

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.
- The AU was announced in the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libya, on 9 September 1999.
- The bloc was founded on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and launched on 9 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa.
- The intention of the AU was to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa by 32 signatory governments (the OAU was disbanded on 9 July 2002).
- The **main administrative capital is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, where the African Union Commission is headquartered.
- **Mali, Guinea, Sudan and recently Burkina Faso's membership has been suspended.**
- 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).

IAEA:

- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
- It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family.
- Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, it reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- It is **headquartered in Vienna, Austria.**
- Currently, it has 173 members.
- Three main pillars underpin the IAEA's mission: Safety and Security; Science and Technology; and Safeguards and Verification.
- The IAEA is funded by contributions from member states and donations from non-members.
- It 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.
- NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.
- **POLITICAL** – NATO promotes democratic values.
- **MILITARY** – NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.
- 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 2022, there are 30 member states (28 European states, the United States, and Canada), with the most **recent member state to be added was North Macedonia** on 27 March 2020.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- Finland and Sweden would likely have their NATO accession fast-tracked if their applications are approved.
- **Headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium**, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.
- All decisions of NATO are taken by consensus.
- **India is not a member of NATO.**

EU:

- The European Union is an international organization 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**.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

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, 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.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- 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**-
 1. To keep peace throughout the world;
 2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
 3. 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;
 4. To be a centre 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.**

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

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**.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

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:

- 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).

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.
- 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.**

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.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- 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.

UNHRC-

- It is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- **It was established by the UNGA on 15 March 2006** to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR, herein CHR)
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **The Council consists of 47 Member States**, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the UNGA members for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.
- No member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms.
- **The seats are distributed among the United Nations regional groups as follows:** 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and seven for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG).
- **The previous CHR had a membership of 53** elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through a majority of those present and voting.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- **The UNGA, with its two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, “may suspend the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council** that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights”. Abstentions do not count.
- **The Council investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in United Nations member states.**
- It addresses thematic human rights issues like freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.
- **The Council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** and engages in the United Nations special procedures.

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 in **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 is composed of the **seven wealthiest advanced countries**.
- 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.

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**.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- 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):

- **The ICJ, sometimes known as the World Court**, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It settles disputes between states in accordance with international law and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues.
- It is the only international court that adjudicates general disputes between countries, with its rulings and opinions serving as primary sources of international law.
- It was established in 1945 and is located in the Hague, Netherlands.
- **The ICJ is the successor of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)**, which was established in 1920 by the League of Nations.
- After the Second World War, both the League and the PCIJ were replaced by the United Nations and ICJ, respectively.
- All member states of the UN are party to the ICJ Statute and may initiate contentious cases; however, advisory proceedings may only be submitted by certain UN organs and agencies.
- U.N. member states can bring claims of treaty violations against others to the ICJ when those treaties stipulate that the court is the appropriate venue to settle the breaches
- The court has 15 judges elected to nine-year terms by the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council.
- These organs vote simultaneously but separately.
- In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies.
- 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.

International organisations

- 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.**
- Indian Judge Dalveer Bhandari is also a member of this Court.

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- ICC is an international organisation 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.

Collective Security Treaty Organisation (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 Organisation (SCO):

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- 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.**

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

- It was **established on December 14, 1950** by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The UN refugee agency emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict.
- The agency is **mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.**
- Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.
- It **strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum** and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.
- **It also has a mandate to help stateless people.**
- **In 1954, UNHCR won the Nobel Peace Prize** for its groundbreaking work in Europe.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- FATF was **established in July 1989 by a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris**, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- **In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate** to incorporate efforts to **combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.**
- The current mandate of the FATF (2012-2020) was adopted at a Ministerial meeting in April 2012.
- **Members:** There are currently 39 members of the FATF; 37 jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations (the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission). India is also a member.
- **Observer members:** 30 countries and international organisations are observer organisations. These include the International Monetary Fund, the UN with six expert groups and the World Bank
- **The objectives of the FATF** are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- It is headquartered in Paris.

Various lists of FATF-

Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories / The FATF blacklist:

- It has been issued by the FATF since 2000.
- It lists countries which it judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, calling them “Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories” (NCCTs).
- As of 2020, **North Korea and Iran** are on the FATF blacklist.

Grey list /Watch list:

- “Increased monitoring list” is another name for the Grey List.
- Those countries which are considered as the **safe haven for supporting terror funding** and money laundering; included in this list.
- Grey list is a **warning given to the country** that it might come in Blacklist.

