resources** through joint ventures and investments.
- India considers its cooperation with the islands of the Pacific to be a key component of '**Act East policy**'.



A.20. INDIA-PAKISTAN

Sir Creek: Sir Creek is a 96 km tidal estuary on the border of India and Pakistan. The creek, which opens up into the Arabian Sea, divides the Gujarat state of India from the Sindh province of Pakistan.

The Sir Creek dispute between India and Pakistan, which got its name from the British representative who negotiated the original dispute over firewood between the local rulers.





Pakistan's Position

- Pakistan claims the entire Sir Creek, with its eastern bank defined by a "green line" and represented on a 1914 map belongs to it.



India's Position

- India supports its stance by citing the **Thalweg doctrine in international law**. The law states that river boundaries between two states may be, if the two states agree, divided by the **mid-channel**.

Siachen Dispute

- Siachen - which means the land of roses - also has the dubious distinction of being the world's highest battlefield.
- A triangular bit of land between Pakistan occupied Kashmir and the part ceded by Pakistan to the Chinese.
- The Siachen dispute is a direct result of the ambiguity that exists in the Karachi ceasefire agreement of July 1949.
- The agreement, which established the ceasefire line (the positions of the two militaries at the end of the 1947-1948 war), did not delineate beyond **grid reference NJ 9842**, which falls south of the Siachen glacier, to the Chinese



border but left it as “Chalunka (on the Shyok River), Khor, **thence North to the glaciers**”.



Interpretation of Karachi ceasefire agreement

Indian and Pakistani sides have since interpreted the phrase “thence North to the glaciers” very differently.

- Pakistan argues that this means that the line should go from **NJ 9842 straight to the Karakoram pass on the Sino-Indian border.**
- India, however, insists that the line should proceed north from **NJ 9842 along the Salto range to the border with China.**

Strategic location

- Siachen sits at a very strategic location with Pakistan on the left and China on the right.

Operation Meghdoot

- India launched Operation Meghdoot in April 1984 and occupied the high points of the glacier.

A.21. ASHGABAT AGREEMENT

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for India to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement, an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

- Accession to the Agreement would enable India to utilize this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region.
- Further, this would synchronize with our efforts to implement the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** for enhanced connectivity.
- This move will further strengthen **trade ties between India and the Eurasian region.**

About Ashgabat Agreement

- An agreement between five countries on establishing a new international transport and transit corridor (Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Oman– Qatar) was signed on 25 April, 2011 in Ashgabat.
- **Qatar** had withdrawn from the agreement in 2013.
- “Ashgabat Agreement” forms the basis for developing the shortest trade route/corridor between the Central Asian countries and Iranian and Omani ports.
- **Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** are the founding members of the Ashgabat Agreement, while **Kazakhstan** joined it subsequently.



A.22. INDIA – PAKISTAN AND USA

USA de-hyphenating policy

The US government, under President Bush, formulated the action plan of the ‘**de-hyphenation**’ policy but it was sealed when Obama came to power.

- It allows the State Department to **view India and Pakistan as two separate silos**, without referring to their bilateral relations.
- **Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP)** was set up in 2009 which hailed the commencement of the de-hyphenation policy.

Reversal of policy

- Obama administration is actively considering a reversal of the move. The Obama Government wants to re-merge the office of the **Special Representative of Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP)** with the **Bureau of South and Central Asia (SCA)**, which handles India.

A.23. 4TH INDIA-AFRICA HYDROCARBONS CONFERENCE (IAHC)

- The government has organised the 4th India-Africa hydrocarbon conference on January, 2016 in New Delhi. A total of 21 African countries participated in the event.
- The Conference is aimed at greater cooperation between India and African continent towards ‘Development Transmitting Partnership’ in the field of Hydrocarbons.

A.24. FIRST INDIA-ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

- The 1st Ministerial Meeting of Arab-India Cooperation Forum was held on 24 January 2016 in the Bahraini capital Manama.
- In meeting, leaders reviewed the achievements of the **Arab-Indian cooperation** and adopted **the Manama Declaration**.
- The Arab-Indian Co-operation Forum was launched in New Delhi in 2008.

Arab League

- The Arab League is an organization that consists of independent Arab States on the territory of northern and north-eastern part of Africa and southwest Asia.
- Representatives of the first six member states – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia – that initiated the league’s formation signed the agreement in Cairo, in March, 1945.
- Presently, League has 21 members which includes Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

A.25. INDIA - VIETNAM

- India will set up a **satellite tracking and imaging centre in southern Vietnam** that will give Vietnam access to pictures from Indian earth observation satellites that cover the region, including China and the South China Sea.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will fund and set up the satellite tracking and data reception Centre in Ho Chi Minh City to monitor satellite launches.



A.26. RAISINA DIALOGUE 2016

What is it? The Raisina Dialogue is envisioned as India's flagship conference of geopolitics and geo-economics.

- It is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for **Asian integration as well as Asia's integration with the larger world**.
- The 2016 conclave focused on **Asia's physical, economic, digital connectivity** and fostering common global spaces with an emphasis on Asia.
- It is based on **India's vital role in the Indian Ocean Region** and how India along with its partners can build a stable regional and world order.
- The conference was held jointly **by Ministry of External Affairs**, India and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**, an independent think tank based in India.
- The theme of the conference was '**Asian connectivity**'.

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B. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ INSTITUTIONS



B.1. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)

THE 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit was held in Ufa, Russia on July 2015. India and Pakistan were accepted as full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Significance of India's Membership

- **Energy security:** Some of the member countries of the grouping are rich in energy resources-both hydrocarbons and uranium.
- **Security :** joint platform against terrorism, reducing and minimizing the menace of drug trafficking.
- **Economic integration:** India's economic integration with the Central Asian republics.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization or SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Member States	Acceding States	Observer States	Dialogue Partners
Kazakhstan	India	Afghanistan	Armenia
China	Pakistan	Belarus	Azerbaijan
Kyrgyzstan		Iran	Cambodia
Russia		Magnolia	Sri Lanka
Tajikistan			Turkey
Uzbekistan			Nepal

B.2. BRICS

The **7th BRICS summit** was held in Ufa, Russia on July 2015. Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a 10-point initiative calling it "**Das Kadam: Ten Steps for the Future**". Leaders of BRICS countries have adopted the **Ufa declaration**.

About BRICS

- The acronym "BRICS" was initially formulated in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill, of Goldman Sachs, in a report on growth prospects for the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.
- BRICS brings together five major emerging economies, comprising 43% of the world population, having 37% of the world GDP and 17% share in the world trade.

