



DHALIWAL'S NEW CAREERS ACADEMY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS & MAJOR MULTILATERAL MEETINGS

FEBRUARY – JULY 2026

**EXPANDED
EDITION**

53

VERIFIED
ENTRIES



Foundation Facts • 2026 Sessions • Themes • Outcomes



India's Role • Exam Traps • Key Summits

NDA • CDS • AFCAT • CAPF • UPSC

KNOWLEDGE IS STRENGTH

Compiled August 2026

Table of Contents

Numbers below are entry numbers, matching the "entry N" cross-references used throughout this document. Page numbers refresh automatically.

UN System & Core Bodies

1.United Nations (UN) / UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	3
2.World Health Organization (WHO)	5
3.World Trade Organization (WTO)	5
22.International Labour Organization (ILO)	17
23.UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	18
24.World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	18
25.International Seabed Authority (ISA)	19
26.Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	19
27.International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	20

Security & Defence

4.North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	6
5.Group of Seven (G7)	7
6.Group of Twenty (G20)	8
8.Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	9
15.Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)	13
31.Munich Security Conference (MSC)	22

Regional & Political Blocs

9.Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	9
10.South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	10
11.Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)	11
12.African Union (AU)	11
13.Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	12
14.Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	12
32.League of Arab States (Arab League)	23
45.European Union (EU)	31

Reference Sections

UN System — Complete Structure	3
Major Environmental & Chemicals COPs — Reference	30
Which Bodies Have No Permanent Headquarters	35
Comparing the Major Development Banks	35
Binding vs. Non-Binding Bodies	36
Month-wise Rapid Revision	36
High-Yield One-Liners for Exams	37
Source Base and Verification Notes	38

Economic, Trade & Finance

16.Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	13
17.Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	14
18.Asian Development Bank (ADB)	14
19.International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank Group	15
20.Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	16
21.Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	16
28.India AI Impact Summit / AI for Good (Global AI Governance Track)	20
29.Pax Silica (US-led Economic Security Grouping)	21
30.Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) - OUTSIDE-WINDOW EXAM TRAP	22
33.African Development Bank Group (AfDB)	23

Climate, Environment & Biodiversity

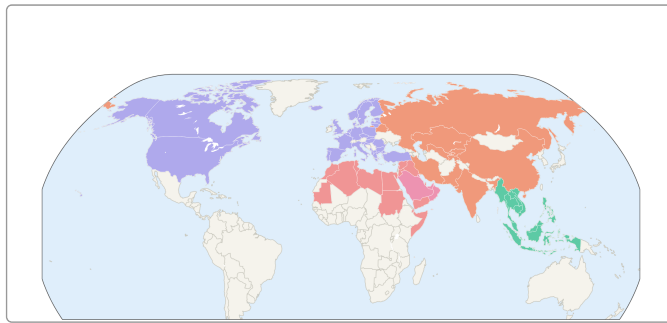
35.Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD)	24
36.G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (2026, French Presidency)	25
37.World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)	25
38.Nuclear Energy Summit (2nd edition)	26
39.IPBS (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)	27
40.World Environment Day (WED)	28
41.India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2031-2035	28
42.Montreal Protocol (ozone layer)	29
43.Basel Convention (hazardous waste)	29
44.CMS	30

UN Functional Commissions

34.UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD)	24
46.Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	31
47.Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	32

Multilateral Groupings (BRICS/G20 historical + India bilateral)

7.BRICS	8
48.India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)	32
49.G20 Summit 2023	33
50.G20 Summit 2024	33
51.G20 Summit 2025	34
52.1st BRIC Summit (2009)	34
53.17th BRICS Summit (2025)	34



Combined overview: G7, NATO, SCO, ASEAN and Arab League/GCC member countries (see individual maps below for full country labels and for SAARC/BIMSTEC, Pax Silica and AU)

1. United Nations (UN) / UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Full form	United Nations; UNHRC = United Nations Human Rights Council
Established	UN: 24 October 1945; UNHRC: 2006
Headquarters	UN: New York; UNHRC: Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	UN: 193 Member States; UNHRC: 47 elected members
Core purpose	Peace and security, development, human rights, international cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- UN Secretary-General: António Guterres (Portugal) — in office since 1 Jan 2017, began a second 5-year term 1 Jan 2022 (runs through 31 Dec 2026). Elected by the UN General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council (a P5 veto applies at the recommendation stage). The race to select his successor formally opened in 2026, for a term beginning 1 Jan 2027.
- UNHRC President for 2026: Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro (Indonesia) — elected annually by the Council's 47 member states from among themselves.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	61st and 62nd Regular Sessions of the Human Rights Council
Dates	61st: 23 Feb-31 Mar 2026; 62nd: 15 Jun-8 Jul 2026
Venue	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Chair / President	Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro (Indonesia) for 2026 HRC cycle
Theme	No single summit theme; agenda covered global human-rights situations and thematic rights issues

Major outcomes / decisions

- 61st session included a high-level segment with more than 100 dignitaries and multiple thematic panels.
- 62nd session concluded after adopting 28 resolutions; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the annual report.
- Iran, Sudan/El Fasher, Haiti and other crisis situations remained recurring subjects.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The HRC sessions fell amid multiple armed conflicts and growing debate over digital technology, discrimination, disability inclusion and accountability.

India angle

- India participates in UN human-rights processes and tracks country-specific and thematic resolutions closely.

Exam focus / traps

- UNHRC is based in Geneva, not New York.
- UNHRC has 47 elected members; the UN has 193 Member States.
- Static GK beyond this window: the UN Charter was signed in San Francisco (26 June 1945) and came into force 24 October 1945 (marked annually as UN Day); UNHRC replaced the older UN Commission on Human Rights in 2006, which had been criticised for politicisation.
- The UNSC's 5 permanent members (P5) have held their veto-bearing seats unchanged since 1945; all UNGA resolutions are non-binding recommendations, unlike UNSC resolutions under Chapter VII.

UN System — Complete Structure (Static GK Reference)

The United Nations is not a single body — it is a family of six Principal Organs, 15 Specialized Agencies, and numerous Programmes, Funds and Related Organizations. This reference maps the full structure. Bodies that already have a full Feb-Jul 2026 entry elsewhere in this document are cross-referenced by entry number.

A. Six Principal Organs (established by the UN Charter, 1945)

Principal organ	Headquarters	Composition / function
General Assembly (UNGA)	New York, USA	All 193 Member States; main deliberative/policy-making organ; one country, one vote
Security Council (UNSC)	New York, USA	15 members — 5 permanent (China, France, Russia, UK, USA) with veto + 10 elected (2-year terms); primary responsibility for international peace and security
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	New York, USA	54 members, elected for 3-year terms; coordinates economic, social and related work of the UN and its specialized agencies; oversees Functional and Regional Commissions (see entry 1/34 — Commission for Social Development is one such Functional Commission)
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	The Hague, Netherlands	Principal judicial organ; 15 judges, 9-year terms; settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions — NOT the same as the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is a separate, non-UN treaty body
Secretariat	New York, USA (with major offices in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi)	Headed by the Secretary-General (currently António Guterres, Portugal); carries out the substantive/administrative work of the UN
Trusteeship Council	New York, USA	Suspended operations on 1 November 1994 after Palau (last UN trust territory) gained independence — common exam trap: it still formally exists on paper but does not meet

B. Specialized Agencies (autonomous bodies linked to the UN via agreements with ECOSOC)

Agency	Full form	Established	HQ	Core function
ILO	International Labour Organization	1919	Geneva	Labour standards, decent work (full entry: #22)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	1945	Rome	Food security, agriculture, nutrition
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	1945	Paris	Education, science, culture, World Heritage Sites

WHO	World Health Organization	1948	Geneva	International public health (full entry: #2)
World Bank Group	5 institutions: IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID	1944	Washington, D.C.	Development finance and poverty reduction (full entry: #19)
IMF	International Monetary Fund	1944	Washington, D.C.	Monetary/financial stability (full entry: #19)
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	1944	Montreal	Civil aviation standards and safety
UPU	Universal Postal Union	1874	Bern	Oldest UN specialized agency; coordinates postal policy
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	1865	Geneva	Oldest UN-system organization by founding date; telecom/ICT standards
WMO	World Meteorological Organization	1950	Geneva	Weather, climate and water-resource cooperation
IMO	International Maritime Organization	1948	London	Shipping safety and marine pollution prevention — only UN specialized agency HQ'd in London
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	1967	Geneva	Global IP services and treaties (full entry: #24)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	1977	Rome	Rural development financing; a UN specialized agency AND an international financial institution
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization	1966	Vienna	Industrial development in developing countries
UNWTO	UN World Tourism Organization	1974 (UN agency since 2003)	Madrid	Sustainable and responsible tourism

Exam trap: Rome hosts THREE UN food/agriculture-related bodies — FAO, IFAD and WFP (WFP is a Programme, not a Specialized Agency — see section C). Geneva hosts the most specialized agencies (ILO, WHO, ITU, WMO, WIPO).

C. Major UN Programmes and Funds (subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, not specialized agencies)

Programme / Fund	Full form	Established	HQ	Core function
UNDP	UN Development Programme	1965	New York	UN's global development network; publishes the Human Development Index (HDI)
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund	1946	New York	Child welfare, health, education and protection
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees	1950	Geneva	Refugee protection and assistance; Nobel Peace Prize 1954 and 1981
WFP	World Food Programme	1961	Rome	World's largest humanitarian food-assistance agency; Nobel Peace Prize 2020
UNEP	UN Environment Programme	1972	Nairobi	Global environmental policy coordination; only major UN body HQ'd in Africa
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	2010	New York	Merged four earlier gender-focused UN bodies
UNFPA	UN Population Fund	1969	New York	Reproductive health, population data and family planning
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime	1997	Vienna	Drug control, crime prevention, terrorism prevention
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development	1964	Geneva	Trade, investment and development policy; convenes a quadrennial Conference (UNCTAD16 was Oct 2025, Geneva — just before this window)
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees	1949	Amman (HQ relocated from Gaza)	Assistance to registered Palestine refugees only — distinct from UNHCR, which covers all other refugees
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme	1978	Nairobi	Sustainable urbanisation and human settlements

D. Related Organizations (work closely with the UN, report to the General Assembly, but are NOT Specialized Agencies)

Body	Full form	Established	HQ	Core function
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	1957	Vienna	Nuclear safeguards and peaceful nuclear use (full entry: #27) — reports to both the UNGA and UNSC, not linked via an ECOSOC agreement like true Specialized Agencies
WTO	World Trade Organization	1995	Geneva	Global trade rules (full entry: #3) — fully independent of the UN system, works with it only through cooperation agreements
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	1997	The Hague	Implements the Chemical Weapons Convention; Nobel Peace Prize 2013
CTBTO Prep Com	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (Preparatory Commission)	1996	Vienna	Monitors the global nuclear-test-ban verification regime; treaty not yet in force

Exam trap: WTO and IAEA are the two most commonly mis-labelled bodies — both are frequently called "UN specialized agencies" in casual usage, but neither is one. WTO has no UN link beyond cooperation agreements; IAEA reports directly to the UNGA/UNSC rather than through the ECOSOC agreement mechanism used for the 15 true Specialized Agencies in section B.

[Who heads the UN system — quick reference

- **UN Secretary-General:** António Guterres (Portugal), since 2017, current term to 31 Dec 2026 — elected by the General Assembly on Security Council recommendation (P5 veto applies at nomination stage).
- **ICJ President:** elected by the Court's 15 judges from among themselves for a 3-year renewable term (judges themselves are elected jointly by the UNGA and UNSC for 9-year terms).
- **WHO Director-General:** Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia) — elected by the World Health Assembly.
- **ILO Director-General:** Gilbert F. Houngbo (Togo) — elected by the tripartite Governing Body.
- **UNESCO Director-General:** Audrey Azoulay (France) — elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Executive Board.
- **World Bank Group President:** Ajay Banga (USA) — by convention always a US nominee, confirmed by the Board of Executive Directors.
- **IMF Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria) — by convention always European, confirmed by the Executive Board.
- **ITU Secretary-General:** Doreen Bogdan-Martin (USA) — elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- **UNDP Administrator:** Achim Steiner (Germany) — nominated by the UN Secretary-General, confirmed by the General Assembly.
- **UNICEF Executive Director:** Catherine Russell (USA) — by convention always a US nominee, appointed by the UN Secretary-General.
- **UNHCR High Commissioner:** Filippo Grandi (Italy) — elected by the UN General Assembly.
- **WFP Executive Director:** Cindy McCain (USA) — by convention always a US nominee, jointly appointed by the UN Secretary-General and FAO Director-General.
- **UNEP Executive Director:** Inger Andersen (Denmark) — appointed by the UN Secretary-General, confirmed by the General Assembly.
- **IAEA Director General:** Rafael Mariano Grossi (Argentina) — appointed by the Board of Governors, approved by the General Conference.

- **WTO Director-General** (related body, not a UN agency): Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) — appointed by consensus of the General Council.

General pattern worth remembering: most UN specialized-agency and programme heads are elected/appointed by that body's own governing assembly or executive board — not by the UN General Assembly directly (the Secretary-General is the main exception requiring UNGA + UNSC involvement). Several top posts follow long-standing (unwritten) nationality conventions: World Bank President = American, IMF Managing Director = European, UNICEF Executive Director = American, WFP Executive Director = American, ADB President = Japanese, AIIB President = Chinese.

2. World Health Organization (WHO)

Established	7 April 1948
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	194 Member States
UN status	Specialized agency of the United Nations
Core purpose	International public health; disease control; health standards; emergency response

Current leadership & how elected

- Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia) — first elected by the World Health Assembly (secret ballot) in May 2017, re-elected for a second 5-year term in May 2022 (runs to 15 August 2027). A Director-General may serve only two terms. WHO's next DG election process formally opened in April 2026, with the shortlist to be decided by the Executive Board in Feb 2027 and the final vote at WHA in May 2027.
- Election method: nominated by the 34-member Executive Board, then elected by secret ballot of all Member States at the World Health Assembly.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)
Dates	18-23 May 2026
Venue	Geneva, Switzerland
Theme	"Reshaping global health: a shared responsibility"
Related meetings	WHO Executive Board 158th Session: 2-7 Feb; EB159: 25-26 May; Pandemic Agreement IGWG talks: Mar/Apr 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- Reviewed WHO policy, programmes, financing and governance.
- Pandemic Agreement Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) annex negotiations remained unfinished and continued beyond WHA79.
- Global mental-health and NCD commitments were reviewed against recent UN commitments.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- WHO faced a funding squeeze and institutional stress after the U.S. withdrawal process, while pandemic-governance reforms were still being completed.

India angle

- India has a major stake in equitable access, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, digital health and pandemic preparedness.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India's health diplomacy at WHA79 built on its Ayushman Bharat programme (580+ million covered, extended to all citizens above 70) and its position as supplier of ~60% of global vaccine output — recurring talking points at successive WHAs.
- At the India AI Impact Summit (Feb 2026), Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched SAHI (Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India) and BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI) — flagship digital-health initiatives feeding directly into India's WHO engagement on AI-in-health governance.
- Union Budget 2026-27 announced five integrated Medical Value Travel hubs to expand India's medical-tourism sector, cited by PIB as part of India's "transformation into a Global Health Powerhouse."