Council of Europe

- It is an **international organization founded in 1949 in the wake of World War II** to uphold human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Europe.
- **The ten founding members of the CoE** are *Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.*

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- It has **46 member states** (including all 27 EU members) and operates with an annual budget of approximately 500 million euros.
- The organization is **distinct from the 27-nation European Union (EU)**, although it is sometimes confused with it, partly because the **EU has adopted the original European Flag which was created by the Council of Europe** in 1955, as well as the European Anthem.
- No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe.
- The **headquarters** of the Council of Europe is in **Strasbourg, France**.
- **English and French are its two official languages**.
- The Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress of the Council of Europe also use German, Italian, and Russian for some of their work.
- **This council is an official United Nations Observer**.
- The **CoE cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements** reached by European states on various topics.
- **It is composed of four principal bodies:** the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, and the Secretariat.
- The **Committee of Ministers, which meets twice a year, is composed of the foreign ministers** of all council members.
- It **decides the council's budget and its program of activities** based on recommendations made to it by the Parliamentary Assembly and various expert committees.
- The **Parliamentary Assembly, which meets four times a year, is a deliberative body** consisting of representatives from national parliaments.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

- **FIFA is the highest global governing body of football** (also known as soccer to distinguish it from American football).
- It is **also the international governing body for futsal** (a kind of mini football played indoors on a hard court between two teams of five players each) and beach soccer (five-a-side, played on a beach).
- **Founded in 1904 in Paris, France** to oversee international competitions among the national football associations of a handful of West European countries, the membership of FIFA **now comprises 211 national football associations** around the world.
- **The founding president of FIFA was the Frenchman Robert Guerin**, who served from 1904-06.
- The longest serving president of FIFA was Jules Rimet (1921-54), after whom the FIFA World Cup was originally named.
- **Each of these national associations are members of one of the six confederations into which the footballing world is divided:** Africa, Asia, Europe, North & Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and South America.
- **FIFA, which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland**, supports these national associations financially and logistically through various programmes.
- **The FIFA Congress is the supreme legislative body of FIFA**, in which each of the 211 members of the organisation has a vote.
- The Congress ordinarily meets annually, and members of the Congress propose candidates for the host of the FIFA World Cup and presidency of FIFA.
- **In the intervals when the FIFA Congress is not meeting, the FIFA Council is the main decision making body of FIFA**.
- The FIFA Council consists of 37 members, including the president, eight vice presidents, and 28 other members elected by the member associations.
- Each member is elected for a term of four years. Each confederation must elect at least one representative who is a woman.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- **FIFA is responsible for organising and promoting football's major international tournaments**, most importantly **the football World Cup**, which began in 1930, and the Women's World Cup which began in 1991.
- **The men's World Cup, held every four years**, is FIFA's marquee event.
- The next World Cup is scheduled to be held in Qatar in November-December this year.
- **Brazil has won the World Cup competition the most number of times (5), followed by Italy and Germany (4 each), and Argentina, France, and Uruguay (2 each).**
- FIFA is a member of the International Football Association Board, which sets the rules of football, and it applies and enforces those rules across all FIFA competitions.
- All FIFA tournaments generate revenue from sponsorship.

About UEFA-

- **UEFA is the Union of European Football Associations, which organises the annual UEFA Champions League, the competition of Europe's top football clubs.**
- It is the administrative body for football, futsal and beach soccer in Europe, as well as Armenia, Israel and the Asian parts of some transcontinental countries.
- It is one of six continental confederations of world football's governing body FIFA.
- It consists of 55 national association members.
- It represents the national football associations of Europe, runs national and club competitions including the UEFA European Championship, UEFA Nations League, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Europa Conference League, and UEFA Super Cup, and controls the prize money, regulations, and media rights to those competitions.

Arctic Council-

- It is a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction towards sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- It was formally established in 1996.
- All Arctic Council decisions and statements require consensus of the eight Arctic States.
- Only states with territory in the Arctic can be members of the council.
- **The member states consist of Canada, Denmark (representing Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.**
- The Ottawa Declaration defines these states as Members of the Arctic Council.
- The Council's Strategic Plan 2021-2030 guides its work towards the Arctic as a "region of peace, stability and constructive cooperation that is a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable and secure home for all its inhabitants, including Indigenous Peoples."