Summits	Year	Location	Importance
1 st	June 2009	Yekaterinburg, Russia	
2 nd	April 2010	Brasília, Brazil	
3 rd	April 2011	Sanya, China	First summit to include South Africa



			alongside the original BRIC countries.
4 th	March 2012	New Delhi, India	The BRICS Cable announced an optical fibre submarine communications cable system that carries telecommunications between the BRICS countries.
5 th	March 2013	Durban, South Africa	
6 th	July 2014	Fortaleza, Brazil	BRICS New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed.
7 th	July 2015	Ufa, Russia	Joint summit with SCO-EEU

8th BRICS Summit: India will host the eighth annual Summit of BRICS from October 15–16 in Goa.

- India will adopt a five-pronged approach during its Chairmanship. It will comprise Institution Building, Implementation, Integration, Innovation, and Continuity with Consolidation (IIIC or I⁴C).

B.3. EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

The **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU or EEU)** is an economic union of states located primarily in northern Eurasia. A treaty aiming for the establishment of the EEU was signed on 29 May 2014 by the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, and came into force on 1 January 2015. India has initiated the process of setting up a joint study group (JSG) to study its feasibility for FTA with EEU.

Member states	Acceding state
Armenia Belarus Kazakhstan Russia	Kyrgyzstan

B.4. NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG)

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a multinational body concerned with reducing nuclear proliferation by controlling the export and re-transfer of materials that may be applicable to nuclear weapon development and by improving safeguards and protection on existing materials.

- The NSG was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in May 1974 and first met in November 1975.
- As of 2014 the NSG has 48 members.
- China's announced that it intends to **oppose India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group** unless it agrees to sign the **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**.

Four UN member states have never joined the NPT: **India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan.**



B.5. NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY OR NPT

Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

- Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely.
- Four UN member states have never joined the NPT: **India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan.**
- The treaty recognizes five states as nuclear-weapon states: **the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China** (also the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council).

B.6. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** is a multilateral treaty by which states agree to ban all nuclear explosions in **all environments, for military or civilian purposes.** It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 but it has not entered into force due to the non-ratification of eight specific states.

- The CTBT has yet to become global law due to its demanding entry into force clause, which requires the signature and ratification of all 44 countries listed as nuclear technology capable.
- As of 2015, eight Annex 2 states have not ratified the treaty: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty; India, North Korea and Pakistan have not signed it.
- Jawaharlal Nehru's famous initiative in 1954 for a **"standstill agreement"** on nuclear testing.
- Nehru played an important role in building international momentum for the **1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty**, which India joined.
- India's objection to the CTBT is that as with the earlier nuclear treaties, it divides the world permanently into **nuclear "haves and have-nots"**.

B.7. MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR)

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is an informal and voluntary partnership among **34 countries** to prevent the **proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle** technology capable of carrying a 500 kg payload for at least 300 km.

- The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) was established in April 1987 by the G7 countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Great Britain, and the United States.
- India applied for membership in October 2015, request was not considered.

B.8. WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

The **Wassenaar Arrangement** is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) with 41 participating states.

Objective: Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

In 2013, the Wassenaar Arrangement added a new category pertaining to “**intrusion software**” that could potentially be used as “monitoring tools”, or to thwart “protective countermeasures” in cyberspace. Hardware and software that helped “extract information” were also classified within this restricted category.



B.9. AUSTRALIA GROUP

The **Australia Group** is an informal group of countries (now joined by the European Commission) established in 1985 (after the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in 1984) to help member countries to identify those **exports which need to be controlled so as not to contribute to the spread of chemical and biological weapons**.

It now has **42 members**, including all Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) members, the European Commission, all 28 member states of the European Union, Ukraine, and Argentina. The name comes from Australia's initiative to create the group. Australia manages the secretariat.

B.10. FOURTH NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT (NSS)

US President hosted the fourth and last nuclear security summit at Washington.

Background

- Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), an initiative of President Barack Obama to coordinate international efforts **to prevent terror organizations from acquiring nuclear weapons or material**.
- The first Nuclear Security Summit was held in Washington, DC in 2010, and was followed by Summits in Seoul in 2012 and The Hague in 2014.

What has been India's contribution to the NSS?

India has played an active role in these summits.

- India made a voluntary contribution of **two million dollars to the Nuclear Security Fund**.
- Established a **Global Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCENEP)** in New Delhi.



B.11. UNSC REFORM

The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a negotiating text for the Security Council reforms. This is the first time in the history of the intergovernmental negotiation process that a decision on UNSC reform has been adopted by means of an official document.

- The Group of Four, or G4, Summit, took place after a decade, was hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Leaders of **Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** called for urgent reforms of the United Nations “**in a fixed time frame**”.
- **Uniting for Consensus (UfC)** is a movement, nicknamed the Coffee Club that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of the United Nations Security Council.

B.12. G-20 SUMMIT 2015

- G20 is a forum of the Heads of Governments of the 19 major economies and the EU for global cooperation on international economic and financial issues.
- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Africa and Turkey, UK, USA and the EU, are the members of G20.
- **G-20 summit 2015:** G20 leaders met in Antalya, Turkey, on 15-16 November 2015.

B.13. APEC SUMMIT, 2015

The 2015 Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit took place between November 18 and 19 in Manila, the Philippines.

India has long sought membership in the APEC forum, for strategic, diplomatic, and economic reasons.

- **Beyond geography (India doesn’t sit on the Pacific Ocean), the question of India’s membership hadn’t come up seriously for some time due to a moratorium on APEC membership that was established in 1997 for a ten year period and extended again in 2007 for an additional three years.**

About APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world.

Headquarters: Singapore

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

B.14. SUPPLEMENTARY COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE (CSC)



India ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

Advantage for India

- Addresses the **concerns of foreign nuclear equipment suppliers.**
- India became part of a **global legal regime**
- India will get access to **international funding.**

About the convention

The CSC was adopted on 12 September 1997, together with the Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and entered into force on 15 April 2015.

- The CSC is a convention that allows for increasing **the compensation amount in the event of a nuclear incident through public funds pooled.**
- Seeks to **establish a uniform global legal regime** for compensation to victims in the unlikely event of a nuclear accident.
- The CSC provides for establishment of an **international fund** to increase the amount available to compensate victims and allows for compensating civil damage occurring within a **State's exclusive economic zone, including loss of tourism or fisheries related income.**

Criticism of India's move

Many nuclear experts feel that this move violate the domestic Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, Clauses 17(1) (B) and 46.