Exam focus / traps

- WHA is WHO's supreme decision-making body.
- World Health Day is 7 April, marking WHO's founding date.
- Static GK: WHO's first Director-General was Brock Chisholm (Canada, 1948); WHO led the smallpox eradication campaign (declared eradicated 1980) — the only human disease ever eradicated by vaccination; headquartered in Geneva since founding, unlike its UN parent body (New York).

3. World Trade Organization (WTO)

Established	1 January 1995; successor to GATT 1947
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	166 members (current WTO membership)
Core purpose	Rules-based international trade; dispute settlement; trade negotiations

Current leadership & how elected

- Director-General: Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) — the WTO's 7th and first woman/first African DG; took office 1 March 2021, reappointed for a second 4-year term (1 Sep 2025 – 31 Aug 2029) by consensus of the General Council after emerging as the sole candidate.
- Election method: WTO members nominate candidates; the General Council appoints the DG by consensus (a vote is theoretically possible but has never been used).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14)
Dates	26-30 March 2026
Venue	Yaounde, Cameroon
Level	Trade ministers / highest WTO decision-making conference
Theme	No single slogan; focus on future of multilateral trading system and WTO reform

Major outcomes / decisions

- Members debated reform, development and negotiating priorities.
- Participants in the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement issued a ministerial declaration supporting implementation/incorporation efforts.
- MC14 renewed attention on keeping multilateral trade cooperation functional amid fragmentation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The meeting took place amid tariff tensions, supply-chain restructuring and debates over industrial policy and trade rules.

India angle

- India's traditional concerns include agriculture, food security/public stockholding, development flexibilities and policy space.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation at MC14, Yaounde (26-30 Mar 2026); Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal represented India at the opening ceremonial session.
- India's stated position: WTO reform must be transparent, inclusive, Member-driven, consensus-based, and keep development at its core — India stressed the WTO's foundational principles must not be diluted.
- On the sidelines, Goyal held bilateral meetings with counterparts from Canada, the EU (Maros Sefcovic), New Zealand, the US, China, Korea, Switzerland, Morocco and Oman — discussing the India-Canada CEPA, the concluded India-EU FTA's signing process, and the India-EFTA agreement.
- India's core MC14 asks: preserve policy space for food security and public stockholding, protect small farmers' and fishers' livelihoods, and resist any binding rules India has not consented to — consistent with India's long-standing WTO negotiating stance.

Exam focus / traps

- Ministerial Conference is the WTO's top decision-making body.
- Cameroon hosted MC14 in Yaounde.
- Static GK: WTO succeeded GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1947) on 1 January 1995, following the Uruguay Round (1986-1994); India was a founding GATT contracting party (1948) and founding WTO member (1995); the WTO's first MC was Singapore (1996).

4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Established	4 April 1949 - Washington Treaty
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium
Membership	32 allies — Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States (Finland joined 2023, Sweden 2024 — the two most recent and most exam-relevant accessions)
Core principle	Article 5 collective defence
Core purpose	Collective defence, deterrence, crisis management and security cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Mark Rutte (Netherlands, former Dutch PM) — took office 1 October 2024, succeeding Jens Stoltenberg.
- Election method: appointed by consensus of the North Atlantic Council (all 32 member states); term is typically 4 years, renewable, with no fixed limit.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2026 NATO Summit
Dates	7-8 July 2026
Venue	Ankara, Türkiye
Secretary-General	Mark Rutte
Document	Ankara Summit Declaration

Major outcomes / decisions

- Reaffirmed Article 5 and NATO's 360-degree deterrence approach.
- Advanced implementation of the defence/security investment target of 5% of GDP by 2035 (3.5% core defence + 1.5% broader security-related spending).
- Announced measures on defence industrial capacity, innovation and NATO-industry cooperation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

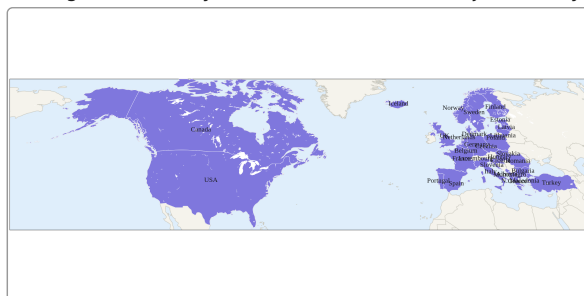
- Fifth year of Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine; burden-sharing pressure from Washington; concern over industrial readiness and emerging technologies.

India angle

- India is not a NATO member; questions often test this. India maintains bilateral ties with individual NATO states.

Exam focus / traps

- NATO ministerials preceded the summit: Defence Ministers 12 Feb and 18 Jun; Foreign Ministers 21-22 May.
- Türkiye previously hosted a NATO summit in Istanbul in 2004.
- Static GK: NATO's 12 founding members (1949) were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, UK and USA; NATO's founding treaty (Washington Treaty) was signed in Washington D.C., though NATO HQ is in Brussels; France withdrew from NATO's integrated military command in 1966 and rejoined only in 2009.



All 32 NATO member states as of the Ankara Summit, July 2026



NATO leaders' family photo, Presidential Palace, Ankara (7 Jul 2026)

5. Group of Seven (G7)

Established	1975 as G6; Canada joined 1976 -> G7
Members	Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA; EU participates
Headquarters	No permanent headquarters / secretariat
Core purpose	Informal coordination among major advanced democracies on economy, security and global issues

Current leadership & how elected

- G7 has no permanent head — the annual Presidency (and hosting duty) rotates yearly among the 7 members. France held the 2026 Presidency (President Emmanuel Macron); the USA holds the 2027 Presidency.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	52nd G7 Leaders' Summit
Dates	15-17 June 2026
Venue	Evian-les-Bains, France
Host / Presidency	France - President Emmanuel Macron
Broad focus	Macroeconomic coordination, international partnerships, security, critical minerals and global crises

Major outcomes / decisions

- Issued multiple declarations/statements on international partnerships, critical minerals, digital safety for minors, migrant smuggling, drug trafficking, health and security issues.
- Called for development and investment-finance reforms and stronger debt sustainability.
- Focused on global imbalances and resilient supply chains.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Held amid Middle East instability, Russia-Ukraine war, trade tensions and energy-market volatility.

India angle

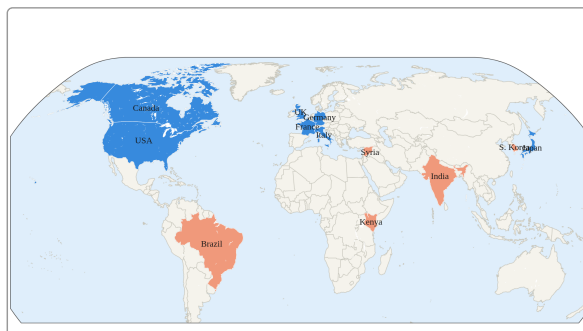
- India attended as an invited partner country.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- PM Modi attended the G7 Evian Summit as an invited partner country (17 June 2026 outreach session on AI) — his 8th G7-track appearance since 2019 Biarritz.
- PM addressed the Outreach Session "Ensuring a Safe, Rapid and Efficient Rollout of Artificial Intelligence," articulating India's human-centric ('MANAV') approach to AI — building directly on the India AI Impact Summit held four months earlier.
- Bilateral meetings on the margins: with US President Trump (progress toward an interim India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, USTR Jamieson Greer to visit India); with Canadian PM Mark Carney (India-Canada CEPA negotiations, energy/LNG cooperation, defence dialogue).
- The G7 invitation itself traces to the India-France Joint Statement (Feb 2026, on the margins of the AI Impact Summit), where President Macron formally invited PM Modi to Evian, building on the two leaders' AI Action Summit co-chairship in Paris (2025).

Exam focus / traps

- G7 is not a treaty organisation and has no permanent secretariat.
- Do not confuse G7 with G20.



G7 members and the countries invited to the 2026 Evian Summit



G7 leaders meeting in Evian, France (15 Jun 2026)

6. Group of Twenty (G20)

Established	1999 at finance-minister level; leaders' summit format from 2008
Members	19 countries + European Union + African Union — Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States (AU became a permanent member in 2023, during India's G20 presidency)
Headquarters	No permanent secretariat; presidency rotates annually
2026 Presidency	United States
Core purpose	International economic coordination and global financial stability

Current leadership & how elected

- G20 has no permanent head or secretariat — like the G7, the annual Presidency rotates among members. The USA held the 2026 Presidency; South Africa held 2025; the 2027 Presidency was under discussion.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
Date	16 April 2026
Venue	Washington, D.C., USA
Chair	United States G20 Presidency / U.S. Treasury
2026 finance priorities	Growth, global imbalances, debt transparency/restructuring, digital assets, cross-border payments and financial literacy

Major outcomes / decisions

- Discussed economic effects of the Middle East conflict, including agriculture, value chains, food and fertilizer.
- Members emphasized keeping food/fertilizer supply chains functioning and staying flexible in macroeconomic responses.
- IMF and World Bank coordination featured in the response discussion.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The U.S. Presidency pursued a narrower, results-oriented economic agenda while geopolitics continued to affect energy and commodity markets.

India angle

- India is a full G20 member and former 2023 presidency.

Exam focus / traps

- The 2026 Leaders' Summit is outside this study window: 14-15 Dec 2026, Miami, USA.
- Foreign Ministers' Meeting is also later: 30-31 Oct 2026, Atlanta.
- See entries 49-51 for the last three Leaders' Summits (New Delhi 2023, Rio de Janeiro 2024, Johannesburg 2025) — high-frequency static-GK material on host/theme/outcome.

7. BRICS

Origin	BRIC coined 2001; first leaders' summit 2009; South Africa joined 2010
Current full members	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia
Headquarters	No permanent headquarters / secretariat
2026 Chair	India
Core purpose	Political/economic coordination among major emerging economies; Global South cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- BRICS has no permanent head or secretariat — the annual Chairship rotates among full members. India held the 2026 Chairship (following Brazil's 2025 Rio chairship); Chairship carries the country's own head of government as de facto leader of that year's summit process.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	BRICS 2026 Ministerial Track under India's Chairship
Key meeting 1	Foreign Ministers: 14-15 May 2026, New Delhi
Key meeting 2	Women Ministerial: 8-9 Jul 2026, Kochi
Key meeting 3	16th Health Ministers' Meeting: 23 Jul 2026, Chandigarh
Chairship framework	Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (RICS)

Major outcomes / decisions

- Foreign Ministers confronted major geopolitical tensions and energy-security risks.
- Health Ministers adopted the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Declaration.
- BRICS health cooperation advanced TB research, infectious-disease early warning, healthy lifestyles, mental wellness, public-health institutes and digital health/AI.
- NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru — India's apex mental-health/neuroscience institute, an Institute of National Importance since 2012, running the Tele-MANAS tele-mental-health platform) was designated to coordinate the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- India's chairship came as the expanded BRICS sought to prove it could cooperate despite internal differences and global conflicts.

India angle

- India was 2026 BRICS Chair and hosted major sectoral ministerials.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India's BRICS 2026 Chairship theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" (RICS), guided by PM Modi's vision of 'Humanity First.'
- Beyond the Foreign Ministers/Women's/Health tracks already listed, India hosted a wide sectoral ministerial calendar in 2026, including the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum (11-12 Jun, New Delhi, theme 'Cities for People') and the BRICS Ministerial on Disaster Risk Reduction (24 Jul, New Delhi, chaired by MoS Home Nityanand Rai).
- Later in India's Chairship year (outside this Feb-Jul window but worth noting): the 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting and 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting were both held in Jaipur — India pushed the Jaipur Consensus on a BRICS Invoice Discounting Mechanism and reaffirmed the WTO's centrality to the multilateral trading system.
- The 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit itself — the capstone event of India's chairship, chaired by PM Modi (website: brics2026.gov.in) — falls later in 2026, outside this Feb-Jul window; the ministerial track covered here is the preparatory groundwork for it.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse BRICS leaders' summit with the ministerials listed here; this guide is limited to Feb-Jul.

8. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Established	15 June 2001, Shanghai
Headquarters	Beijing, China
Membership	10 full members including India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus
Core purpose	Regional security, counter-terrorism, economic and political cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Nurlan Yermekbayev (Kazakhstan) — heads the SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
- Chairmanship (rotating annually among members, distinct from the Secretary-General post): Kyrgyzstan held the 2025-26 SCO chairmanship, hosting the Council of Foreign Ministers (Jul 2026) ahead of the Bishkek Heads-of-State Summit (Sep 2026).
- Election method: the Secretary-General is appointed by the Council of Heads of State on a rotational basis among member states for a 3-year, non-renewable term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	SCO Council of Foreign Ministers
Date	24 July 2026
Venue	Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan
Purpose	Prepare the 2026 Heads of State Summit and review political, security, economic and humanitarian cooperation
Related meeting	Council of National Coordinators: 19-22 Jul 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- Prepared draft documents for leaders, including the proposed Bishkek Declaration marking SCO's 25th anniversary.
- Reviewed security, politics, economy and institutional modernisation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- SCO balances security cooperation with divergent interests among its major Eurasian members.

India angle

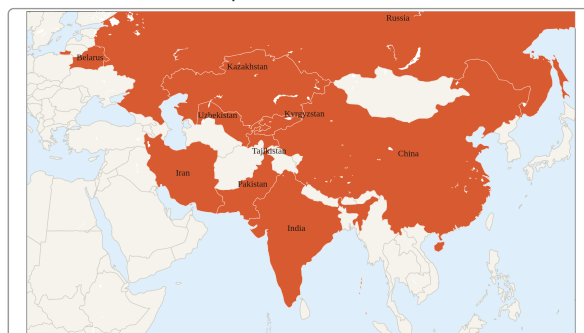
- India participated; Indian questions often focus on SCO membership, RATS and India-Pakistan/China dynamics.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation to the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (28 April 2026) — held against the backdrop of West Asia turmoil; India underlined its zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and extremism.
- India's SCO engagement is consistently framed around PM Modi's 'SECURE' vision: Security, Economic cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty/territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- India held the SCO Council of Heads of Government chairship in 2020 and the Council of Heads of State chairship in 2023 — useful for distinguishing India's past SCO chairship years from the 2025-26 Kyrgyz chairship in this window.

Exam focus / traps

- 2026 SCO Heads of State Summit is outside the cutoff: 1 Sep 2026, Bishkek.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states

9. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Established	8 August 1967 - Bangkok Declaration
Secretariat	Jakarta, Indonesia
Membership	11 members by 2026, including Timor-Leste — Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Timor-Leste (admitted 2025, newest member)
Core purpose	Regional peace, economic integration and political-security cooperation
2026 Chair	Philippines

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Kao Kim Hourn (Cambodia) — in office since 1 January 2023 for a single, non-renewable 5-year term (through end-2027).
- Election method: appointed by the ASEAN Summit (Heads of State/Government) on the principle of alphabetical rotation among member states, subject to approval.
- 2026 ASEAN Chair (annually rotating, separate from the Secretary-General post): the Philippines, under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	48th ASEAN Summit
Dates	6-8 May 2026 cluster; Leaders' Summit on 8 May
Venue	Cebu / Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines
Theme	"Navigating Our Future, Together"
Chair	President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Major outcomes / decisions

- Emphasised energy security, food security and safety of ASEAN nationals.
- Advanced institutional strengthening and maritime cooperation.
- Cebu-related work on amending the ASEAN Charter was linked to a stronger institutional framework and Timor-Leste integration.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Middle East instability was affecting energy, food, transport and citizen safety; ASEAN also faced South China Sea and major-power competition pressures.