FIDE

- **The International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, commonly referred to by its French acronym FIDE**, is an international organization **based in Switzerland** that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of the sport of chess, and it regulates all international chess competitions.
- Constituted as a non-governmental institution, it was **recognized by the International Olympic Committee as a Global Sporting Organization in 1999.**
- **FIDE currently has its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland**, but it was **initially founded in 1924 in Paris** under the motto "Gens una Sumus" (Latin for "We are one Family").
- It was one of the very first International Sports Federations, alongside the governing bodies of the sports of Football, Cricket, Swimming, and Auto Racing.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- It has 195 countries as affiliate members, in the form of National Chess Federations.
- **FIDE's most visible activity is organizing the World Chess Championship since 1948.**
- It also organizes world championships for women, juniors, seniors, and the disabled.
- Another flagship event is the **Chess Olympiad, a biennial chess tournament organized since 1924**, in which national teams compete.
- In alternate years, FIDE also organizes the **World Team Championship**, in which the best teams from the previous Olympiad compete.
- As part of the World Chess Championship cycle, it also organizes the **Candidates Tournament**, which determines who will challenge the reigning World Champion, and the qualifying tournaments for the Candidates, such as the Chess World Cup, the FIDE Grand Prix, and the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2019.

Bucharest Nine

- The "**Bucharest Nine**" is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War.
- It includes **Romania and Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.**
- **Bucharest Format, often abbreviated as the B9, was founded on November 4, 2015**, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.
- **B9 was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been President of Romania since 2014**, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015, at the High-Level Meeting of the States from Central and Eastern Europe in Bucharest.
- **It offers a platform for deepening the dialogue and consultation among the participant allied states**, in order to articulate their specific contribution to the ongoing processes across the North-Atlantic Alliance, in total compliance with the principles of solidarity and indivisibility of the security of the NATO Member States.
- **All nine countries were once closely associated with the now dissolved Soviet Union**, but later chose the path of democracy.
- Romania, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria are former signatories of the now dissolved Warsaw Pact military alliance led by the Soviet Union. (The other Warsaw Pact countries were the erstwhile Czechoslovakia and East Germany, and Albania.)
- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were part of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- **All members of the B9 are part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**
- The B9 countries have been critical of President Vladimir Putin's aggression against Ukraine since 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula and Russia's recent military attack on Ukraine.

Three Seas initiative

- The Three Seas Initiative (3SI or TSI), known also as the Baltic, Adriatic, Black Sea (BABS) Initiative or simply as the Three Seas is a **forum of twelve states, in the European Union, running along a north-south axis from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic and Black Seas in Central and Eastern Europe.**
- The Initiative aims to create a regional dialogue on questions affecting the member states.
- Membership- Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- It was launched in 2015 by Polish President Andrzej Duda and Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović.
- In 2016, the first summit was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- The 3SI Investment Fund was set up in 2019.
- The 2021 summit was held in Bulgaria.
- **Latvia** will host the 7th Summit and Business Forum in June 2022.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC is the regional organization exclusive to the Bay.
- It has **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand as members.**
- These member countries are located along the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal, constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- **It came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.**
- **Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC'** (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- Myanmar joined the group in 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC'.
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).
- **The first BIMSTEC Summit was held on July 31, 2004** and the grouping then got its name BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- **Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization.**
- **Starting with six sectors**— including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries—for sectoral cooperation in late 1997, it **expanded to embrace nine more sectors**— including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change in 2008.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- **ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication.**
- It was established on 17 May 1865 as the **International Telegraph Union**, making it the oldest UN agency.
- It predates many other standardization bodies and its long and distinguished history contains a number of important 'firsts', such as the standardization of the use of the Morse code and the world's first radiocommunication and fixed telecommunication networks.
- **ITU's global membership includes 193 Member States** as well as some 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organizations.
- **Its Headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The ITU was initially aimed at helping connect telegraphic networks between countries, with its mandate consistently broadening with the advent of new communications technologies.
- It adopted its current name in 1934 to reflect its expanded responsibilities over radio and the telephone.
- On 15 November 1947, the ITU entered into an agreement with the newly created United Nations to become a specialized agency within the UN system, which formally entered into force on 1 January 1949.
- The ITU is **governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference** and the Administrative Council.
- **The Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme organ of the Union.** It is the **decision making body** which determines the direction of the Union and its activities.
- The Council, on the other hand, acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences.
- Its role is to consider broad telecommunication policy issues to ensure that the Union's activities, policies and strategies fully respond to today's dynamic, rapidly changing telecommunications environment.