- Under Section 17(b), **liability for a nuclear accident can be channeled from the operator to suppliers of nuclear material**, specifically if the accident is due to an act of the supplier or his employee.
- Section 46 permits victims of a nuclear incident to **sue the operator or the supplier for damages** applying tort law.

B.15. GCC SUMMIT 2015

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq.

- Its member states are **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.**
- **The GCC summit 2015 was held in Riyadh.**
- The summit comes at a crucial time for the six-nation GCC, with a Saudi-led coalition bombing (**Decisive Storm Operation**) rebels in Yemen, concerns over the rise of Islamist militants and regional worries over a potential final nuclear deal with Iran.

Headquarters	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
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B.16. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

- The **World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)** is a treaty adopted by the 56th World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003. It became the first World Health Organization treaty adopted under article 19 of the WHO constitution.
- India was among the first few countries to ratify WHO the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2004.

B.17. THE EURO

- The **euro** is the official currency of the Eurozone, which consists of 19 of the 28 member states of the European Union.
- The **European Central Bank (ECB)** is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy of the Eurozone, which consists of 19 EU member states and is one of the largest currency areas in the world. It is one of the world's most important central banks and is one of the seven institutions of the European Union (EU) listed in the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

B.18. ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations, founded in 1960.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Membership: 13 states

Type: international cartel

Members of the Organization: **Middle east:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates,

Asia: Indonesia

Africa: Libya, Algeria, Nigeria, Angola

South America: Venezuela, Ecuador

B.19. THE ARAB LEAGUE

The Arab League, formally, the League of Arab States, is a regional organization of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Arabia.

Administrative center	Cairo
Official languages	Arabic
Members	22 states



Members: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi-Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United-Arab Emirates, Yemen.

The Arab League has formally branded Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group a terrorist organisation.

Summit 2015: SHARM EL-SHEIKH (EGYPT)

Arab summit formally unveiled plans to form a joint Arab intervention force to defeat Iranian-backed Shia rebels in Yemen.

B.20. THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an international organization founded in 1969 consisting of 57 member states. The organisation states that it is "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.

Administrative centre	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Official languages	Arabic English French
Type	Religious
Membership	57 member states

13th Summit: April 2016(Istanbul, Turkey)

- The only significant outcome of the 13th summit is a decision to create an Istanbul-based counterterrorism centre, touted as the 'Islamic Interpol'.
- India questioned the locus standi of the OIC, which in its communique affirmed "its support to the widespread indigenous movement of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their right to self-determination".

B.21. BIMSTEC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. These are: **Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.**

Headquarters	Dhaka
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The Third BIMSTEC Summit-2014: NAY PYI TAW, Myanmar



B.22. THE MEKONG-GANGA COOPERATION (MGC)

The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established on November 10, 2000 at Vientiane at the First MGC Ministerial Meeting.

It comprises six member countries, namely **India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam**. They emphasised four areas of cooperation, which are tourism, culture, education, and transportation linkage in order to be solid foundation for future trade and investment cooperation in the region. The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region.

B.23. THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.

It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.

Headquarters	Ebene Cyber City, Mauritius
Membership	21 states

Secretary General	K V Bhagirath (India)
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Australia	Iran	Mozambique	South Africa
Bangladesh	Kenya	Oman	Sri Lanka
Comoros	Madagascar	Seychelles	Tanzania
India	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand
Indonesia	Mauritius		United Arab Emirates
	Somalia		Yemen

B.24. SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is regional intergovernmental organization and geo-political union in South Asia. SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 9.12% of the global economy, as of 2015.

SAARC was founded in Dhaka in 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu. The organization promotes development economics and regional integration.

Secretary-General	Arjun Bahadur Thapa
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Its member states include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined SAARC as its eighth member state in April 2007.

States with observer status include: Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and the United States.



SAARC summits

No	Date	Country	Host	Host leader
1st	7–8 December 1985	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Ataur Rahman Khan
2nd	16–17 November 1986	India	Bengaluru	Rajiv Gandhi
8th	2–4 May 1995	India	New Delhi	P V Narasimha Rao
14th	3–4 April 2007	India	New Delhi	Manmohan Singh
18th	26–27 November 2014	Nepal	Kathmandu	Sushil Koirala
19th	TBA 2016	Pakistan	Islamabad	Nawaz Sharif

B.25. ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a political and economic organisation of ten Southeast Asian countries. It was formed on August 8th, 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Secretariat	Jakarta
Membership(10 states)	Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
	Observers: Papua New-Guinea, Timor-Leste

ASEAN Formal Summits

26th	26–27 April 2015	Malaysia	Langkawi
27th	18–22 November 2015	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur

B.26. EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a pan-Asian forum held annually by the leaders of eighteen countries in the East Asian region, with ASEAN in a leadership position.

Membership was initially all ten members of ASEAN plus China, Japan, South Korea, **India**, Australia, and New Zealand, but was expanded to include the United States and Russia at the Sixth EAS in 2011.

B.27. THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a formal, official, multilateral, dialogue in the Asia Pacific region. As of July 2007, it consists of twenty-seven participants. ARF's objectives are to foster dialogue and consultation, and to promote confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region.

The ARF met for the first time in 1994. The current participants in the ARF are: all ASEAN members, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, the People's Republic of China,



the European Union, **India**, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russia, East Timor, the United States, and Sri Lanka.

The **ASEAN plus Three** is a meeting between ASEAN, China, Japan, and South Korea, and is held primarily during each ASEAN Summit.

The **Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an informal dialogue process initiated in 1996 with the intention of strengthening co-operation between the countries of Europe and Asia, especially members of the European Union and ASEAN in particular.

B.28. G7

The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union is also represented within the G7.

41st	June 7–8, 2015	Germany	Summit dedicated to focus on the global economy as well as on key issues regarding foreign, security and development policy. Global Apollo Programme was also on the agenda.
42nd	May 26–27, 2016	Japan	

B.29. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Surya Deva has been appointed by the Geneva-based **UNHRC** as the **Asia-Pacific representative** of the UN Working Group on the issue of **human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**.

About UNHRC

- The **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** is a United Nations System inter-governmental body whose 47 member states (elected by UN General Assembly) are responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- **Choi Kyong-lim** is President of the Human Rights Council.

