

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International Organisations

African Union

- ✓ The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- ✓ It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity.
- ✓ The India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is the official platform for the **African-Indian relations**.
- ✓ It is **held once every three years beginning from 2008**.
- ✓ India by consistently holding India- Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in places like New Delhi (2008), Addis Ababa (2011) and New Delhi (2015) has already forged ties with the 54 African states through the African Union (AU).

IAEA:

- ✓ The IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear/atomic field. It is a UN agency.
- ✓ It works with its member countries and many partners to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.
- ✓ It was initially established as 'Atoms for peace'.
- ✓ It was formally **established in 1957, headquartered in Vienna, Austria**.
- ✓ Currently, it has 171 members.
- ✓ The IAEA is funded by contributions from member states and donations from non-members.
- ✓ It is not a specialised agency of the UN because of the political nature of the work done by it.
- ✓ The IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.
- ✓ India is a founding member of the IAEA.

NATO:

- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- ✓ A key provision of the treaty, the so-called Article 5, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members.
- ✓ NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- ✓ As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- ✓ India is not a member of NATO.

EU

- ✓ European Union is an international organisation consisting of European Countries, which was formed in 1993.
- ✓ It came into force after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty by 28 countries.
- ✓ The **Maastricht Treaty** is also known as the Treaty of the European Union (TEU).
- ✓ On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (U.K) formally left the EU and became the first country to do so.
- ✓ It has 27 member states.
- ✓ The European Parliament, European Council and European Commission are the 3 legislative institutions of the E.U.

WTO

- ✓ The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- ✓ It has 164 members (including the European Union) and 23 observer governments.
- ✓ It is **not a UN specialized agency**.
- ✓ The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) traces its origins to the **1944 Bretton Woods Conference**.
- ✓ An agreement as the **GATT signed by 23 countries** in Geneva in 1947 came into force on Jan 1, 1948.
- ✓ The **GATT became the only multilateral instrument** governing international trade from 1948 until the WTO was established in 1995.
- ✓ The General Council is the WTO's highest-level decision-making body located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- ✓ The WTO Ministerial Conference usually meets every two years which can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.
- ✓ **India is a founder member** of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1947 and its successor, the WTO.
- ✓ The WTO is **consensus-based**.

Asian Development bank (ADB)

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a **regional development bank** established on **19th December 1966**.
- ✓ It now has **68 members, 49 from within Asia**.
- ✓ As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are **Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares)**, the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
- ✓ It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- ✓ It is **headquartered in Manila, Philippines**.
- ✓ India was a founding member of ADB and is now the bank's fourth-largest shareholder.
- ✓ India has been ADB's top borrower since 2010.
- ✓ The loan has been provided under ADB's **Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program**.

SAARC

- ✓ The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia.
- ✓ Its member states *are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka*.
- ✓ It was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985 with its secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ✓ It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006.
- ✓ States with **observer status** include Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea, and the United States.
- ✓ Myanmar has expressed interest in upgrading its status from an observer to a full member of the SAARC.
- ✓ Russia has applied for observer status membership of SAARC.
- ✓ Out of the eighteen SAARC Summits held so far, India has hosted three, viz. the second, eighth and the fourteenth.

ASEAN

- ✓ The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- ✓ The motto of ASEAN is "**One Vision, One Identity, One Community**".
- ✓ ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

- ✓ Member countries include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.
- ✓ It was established in 1967 with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)** by its **founding fathers**.
- ✓ **ASEAN-led forums** are ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Plus Three and East Asia Summit (EAS).
- ✓ It is the **3rd largest market in the world**.
- ✓ **It has Free-trade agreements (FTAs)** with China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

East Asia summit

- ✓ The East Asia Summit is a **unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region** formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.
- ✓ **Since its inception in 2005**, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.
- ✓ **The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.**
- ✓ **USA and the Russian Federation were formally included as members of the EAS** at the 6th EAS held in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November **2011**.
- ✓ **The membership of EAS consists** of ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA.