India angle

- India's Act East Policy (renamed/upgraded from the 1991 'Look East Policy' in 2014) is the umbrella framework for India's ASEAN engagement — it has four pillars: (i) Economic — deeper trade/investment integration via the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement and ongoing review of the ASEAN-India FTA; (ii) Political-Security — participation in the East Asia Summit, ADMM-Plus (defence ministers') and ASEAN Regional Forum; (iii) Connectivity — flagship projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project; (iv) Cultural/People-to-People — Nalanda University revival, ASEAN-India student/scholar exchanges. India also uses the policy to balance China's influence in Southeast Asia and to anchor its own Indo-Pacific strategy.
- India engages ASEAN through Act East Policy, the annual ASEAN-India Summit, the East Asia Summit and Indo-Pacific cooperation — India was ASEAN's first dialogue partner to be elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022).

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- 2026 was designated the 'ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation' (announced by PM Modi at the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit, Kuala Lumpur, Oct 2025) — the operative India-ASEAN framework running through the 48th ASEAN Summit window.
- Under this framework, India committed to a Second ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Meeting, a Second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, and continued its role as a 'First Responder' for disaster relief in the neighbourhood.
- The ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030) implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was reaffirmed as the guiding document for India's engagement through the Philippine chairship year.

Exam focus / traps

- ASEAN Secretariat is in Jakarta.
- ASEAN Day: 8 August.
- Static GK: ASEAN's 5 founding members (Bangkok Declaration, 1967) were Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand; Brunei joined 1984, Vietnam 1995, Laos & Myanmar 1997, Cambodia 1999, and Timor-Leste (2025) is the 11th and newest member.



The 11 ASEAN member states, including Timor-Leste, admitted in 2025

10. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Established	8 December 1985, Dhaka
Secretariat	Kathmandu, Nepal
Membership	8: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Core purpose	Regional cooperation and development in South Asia

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: post rotates by 2-year term among the 8 member states, elected by the Council of Ministers on the principle of alphabetical rotation.
- 2026 SAARC chairmanship of the Programming Committee: Nepal (host of the 62nd Session).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	62nd Session of the SAARC Programming Committee
Dates	11-12 February 2026
Venue	Kathmandu, Nepal
Chair	Nepal
Level	Joint Secretary / senior-official level - not a leaders' summit

Major outcomes / decisions

- Finalised programmes and budgets for the Secretariat and Regional Centres for 2026.
- Reviewed sectoral meetings and activities.
- A separate poverty-alleviation expert-group meeting in Male on 22-23 Apr worked on the first SAARC Development Report.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- SAARC's summit-level process remains stalled because of political tensions, especially India-Pakistan relations and cross-border terrorism concerns.

India angle

- India is a founding member and the largest SAARC economy.

Exam focus / traps

- Last SAARC Summit: 18th Summit, Kathmandu, 2014.
- Correct exam line: SAARC was active at technical/official level in 2026, but no leaders' summit occurred.
- Static GK: SAARC's 1st Summit was Dhaka, 1985 (the founding summit, all 7 original members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka); Afghanistan joined later, in 2007, becoming the 8th member.



All 8 SAARC member states, zoomed

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

Established	6 June 1997 - Bangkok Declaration
Secretariat	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Membership	7: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
Region	Links South Asia and Southeast Asia around Bay of Bengal
Core purpose	Connectivity, security, trade, energy and sectoral cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: appointed by the BIMSTEC Ministerial Council for a fixed term (currently held by a Sri Lankan diplomat as of this window), based at the Dhaka Secretariat.
- BIMSTEC chairmanship rotates alphabetically among the 7 members; India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval led India's 2026 hosting of the National Security Chiefs meeting.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	5th Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs
Date	16 July 2026
Venue	New Delhi, India
Indian lead	National Security Adviser Ajit Doval
Related 2026 milestone	BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation entered into force on 16 May 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- Discussed terrorism, organised crime, cyber security, maritime security, energy, connectivity and disaster management.
- Adopted BIMSTEC Guidelines for the Maritime Component of HADR and principles for maritime law-enforcement interactions at sea.
- AMTC explained: signed by BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers on 3-4 April 2025 at the 6th Summit (Bangkok); required ratification by at least 4 member states to enter into force. India ratified FIRST, followed by Bhutan and Thailand; Myanmar's ratification (13 May 2026) was the 4th, triggering entry into force on 16 May 2026 — currently effective only among these 4 ratifying states (Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka had not yet ratified as of this window).
- AMTC's substance: harmonises maritime policies and customs procedures across the Bay of Bengal, promotes port-infrastructure investment, maritime safety, environmental sustainability and shipping digitalisation. India has proposed a BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Maritime Transport (BSMarTC), to be set up at the Maritime Training Institute, Powai, Mumbai, to help operationalise the agreement.

Backdrop - why it mattered

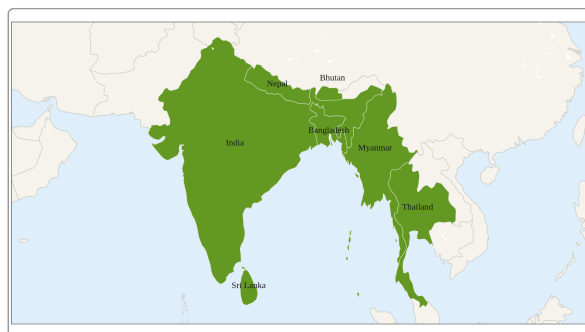
- BIMSTEC has gained strategic weight while SAARC summit-level cooperation remains frozen. Bay of Bengal connectivity and maritime resilience are central.

India angle

- India hosted the National Security Chiefs meeting and sees BIMSTEC as central to Neighbourhood First and Act East.

Exam focus / traps

- 6th BIMSTEC Summit was in Bangkok in April 2025 - not 2026.
- AMTC signed in 2025; entered into force in 2026.



All 7 BIMSTEC member states, zoomed

12. African Union (AU)

Established	9 July 2002; successor to Organisation of African Unity (1963)
Headquarters	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Membership	55 African states
Core purpose	African integration, peace/security, development, Agenda 2063

Current leadership & how elected

- Chairperson of the AU Commission (the AU's chief administrative officer, based in Addis Ababa): Mahmoud Ali Youssouf (Djibouti) — elected by the AU Assembly for a 4-year term.
- Chairperson of the AU (rotating annual political leadership, distinct from the Commission Chairperson): Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi, took over for 2026 from Angola's João Lourenço — elected annually by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	39th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly
Dates	14-15 February 2026
Venue	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2026 Theme	"Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063"
2026 AU Chair	Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi

Major outcomes / decisions

- Put water security and sanitation at the centre of the 2026 continental agenda.
- Discussed Sudan, South Sudan, Sahel security, AfCFTA, climate issues, institutional reform and UNSC reform.
- Advanced the Africa Water Vision 2063 / policy agenda.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Africa faced conflict, climate stress, debt and development pressures while seeking a stronger global voice.

India angle

- India engages AU through India-Africa partnerships; AU became a permanent G20 member during India's 2023 presidency.

[PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India-Africa Strategic Partnership Meet was convened on the margins of the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 (21 March 2026, New Delhi), chaired by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, with African Union representatives, Africa50's CEO, and ministers from several African nations in attendance.
- India's AU-linked engagement builds on its long-running SAGAR ('Security and Growth for All in the Region') and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ('the world is one family') framing for Africa relations, and the India-Africa Defence Dialogue held alongside DefExpo.
- India continues to cite the AU's 2023 admission as a permanent G20 member (secured during India's own G20 presidency) as a marker of its advocacy for African representation in global governance.

Exam focus / traps

- AU has 55 member states.
- Headquarters: Addis Ababa.
- Memorisation aid — AU's 5 sub-regions (a standard way to break down all 55 members for recall): North Africa (5): Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt — mnemonic 'MATLE' or the phrase 'My Aunt Tied Libya's Egg' (M-A-T-L-E). West Africa (15): Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo. Central Africa (9): Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé & Príncipe, Burundi. East Africa (13): Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. Southern Africa (10): Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Apply the same first-letter-phrase technique to any sub-region you find hard to recall — it scales well since each sub-region rarely exceeds 15 countries.

13. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Established	25 September 1969
Headquarters	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Membership	57 states
Core purpose	Cooperation among Muslim-majority / Islamic states; political, economic, cultural and humanitarian issues

[Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Hissein Brahim Taha (Chad) — assumed office 29 November 2020 (elected at the 47th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Niamey), for a renewable 5-year term.
- Election method: nominated/elected by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	52nd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers
Dates	11-12 April 2026
Venue	Baghdad, Iraq
Other in-window meetings	2nd Transport Ministers: 11-12 Feb Istanbul; emergency Executive Committee Foreign Ministers: 26 Feb Jeddah; Women Ministerial: 12-13 Jul Islamabad

Major outcomes / decisions

- Foreign-minister track dealt with regional security, Palestine and wider OIC cooperation.
- The 26 February emergency meeting addressed Israeli settlement/annexation-related developments in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- The OIC also progressed its 2026-2035 Programme of Action.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The Palestine question, regional wars and Gulf security dominated OIC diplomacy during the period.

India angle

- India is not an OIC member despite having one of the world's largest Muslim populations; this is a common exam point.

Exam focus / traps

- OIC is the second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN by membership count.
- Headquarters: Jeddah.

14. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Established	25 May 1981
Headquarters	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Membership	6: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE
Core purpose	Political, economic, security and regional coordination among Gulf Arab states

[Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi (Kuwait) — heads the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh.
- 2026 GCC Ministerial Council chairmanship (rotating annually): Bahrain, represented by Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.
- Election method: the Secretary-General is appointed by the GCC Supreme Council (Heads of State) for a 3-year term, renewable once.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	167th GCC Ministerial Council Meeting
Date	10 June 2026
Venue	Manama, Bahrain
Chair	Bahrain - Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani

Side event	3rd Gulf-Canada Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue
-------------------	--

Major outcomes / decisions

- Coordinated responses to regional attacks and security shocks.
- Focused on continuous information exchange, supply-chain resilience, movement of goods and diplomatic coordination.
- Note: an Extraordinary Consultative Summit of GCC leaders was also held 28 April 2026 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman) to address regional military escalation — a leaders-level session distinct from the 167th Ministerial Council above.

Backdrop - why it mattered

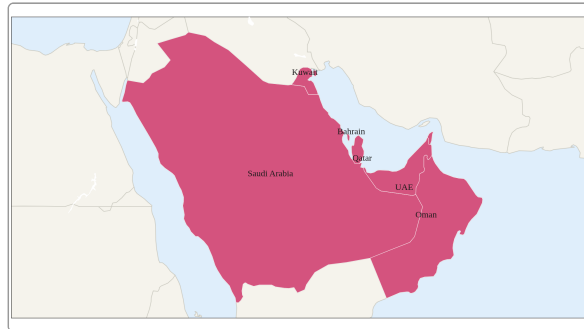
- The meeting occurred during severe Gulf security tension and missile/drone threats, placing collective resilience at the centre.

India angle

- India has deep energy, trade, investment and diaspora ties with all six GCC states.

Exam focus / traps

- GCC has exactly six members; Iraq and Yemen are not members.



All 6 Gulf Cooperation Council member states

15. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

Origins	2004 tsunami cooperation; diplomatic dialogue began 2007; revived 2017
Members	Australia, India, Japan, United States
Headquarters	No permanent headquarters or secretariat
Core purpose	Free and open Indo-Pacific; practical cooperation on maritime security, technology, supply chains, health and infrastructure

| Current leadership & how elected

- Quad has no permanent head, secretariat or chair — it functions through rotating host-country meetings at Leaders', Foreign Ministers', and working-group levels. India hosted the 2026 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2026 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Date	26 May 2026
Venue	New Delhi, India
Participants	Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the United States
Major initiative	Quad Critical Minerals Initiative (CMI) Framework

Major outcomes / decisions

- Agreed to support secure and diversified critical-mineral supply chains.
- Emphasised coordinated investment and economic-policy tools for advanced technologies and industrial resilience.
- What the Critical Minerals Initiative Framework actually is: a joint statement (building on the CMI first launched by Quad Foreign Ministers in July 2025) under which the 4 partners pledged to mobilise up to USD 20 billion in combined government and private-sector capital toward critical-minerals projects — covering the full chain of mining, processing and recycling, not just extraction.
- 3 core pillars: (i) Investment & project development — identifying and funding projects with a 'Quad nexus' (located in a partner country, run by a partner-headquartered company, or supplying Quad markets), using tools like export credit agencies, development finance institutions, loan guarantees, equity stakes, insurance and offtake agreements; (ii) Regulatory alignment — sharing best practices on permitting/licensing, cooperating on geological mapping and resource assessment, and coordinating against non-market policies and unfair trade practices; (iii) Recycling & recovery — improving critical-mineral recovery from e-waste and scrap, and streamlining cross-border movement of such scrap material.
- 'Critical minerals' covers the 17 rare-earth elements (15 lanthanides + scandium + yttrium) plus other non-fuel minerals essential to batteries, semiconductors, defence hardware and renewable-energy systems.
- Announced alongside two other Quad initiatives at the same meeting: the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration and a Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security; the meeting followed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Critical minerals became a core economic-security issue because of concentrated supply chains (China dominates ~60% of rare-earth mining and ~90% of processing) and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific — this Quad framework sits alongside India's bilateral India-US Critical Minerals Framework (signed the same day) and the broader US-led Pax Silica initiative (entry 29) as parallel tracks addressing the same chokepoint.

India angle

- India hosted the meeting in New Delhi; India separately signed a bilateral India-US Critical Minerals Framework the same day, and domestically anchors its own critical-minerals push through the National Critical Mineral Mission (launched Jan 2025, ₹16,300 crore outlay through 2030-31).

| PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- Quad foreign ministers expressed 'grave concerns' over export restrictions on critical minerals in their joint statement.
- The Maritime Surveillance Collaboration and Indo-Pacific Energy initiatives (announced alongside the CMI Framework) build on the 2024 Quad Leaders' Summit's semiconductor and AI-safety commitments.

Exam focus / traps

- Quad is not a military alliance and has no treaty-based Article 5-type commitment.
- Members = India, USA, Japan, Australia.
- Do not confuse the Quad CMI Framework (4 countries, May 2026) with Pax Silica (much wider ~24-country group, entry 29) — they are separate but overlapping initiatives addressing similar critical-minerals/supply-chain concerns.

16. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Established	7 March 1997
--------------------	--------------

Secretariat	Ebene, Mauritius
Membership	23 Member States — Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Core purpose	Regional cooperation across the Indian Ocean: maritime safety, trade, blue economy, disaster risk, fisheries, academic and tourism cooperation
India role	India holds the IORA Chairship for 2025-2027

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: appointed by the IORA Council of Ministers, based at the Ebene, Mauritius Secretariat, for a fixed term.
- India held the IORA Chairship for 2025-2027 (a rotating 2-year political chairship, distinct from the Secretariat's own Secretary-General).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	28th Meeting of the IORA Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
Dates	15-16 June 2026
Venue	New Delhi, India
Theme	"Innovation, Openness, Resilience & Adaptability"
Related meeting	6th Working Group on Maritime Safety & Security: 23 Jun 2026, hosted by Australia with India as coordinating country

Major outcomes / decisions

- Reviewed institutional matters and priority-area progress.
- Advanced discussion on the next IORA Action Plan (2028-2032).
- Reaffirmed commitment to a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

Backdrop - why it mattered

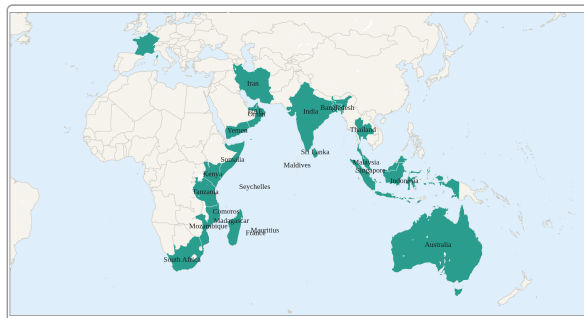
- Maritime safety, blue economy and disaster resilience became increasingly important as the Indian Ocean grew in strategic and commercial significance.

India angle

- India hosted the CSO meeting and chaired IORA for 2025-27.

Exam focus / traps

- IORA Secretariat is in Mauritius, not India.



All 23 IORA member states around the Indian Ocean rim (France shown via Réunion, its Indian Ocean territory)

17. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Established	1989
Secretariat	Singapore
Membership	21 member economies (not "countries") — Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vietnam
Core purpose	Trade, investment, economic integration and sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific
2026 Host	China

Current leadership & how elected

- APEC has no single 'head' — an Executive Director leads the Singapore-based Secretariat (administrative role) while the annual host economy's leader chairs that year's APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. China held the 2026 host year.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	APEC 2026 Senior Officials / Ministerial Track
Key dates	Finance & Central Bank Deputies: 4-5 Feb, Shanghai; SOM2/CTI cluster: May, Shanghai; 13th Tourism Ministerial: 27 Jun, Macao SAR
2026 framework	Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action
Level	Economic cooperation forum; no Feb-Jul leaders' meeting

Major outcomes / decisions

- China presented 2026 priorities and work plans.
- Trade and investment officials worked on digital transformation, AI-linked industry, food safety and trade facilitation.
- Tourism ministers discussed travel facilitation and regional tourism cooperation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- APEC's 2026 agenda reflected technology competition, supply-chain resilience and the need to preserve regional economic integration.

India angle

- India is not an APEC member.

Exam focus / traps

- APEC uses the term "member economies."
- APEC leaders' meeting is later in the year, outside this cutoff.

18. Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Established	19 December 1966
Headquarters	6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Membership	69 members — 49 regional (Asia-Pacific) + 19/20 non-regional (mainly Europe/North America; exact regional/non-regional split cited variously as 49/20 or 50/19 depending on source year)

Core purpose	Development finance and poverty reduction in Asia-Pacific
President	Masato Kanda

Current leadership & how elected

- President: Masato Kanda (Japan) — took office 24 February 2025.
- Election method: elected by the Board of Governors (finance ministers of the 69 member countries); by convention the ADB President has always been Japanese, reflecting Japan's largest shareholding alongside the US.
- Board of Directors (12 members, 8 regional + 4 non-regional): elected by the Board of Governors; sits full-time at Manila HQ and handles day-to-day approvals — distinct from the Board of Governors, which meets only once a year and travels to a different host country.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	59th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors
Dates	3-6 May 2026
Venue	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
Theme	"Crossroads of Progress: Advancing the Region's Connected Future"
Host	Uzbekistan

Major outcomes / decisions

- Focused on regional connectivity, digital innovation, development finance, resilience and inclusive growth.
- ADB urged the region to build more deeply connected and resilient systems.
- The Governors' Business Session adopted formal resolutions and reviewed operations.
- ADB's organisational structure and where each body sits: (i) Board of Governors — the highest policy-making body, one representative per member state; vests all institutional powers per the ADB Charter; meets formally once a year at the Annual Meeting (a different host city each year, e.g. Samarkand 2026, Aichi-Nagoya 2027) — it is NOT permanently based in Manila, it travels; (ii) Board of Directors — 12 members elected by the Governors (8 from the Asia-Pacific region, 4 from outside it), delegated most day-to-day powers by the Governors; performs its duties FULL-TIME at ADB headquarters in Manila, chaired by the President; supervises financial statements, approves the administrative budget, and reviews/approves all loan, equity and technical-assistance operations; (iii) President — elected by the Board of Governors for a renewable 5-year term, chairs the Board of Directors and heads a management team of 6 Vice-Presidents overseeing operational, administrative and knowledge departments; by convention always Japanese, reflecting Japan's top shareholding; (iv) Field presence — beyond Manila HQ, ADB maintains roughly 30-40 resident missions, regional offices and Pacific country offices spread across its borrowing developing member countries (DMCs), responsible for on-the-ground project engagement and coordination.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Asia-Pacific economies were being hit by geopolitical fragmentation, energy-price shocks and supply-chain risks.

India angle

- India is a founding ADB member and major borrower/shareholder.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India is traditionally represented at ADB's Annual Meeting by the Union Finance Minister (Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led India's delegation at recent editions in Milan 2025 and earlier years) along with Department of Economic Affairs officials — the same pattern applies to India's participation at the 59th Annual Meeting in Samarkand.
- Typical Indian engagements at ADB Annual Meetings include the Governors' Business/Plenary Sessions, bilateral meetings with fellow Finance Ministers and the ADB President, and panel participation on regional resilience and connectivity themes.

Exam focus / traps

- 2026 = 59th Annual Meeting; 2027 = 60th in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Static GK: ADB was established in 1966 with 31 founding members; Japan and the US remain the largest shareholders (each ~15.6%); India joined as a founding member in 1966; ADB's first President was Takeshi Watanabe (Japan).
- Exam trap: the Board of GOVERNORS meets only once a year and travels to a different host country each time (hence the Annual Meeting moving from Samarkand to Aichi-Nagoya); the Board of DIRECTORS is the one permanently seated full-time at Manila HQ — don't swap these two.

19. International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank Group

IMF established	1944 Bretton Woods; operations began 1945
IMF HQ	Washington, D.C., USA
World Bank origin	IBRD created 1944; HQ Washington, D.C.
Core purpose	IMF: monetary/financial stability; World Bank: development and poverty reduction

Current leadership & how elected

- IMF Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria) — in office since 1 October 2019, began a second 5-year term on 1 October 2024. By convention the IMF chief is always European.
- World Bank Group President: Ajay Banga (USA/India-born) — in office since 2 June 2023, a renewable 5-year term. By convention the World Bank chief is always a US nominee, reflecting the US's largest shareholding.
- Election method (both): nominated by the largest shareholding governments and confirmed by their respective Executive/Governing Boards — not a universal-membership vote.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2026 IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings
Dates	13-18 April 2026
Venue	Washington, D.C., USA
Key bodies	IMFC and Development Committee
Focus	Global outlook, debt, poverty, financial stability, development finance

Major outcomes / decisions

- Reviewed global economic conditions and financial risks.
- Debated debt sustainability, development financing and ways to unlock growth.
- Highlighted close IMF-World Bank coordination during geopolitical and commodity-market shocks.
- IMF's actual role, precisely: oversees the international monetary system, monitors exchange rates and member economies ('surveillance'), lends short/medium-term balance-of-payments support (NOT project financing) to countries in financial crisis, and provides technical assistance/capacity building — funded by member quota subscriptions, which also determine voting power.
- World Bank Group's 5 institutions, each with a distinct role (full detail in the comparison table below): IBRD lends to creditworthy middle-income and lower-income governments; IDA gives interest-free credits/grants to the poorest countries; IFC finances and invests directly in PRIVATE-sector companies in developing countries; MIGA insures foreign investors against political/non-commercial risk; ICSID (India is NOT a member) arbitrates investment disputes between states and foreign investors and provides no financing at all. 'The World Bank' strictly refers only to IBRD + IDA together; 'World Bank Group' refers to all 5.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The meetings came amid major shifts in geopolitics, trade and technology, plus Middle East-driven energy and supply shocks.

India angle

- India participates through the Finance Ministry/RBI and remains a major voice in quota, governance and development-finance reform debates.

[PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India is represented at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings by the Union Finance Minister, who also leads India's delegation at the parallel G20 and BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FCMBG) meetings held on the sidelines in Washington, D.C.
- Recurring Indian themes at Spring Meetings: reform of IMF quota/governance shares, debt transparency and restructuring for developing countries, and coordinated global responses to commodity/energy-price shocks.

Exam focus / traps

- Spring Meetings are not the same as the IMF-WB Annual Meetings held later in the year.
- Static GK: both IMF and World Bank were conceived at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference (Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA); the World Bank's original institution was the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development); India is a founding member of both (1945); IMF quota shares determine voting power, unlike the UNGA's one-country-one-vote system.
- Exam trap: IMF lends for balance-of-payments/currency crises (short-term); the World Bank lends for development PROJECTS (long-term, sector-specific) — the two are commonly confused as interchangeable 'international lenders' but their lending purposes are structurally different.
- See the dedicated 'Comparing the Major Development Banks' reference table (after entry 53's No-Permanent-HQ table) for a side-by-side of IMF, all 5 World Bank Group institutions, ADB, AfDB, AIIB and NDB.

20. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Established	30 September 1961 (evolved from the OEEC, founded 16 April 1948)
Headquarters	Château de la Muette, Paris, France
Membership	38 member countries — Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States (most recent member: Costa Rica, 2021)
Core purpose	Policy standards, economic analysis and cooperation on growth, trade, tax, governance and social policy

[Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Mathias Cormann (Australia, former Australian Finance Minister) — in office since 1 June 2021.
- Election method: appointed by the OECD Council (ambassadors of the 38 member countries) for a renewable 5-year term.
- 2026 Ministerial Council Meeting chair (rotating annually, distinct from the Secretary-General post): Finland.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2026 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM)
Dates	3-4 June 2026
Venue	OECD Headquarters, Paris
Chair	Finland
Vice-Chairs	Republic of Korea and New Zealand
Theme	"Getting Industrial Policies Right for Open Markets, Growth and Prosperity"

Major outcomes / decisions

- Adopted/welcomed a new OECD Recommendation on Quantum Technologies.
- Reviewed industrial subsidies, steel, regulation, AI, taxation and economic outlook issues.
- Advanced the Latin America & Caribbean framework and enhanced partnership with Africa.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Governments were reviving industrial policy because of technology competition, economic security and supply-chain concerns, while trying to preserve open markets.
- Why OECD was formed: its direct predecessor, the OEEC (Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, 1948), was set up specifically to administer US/Canadian Marshall Plan aid for rebuilding war-torn Europe after WWII — a purely European reconstruction body. Once that reconstruction succeeded, the OEEC's founders wanted to broaden the mission beyond Europe: after the 1957-60 negotiations (including the Rome Treaties context), the US and Canada formally joined as full members and the body was re-founded as the OECD in 1961, with a global (not just European) mandate to 'stimulate economic progress and world trade' and coordinate policy among market-economy democracies — hence its enduring nickname, the 'rich countries' club.'

India angle

- India is a key OECD partner, not an OECD member. Member vs. Partner — the actual difference: a full MEMBER has ratified the OECD Convention through a formal accession process (an in-depth 360-degree legal/policy review, followed by a decision requiring UNANIMOUS consensus of all existing 38 members) and has full voting rights in the OECD Council, the organisation's decision-making body. A KEY PARTNER (India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Africa — designated since the 2014 Ministerial Council Meeting) is NOT a member and has no vote in the Council, but participates actively in policy discussions, OECD committees, statistical databases and surveys; some Key Partners even hold 'Associate' status in specific committees/projects with the SAME rights and obligations as full Members in that narrow context — except they cannot join discussions on new-Member accessions. India has been an OECD Key Partner since 2007; unlike Indonesia (Key Partner since 2007, now formally in accession talks since 2024) or Brazil, India has not sought full membership.

Exam focus / traps

- OECD HQ = Paris.
- India is not one of the 38 members.
- Static GK: OECD was established in 1961, evolving from the OEEC (Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, 1948, set up to administer Marshall Plan aid); often called the 'rich countries' club'; publishes the influential PISA international student-assessment rankings.
- Exam trap: OECD's founding members (1961) were the OEEC's European members PLUS the US and Canada (who joined as full members rather than just aid-donors) — do not describe OECD as a 'European' organisation; its membership has been genuinely global since 1961, later adding Japan (1964, first Asian member), and non-Western members like Mexico, South Korea, Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica.
- Exam trap: 5 countries are OECD 'Key Partners' — Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa (all 5, notably, are also either BRICS members or associates) — as of this window, 8 DIFFERENT countries are in formal accession talks toward full membership: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Indonesia, Peru, Romania and Thailand. Note Brazil and Indonesia appear on BOTH lists (Key Partner AND now pursuing accession) — India and China have NOT sought accession.

21. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Established	1989 by G7
Secretariat	Paris, hosted at OECD
Membership	40 members; global network covers 200+ jurisdictions
Core purpose	Standards against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing

Current leadership & how elected

- FATF President rotates annually (1-year, non-renewable term) among member jurisdictions, elected by the FATF Plenary. Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico) held the post through June 2026; Giles Thomson (United Kingdom) took over from 1 July 2026.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	FATF Plenaries - February and June 2026
Plenary 1	11-13 Feb 2026, Mexico City
Plenary 2	17-19 Jun 2026, Paris
President through Jun	Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico)
Incoming Presidency	UK under Giles Thomson from 1 Jul 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- February plenary (13 Feb 2026): ADDED Kuwait and Papua New Guinea to the grey list; no removals that round.
- June plenary (19 Jun 2026): ADDED Iraq and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the grey list; REMOVED Algeria and Namibia after successful on-site visits confirmed their action plans were complete.
- Grey list ('Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring') stood at 22 after the June plenary: Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Monaco, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (UK), Yemen.
- Black list ('High-Risk Jurisdictions Subject to a Call for Action') unchanged throughout this window at 3 countries: Iran, North Korea (DPRK), Myanmar.
- June plenary also adopted mutual evaluation reports of Canada and Türkiye, updated Recommendation 6 to protect humanitarian assistance from unintended sanctions effects, and opened a public consultation on cross-border payment transparency (Recommendation 16).
- How grey-listing and blacklisting actually impact a country, concretely: (i) Correspondent banking — international banks apply Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) to transactions involving listed jurisdictions, and some banks 'de-risk' entirely by refusing to maintain correspondent relationships with listed-country banks, cutting off access to the global dollar/SWIFT payment system; (ii) Capital flows — foreign direct investment and portfolio inflows typically fall, since institutional investors' compliance policies flag listed jurisdictions as higher-risk; (iii) Borrowing costs — sovereign credit ratings and borrowing costs can worsen, and multilateral lenders (IMF, World Bank) may attach additional governance conditions to lending; (iv) Blacklisted (Call-for-Action) countries face the most severe treatment — FATF calls on ALL members to apply counter-measures, which can include restricting or effectively cutting the country off from the international financial system; (v) Grey-listed countries face milder, RISK-BASED scrutiny rather than mandatory counter-measures — FATF itself does not require blanket EDD, though individual national regulators often choose to mandate it anyway, which is why grey-listing still carries real economic cost even though it is formally 'less severe' than blacklisting.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Financial crime increasingly involves technology, cross-border payment systems, proliferation financing and sophisticated laundering methods.
- Backdrop just before this window: at the October 2025 plenary, South Africa, Nigeria, Mozambique and Burkina Faso were ALL removed from the grey list — a wave of exits that shrank the list before the Feb/Jun 2026 additions partially rebuilt it.