B.30. WOMEN-20

- The W20 engagement group under the auspices of the G20 focuses on promoting gender inclusiveness and gender equality, essentially making a significant contribution towards a strong, sustainable and balanced growth trend globally.
- It is formed under the Turkish term presidency of the G20. With the main theme being the empowerment of women, the engagement group will focus on overcoming contemporary challenges regarding gender inclusivity within the global economy.



B.31. ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is an international financial institution that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

- China's top legislature on 4th November 2015 ratified the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) agreement, which establishes the legal framework for the bank.
- India is founding member of AIIB.

Formation	16 January 2016 (Open for business) 25 December 2015 (Entry into force Articles of Agreement)
Type	Regional Investment Bank
Legal status	Treaty
Purpose	Crediting
Headquarters	Beijing, China
Region served	Asia and Oceania
Membership	37 founding Members

B.32. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL

India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at the 29th session of the Assembly of the IMO held in London.

About IMO:

- IMO is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.
- **Headquartered in London, United Kingdom**, the IMO has 171 Member States and three Associate Members.

B.33. UNSC

- The UN Charter specifies (in Article 27) that a draft resolution on **non-procedural matters** is adopted if nine or more of the fifteen Council members (P5+10) vote for the resolution, and if it is not vetoed by any of the five permanent members.
- Draft resolutions on "**procedural matters**" can be adopted on the basis of an affirmative vote by any nine Council members.

B.34. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

The **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, also called the **Law of the Sea Convention** or the **Law of the Sea treaty**, is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982.

The convention set the limit of various areas, measured from a carefully defined baseline. The areas are as follows:



Internal waters

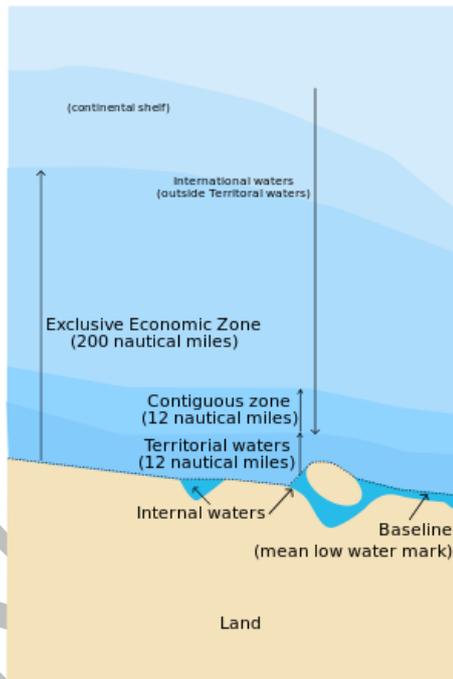
Covers all water and waterways on the landward side of the baseline. The coastal state is free to set laws, regulate use, and use any resource. Foreign vessels have no right of passage within internal waters.

Territorial waters

Out to 12 nautical miles (22 kilometres; 14 miles) from the baseline, the coastal state is free to set laws, regulate use, and use any resource. Vessels were given the right of innocent passage through any territorial waters

Contiguous zone

Beyond the 12-nautical-mile (22 km) limit, there is a further 12 nautical miles (22 km) from the territorial sea baseline limit, the contiguous zone, in which a state can continue to enforce laws in four specific areas: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution, if the infringement started within the state's territory or territorial waters, or if this infringement is about to occur within the state's territory or territorial waters. This makes the contiguous zone a hot pursuit area.



Exclusive economic zones (EEZs)

These extend from the edge of the territorial sea out to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres; 230 miles) from the baseline. Within this area, the coastal nation has sole exploitation rights over all natural resources.

Continental shelf

The continental shelf is defined as the natural prolongation of the land territory to the continental margin's outer edge, or 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coastal state's baseline, whichever is greater. Coastal states have the right to harvest mineral and non-living material in the subsoil of its continental shelf, to the exclusion of others. Coastal states also have exclusive control over living resources "attached" to the continental shelf, but not to creatures living in the water column beyond the exclusive economic zone.

B.35. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS)

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is an intergovernmental organization created by the mandate of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. It was established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed at **Montego Bay, Jamaica**, on December 10, 1982.

- The tribunal is based in **Hamburg, Germany**.
- The Tribunal has the power to settle disputes between party states.



B.36. IMF REFORM

Key points of reform

- More than **6 percentage points of the quota**, including both the Fund's capital and its proportionate voting rights, have been transferred from developed to emerging economies.
- Emerging and developing economies gained more influence in the governance architecture of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **India's voting rights increase to 2.6%** from the current 2.3%, and China's, to 6% from 3.8%.
- For the first time, four emerging market countries (Brazil, China, India, and Russia) will be among the 10 largest members of the IMF.
- Also for the first time, the IMF's Board will consist entirely of elected Executive Directors, ending the category of appointed Executive Directors. Currently, the members with the five largest quotas appoint an Executive Director.
- India's quota in IMF would rise to 2.7% from existing 2.44%.

What is SDR?

The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. Its value is currently based on a basket of **four major currencies (U.S. dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, and Pound sterling)**, and the basket will be expanded to include the **Chinese Renminbi (RMB) as the fifth currency, effective October 1, 2016**.



C. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

C.1. IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Iran and the P5+1 group-U.S., U.K., France, Russia, China and Germany-reached an agreement on Tehran's nuclear programme.

C.2. CHINA – PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) PROJECT

- China and Pakistan recently signed 20 more agreements to implement the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.
- It will link the Pakistani city of **Gwadar** in southwestern to China's northwestern autonomous region of **Xinjiang** via a vast network of **highways** and railways.

C.3. SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" was adopted during the **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** held in Sendai, Japan in March, 2015.
- The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

C.4. DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN MYANMAR

Myanmar has sworn in **Htin Kyaw** as the country's first civilian President in more than 50 years.

- Mr. **Htin Kyaw's government** would be its most democratic administration since 1962 when the military seized power.
- Ms. Suu Kyi's **National League for Democracy (NLD)** won 77 per cent of the elected seats in Parliament. She cannot lead the government because of a constitutional provision that bars her since her sons are British and not Myanmar citizens.
- The **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)**, which is dominated by military and civil servants, will be the NLD's biggest opponent.
- As per 2008 constitution, **25 per cent of the seats** in the Upper and Lower houses of Hluttaw (House of Representatives) will be nominated by the military.

C.5. NEPAL ADOPTS FIRST DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

Nepal adopted its first democratic Constitution.

- The constitution defines Nepal as a secular country.



- **Federal system: It creates seven states.**
- Nepal's new constitution has been based on the "entitlement approach" to rights.