World Bank and IMF

- ✓ **The Bretton Woods Conference**, held in New Hampshire, United States from **July 1 to 22, 1944** resulted in the establishment of the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- ✓ They were formally introduced in December 1945.
- ✓ The **World Bank Group**, initially called the IBRD, was established to **provide assistance to countries that had been physically and financially devastated** by World War II.
- ✓ The **main objective of the IMF was to seek stability in exchange rates**.
- ✓ Another goal of the IMF was the **reconciliation of country adjustments to payments imbalances with the national autonomy in macroeconomics policy**.
- ✓ John Maynard Keynes in Britain and Harry Dexter White in the United States were the architects of this new economic system.
- ✓ India is a founding member.
- ✓ World Bank Group consists of five interrelated institutions
- ✓ **IBRD** offers loans to middle-income developing countries to promote economic development and eradicate poverty.
- ✓ **IDA** which typically provides interest-free loans to countries with sovereign guarantees.
- ✓ **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, which provides loans, equity, risk-management tools, and structured finance. Its goal is to facilitate sustainable development by improving investments in the private sector.
- ✓ **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**, which focuses on improving the foreign direct investment of developing countries.
- ✓ **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)** which provides a means for dispute resolution between governments and private investors with the end goal of enhancing the flow of capital.

United Nations

- ✓ United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in **1945** after the Second World War by 51 countries.

- ✓ It provides a forum for its **193 Member States** to express their views, through the **General Assembly, the Security Council** and other bodies and committees.
- ✓ Headquartered in New York, US.
- ✓ It has **4 main purposes-**
- ✓ To keep peace throughout the world;
- ✓ To develop friendly relations among nations;
- ✓ To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- ✓ To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

What is UNSC?

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).
- **All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council.**
- The UNSC is the **only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.**
- The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- Permanent members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.
- The remaining ten non-permanent members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years.
- The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
- **India began a two-year term on the Security Council from January, 2021 as a non-permanent member, for the eighth time.**
- **Functions and powers:**
- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

G-4

- ✓ The **G4 nations** comprise **Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan** who support each other's bids for permanent seats on the UNSC.
- ✓ Its primary aim is permanent member seats on the Security Council.
- ✓ The United Kingdom and France have backed the G4's bid.
- ✓ **All the permanent members of P5 have supported India's bid for a permanent seat** but China is only ready to support India if India did not associate its bid with Japan.
- ✓ **Coffee club:**
- ✓ Under the leadership of Italy, countries that strongly oppose the G4 countries' bids have formed the Uniting for Consensus movement, or the Coffee Club, in 1990s, comprising 40-odd member states.
- ✓ Most members of the club are middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
- ✓ The prime movers of the club include Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan.

- ✓ It aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.
- ✓ Most club members want non-permanent seats of the Council increased, as this will raise their own chances of sitting on the Council regularly.
- ✓ What is UNGA?
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly serves as the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN.
- ✓ Its powers, composition, functions, and procedures are set out in Chapter IV of the UN Charter.
- ✓ It is the only UN organ wherein all member states have equal representation.
- ✓ Each member country has one vote.
- ✓ The election, admission, suspension or expulsion of members, is by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- ✓ Assembly resolutions are not binding on the members.
- ✓ The Assembly may make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security which are under Security Council consideration.

Powers and functions

- ✓ It appoints the non-permanent members to the Security Council.
- ✓ It appoints the Secretary-General of the UN based on the Security Council's recommendation.
- ✓ It considers reports from the other four organs of the United Nations, assesses the financial situations of member states, and approves the UN budget.
- ✓ The assembly works with the Security Council to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice.
- ✓ The General Assembly meets under its president or the UN secretary-general in annual sessions at UN headquarters in New York City.
- ✓ It can also reconvene for special and emergency special sessions.
- ✓ The first session was convened on 10 January 1946 in London.
- ✓ Today it has 193 members, out of which more than two-thirds are developing.