AUKUS treaty

- AUKUS, an acronym for "**Australia, United Kingdom, United States**", is a trilateral security pact.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

- The AUKUS pact will enable Australia to deploy nuclear-powered submarines in the Indo-Pacific in a major challenge to China and its claims in the region.
- Australia's nuclear-powered submarines, when deployed, will be armed with conventional weapons only and not nuclear weapons.
- The new pact **is not aimed (at) or about any one country** but it is about advancing their strategic interests, upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.
- The pact will focus on military capability, separating it from the Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand) countries.
- Aukus will also involve the sharing of cyber capabilities and other undersea technologies.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- It is a non-profit foundation **initiated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- It was set up on **10 November 1999** in Lausanne, Switzerland, as a result of the "**Declaration of Lausanne**", to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- Since 2002, the **organization's headquarters have been located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.**
- WADA is responsible for the **World Anti-Doping Code**, adopted by more than 650 sports organizations, including international sports federations, national anti-doping organizations, the IOC, and the International Paralympic Committee.
- As of 2021, its president is Witold Banka.
- Initially funded by the IOC, WADA receives half of its budgetary requirements from them, with the other half coming from various national governments.
- Its governing bodies are also composed in equal parts by representatives from the sporting movement (including athletes) and governments of the world.
- The **highest decision-making authority is the 38-member foundation board**, which is composed equally of IOC representatives and representatives of national governments.

International Cricket Council (ICC)

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is the world governing body of cricket.
- It was founded as the *Imperial Cricket Conference* in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.
- It was renamed as the *International Cricket Conference* in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987.
- The ICC has its **headquarters in Dubai, UAE.**
- The ICC has **106 member nations** currently: 12 Full Members (India is one of them, admitted in 1926) that play Test matches, and 94 Associate Members.
- The ICC is responsible for the organization and governance of cricket's major international tournaments, most notably the Cricket World Cup and the T20 World Cup.
- It also appoints the umpires and referees that officiate at all sanctioned Test matches, One Day Internationals and Twenty20 Internationals.
- It promulgates the ICC Code of Conduct, which sets professional standards of discipline for international cricket and also co-ordinates action against corruption and match-fixing through its Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU).
- The Chairman heads the board of directors and on 26 June 2014, Narayanaswami Srinivasan, the former president of BCCI, was announced as the first chairman of the council.
- When the post of ICC president was abolished in April 2016, Shashank Manohar, who replaced Srinivasan in October 2015, became the first independent elected chairman of the ICC.

PRELIMS SURESHOTS

Learn the wisest way....

International organisations

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

- The IOC is a non-governmental sports organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Founded by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas in 1894, it is the authority responsible for organizing the modern (Summer, Winter, and Youth) Olympic Games.
- The IOC is the governing body of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).
- The current president of the IOC is Thomas Bach of Germany.
- As of February 2022, its membership consists of 105 active members, 45 honorary members, and one honor member (Henry Kissinger).
- It organizes the modern Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games (YOG), held in summer and winter, every four years.
- The first Summer Olympics was held in Athens, Greece in 1896; the first Winter Olympics was in Chamonix, France in 1924; first Summer YOG was in Singapore in 2010 and the first Winter YOG in Innsbruck was in 2012.
- Until 1992, both summer and Winter Olympics were held in the same year.
- After that year, the IOC shifted the Winter Olympics to the even years between Summer Games.
- In 2009, the UN General Assembly granted the IOC Permanent Observer status.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.
- The International Meteorological Organization (IMO), whose concept dates back to the **Vienna International Meteorological Congress of 1873, gave birth to the organization.**
- Following the passage of the WMO convention in 1950, **the organization was founded as a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) in 1951.**
- Its headquarters are in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The WMO is made up of **193 countries** and territories, and facilitates the “free and unrestricted” exchange of data, information, and research between the respective meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members.
- It is governed by the World Meteorological Congress, composed of member states, which meets every four years to set policies and priorities.

International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- IFAD was established as an international financial institution in 1977 through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/107 as one of the **major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.**
- Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy, and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The President of the IFAD is Gilbert F. Hounbo from Togo, who was elected for a second four-year term in 2021.
- This is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the UN that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- It is the **only multilateral development organization that focuses on rural economies, food security and climate change.**
- IFAD has **177 member states** and works in partnership with the OPEC and OECD.