Nepal-China

- Nepal and China signed an agreement for supply of petroleum products to the Himalayan nation. The agreement came after shortages caused by the blockade of land routes from India due to unrest over the Nepal's new constitution by Madhesis (Maithili, Bhojpuri, Avadhi and Hindi-speaking Nepali's)
- The agreement on **transit through China**: China has agreed to provide the Tianjin seaport for transit of Nepali goods imported from third countries.
- At present **98 per cent of Nepal's third country** trade goes through India and to the port of Kolkata.

C.6. NANNING-SINGAPORE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

- "**Nanning Consensus**" to build the Nanning-Singapore Economic Corridor, more formally dubbed as the China-Indo-China Peninsula International Corridor.
- The core initiative aimed at economic integration, would connect eight major cities-Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vientiane, Hanoi and Nanning.

C.7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations officially adopted a new set of global goals to **combat poverty, inequality and climate change** over the next 15 years in the most comprehensive international effort ever to tackle the world's ills.

- The SDGs are a set of **17 goals and 169** targets aimed at resolving global social, economic and environmental problems.
- To be met over the next 15 years, beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were adopted in 2000 and expire in 2015.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development





C.8. UNESCO AWARD

India has won the top UNESCO prize 'Award of Excellence' 2015 for the remarkable conservation efforts of the majestic **Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala**.

C.9. WHITE HOUSE MEDAL

US President Barack Obama has presented the **prestigious National Humanities Medal** to Pulitzer Prize winner, **Jhumpa Lahiri**, in recognition of her "**beautifully wrought narratives of estrangement and belonging**" which highlight the "Indian-American experience".

C.10. PARADE TO COMMEMORATE WW II VICTORY

- China held a massive military parade to commemorate the **70th anniversary** of the victory **against Japan in the World War II** at the **Tiananmen Square**.
- India had played a sterling role in defeating Japanese militarism, by contributing forces and keeping supply lines open to the Chinese resistance through the **Assam-Burma Stilwell road** during World War II.

C.11. TIBET AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC (TAR)

- China celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Tibet Autonomous Republic (TAR) by sending a powerful message of unity, along with an advocacy of **fusing religious and socialist values**.
- China has been focusing on a **cultural renaissance** based on the revival of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.
- The **Tibet Autonomous Region** was founded on September 1, 1965, after the establishment of the regional People's Congress, the local legislature.

C.12. GREEK ELECTION

Alexis Tsipras received the formal mandate to form a government for the second time, after his **left-wing Syriza party** won Greece's early national elections.

- Left-wing Syriza party won the election on the plank of anti-austerity measures. After winning elections in January, Tsipras' left-wing Syriza party promised to end tough austerity measures.

C.13. ATTACKS ON BLOGGERS IN BANGLADESH

Many bloggers have been attacked by intolerant Islamic fundamentalists affiliated to various militant groups.

- Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in 2010 started the long-pending process of indictment of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders for the brutal war crimes during the liberation war.

- When one of the leaders, Abdul Quader Mollah, was convicted, spontaneous agitations erupted in Dhaka culminating in the **Shahbag protests in 2013** demanding capital punishment for those convicted for the war crimes of 1971.



C.14. KALADAN MULTI-MODAL TRANSIT TRANSPORT PROJECT

- The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a project that will connect the seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea;
- It will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio on to Mizoram in India by road transport.

C.15. UN RESOLUTION AGAINST ISIS

The UN Security Council authorized countries around the world to “take all necessary measures” to fight the Islamic State in a resolution that won unanimous backing.

- This does not constitute an authorization for military action.
- Introduced by France, the Security Council resolution was an attempt to show international unity in the wake of the Paris attacks.

C.16. GLOBAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

India’s Prime Minister had launched an **International Solar Alliance** of over 120 countries with the French president, at the Paris COP21 climate summit.

This new body, which has invited all countries of the world to join, is to function from the National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon. The Centre will provide land and \$30 million to form a secretariat for the Alliance and also support it for five years.

The alliance envisages the coming together of 122 sunshine countries situated between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn as they receive abundant sunshine for around 300 days in a year.

C.17. ISLAMIC MILITARY ALLIANCE

It is an **Intergovernmental Military Alliance** of 34 countries, led by Saudi Arabia in the Muslim world, united around military intervention against ISIL and other counter-terrorist activities.



C.18. FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)

- The Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is an official forum between the People's Republic of China and the states in Africa.
- The Johannesburg Summit and the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) were held in Johannesburg in December 2015.
- It is an official forum which has greatly boosted the political influence of China-Africa relationship and served as an important driver for China-Africa practical cooperation in various.

C.19. CHINA-SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe paid official visit to china. The visit came in the backdrop of recent decision by Sri Lanka to clear the stalled **\$1.4 billion Colombo Port City**, which had China as a partner.

India's concerns

Observers say that China's growing influence in South Asia poses a challenge to India, which could do well to revamp its neighbourhood policy.

- China has identified development of string of ports in the Indian Ocean including **Kyaukphyu in Myanmar, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pakistan, Chittagong (Bangladesh), Maldives** along with a **military logistics base in Djibouti**.
- China also attaches **centrality to Sri Lanka to amplify its Maritime Silk Road**.

C.20. YEMEN CEASEFIRE

A United Nations-backed ceasefire between the Saudi-allied forces and Shia Houthi rebels took effect in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia led Sunni Arab allies

- Saudi Arabia and its allies started bombing Yemen in March 2015 with the goal of reinstating the **ousted government of President Hadi and weakening the Shia Houthi** rebels who had captured the capital Sanaa.

Impact of conflict on Yemen

- **Rise of extremist**
 - ✓ The stateless chaos amid a disastrous war has helped **al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)** expand its footprint.
- **Humanitarian catastrophe**



C.21. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ZERO

The international Conference on Zero was held at **UNESCO headquarters** to celebrate the rich and remarkable history of mathematics in collaboration with India on 6 April.

Significance

- The event at UNESCO was an addition to the efforts to showcase **India's soft power by harnessing the power of zero.**
- Earlier, India sponsored **International Yoga Day** and a **Sanskrit conference** at the UNESCO.
- India co-partnered with Pierre and Marie Curie University to host this conference.

C.22. UIGHUR LEADER DOLKUN ISA'S VISA ISSUE

Visa granted earlier this year to Chinese dissident leader and Uighur activist **Dolkun Isa** was cancelled by the government of India.