UN Women

- ✓ **In news:** UNGA celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women.
- ✓ The year 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
- ✓ The UNGA's High-Level meeting was held under the theme "Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".
- ✓ It was the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
- ✓ 10th anniversary of UN Women's establishment as the global champion for the empowerment of women and girls
- ✓ 5th anniversary of the global SDGs

About UN Women:

- UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- It was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.
- UN Women **became operational in January 2011.**
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).
- It focuses on **four strategic priorities:**
- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

NAM

- ✓ The NAM was **founded during the collapse of the colonial system** and at the height of the Cold War.
- ✓ Its actions were a key factor in the **decolonization process**, which led later to the attainment of **independence by many countries**.
- ✓ The **African-Asian Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955**, was convened by the Heads of State and Government **Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia**, who later became the founding fathers of the NAM.
- ✓ In the conference, **Ten Principles of Bandung** were set forth which later evolved as the **essential criteria to the membership of this movement**.
- ✓ Respect of fundamental human rights and of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- ✓ Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
- ✓ Recognition of equality among all races and among all big nations.
- ✓ Non-intervention into the internal affairs of another country.
- ✓ Respect the right of every nation to defend itself, either individually or collectively.
- ✓ Non-use of collective defense pacts to benefit the specific interests of any of the great powers.
- ✓ Refraining from acts or threats of aggression and use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
- ✓ Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means
- ✓ Promotion of mutual interest and cooperation.
- ✓ Respect for justice and international obligations.
- ✓ Six years after Bandung, **the NAM was officially established, at the First Summit Conference of Belgrade, 1961**. Today **NAM is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc**.

Meeting and important discussions held

- ✓ The theme of the 2020 summit was - *"United against COVID-19"*.
- ✓ It was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- ✓ The objective of the summit was to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilise efforts of States and international organizations to address the pandemic.
- ✓ The leaders who addressed the summit announced the creation of a Task Force for a "common database" showing medical, social and humanitarian details from the participating countries.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- ✓ WHO is a United Nations agency created in **1948**?
- ✓ It is **headquartered in Geneva**, Switzerland.
- ✓ It was founded to coordinate and direct the UN's global health effort.
- ✓ It has no authority over its **194-member countries** and depends on member contributions to carry out its work.
- ✓ **All of the member states of the UN except for Liechtenstein, plus the Cook Islands and Niue** are its members.
- ✓ Its **main objective** is ensuring *"the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health"*.
- ✓ India is a founding member.
- ✓ The **World Health Assembly (WHA)** is the WHO's legislative and supreme decision-making body.
- ✓ It appoints the **Director-General** every five years and votes on matters of policy and finance of WHO, including the proposed budget.
- ✓ The Assembly elects 34 members, technically qualified in the field of health, to the **Executive Board** for three-year terms.
- ✓ The Executive Board gives effect to the decisions and policies of the WHA.
- ✓ At present the Director General is **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

Types of contributions

- Voluntary contributions are funds for specific programme areas provided by Member States or other partners.
- Assessed contributions are the dues Member States pay depending on the states' wealth and population.
- Core voluntary contributions are funds for flexible uses provided by Member States or other partners.

OPEC

- ✓ The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference held in Iraq in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ✓ It initially had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland which was then moved to Vienna, Austria in 1965.
- ✓ The objective is to
- ✓ coordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries;
- ✓ in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers;
- ✓ an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations;
- ✓ a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry;
- ✓ Currently, the Organization has a total of 13 Member Countries- Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.
- ✓ Venezuela has the highest crude oil reserves followed by Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Non-OPEC countries which are major oil producers are:

- Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, Sudan, South Sudan, Brazil and Bolivia.

FAO

- ✓ It was established in 1945.
- ✓ FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- ✓ Goal of FAO is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- ✓ The FAO Headquarters is located in the city centre of Rome
- ✓ Member states: 194
- ✓ It has 5 Regional offices with Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand
- ✓ In 1945 India became one of the founding members of FAO as a low-income food-deficit country.

G7

- ✓ G7 stands for "Group of Seven" industrialized nations.
- ✓ It used to be known as the G8 (Group of Eight) until 2014 when Russia was excluded because of its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.
- ✓ France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany formed the Group of Six in 1975 so that the noncommunist powers could come together to discuss important economic issues, global security etc...
- ✓ Canada joined the group in 1976.
- ✓ Russia joined in 1998.
- ✓ The G7 is an informal bloc and takes no mandatory decisions, so the leaders' declarations at the end of the summit are not binding.
- ✓ At present, the group includes the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Japan, France and Italy.
- ✓ The European Union has been involved in G7 work since 1977, and is represented at the summit by the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council.
- ✓ Generally, every member country hosts the summit once every 7 years.