India angle

- India is a FATF member; FATF lists are frequently tested in current affairs.

Exam focus / traps

- "Grey list" = jurisdictions under increased monitoring; it is not the same as the high-risk "call for action" list (the 'black list').
- Exam trap: do not conflate the TWO grey-list-only additions from February (Kuwait, Papua New Guinea) with the DIFFERENT two additions in June (Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina) — four distinct countries were added across the two 2026 plenaries so far, while only Algeria and Namibia were removed (both in June).
- Grey-listing is not itself a sanction and does not automatically trigger mandatory enhanced due diligence in most regulatory regimes — FATF frames it as a risk-based-approach input, not a blanket enhanced-due-diligence trigger, though individual national regulators may still choose to mandate EDD for grey-listed counterparties.

22. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Established	1919; became first UN specialised agency in 1946
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	187 Member States
Unique structure	Tripartite: governments + employers + workers — the ONLY UN agency structured this way. Every other UN specialised agency (WHO, UNESCO, WTO-adjacent bodies etc.) is government-only: each country sends ONE delegation representing the state. ILO instead gives governments, employers' organisations, and workers' organisations (trade unions) an EQUAL, independent voice — each member state sends 4 delegates to the ILO's annual conference: 2 government + 1 employer + 1 worker, and the employer/worker delegates vote and speak independently of their own government, not as its instructed representatives. This is called 'tripartism': labour standards are negotiated through genuine 3-way social dialogue rather than government-to-government diplomacy alone, which is meant to give ILO conventions real buy-in and legitimacy from the people who actually have to live under them (businesses and workers), not just from the states that ratify them.
Core purpose	Labour standards, decent work and social justice

Current leadership & how elected

- Director-General: Gilbert F. Houngbo (Togo) — in office since 1 October 2022, the first sub-Saharan African to lead the ILO.
- Election method: elected by the tripartite Governing Body (government, employer and worker representatives) for a 5-year term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	114th International Labour Conference (ILC)
Dates	1-12 June 2026
Venue	Geneva, Switzerland
Level	ILO's annual "parliament of labour"
Key topic	Decent work in the platform / gig economy

Major outcomes / decisions

- Held a second standard-setting discussion on decent work in the platform economy.
- Addressed labour standards, social dialogue, gender equality and programme/budget issues.
- ILO's 3 main tripartite bodies, each with governments/employers/workers all represented: (i) International Labour Conference (ILC) — the 'international parliament of labour,' meets annually in Geneva, sets international labour standards and ILO's broad policies (this is the 114th ILC covered in this entry); (ii) Governing Body — ILO's executive council, meets 3 times a year (March, June, November), decides ILO policy, sets the ILC's agenda, and elects the Director-General; (iii) International Labour Office — the permanent secretariat in Geneva, carries out ILO's day-to-day work under the Director-General's leadership.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Gig/platform work, AI and changing employment relationships are challenging traditional labour protections worldwide.

- What is a 'gig worker'? Under India's Code on Social Security, 2020 — the first Indian central law to legally define the term — a gig worker is 'a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship' (e.g. freelancers, ride-hailing drivers, delivery partners). A related but distinct term, 'platform worker,' specifically means someone accessing such work THROUGH an online platform/app (an aggregator) that connects them to customers — so every platform worker is a gig worker, but not every gig worker (e.g. an independent freelance consultant with no app involved) is a platform worker.

India angle

- India is a founding ILO member and participates through government, employer and worker delegations. India's gig-worker rules, in detail: the Code on Social Security, 2020 came into legal force on 21 November 2025 (as one of India's four consolidated labour codes), for the first time bringing gig and platform workers formally into India's social-security framework — previously they fell entirely outside the traditional employer-employee 'master-servant' relationship that older labour law was built around. The Ministry of Labour and Employment then notified the implementing Social Security (Central) Rules, 2026 on 8-9 May 2026, fully operationalising the framework. Key eligibility rule: a worker must be engaged for a minimum of 90 days in the preceding financial year with a SINGLE aggregator (e.g. Zomato) to qualify for government-backed social-security schemes; if working across MULTIPLE aggregators (e.g. both Zomato and Swiggy), the combined threshold rises to 120 days. An 'engagement day' counts as any calendar day the worker logs in and earns ANY income, however small. The Code mandates that central and state governments establish dedicated social security funds for gig/platform workers, funded partly through aggregator contributions. Separately, several states have passed their OWN gig-worker laws — Rajasthan's Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act was India's first state-level law of this kind, with other states drafting similar legislation, creating a patchwork of state-specific registration and welfare-board rules layered on top of the central framework.
- Scale, per NITI Aayog's 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy' report (June 2022): India had an estimated 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21, projected to reach 23.5 million by 2029-30.

Exam focus / traps

- ILO is the only tripartite UN specialised agency.
- Static GK: ILO was founded in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles, making it older than the UN itself (1945) — it became the UN's first specialised agency in 1946; won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969; India is a founding ILO member (1919).
- Exam trap: 'gig worker' and 'platform worker' are NOT synonyms under the Code on Social Security, 2020 — platform worker is a subset of gig worker (accessed via an app/aggregator specifically); do not use them interchangeably in an answer.
- Exam trap: the 90-day (single aggregator) vs. 120-day (multiple aggregators) thresholds are commonly swapped in error — the HIGHER threshold applies to workers spread across MULTIPLE platforms, not a single one.

23. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Adopted	1992 Earth Summit; entered into force 1994
Secretariat	Bonn, Germany
Parties	198 Parties
Core purpose	Framework for international climate negotiations; parent treaty of Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

Current leadership & how elected

- Executive Secretary: Simon Stiell (Grenada) — in office since August 2022, based at the Bonn Secretariat.
- Election method: appointed by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with the UNFCCC Bureau/COP Presidency, for a renewable term (typically aligned to a multi-year cycle).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	Bonn Climate Conference - SB64
Dates	8-18 June 2026
Venue	Bonn, Germany
Bodies	64th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
Role	Main intersessional negotiations between COP30 and COP31

Major outcomes / decisions

- Advanced implementation work on climate finance, transparency and the Global Climate Action Agenda.
- Moved negotiations from post-COP30 decisions toward implementation before COP31.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Climate finance, adaptation, emissions ambition and implementation gaps remained major fault lines between developed and developing countries.

India angle

- India stresses climate justice, CBDR-RC, finance, technology transfer and development space; India's own updated NDC 2031-2035 (see entry 41), approved by Cabinet just weeks before SB64, fed directly into India's Bonn negotiating position.

Exam focus / traps

- Bonn sessions are not COP summits; they are subsidiary-body negotiations.

24. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Established	1967; UN specialised agency since 1974
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Membership	194 Member States
Core purpose	Global IP services, treaties and policy cooperation

Current leadership & how elected

- Director-General: Daren Tang (Singapore) — in office since 1 October 2020, re-elected for a second 6-year term beginning October 2026.
- Election method: elected by the WIPO General Assembly (Member States) by secret ballot for a 6-year term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	WIPO Assemblies of the Member States - Extraordinary Session, 68th Series
Dates	7-15 July 2026
Venue	Geneva, Switzerland
Level	Governing assemblies
Purpose	Urgent / special IP-governance matters outside the normal annual cycle

Major outcomes / decisions

- Member states considered governance and administrative matters across WIPO treaty bodies.
- The session kept IP governance linked to innovation, technology and the digital economy.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- AI, data, innovation and technology transfer continue to reshape global IP policy.

India angle

- India is a WIPO member and active in patent, traditional-knowledge and development debates.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India ranks among the global top 10 for patents, trademarks AND industrial designs per WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report series — 5th consecutive year of double-digit patent-application growth, with resident filings crossing 50% of total submissions for the first time.
- India's IP filings grew 44% over five years (4.78 lakh in 2020-21 to 6.90 lakh in 2024-25); Geographical Indications (GI) filings grew fastest at 380%, followed by Designs (266%) and Patents (180%).
- India has adopted 'WIPO IP Diagnostics - Indian Adaptation,' a self-assessment tool, alongside a public real-time IP Dashboard (ipindia.gov.in/dashboard), AI/ML-based Trademark Search Technology, and the IP Sarthi chatbot for small businesses — all cited as part of India's engagement with WIPO's broader digital-IP-infrastructure push.

Exam focus / traps

- WIPO HQ = Geneva.

25. International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Established	Came into existence 16 Nov 1994 (when UNCLOS entered into force); fully operational as an autonomous organisation from June 1996
Headquarters	Kingston, Jamaica
Membership	169 members (168 States + the EU) — all UNCLOS States Parties are automatically ISA members
Core purpose	Regulate mineral-related activities in the international seabed "Area" beyond national jurisdiction

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: post is elected by the ISA Assembly (all UNCLOS parties) on the recommendation of the Council, for a 4-year renewable term, based at the Kingston, Jamaica headquarters.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	31st Session of the International Seabed Authority
Dates	23 February-6 March 2026
Venue	Kingston, Jamaica
Focus	Deep-seabed mineral exploration/exploitation regulation
Legal basis	UNCLOS Part XI and 1994 Implementation Agreement

Major outcomes / decisions

- Continued work on rules and governance for deep-seabed mining.
- Balanced mineral-development interests against marine environmental protection and the "common heritage of mankind" principle.
- UNCLOS and ISA's formation, explained in full: UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, often called the 'Constitution for the Oceans') was ADOPTED in 1982 but took a full 12 years to ENTER INTO FORCE, only on 16 November 1994 — the long delay was because Part XI (the deep-seabed mining chapter) was resisted by industrialised nations, led by the US, who objected to its mandatory technology-transfer rules and to the 'Enterprise' (a proposed UN-run mining operator meant to directly conduct seabed mining for the benefit of developing countries). To fix this impasse and enable universal ratification, the UN Secretary-General convened informal consultations from 1990, resulting in the 1994 Implementation Agreement (adopted 28 July 1994, in force 28 July 1996) — this Agreement significantly softened Part XI's original terms (watering down the Enterprise's role and technology-transfer mandates) and is legally read TOGETHER with Part XI as one single instrument, not as a separate treaty. ISA itself was established the moment UNCLOS entered into force (16 Nov 1994) but only became a fully functioning, staffed organisation in June 1996, when it took over the Kingston, Jamaica premises previously used by the UN.
- ISA's core legal principle: the deep seabed and its mineral resources beyond any country's national jurisdiction (called 'the Area') are declared the 'common heritage of mankind' (CHM) — meaning no single state can claim or appropriate any part of it, and any mineral wealth extracted must be organised for the benefit of humankind as a whole (with special consideration for developing countries), not just whichever country has the technology to mine it first.
- ISA's actual rule-making structure: an Assembly (all members, the supreme policy-making organ), a Council (36 elected members, the executive organ that approves specific mining contracts and adopts detailed regulations/'the Mining Code'), and a Secretariat headed by a Secretary-General — broadly mirroring the UN's own General Assembly/Security Council/Secretariat structure, but sector-specific to seabed minerals.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Demand for critical minerals has intensified interest in seabed resources while environmental concerns remain unresolved.

India angle

- India is a UNCLOS party and has interests in deep-sea mineral exploration in the Indian Ocean; India holds ISA-granted exploration contracts for polymetallic nodules (Central Indian Ocean Basin) and polymetallic sulphides (Indian Ocean Ridge), among the earliest such contracts ISA issued to any country.

Exam focus / traps

- ISA deals with the international seabed beyond national jurisdiction - not a national maritime regulator.
- Exam trap: UNCLOS was ADOPTED in 1982 but did NOT enter into force until 1994 — a 12-year gap that is frequently tested; do not treat 1982 as ISA's founding year.
- Exam trap: the 1994 Agreement is NOT a standalone treaty amending UNCLOS — it is legally interpreted and applied together with Part XI 'as a single instrument' per its own Article 2(1).

26. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Established	1889
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Nature	Global organisation of national parliaments
Core purpose	Parliamentary diplomacy, democracy, peace and human rights

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: the IPU's chief administrative officer, elected by the IPU Governing Council for a 4-year renewable term, based at the Geneva headquarters.
- IPU President (the political/ceremonial head, distinct from the Secretary-General): elected by the IPU Assembly for a 3-year term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	152nd IPU Assembly
Dates	15-19 April 2026
Venue	Istanbul, Türkiye
Theme	"Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations"
Participation	1,500+ delegates; 720+ parliamentarians from 126 countries

Major outcomes / decisions

- Adopted the Istanbul Declaration.

- Discussed armed conflict, Palestine, Ukraine, post-conflict reconstruction, protectionism, climate, AI and human rights.
- Adopted a new IPU Strategy for 2027-2032.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Parliamentary diplomacy gained importance as formal interstate diplomacy struggled with multiple simultaneous conflicts.

India angle

- India participates through Parliament and parliamentary delegations.

Exam focus / traps

- IPU is not a UN body, though it works closely with the UN.

27. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Established	1957
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria
Core purpose	Peaceful nuclear uses, nuclear safety/security and safeguards/non-proliferation
Key body	35-member Board of Governors

Current leadership & how elected

- Director General: Rafael Mariano Grossi (Argentina) — in office since December 2019, began a second 4-year term in December 2023 (runs to 2027).
- Election method: appointed by the 35-member Board of Governors, subject to approval by the IAEA General Conference, for a 4-year renewable term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	IAEA Board of Governors - June 2026 session
Opening	8 June 2026
Venue	Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria
Director General	Rafael Mariano Grossi
Focus	Safeguards, nuclear safety/security, verification and technical cooperation

Major outcomes / decisions

- Board-level work reviewed major nuclear verification and safety issues.
- Ukraine, Iran safeguards and wider nuclear-security concerns remained central to the IAEA agenda.
- Note: a March session (2-6 Mar 2026, Vienna) also took place, covering the Nuclear Safety/Security/Technology Reviews 2026 and a Pakistan safeguards agreement for Chashma Unit 5.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- The IAEA operated amid heightened nuclear-risk concerns from conflict zones and continuing proliferation disputes.

India angle

- India is an IAEA member and a designated member of the Board in many cycles; India-specific questions often connect IAEA with safeguards and civil nuclear cooperation.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieved first criticality on 6 April 2026 — a genuine world milestone: India becomes only the second country after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor, marking entry into the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme (originally conceived by Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha). This 500 MWe reactor is built by BHAVINI.
- A 15-member Indian delegation, led by AERB Chairman A.K. Balasubrahmanian, took part in the 10th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety at IAEA HQ, Vienna (13-24 April 2026) — marking 30 years of that Convention; India presented its nuclear-safety performance and regulatory practices to 86 participating countries.
- India has signed Inter-Governmental Agreements on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with 18 countries; the Union Budget 2025-26 announced a Nuclear Energy Mission targeting 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, aligned with India's Net-Zero-by-2070 commitment.
- The India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement's Administrative Arrangement was finalised at the Third India-Australia Annual Summit (Melbourne, 9 July 2026), enabling long-term Australian uranium exports to India under IAEA safeguards — Australia holds over one-third of global uranium resources.