Background

- Mr. Isa a leader of the Germany based **World Uighur Congress (WUC).**
- Xinjiang, which has over 10 million Uighur population of Turkik origin Muslims, is on unrest for several years **against large-scale settlements of Hans** from other part of the country.
- China blames **East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)**, a militant Islamist group, for terrorist attacks in Xinjiang and other parts of the country.

Chinese response

China aired its concern over World Uighur Congress (WUC) leader Dolkun Isa's reported visit to India, saying he is a **"terrorist" on Interpol's Red Corner.**

C.23. PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN IRAN

Parliamentary election was held in Iran on 26 February 2016 to elect members of the **Islamic Consultative Assembly.** The election was held as part of a general election which also elected members of the **Assembly of Experts.**

- **The Islamic Consultative Assembly,** also called the Iranian Parliament, the **Iranian Majlis or the People's House,** is the national legislative body of Iran. The Parliament currently has 290 representatives.
- **The Assembly of Experts** (also Assembly of Experts of the Leadership) of Iran is a deliberative body of eighty eight (88) **Mujtahids (Islamic theologians)** that is charged with **electing and removing the Supreme Leader of Iran and supervising his activities.**

Results of elections:

- In the 290-seat Parliament, **the reformist allies of President Hassan Rouhani won at least 85 seats,** while the moderate conservatives secured 73 seats. Together they will control the House.



- The hardliners, who were persistently opposed to Mr. Rouhani's reform agenda, won only 68 seats.
- In the 88-member Assembly of Experts, the clerics backed by reformists and centrists claimed 52 seats.

C.24. USA PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CUBA

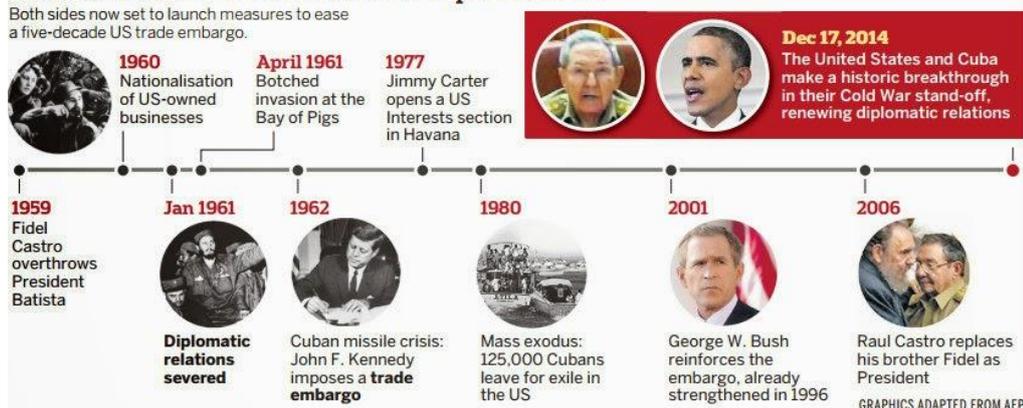
President Barack Obama paid historic visit to Cuba. President visit has opened a new chapter in U.S. engagement with the island's Communist government after decades of animosity between the former Cold War foes.

- Obama is the first serving U.S. President to visit Cuba after Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

U.S.-Cuba relations since Fidel Castro seized power in a 1959 revolution

The US and Cuba in historic revival of diplomatic ties

Both sides now set to launch measures to ease a five-decade US trade embargo.



C.25. FOUR-NATION COUNTER-TERROR MECHANISM

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has proposed formation of a regional counter-terrorism mechanism to safeguard the 'One Belt One Road (OBOR)' connectivity initiative in Eurasia.

- The proposed counter-terrorism mechanism will include **China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan as members.**

Why counter-terror mechanism?

- **The rise of the Khorasan Province (ISIL-K) - a branch of the Islamic State in Afghanistan is threat to OBOR in Afghanistan.**
- China is threatened by terror strikes from the **East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), especially in its Xinjiang province.** ETIM have link with terror groups operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



C.26. JAPAN-RUSSIA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

- The **Kuril Islands dispute** is a dispute between Japan and Russia and also some individuals of the Ainu people over sovereignty of the South Kuril Islands.
- Russia and Japan never signed a peace treaty after World War II because of conflicting claims over islands north of the Japanese island of Hokkaido, which Japan calls its Northern Territories - and Russia refers to as the Southern Kurils.

C.27. NAGORNY KARABAKH REGION

Karabakh is technically part of Azerbaijan but has been run by an ethnic Armenian government ever since the Soviet Union collapsed. Recently, fierce clashes had erupted along the frontline of Nagorny Karabakh between Arch-foes **Armenia and Azerbaijan**.



C.28. KOKANG REBELS

- The Kokangpeople) are an ethnic group of Burma .They are Mandarin-speaking Han Chinese living in Kokang, administered as Kokang Special Region.



C.29. SINAI PENINSULA

- Bomb brought down Russian aircraft over Egypt's **Sinai** desert.
- Some militants groups operating in Sinai Peninsula have declared their allegiance to IS, with one such group calling itself Sinai Province of the Islamic State.



C.30. TRANS-AFGHAN GAS PIPELINE



- Trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline connecting Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

C.31. MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT (MVA)

- India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh signed a landmark Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the Regulation of Passenger, Personnel and Cargo Vehicular Traffic among the four South Asian neighbours.

C.32. GLOBAL APOLLO PROGRAM

The Global Apollo Programme aims to make the cost of clean electricity lower than that from coal-fired power stations across the world within 10 years.

C.33. THE KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY

- The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) is a Kurdish militant organization based in Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan. The group has been fighting Turkey for autonomy since 1984 and is considered a terrorist organisation by Ankara and its allies.
- The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization internationally by several states and organizations, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Union. However countries such as India, China, Russia, Switzerland and Egypt have not designated the PKK as a terrorist organization.

C.34. OPERATION CONDOR

- Operation Condor was a campaign of political repression and state terror involving intelligence operations and assassination of opponents, which started in 1968 and was officially implemented in 1975 by the right-wing dictatorships of the Southern Cone of South America.



- Condor's key members were the governments in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Brazil. The United States government provided technical support and supplied military aid to the participants until at least 1978, and again after Republican Ronald Reagan became President in 1981.
- Former Argentine Junta leader Reynaldo Bignone has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for crimes committed under **Operation Condor** - a conspiracy between South America's dictators in the 1970s.