- ✓ It is composed of the seven wealthiest advanced countries.

G20

- ✓ G20, is a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors from nineteen of the world's largest countries as well as the EU.
- ✓ Though founded in 1999, as a response to the 2008 financial crisis, the G20 was upgraded to head of state level in an inaugural summit in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ G20 leaders first met in Washington in 2008, after the fall of Lehman Brothers.
- ✓ Gradually its power and prestige has surpassed that of the G7.
- ✓ Emerging powers including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, whose absence from the G7 was often noted, including Russia, all belong to the G20.
- ✓ G20 summits have been the occasion for setting ambitious goals. E.g. in Hangzhou, China, in 2016, President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping used the summit to jointly announce their accession to the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ It's also known as the "*Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy*".

ILO

- ✓ The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- ✓ Founded in 1919 under the League of Nations.
- ✓ It is the **first and oldest specialised agency of the UN**.
- ✓ The ILO has 187 member states and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ ILO has a **unique tripartite structure**: all standards, policies, and programmes require discussion and approval from the representatives of governments, employers, and workers.
- ✓ In 1969, the ILO received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- ✓ India is the founding member of ILO.
- ✓ There are **eight Core Conventions of the ILO** (also called fundamental/human rights conventions) are:
 - ✓ Forced Labour Convention
 - ✓ Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
 - ✓ Equal Remuneration Convention
 - ✓ Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention
 - ✓ Minimum Age Convention
 - ✓ Worst forms of Child Labour Convention
 - ✓ (The **above Six have been ratified by India**)
 - ✓ Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention
 - ✓ Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention
 - ✓ (These two have not been ratified by India)

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- ✓ It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ The ICJ's primary functions are to settle international legal disputes submitted by states (contentious cases) and give advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by the UN (advisory proceedings).
- ✓ It is the successor of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was established by the League of Nations in 1920 and began its first session in 1922.
- ✓ All members of the UN are party to the ICJ Statute.
- ✓ The ICJ comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- ✓ The court is seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, making it the only principal U.N. organ not located in New York City.

- ✓ Non-UN members may also become parties to the court's statute. Once a state is a party to the court's statute, it is entitled to participate in cases before the court.
- ✓ However, being a party to the statute does not automatically give the court jurisdiction over disputes involving those parties.
- ✓ The issue of jurisdiction is considered in the three types of ICJ cases: contentious issues, incidental jurisdiction, and advisory opinions.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ✓ ICC is an international organization which investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the *gravest crimes of concern to the international community*: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.
- ✓ As a court of last resort, *it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts.*
- ✓ Hence it exercises its jurisdiction only when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the UNSC or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- ✓ Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
- ✓ It began functioning on 1 July 2002.
- ✓ States which become party to the Rome Statute become member states of the ICC.
- ✓ As of March 2019, there are 122 ICC member states.
- ✓ India is not a signatory to ICC.
- ✓ It is composed of eighteen judges elected to nine year terms and not re-elected for further terms.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

- ✓ CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia that **consists of selected post-Soviet states.**
- ✓ It originates from the conclusion of the Collective Security Treaty, which was signed in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on May 15, 1992 by the heads of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The treaty entered into force upon completion of the national ratification procedures on April 20, 1994.
- ✓ It is **headquartered in Moscow, Russia.**
- ✓ It has **6 members**- *Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Belarus.*

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- ✓ SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- ✓ The creation of SCO was announced on 15 **June 2001** in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- ✓ India was also made an observer at the SCO in 2005.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed during the St.Petersburg SCO Heads of State meeting in June 2002, and **entered into force on 19 September 2003.**
- ✓ During the meeting of Heads of State Council of SCO ON 8-9 June **2017** in **Astana** the status of a full member of the Organization was granted to India and Pakistan.
- ✓ The organisation has **two permanent bodies** — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.
- ✓ The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese.**