Exam focus / traps

- IAEA HQ = Vienna.
- IAEA is related to the UN system but is not a UN specialised agency in the same way as WHO/ILO.

28. India AI Impact Summit / AI for Good (Global AI Governance Track)

Nature	Major multilateral AI governance platforms rather than treaty organisations
India AI Impact Summit	Hosted by India in New Delhi
AI for Good	ITU-led UN system platform headquartered around Geneva activities
Core purpose	AI governance, innovation, development and SDG-oriented deployment

Current leadership & how elected

- Not a formal treaty organisation — the India AI Impact Summit was convened by India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the IndiaAI Mission; Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw led India's organising role. AI for Good is led by the ITU (Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin, USA, in office since Jan 2023).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	India AI Impact Summit 2026 + AI for Good Global Summit 2026
India event	16-20/21 Feb 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
India focus	AI infrastructure, governance and inclusive deployment / "impact"
Geneva event	AI for Good Global Summit: 7-10 Jul 2026, Geneva
Backdrop	Global debate shifting from AI safety alone toward development, infrastructure, inclusion and governance

Major outcomes / decisions

- India's summit brought delegations from 100+ countries and highlighted Global South priorities.
- AI for Good connected AI innovation with Sustainable Development Goals and UN-system cooperation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Competing models of AI governance are emerging: broad multilateral frameworks versus narrower trusted-supply-chain blocs.

India angle

- India positioned itself as a leading Global South voice on practical and inclusive AI governance.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- Inaugurated by PM Modi (16 & 19 Feb 2026); opening ceremony also addressed by President Macron and UN SecGen Guterres.
- Scale: 20+ Heads of State/Govt, 59 ministerial reps, 100+ AI leaders, ~5-6 lakh attendees, 9+ lakh livestream views; 550 pre-Summit events across 30 countries.

- Structured on 3 Sutras (People, Planet, Progress) and 7 'Chakras' (Human Capital, Inclusion, Safe & Trusted AI, Resilience, Science, Democratizing AI Resources, Social Good).
- Concluded with the 'New Delhi Declaration' (21 Feb); India set a Guinness World Record for AI-responsibility pledges (2.5+ lakh in 24 hours).
- Key launches: New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments, Global AI Impact Commons, Equitable AI Transition Playbook (with ILO), AI Impact Startup Book.
- SAHI explained in full: launched 17 Feb 2026 by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda — full form 'Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India' (also styled 'Secure AI for Health Initiative' in some official material). It is NOT a technology product but a national governance framework/policy roadmap — a 'policy compass' guiding safe, ethical, evidence-based and inclusive AI adoption across India's entire healthcare system, covering hospitals/diagnostics (radiology, pathology, triage), digital health platforms (symptom assessment, remote monitoring), pharma/life sciences (drug discovery, pharmacovigilance) and health insurance (claims, fraud detection). The strategy document sets out 32 specific recommendations across 5 pillars.
- BODH explained in full: full form 'Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI' — launched the SAME day as SAHI, developed jointly by IIT Kanpur and the National Health Authority (NHA). Where SAHI is the policy, BODH is the implementation/testing tool: a privacy-preserving benchmarking platform that lets AI developers train and validate healthcare AI models against anonymised, real-world Indian health data (without the underlying datasets ever leaving the platform), checking models for accuracy, safety and BIAS before real-world clinical deployment. Analysts noted it is unusual for a national AI-health strategy to launch with a working benchmarking tool on day one, rather than years later.
- SAHI/BODH sit alongside existing Indian digital-health infrastructure they now aim to govern: the eSanjeevani telemedicine platform (280+ million AI-assisted consultations logged) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABHA digital health IDs, grown from 14.7 crore in 2021 to 90+ crore by 2026). A related, earlier regulatory step: India's drug regulator CDSCO released draft 'Software as a Medical Device' (SaMD) rules in October 2025, sorting AI diagnostic tools into 4 risk classes (A-D), with cancer-detection AI in the highest-risk class — SAHI provides policy direction while CDSCO handles the medical-device compliance side.
- Organised by MeitY under the IndiaAI Mission; theme: 'Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya' (welfare and happiness for all).

Exam focus / traps

- These are not formal treaty organisations; classify them as multilateral summits/platforms.



World leaders at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (19 Feb 2026)

29. Pax Silica (US-led Economic Security Grouping)

Origin	Launched in December 2025
Nature	Non-treaty, US-led economic-security initiative
Core focus	Semiconductors, AI, critical minerals, energy and trusted technology supply chains
Headquarters	No permanent intergovernmental headquarters

Current leadership & how elected

- Not a formal intergovernmental organisation — Pax Silica is convened by the US Department of State's economic-security leadership, currently Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jacob Helberg.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2nd Pax Silica Summit
Dates	25-26 June 2026
Venue	Washington, D.C., USA
Theme / focus	"Securing the Silicon Supply Chain"
Convenor	U.S. State Department economic-security leadership

Major outcomes / decisions

- Expanded support for the Pax Silica Declaration with additional signatories, bringing the total to 24: United States (lead/convenor), Australia, Finland, Greece, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Germany, Kazakhstan, Panama, and the European Union.
- Promoted trusted-partner approaches to AI compute, semiconductors, critical minerals and manufacturing.
- Advanced workforce-development initiatives, including the 'Foundry School' programme launched with Stanford University.
- What each signatory brings to the table, by category: (i) Chip design/fabrication leaders — the US (design, EDA software, advanced fab investment), South Korea (memory chips, Samsung/SK Hynix), Japan (semiconductor equipment/materials), Netherlands (ASML lithography equipment, arguably the single most irreplaceable chokepoint in the entire global chip supply chain); (ii) Critical-mineral/resource suppliers — Australia (lithium, rare earths), Chile and Argentina (lithium 'triangle' with Bolivia, which is NOT a signatory), Kazakhstan (uranium, chromium, other minerals), Panama and Costa Rica/El Salvador (logistics/trade-corridor access in Central America); (iii) AI compute and tech-manufacturing capacity — India (IT/software talent pool, growing semiconductor assembly ambitions via its own incentive schemes), Singapore (advanced packaging/testing hub), Israel (chip design, cybersecurity, deep tech R&D); (iv) Energy security partners — Qatar and UAE (LNG and broader energy supply), Norway (energy, sovereign wealth capital); (v) Advanced-economy anchors lending institutional weight and market access — Germany, UK, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the EU (as a bloc), Finland, Sweden, Greece, Philippines.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Strategic technology supply chains became increasingly securitised amid US-China competition; the initiative sits alongside the more UN/Global-South-oriented AI governance track (India AI Impact Summit, entry 28; AI for Good, entry 39/UN structure) as a narrower, US-anchored alternative model.

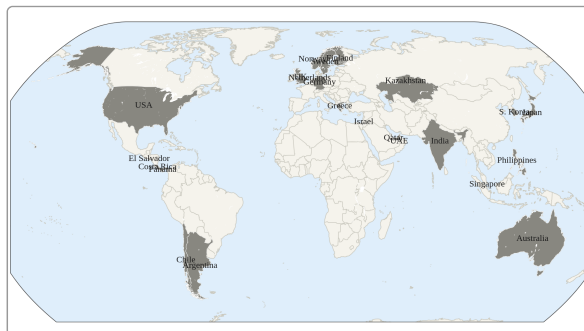
India angle

- India had joined the Pax Silica framework EARLIER in 2026, before the 2nd Summit (exact join date not independently confirmed in available sources, but confirmed to be before the 25-26 June summit, since India already appears as a signatory at that summit). India's role: positioned as a major AI-compute/software-talent and prospective semiconductor-manufacturing partner, rather than primarily as a raw-critical-mineral supplier (unlike Australia, Chile or Kazakhstan) — India's own domestic semiconductor push (India

Semiconductor Mission, fab investment incentives) is the natural policy anchor connecting it to Pax Silica's stated goals. India's participation also runs alongside its bilateral India-US Critical Minerals Framework (see entry 15/Quad) and its own National Critical Mineral Mission.

Exam focus / traps

- Pax Silica is not a traditional international organisation.
- No map is needed to understand this grouping — its members are geographically scattered across every continent by design (it is organised around supply-chain ROLE, not geography), unlike regional blocs such as GCC or ASEAN.



The 24 signatories to the Pax Silica Declaration as of June 2026

30. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) - OUTSIDE-WINDOW EXAM TRAP

Established / operations	Established 2015; operations began 2016
Headquarters	Beijing, China
Approved members	111
Capital	USD 100 billion
Core purpose	Financing sustainable infrastructure in Asia and beyond

Current leadership & how elected

- President: Jin Liqun (China) led AIIB through 2025; a leadership transition to Zou Jiayi (China, former Vice Finance Minister) was announced during 2025-26, continuing the convention that the AIIB President has always been Chinese, reflecting China's largest shareholding.
- Election method: elected by the Board of Governors for a 5-year renewable term.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	No AIIB Annual Meeting in Feb-Jul 2026
Actual 2026 Annual Meeting	11th Annual Meeting
Dates	28-29 September 2026
Venue	Doha, Qatar
Theme	"Tomorrow's Infrastructure: Impact and Innovation"

Major outcomes / decisions

- AIIB activities continued during Feb-Jul, but its flagship Board of Governors Annual Meeting falls outside this note window.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- This is included because generic current-affairs lists can wrongly mix full-year 2026 events into Feb-Jul compilations.

India angle

- India is a founding AIIB member and one of its largest shareholders/borrowers.

Exam focus / traps

- Do NOT mark AIIB Annual Meeting as a Feb-Jul 2026 event.

31. Munich Security Conference (MSC) — not a treaty body, but the year's top security-diplomacy forum

Established	1963, as an informal transatlantic defence gathering
Nature	Independent, non-governmental forum — not an intergovernmental organisation
Venue (fixed)	Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Munich, Germany
Core purpose	World's leading forum for debating international security policy challenges

Current leadership & how elected

- Munich Security Conference Chairman: Ambassador Christoph Heusgen (Germany) — chairs the independent, non-governmental Foundation Council that runs the conference; not an elected intergovernmental post.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	62nd Munich Security Conference
Dates	13-15 February 2026
Venue	Munich, Germany
Theme	"Under Destruction"
Attendance	1,000+ participants, 115+ countries, ~40-60 Heads of State/Government, 50+ leaders of international organisations

Major outcomes / decisions

- Discussions centred on European security and defence, the transatlantic relationship, revitalising multilateralism, and security implications of new technology.
- India's EAM S. Jaishankar held a bilateral panel with Germany's FM Johann Wadephul on India-Germany cooperation.
- Set the stage for the NATO Ankara Summit five months later.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Held at a moment of eroding alliances and a fraying rules-based order — first MSC hosted while France held the G7 presidency.

India angle

- India regularly sends its External Affairs Minister; MSC panels are a recurring platform for India's foreign-policy positioning.

Exam focus / traps

- MSC is not an intergovernmental organisation — it is a private/independent forum, distinct from NATO or the UN.
- Do not confuse the annual Munich Security Report (released just before MSC) with the conference itself.

32. League of Arab States (Arab League)

Established	22 March 1945
Headquarters	Cairo, Egypt
Membership	22 states/entities — 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
Core purpose	Political, economic and cultural cooperation among Arab states; coordinate positions on regional issues

Current leadership & how elected

- Secretary-General: Ahmed Aboul Gheit (Egypt) served through June 2026; Nabil Fahmy (Egypt) was elected by the Council of Foreign Ministers in March 2026 and took office 1 July 2026 for a 5-year term.
- Election method: elected by the Council of the League at the Foreign Ministers' level, traditionally by consensus, with the post held by Egypt by long-standing convention (Egypt hosts the League's Cairo headquarters).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	165th Ordinary Session of the Council (Foreign Ministers' level)
Dates	Opened via video conference 29 Mar 2026; resumed in person 22 Jun 2026, Amman, Jordan
Level	Ministerial — not a Heads-of-State Summit
Chair rotation	Bahrain assumed the session presidency from the UAE in March 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- Arab foreign ministers unanimously endorsed Egypt's nominee, veteran diplomat Nabil Fahmy, as the League's new Secretary-General, succeeding Ahmed Aboul Gheit — confirmed at the resumed Amman session (22 Jun); Fahmy assumed office 1 July 2026 for a five-year term.
- Egypt renewed its call to activate a Joint Arab Defense Mechanism / joint Arab force.
- A separate extraordinary virtual session was called in April 2026 at Bahrain's request; Palestine had separately requested an urgent extraordinary Council session in Feb 2026.

Backdrop - why it mattered

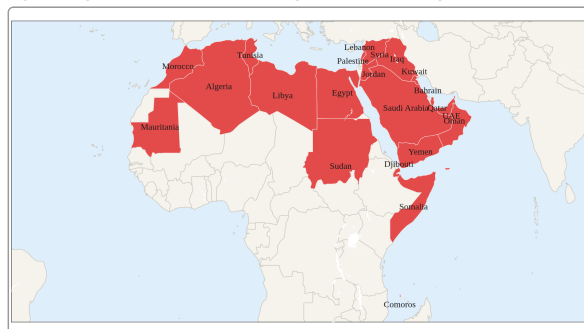
- Convened amid Iran's repeated attacks on Arab nations and ongoing Palestine-related developments.

India angle

- India engages the Arab League bloc mainly through bilateral ties with individual member states and Gulf diaspora/energy links. India's recent treaties with Arab League members, in detail: (i) UAE-India CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) — India's first major trade pact with a leading trading partner post-2011 (its earlier Japan FTA); signed 18 February 2022, in force 1 May 2022. Achievements as of this window: bilateral trade crossed USD 100 billion for a SECOND consecutive year (USD 101.25 billion in FY 2025-26), with non-oil trade now nearly two-thirds of the total; tariffs removed/reduced on 80%+ of UAE-bound Indian export lines; enhanced services market access across 11 sectors/100+ sub-sectors; a Joint Committee held its 3rd meeting (27 Nov 2025, New Delhi) reviewing Rules of Origin, BIS licensing and anti-dumping issues. PM Modi's Abu Dhabi visit (15 May 2026) added a further package: agreements on strategic petroleum reserves, LPG cooperation, defence, maritime infrastructure, and ~USD 5 billion in new UAE investment into Indian infrastructure/financial institutions. Both sides now target USD 200 billion in bilateral trade by 2032. (ii) Qatar — no CEPA/FTA signed yet, but during Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani's New Delhi visit (18-19 Feb 2025), both sides agreed to work toward DOUBLING bilateral trade to USD 28 billion within five years; formal FTA talks remain at the exploratory stage. (iii) GCC-wide (covering Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain alongside UAE/Qatar) — a broader India-GCC FTA has been under negotiation since a 2004 Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation; talks resumed November 2022, with the GCC signalling intent (as of early 2025) to move to formal negotiations — this would be India's first FTA with the whole 6-country GCC bloc as a unit, distinct from the UAE's standalone CEPA.

Exam focus / traps

- No confirmed Arab League Heads-of-State Summit fell in the Feb-Jul 2026 window — the last Summit-level session was the 34th, Baghdad, May 2025.
- The 2026 leadership change (Fahmy replacing Aboul Gheit) is a high-value, easily-tested one-liner.