C.35. USA PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO HIROSHIMA

- American airmen launched the world's first atomic strike on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The southern city of Nagasaki was hit by a second bomb three days later in one of the final acts of World War-II. Harry Truman was the President of U.S. when atomic bomb was dropped in Japan.
- Barack Obama became the first U.S. sitting President to visit Hiroshima, the first target of an atomic bomb, 70 years ago.
- Two other top U.S. politicians have visited the site of bombing, Former President Jimmy Carter, in 1984, visited the site three years after he left office. Richard Nixon went on April 11, 1964, four years before he won the presidential election.

C.36. WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT (WHS)

- The United Nations **World Humanitarian Summit** (WHS), was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on May 23 and 24, 2016. The Summit is an initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and is being organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).
- The **purpose** of the summit is to set a forward-looking agenda for humanitarian action to collectively address future humanitarian challenges. The **aim** is to build a more inclusive and diverse humanitarian system committed to humanitarian principles.

The **three main goals** of the summit are:

- Reaffirm our commitment to humanity and humanitarian principles.
- Initiate actions and commitments which enable countries and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to shocks.
- Share best practices which help save lives around the world, placing affected people at the centre of humanitarian action and alleviating suffering.

C.37. RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT (R2P)

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) is a global political commitment endorsed by all member states of the United Nations at the 2005 World Summit to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The three pillars of the responsibility to protect, as stipulated in the Outcome Document of the 2005 United Nations World Summit and formulated in

the Secretary-General's 2009 Report on Implementing the Responsibility to Protect are:

- The State carries the primary responsibility for protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and their incitement;
- The international community has a responsibility to encourage and assist States in fulfilling this responsibility;
- The international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other means to protect populations from these crimes. If a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations, the international community must be prepared to take collective action to protect populations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.



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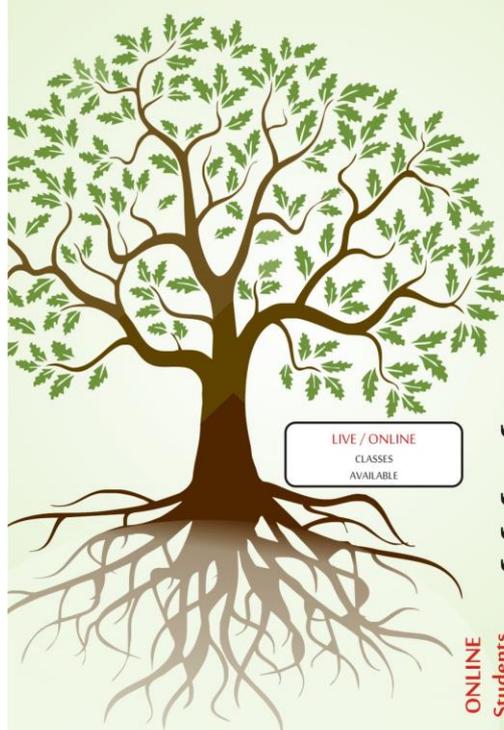
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D. TRADE BLOCS



D.1. TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement among twelve Pacific Rim countries signed on 4 February 2016. The 12 nations include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

- The aim is to ease the flow of goods, services and investments among them, and to strengthen the rules on labour standards, environmental issues, origin criteria and intellectual property.
- The TPP, a deal which will cover **40 percent of the world economy**.
- The mega trade deal, perceived to be a **counterweight to China's growing global economic clout**.

Impact on India

- **India is not part of the TPP**. The World Bank projects a limited 'trade diversion' impact on non-members.
- India could suffer **market share losses** in certain categories of exports as a result of preference erosion
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is likely to indirectly impact India's exports in several industrial sectors such as **textiles, plastics, leather, clothing, cotton and yarn**.
- Some of the **TPP standards are higher than that of the WTO norms**, including on IPR and possible ever-greening of patents, which could hurt **India's pharma sector**.

D.2. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega trade deal which aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights.
- The 16-member bloc RCEP comprises **10 Asean members** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam) and their six free trade agreement partners -- **India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand**.

From India's point of view, the RCEP presents a decisive platform which could influence its strategic and economic status in the Asia-Pacific region and bring to fruition its "Act East Policy."

D.3. TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a proposed trade agreement between the European Union and the United States. The aim is to boost the economies of the EU and the US by removing or reducing barriers to trade and foreign investment.



- The American government considers the TTIP a companion agreement to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- The agreement is under ongoing negotiations and its main three broad areas are: market access; specific regulation; and broader rules and principles and modes of co-operation.

D.4. WTO

- India has ratified the new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The pact aims to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, for international trade.
- India is pitching aggressively for TFA in services to the WTO. **The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)** agreement covers four modes of supply for the delivery of services in cross-border trade:

Modes	Criteria	Supplier Presence
Mode 1: Cross-border supply	Service delivered within the territory of the Member, from the territory of another Member	Service supplier not present within the territory of the member
Mode 2: Consumption abroad	Service delivered outside the territory of the Member, in the territory of another Member, to a service consumer of the Member	
Mode 3: Commercial presence	Service delivered within the territory of the Member, through the commercial presence of the supplier	Service supplier present within the territory of the Member
Mode 4: Presence of a natural person	Service delivered within the territory of the Member, with supplier present as a natural person	

WTO Members Seal IT Trade Deal

- World Trade Organization (WTO) members finalised a deal to cut tariffs on \$1 trillion worth of **information technology products** in a boost for producers of goods ranging from video games to medical equipment.
- The agreement to update the WTO's 18-year-old **Information Technology Agreement (ITA)** adds more than 200 products to the list of goods covered by zero-tariff and duty-free trade.
- This agreement is expansion of ITA 1996.
- In this agreement import tariffs of most of the 201 IT products will be eliminated either immediately or progressively over 3 years.

Ministerial Conferences



1st	9–13 December 1996	Singapore
2nd	18–20 May 1998	Geneva, Switzerland
3rd	30 November – 3 December 1999	Seattle, United States
4th	9–14 November 2001	Doha, Qatar
5th	10–14 September 2003	Cancún, Mexico
6th	13–18 December 2005	Hong Kong
7th	30 November – 2 December 2009	Geneva, Switzerland
8th	15–17 December 2011	Geneva, Switzerland
9th	3–6 December 2013	Bali, Indonesia
10th	15–18 December 2015	Nairobi, Kenya

- Afghanistan has become the 164th WTO member

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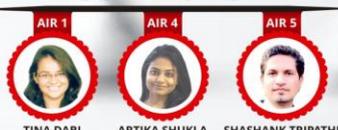
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E. REPORTS/INDEX



E.1. WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2016

The 2016 WDR issue titled “**Digital Dividends,**” noted that almost 1.063 billion Indians were offline even though India ranked among the top five nations in terms of the total number of Internet users, along with China, the U.S., Japan and Brazil.

E.2. THE WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2016

The World Happiness Report 2016, published by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**, a global initiative of the United Nations.

- The report takes following parameters into account as indicators of happiness
 - ✓ **GDP per capita,**
 - ✓ **Life expectancy,**
 - ✓ **Social support**
 - ✓ **Freedom to make life choices.**
- India was ranked 118th in the list.
- **Denmark** took the top spot as the ‘happiest country’ in the world.

E.3. GLOBAL ENERGY ARCHITECTURE PERFORMANCE INDEX

The Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report, explored the energy architecture of 126 countries based on their ability to provide energy access across **three dimensions of the “energy triangle” - affordability, environmental sustainability, security and access.**

- The Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI), developed by the **World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture.**
- The list was topped by **Switzerland** followed by Norway and Sweden in the second and third place, respectively.
- Among the BRIC nations, Brazil was the top performer as it was ranked at the 25th place, followed by Russia (52nd), India (90th), and China (94).

E.4. TRAVEL & TOURISM COMPETITIVE INDEX 2015

As per the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2015, of the World Economic Forum, India’s rank has improved significantly to **52nd this year from 65th in 2013.**

F. MILITARY EXERCISES



SIMBEX-15	India and Singapore naval exercise
Varuna 2015	Indo-French naval exercise
Sundarban Moitry	Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).
LAMITYE	Indian Army and the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF)
Hand-in-Hand	Indian and Chinese army
Mitra Shakti	India-Sri Lanka joint training exercise
coordinated patrol (CORPAT)	India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise
Cobra Gold	Asia-Pacific military exercise held in Thailand/India participated
Naseem Al Bahr	India and Oman :bilateral maritime exercise
SLINEX 2015	Sri Lanka-India bilateral naval exercise
Exercise Malabar	Trilateral naval exercise involving the USA, Japan and India
INDRA	Military exercise conducted by India and Russia
IBSAMAR	navies of India, Brazil, South Africa
Exercise KONKAN	Indian navy and Royal Navy
AUSINDEX-15	India-Australia naval exercise
'Sahyog-Kaijin'	Indo-Japan Coast Guard Joint Exercise
Indradhanush exercises.	India and UK air force
Mithra Shakti	India and Sri Lanka Military exercise
Exercise Shakti	Indian and French armies
Exercise Nomadic Elephant	Indo-Mongolia joint training Exercise
Exercise Yuddh Abhyas	India-US Combined Military Training
Surya Kiran	Indo-Nepal Combined Battalion level Military Training Exercise
Khanjar	India and Kyrgyzstan
Harimau Shakti	India and Malaysia
Red Flag	Air Forces of India and the U.S.
Desert Eagle	Air Force exercise between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE)

G. PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS



Question 1. With reference to Look East Policy of India, consider the following statements: **(CSE-2011)**

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Question 2. Recently, the USA decided to support India's membership in multi-lateral export control regimes called the "Australia Group" and the "Wassenaar Arrangement". What is the difference between them? **(CSE-2011)**

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Question 3. India maintained its early cultural contacts and trade links with Southeast Asia across the Bay of Bengal. For this pre-eminence of early maritime history of Bay of Bengal, which of the following could be the most convincing explanation/ explanations? **(CSE-2011)**

- (a) Monsoon winds across the Bay of Bengal Facilitated sea voyages
- (b) As compared to other countries, India had a better ship-building technology in ancient and medieval times
- (c) Both (a) and (b) are convincing explanations in this context
- (d) The rulers of southern India always patronized traders, Brahmin priests and Buddhist monks in this context.

Question 4. Between India and East Asia, the navigation-time and distance can be greatly reduced by which of the following? (CSE-2011)

1. Deepening the Malacca straits between Malaysia and Indonesia.
2. Opening a new canal across the Kra isthmus between the Gulf of Siam and Andaman sea.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Question 5. The "New START" treaty was in the news. What is this treaty? (CSE-2011)

- (a) It is a bilateral strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the USA and the Russian federation.
- (b) It is a multilateral energy security cooperation treaty among the members of the East Asia Summit.
- (c) It is a treaty between the Russian federation and the European Union for the energy security cooperation.
- (d) It is a multilateral cooperation treaty among the BRICS countries for the promotion of trade.

Question 6. Southeast Asia has captivated the attention of global community over space and time as a geostrategically significant region. Which among the following is the most convincing explanation for this global perspective? (CSE-2011)

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

Question 7. The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (CSE-2012)

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Question 8. Recently, a series of uprisings of people referred to as 'Arab Spring' originally started from (CSE-2014)

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



Question 9. Consider the following countries: (CSE-2014)

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

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

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

Question 10. Consider the following pairs: (CSE-2014)

Region often in news	Country
1. Chechnya	: Russian Federation
2. Darfur	: Mali
3. Swat Valley	: Iraq

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Question 11. Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour': (CSE-2014)

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO.
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise the awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Question 12. With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements: (CSE-2014)

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

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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



Question 13. Amnesty International is (CSE-2015)

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

Question 14. India is a member of which among the following? (CSE-2015)

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Question 15. In the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/ participants? (CSE-2015)

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Question 16. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (CSE-2015)

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

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Question 17. 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', often seen in the news, is(CSE-2015)

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



Question 18. Consider the following countries (CSE-2015)

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

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

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

Question 19. The 'Fortaleza Declaration', recently in the news, is related to the affairs of(CSE-2015)

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

Question 20.. Among the following, which were frequently mentioned in the news for the outbreak of Ebola virus recently? (CSE-2015)

- (a) Syria and Jordan
- (b) Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia
- (c) Philippines and Papua New Guinea
- (d) Jamaica, Haiti and Surinam

Question 21. The terms 'Agreement on Agriculture', 'Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures' and 'Peace Clause' appear in the news frequently in the context of the affairs of the(CSE-2015)

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

Question 22. The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to (CSE-2015)

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

Question 23. What is Rio+20 Conference, often mentioned in the news? (CSE-2015)

- (a) It is the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
- (b) It is a Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization.
- (c) It is a Conference of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.
- (d) It is a Conference of the Member Countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

CSE 2013



GAURAV AGRAWAL
AIR-1

CSE 2014



NIDHI GUPTA
AIR-3



VANDANA RAO
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