The 22 members of the League of Arab States

33. African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

Established	1964
Headquarters	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Membership	81 shareholder countries (54 African, 27 non-African)
Core purpose	Development finance and poverty reduction across Africa

Current leadership & how elected

- President: Dr Sidi Ould Tah (Mauritania) — elected in May 2025, took office later that year, for a 5-year term.
- Election method: elected by the Board of Governors (finance/planning ministers of the 81 shareholder countries) by a two-thirds majority.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2026 Annual Meetings (61st AfDB Board of Governors + 52nd African Development Fund Board of Governors)
Dates	25-29 May 2026
Venue	Kintele International Conference Center, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
Theme	"Mobilising Africa's Development Financing at Scale in a Fragmented World"
President	Dr Sidi Ould Tah

Major outcomes / decisions

- Governors endorsed President Sidi Ould Tah's "Four Cardinal Points" strategic vision and called for accelerated reform of Africa's financial architecture.
- Launched the African Economic Outlook 2026 report.
- New co-financing commitments highlighted, including from the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened against Africa's estimated \$400 billion/year development financing gap amid declining Official Development Assistance.

India angle

- India is a non-regional AfDB member (since 1983) and a founding member of the African Development Fund; India's Africa engagement runs on several tracks beyond AfDB membership itself — see full detail in the PIB Highlights below and the related India-Africa Strategic Partnership Meet under entry 12 (African Union).

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India-Africa Strategic Partnership Meet (21 March 2026, New Delhi, on the margins of the Bharat Electricity Summit) — chaired by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, with African Union representatives, Africa50's CEO and ministers from several African nations; focused on renewable-energy expansion, interconnected grid systems, energy storage/flexibility solutions and institutional capacity-building (see full detail under entry 12/African Union).
- PM Modi was jointly invited by French President Macron and Kenyan President William Ruto to the 'Africa Forward: Partnerships between Africa and France for Innovation and Growth' Summit, held 11-12 May 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya — confirmed in the India-France Joint Statement issued during this window; illustrates India's Africa engagement increasingly running through trilateral/multilateral platforms alongside bilateral ties.
- India's financial stake in AfDB: a non-regional member since 1983, and a founding contributing member of the concessional-lending arm, the African Development Fund (ADF) — distinct from India's much larger footprint as an AfDB project co-financier and Lines of Credit provider (via India Exim Bank) across the continent, running into billions of dollars cumulatively across power, railways, water and agriculture projects.
- Recurring Indian Africa-engagement pillars cited in PIB material: the SAGAR doctrine ('Security and Growth for All in the Region'), the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ('the world is one family') framing, the India-Africa Dialogue held alongside DefExpo, and India's advocacy that helped secure the African Union's 2023 admission as a permanent G20 member during India's own G20 presidency.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse AfDB (Africa-focused, Abidjan HQ) with ADB (Asia-focused, Manila HQ) — a very common mix-up in exams.

34. UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

Nature	Functional commission of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)
Established	1946
Headquarters	UN Headquarters, New York
Core purpose	Advises ECOSOC on global social-development policy: poverty, employment, social inclusion

Current leadership & how elected

- Chaired annually by an elected Bureau (Chairperson + Vice-Chairs) drawn from Commission members; oversight sits with ECOSOC, whose own President is elected annually by ECOSOC's 54 members.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	64th Session of the Commission for Social Development
Dates	2-11 February 2026
Venue	UN Headquarters, New York
Convenor	UN DESA / ECOSOC

Major outcomes / decisions

- Reviewed global progress on poverty eradication, full employment and social inclusion priorities.
- Fed into the broader ECOSOC policy cycle for 2026.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Ran in the same week as WHO's Executive Board 158th session — useful as a February current-affairs anchor point.

India angle

- India engages through its UN Permanent Mission and periodic national statements on social-development priorities.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse this functional Commission with the Human Rights Council or the Social Forum — distinct ECOSOC-linked bodies.

35. Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) — not a treaty body, but the year's first major climate ministerial

Established	2010, launched by then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel after COP15 Copenhagen
Nature	Informal, invitation-only ministerial dialogue — not a UNFCCC body; convened annually by Germany with that year's incoming COP Presidency
Headquarters	No permanent secretariat; hosted each year by Germany's environment ministry (BMUKN), Berlin
Core purpose	Build early political momentum and consensus among climate ministers ahead of that year's COP, outside formal UNFCCC negotiating rules

Current leadership & how elected

- Petersberg Climate Dialogue has no permanent head or secretariat — co-chaired each year by Germany's Federal Environment Minister (Carsten Schneider in 2026) together with that year's incoming COP Presidency and COP Presidency of Negotiations (Türkiye's Murat Kurum and Australia's Chris Bowen for the 2026 edition, ahead of COP31).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	17th Petersberg Climate Dialogue
Dates	21-22 April 2026
Venue	Berlin, Germany
Co-hosts	Germany (Federal Environment Minister Carsten Schneider) with COP31 Presidency-designate Türkiye (Murat Kurum) and COP31 Presidency of Negotiations Australia (Chris Bowen)
Attendance	Ministers/senior officials from 30-40+ countries plus EU, UN and international-organisation representatives (~400 participants)

Major outcomes / decisions

- First major climate ministerial of 2026, explicitly setting direction for the June Bonn Climate Conference (SB64) and COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye (Nov 2026).

- Discussions centred on three priorities: implementing the Paris Agreement/NDCs through 2035, international climate finance (especially delivering the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) agreed at COP29, particularly adaptation finance), and geopolitical resilience of the energy transition.
- No formal negotiated outcome document — the Dialogue is deliberately informal/closed-door to allow candid exchange outside UNFCCC voting rules.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid volatile fossil-fuel energy markets and the Middle East conflict's disruption to energy supply — host Germany used the moment to argue renewable-energy expansion as both a climate and energy-security response.

India angle

- India regularly participates at ministerial/senior-official level, consistent with its stated positions on climate finance, technology transfer and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR-RC); this Dialogue fell just under a month after India's own Cabinet approved its NDC 2031-2035 (entry 41), giving India's delegation an updated ambition baseline to reference.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse the Petersberg Climate Dialogue with a COP or a Bonn Subsidiary Body session — it is an informal ministerial with no formal negotiating mandate.
- COP31 will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, 9-20 November 2026 — outside this Feb-Jul window; the Petersberg Dialogue and Bonn SB64 (entry 23) are both preparatory to it.

36. G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (2026, French Presidency)

Nature	Sectoral ministerial track under the annual G7 Presidency — not a standalone treaty body (see entry 5 for G7 itself)
Core purpose	Coordinate G7 positions on environment, biodiversity, oceans, water and desertification ahead of the G7 Leaders' Summit

Current leadership & how elected

- No standing leadership — chaired by that year's G7 Presidency (France, Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut, 2026); leadership rotates with the annual G7 Presidency (see entry 5).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting
Dates	23-24 April 2026
Venue	Paris, France (Musée de l'Homme)
Host	France, under Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut, as part of its 2026 G7 Presidency
Outcome documents	7 fully agreed joint declarations covering 84 commitments in total

Major outcomes / decisions

- Declarations spanned: biodiversity finance (launch of a Nature and People Finance Alliance), ocean governance, water-resource security and pollution, desertification/land degradation (elevated to a 'security-relevant' challenge), circular economy, and infrastructure resilience.
- A five-year progress review of the G7 2030 Nature Compact (adopted at the 2021 Cornwall Summit) was conducted, with UNEP commissioned to assess collective progress across its four pillars (transition, investment, conservation, accountability).
- Notably, the meeting produced no reference to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions or electrification — climate was deliberately kept off the agenda to avoid friction with the US delegation under the Trump administration, a fact widely reported as the meeting's most striking feature.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Held two months before the Evian G7 Leaders' Summit (entry 5) as the environment-track input to it; also feeds into UNCCD COP17 (Ulaanbaatar, Aug 2026, theme 'Restoring Land, Restoring Hope'), which the G7 declaration flagged as a key test of its own commitments.

India angle

- India is not a G7 member and did not participate; India's own climate/desertification positions are more commonly voiced through UNCCD, UNFCCC and G20 channels.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not assume this meeting addressed climate change directly — a notable exam trap given it is a G7 'environment' meeting: the outcome documents concern biodiversity/water/desertification/oceans, not GHG emissions or the Paris Agreement.
- Distinct from the Petersberg Climate Dialogue (entry 35), which is climate-specific and not a G7 body.

37. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) — India's flagship global sustainability platform

Established	2001, as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS); renamed WSDS in 2016
Organiser	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
Nature	Only independently convened international summit on sustainable development and environment based in the Global South — not an intergovernmental treaty body
Core purpose	Global platform for dialogue on sustainable development, climate action and the SDGs, anchoring TERI's Act4Earth initiative (COP Compass, SDG Charter)
What are the SDGs?	The 17 Sustainable Development Goals — adopted by all 193 UN member states in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN General Assembly resolution), succeeding the earlier 8 Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015). Structured around '5 Ps': People (Goals 1-5: poverty, hunger, health, education, gender), Planet (Goals 6, 12-15: water, consumption, climate, oceans, land), Prosperity (Goals 7-11: energy, work, industry, inequality, cities), Peace (Goal 16: justice/institutions), and Partnership (Goal 17: global cooperation/means of implementation). Overseen globally by the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; progress tracked annually by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's (SDSN) Sustainable Development Report (the 'SDG Index'), covering 167 countries on a 0-100 scale where 100 = full goal achievement.

Current leadership & how elected

- No elected intergovernmental leadership — WSDS is organised by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), an independent New Delhi research institute; TERI's own Director General leads the organising body, not an internationally-elected post.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	25th (Silver Jubilee) edition of WSDS
Dates	25-27 February 2026
Venue	Taj Palace, New Delhi
Theme	“परिवर्तन (Parivartan) Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development”
Inaugurated by	Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav

Major outcomes / decisions

- Silver Jubilee edition marked 25 years since the Summit's 2001 founding as WSDS; the concept note cited global assessments showing current NDCs are far short of Paris Agreement targets and only ~17% of SDG targets remain on track worldwide for 2030.
- Day 3 (27 Feb) focused specifically on climate finance and clean energy, closing with a valedictory session 'Reflections, Resurgence, and Resolve for Our Common Futures.'
- Him-CONNECT (a Himalayan-region sustainability initiative) and a WSDS Archival Pocketbook were launched on the sidelines by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Over its 25-year history, WSDS has convened 59 Heads of State/Government, 149 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates and 41,000+ delegates — credentials that make it India's most internationally recognised recurring climate/sustainability platform.
- India's SDG progress, the numbers as of this window: India achieved its HIGHEST-EVER global rank of 94th (out of 167 countries) in the UN SDSN's Sustainable Development Report 2026, up from 99th in 2025 and 109th/112th in 2024 — a rapid multi-year climb. NITI Aayog's own domestic SDG India Index (tracking 16 goals, 70 targets, 113 indicators across states/UTs) stood at a composite score of 71 in its latest 2023-24 edition, up from 66 (2020-21) and 57 (2018 baseline). Projections suggest India is on track to fully achieve 3 goals nationally by 2025-26 (SDG 7 Clean Energy, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption), SDG 3 (Good Health) by 2026-27, and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) plus SDG 5 (Gender Equality, by 2030-31) somewhat later — but 8 goals remain at serious risk of missing 2030 without accelerated action. Areas of continuing challenge per the 2026 Sustainable Development Report: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 16 (Peace/Justice/Institutions). Cited successes: poverty alleviation, health-access gains, clean-cooking/electrification (Ujjwala/Saubhagya), and sanitation (Swachh Bharat) — 4+ crore houses under PM Awas Yojana and 11+ crore rural toilets are commonly cited delivery examples. India outperforms Pakistan and Bangladesh on the global SDG Index but trails Bhutan and the Maldives regionally.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened as the first major climate-adjacent gathering of the Feb-Jul 2026 window, days before the AU Summit and just before the India AI Impact Summit — part of a dense February 2026 run of India-hosted or India-proximate global convenings.

India angle

- Holly India-hosted and India-organised (TERI, a New Delhi-based institute); positions India as a Global South convening power on sustainability distinct from government-to-government platforms like BRICS or G20. Day 3's climate-finance/clean-energy focus anticipated themes that resurfaced weeks later in India's own NDC 2031-2035 approval (entry 41).

Exam focus / traps

- WSDS is NOT a UN or intergovernmental body — it is organised by TERI, an independent research institute; do not confuse it with UNFCCC COP sessions or the UN's own High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs.
- Do not confuse WSDS (New Delhi, Feb) with the Petersberg Climate Dialogue (Berlin, Apr) or Bonn SB64 (Jun) — three distinct climate-related convenings in three different months of this window.
- Exam trap: do NOT confuse India's TWO different SDG scores/rankings — the UN SDSN's global Sustainable Development Report rank (94th of 167 countries in 2026) is an INTERNATIONAL comparison; NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (composite score 71 in 2023-24) is a DOMESTIC state/UT-level tracking tool with a different indicator set (113 indicators vs. the UN's own global indicator framework) — they are not the same number and should never be quoted interchangeably.
- Exam trap: SDGs (17 goals, adopted 2015, target year 2030) succeeded the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals — 8 goals, adopted 2000, target year 2015) — a very commonly tested predecessor/successor pair.

38. Nuclear Energy Summit (2nd edition) — Paris

Established	1st edition: Brussels, 21 March 2024; this is the 2nd edition
Nature	Leaders'-level summit convened by a host government in cooperation with the IAEA — not a standing treaty body or IAEA statutory organ
Core purpose	Build international political and financial momentum for civil nuclear energy as a low-carbon, dispatchable complement to renewables

Current leadership & how elected

- No standing leadership or secretariat — hosted each edition by a different government (Belgium/EU for the 1st edition, Brussels 2024; France for the 2nd edition, Paris 2026), with the IAEA (entry 27) providing technical support rather than convening authority.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	2nd Nuclear Energy Summit
Dates	10 March 2026 (side event 8 March, International Women's Day theme)
Venue	La Seine Musicale, Paris, France
Host	Government of France, in cooperation with the IAEA
Opening speakers	President Emmanuel Macron, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Major outcomes / decisions

- Around 40 countries attended (including the US and China; Russia notably absent amid geopolitical tensions over its role in global uranium enrichment).
- Concluded with two statements reaffirming commitment to expanding nuclear energy as part of the low-carbon transition and calling for stronger international cooperation and increased access to financing.
- Agenda included a roadmap-to-2050 discussion on tripling global nuclear capacity (aligning with a COP28-era pledge), regional approaches to nuclear energy, financing conditions for nuclear projects, and advanced reactor/SMR technologies.
- IAEA DG Grossi highlighted a landmark IAEA-World Bank cooperation agreement (signed in Paris in 2025) as progress on a long-standing problem: nuclear projects being historically excluded from many international financial institutions.
- Context cited: nuclear energy supplies ~10% of global electricity from ~450 reactors across ~30 countries; the IAEA had revised its nuclear-capacity growth projections upward for a fifth consecutive year (Sept 2025), estimating capacity could more than double by 2050; roughly 40 additional countries (including South Africa and Argentina) were noted as exploring new nuclear programmes.
- What are SMRs (Small Modular Reactors), explained: per the IAEA's official definition (the exam-standard one), SMRs are nuclear fission reactors with a power-generation capacity of UP TO 300 MWe per module — roughly one-third the size of a traditional large nuclear reactor. 'Modular' means they are largely factory-built as standardised units and then transported to site for assembly, rather than being constructed entirely on-site over many years. Most current SMR designs are light-water reactors (same core technology as conventional plants, just smaller), though the category also covers Generation IV designs like gas-cooled, molten-salt and fast-neutron reactors.
- Why SMRs matter (their role): (i) Much faster to build — factory-built modules cut construction to roughly 3-5 years versus 10-15+ years for large reactors; (ii) Cheaper upfront capital cost per project, opening nuclear power to countries/utilities that cannot finance a full-scale plant; (iii) Can be deployed on brownfield sites (e.g. retiring coal plants), reusing existing grid connections; (iv) Passive safety features reduce meltdown risk; (v) Suited to off-grid, remote or industrial-site power needs (mining, desalination, hydrogen production, steel/cement/aluminium process heat) where a full-sized reactor would be impractical; (vi) increasingly pitched as a solution to the AI/data-centre electricity demand boom, since they can be sited close to compute facilities.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid rising global electricity demand (partly AI/data-centre driven), decarbonisation pressure, and energy-sovereignty concerns sharpened by the Ukraine war and Middle East energy-market volatility.

India angle

- India's SMR programme, in detail: under the Nuclear Energy Mission (announced in Union Budget 2025-26, ₹20,000 crore outlay, targeting 100 GWe nuclear capacity by 2047 and 5 indigenous SMRs operational by 2033), the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)/ Department of Atomic Energy is developing 3 SMR designs: (i) Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) — 200 MWe, pressurised-water-reactor technology, uses Slightly Enriched Uranium (SEU) fuel, to be built at Tarapur, Maharashtra, aimed at captive power for energy-intensive industry (steel, aluminium, cement) and repurposing retired fossil-fuel plant sites; (ii) SMR-55 — 55 MWe, also PWR-based with a highly modular block design, also sited at Tarapur; (iii) a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (up to 5 MWth) for hydrogen production, to be built at BARC Vizag, Andhra Pradesh. Separately, India's PRIVATE sector is developing Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) based on India's existing, proven PHWR (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor) technology rather than the newer SMR designs — NPCIL issued an RFP (Dec 2024) inviting private industry, and Tata Power, Reliance, Adani Power, JSW Energy, Hindalco and Jindal Steel & Power all submitted proposals, with 16 prospective sites identified across 6 states.
- Legal reform enabling this: the SHANTI Bill 2025 (passed December 2025, signed into law shortly after) amended the Atomic Energy Act (1948/1962) and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLNDA) to allow PRIVATE companies into India's nuclear programme for the first time — previously a strict government/PSU monopoly; the Union Budget 2026-27 additionally waived customs/ import duties on nuclear component spare parts to ease foreign-private collaboration.
- France-India SMR cooperation specifically: France's CEA/EDF/Naval Group/TechnicAtome are developing their own NUWARD SMR (400 MWe, PWR-based, conceptual design due mid-2026); EDF signed an MoU with India's BHEL (Nov 2023) to explore NUWARD collaboration, and during PM Modi's France visit (Feb 2025) both sides adopted a Declaration of Intent on co-designing, co-developing and co-producing SMRs and advanced modular reactors together — directly relevant background to this Paris-hosted Summit.
- India was not a headline convenor of the Summit itself but is a highly relevant nuclear-energy state given all of the above; India's SMR/ nuclear expansion is also commonly cross-referenced with IAEA safeguards themes (entry 27) and with the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor's April 2026 criticality (also entry 27, India's Stage II of its three-stage nuclear programme).

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse this with a formal IAEA General Conference or Board of Governors session (entry 27) — it is a government-convened leaders' summit that the IAEA supports technically, not an IAEA statutory meeting.
- First edition was Brussels (2024), hosted by Belgium/the EU — the 2026 edition moved to Paris under French hosting; do not assume Brussels is the fixed venue.
- Exam trap: India's THREE government (BARC/DAE) SMR designs are all newer SMR technology (BSMR-200, SMR-55, HTGR) — do NOT confuse these with the separately-branded 'Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs),' which are PRIVATE-sector projects based on India's older, already-proven PHWR technology, not new SMR designs.
- Exam trap: IAEA's SMR capacity ceiling is 300 MWe per module — a frequently tested exact figure; do not round it to '300 MW' without the 'per module' qualifier, since multiple modules can be combined at one site for larger total capacity.

39. IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) — the 'IPCC for biodiversity'

Established	2012, Panama (94 governments agreed to create it)
Secretariat	Bonn, Germany
Nature	Independent intergovernmental body, not a UN agency, but works closely with UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP
Core purpose	Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services through rigorous, policy-relevant (not policy-prescriptive) assessments

Current leadership & how elected

- IPBES Chair: David Obura (Kenya) — elected by the Plenary (all IPBES member states) for a term running through the current work programme cycle.
- Executive Secretary (administrative head of the Secretariat, Bonn): appointed by the UNEP Executive Director in consultation with the IPBES Bureau.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	IPBES 12th session of the Plenary (IPBES-12)
Dates	3-8 February 2026 (Stakeholder Day 2 Feb)
Venue	Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, United Kingdom
Host	Government of the United Kingdom
Chair	David Obura

Major outcomes / decisions

- First IPBES Plenary held without the participation of a founding member — the USA — and the first session in which no new assessments were launched, due to budgetary constraints.
- The sole assessment accepted, with its Summary for Policymakers (SPM) approved after ~45 hours of line-by-line negotiation, was the Business and Biodiversity Assessment, examining how businesses depend on and impact nature and proposing metrics to track progress.
- Built on two landmark assessments approved at IPBES-11 (Dec 2024, Windhoek): the Nexus Assessment (interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, health and climate) and the Transformative Change Assessment (underlying causes of biodiversity loss and pathways to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity).

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid tightening IPBES finances following the US's non-participation, raising questions about the platform's capacity to sustain its assessment programme going forward.

India angle

- India is an IPBES member and periodically nominates experts to assessment author teams; India's National Biodiversity Action Plan references IPBES assessments. India's own on-the-ground biodiversity/wetland conservation record — the concrete material IPBES-style assessments actually track — runs on two parallel designation systems: Ramsar Sites and Biosphere Reserves.
- Ramsar Sites in India, recent additions explained: India's Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance, under the 1971 Ramsar Convention) have grown rapidly — from 93 sites (after Bihar's Gokul Jalashay and Udaipur Jheel were added) to 98 by early 2026 (with Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari Dhand among the January 2026 additions) and on to roughly 101 sites by mid-2026, as India continued adding wetlands across Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Bihar through 2025-26. Tamil Nadu leads all states with 20 Ramsar sites (including the Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve and Pichavaram mangroves), followed by Uttar Pradesh (11-12). The Sundarbans Wetland (West Bengal, ~4,230 km², shared with Bangladesh) is India's largest Ramsar site and the ONLY Indian site holding all 5 major designations simultaneously: Ramsar Site + UNESCO World Heritage Site + Tiger Reserve + National Park + Biosphere Reserve. India's oldest Ramsar sites (designated 1981) are Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Rajasthan).
- Biosphere Reserves in India, explained: India has 18 Biosphere Reserves designated domestically (under the Indian government's own Man and Biosphere programme framework), of which 13 are additionally recognised internationally as part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The most recent addition is the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (Himachal Pradesh, covering the Spiti/Pin Valley trans-Himalayan cold-desert ecosystem), which joined the UNESCO network in 2025 — bringing India's UNESCO-recognised total to 13. Unlike National Parks (which prioritise conservation through human exclusion), Biosphere Reserves are designed as 'living laboratories' where human communities and nature deliberately coexist, integrating indigenous knowledge with scientific research — a philosophy that maps directly onto IPBES's own emphasis on Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) systems in its assessments.

- Key Indian programmes underpinning these designations: the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA, MoEFCC) funds wetland conservation/restoration nationally; the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 provide the regulatory framework for notified wetlands; the Amrit Dharohar scheme (announced Budget 2023-24) specifically promotes eco-tourism and community livelihoods around India's Ramsar sites; and India's Biosphere Reserves operate under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's own Biosphere Reserve Programme, aligned with UNESCO's international Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme (est. 1971) for the UNESCO-recognised subset.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse IPBES with the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) — IPBES covers biodiversity/ecosystem services, IPCC covers climate science; both are independent science-policy bodies, not treaty implementing bodies.
- IPBES Secretariat is in Bonn, but sessions rotate host countries — IPBES-11 was Windhoek (Namibia), IPBES-12 was Manchester (UK).
- Exam trap: 'Biosphere Reserve' (18 in India, of which 13 are UNESCO-recognised) and 'Ramsar Site' (~101 in India) are TWO DIFFERENT designation systems under two different international frameworks (UNESCO MAB vs. the Ramsar Convention) — a site can hold both designations simultaneously (as the Sundarbans and Gulf of Mannar do), but the two counts should never be added together or confused as the same list.
- Exam trap: not every Indian Biosphere Reserve is automatically a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve — 18 are nationally notified, only 13 have cleared UNESCO's separate international recognition process; always specify which count a question is asking about.

40. World Environment Day (WED) — UNEP's flagship annual observance

Established	1972, by UN General Assembly, following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment
Convened by	UN Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with a different host country each year
Nature	An annual observance day, not a negotiating summit — no formal outcome document or treaty status
Core purpose	World's largest platform for environmental public outreach, mobilising governments, businesses and citizens across 150+ countries

Current leadership & how elected

- World Environment Day has no leadership of its own — it is a UN observance day led by UNEP, whose Executive Director (Inger Andersen, Denmark) is covered in the UN System leadership quick-reference (see entry 1's UN Structure section).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	World Environment Day 2026
Date	5 June 2026
Host country	Republic of Azerbaijan
Venue	Baku, Azerbaijan
Theme	"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." (hashtag #NowForClimate)

Major outcomes / decisions

- 2026 theme refocused global attention on climate change as "the defining environmental emergency of this decade," framing nature both as a victim of climate disruption and as a source of climate solutions.
- Azerbaijan's hosting builds on its recent role as COP29 host (Baku, 2024), positioning the country as a continuing convener on climate/environment issues.
- Falls within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a global initiative to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Symbolically timed each year to 5 June, the opening date of the 1972 Stockholm Conference that led to UNEP's creation — the fixed date never shifts.

India angle

- India marks World Environment Day annually through MoEFCC-led events; India previously hosted the global celebrations in 2018 (theme: 'Beat Plastic Pollution').

Exam focus / traps

- WED is NOT a negotiating conference or COP — it produces no binding outcome document; do not confuse it with UNEA (entry-level UN Environment Assembly, the actual decision-making body — UNEA-7 was Dec 2025, UNEA-8 is Dec 2027, neither falling in this window).
- Host country rotates annually and is distinct from any COP presidency, though recent hosts (Azerbaijan 2026, following its COP29 role) sometimes overlap with climate-summit hosting.

41. India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2031-2035

Nature	India's national climate plan under the Paris Agreement (Article 4); submitted to UNFCCC every 5 years
Approved by	Union Cabinet
Ministry	MoEFCC
Guiding vision	Viksit Bharat @2047, Net-Zero by 2070; grounded in Global Stocktake outcomes and CBDR-RC

Current leadership & how elected

- Not applicable — India's NDC is a national policy instrument (a Union Cabinet decision), not an organisation with its own leadership or elected posts.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Event	Cabinet approval of NDC 2031-2035 for UNFCCC communication
Date	25 March 2026
Venue	New Delhi

Major outcomes / decisions

- Emissions intensity: 47% cut by 2035 from 2005 levels (up from 45%-by-2030 in the 2022 NDC).
- Non-fossil capacity: 60% of installed power capacity by 2035 (up from ~50%-by-2030); India had already crossed 52.57% by Feb 2026.
- New carbon-sink target: 3.5-4 billion tonnes CO₂eq via forest/tree cover by 2035 — a shift to stock-based accounting.
- CCUS and nuclear energy named as NDC instruments for the first time.
- 2015 targets (33-35% intensity cut, 40% non-fossil share) were met 11 and 9 years early respectively.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Announced just before the Petersberg Dialogue and Bonn SB64, positioning India's ambition ahead of COP31 (Antalya, Nov 2026).

India angle

- This IS the India angle for climate questions across WSDS (37), Petersberg (35), Bonn SB64 (23) and the Nuclear Energy Summit (38).

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- PMO statement framed the NDC 2031-2035 explicitly: "India's NDC for 2031-35 is guided by the vision of Viksit Bharat, which is not just a goal for 2047, but a commitment to act today to build a prosperous, and climate resilient Bharat for the future generations."
- PIB/PMO highlighted India's delivery record on its 2015 NDC as the credibility case for the new targets: the 33-35% emissions-intensity cut and 40% non-fossil capacity share (both 2030 targets) were achieved 11 years and 9 years ahead of schedule respectively; emissions intensity had already fallen 36% (2005-2020) before the new 47%-by-2035 target was set.

- Non-fossil installed capacity had already crossed 52.57% by the time of the Cabinet decision — already past the old 50% (2030) target, underpinning confidence in the new 60%-by-2035 goal.
- The Cabinet statement explicitly cited the first Global Stocktake (GST) outcomes and the CBDR-RC/equity principle as shaping the new NDC — material also directly relevant to India's Bonn SB64 and Petersberg Dialogue positioning.

Exam focus / traps

- Don't confuse the binding 2022 NDC (45%/50%, through 2030) with the NEW 2031-2035 NDC (47%/60%) — both stay relevant until 2030.
- 'Panchamrit' (COP26 Glasgow, 2021) is the broader framework; the NDC itself is the formal UNFCCC submission (2015, 2022, 2026).

42. Montreal Protocol (ozone layer) — Open-ended Working Group 48 + 6th Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties

Established	1987 (Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer); entered into force 1989
Secretariat	Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya
Membership	198 parties — universal ratification, the only UN treaty to achieve this
Core purpose	Phase out production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS); expanded by the 2016 Kigali Amendment to also phase down HFCs (potent greenhouse gases used as ODS substitutes)

Current leadership & how elected

- Ozone Secretariat Executive Secretary: Meg Seki (Japan) — appointed by the UNEP Executive Director following a competitive UN recruitment process; the Ozone Secretariat (serving both the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol) is administratively part of UNEP, headquartered in Nairobi.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	48th Open-ended Working Group (OEWG48) + 6th Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (ExMOP6) + 76th Implementation Committee (ImpCom76)
Dates	OEWG48 & ExMOP6: 13-17 July 2026 (ExMOP6 specifically on 14 July); ImpCom76: 18-19 July 2026
Venue	United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Mandating decision	ExMOP6 organised under decision XXXVII/21 of the 37th Meeting of the Parties (Nov 2025)

Major outcomes / decisions

- OEWG48 served as the technical preparatory meeting ahead of the (later, outside this window) 38th Meeting of the Parties.
- Discussions centred on the 2027-2029 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, monitoring/containing/replacing controlled substances, and preparing for the next quadrennial Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion (due 2026).
- Montreal Protocol's cumulative achievement cited in this cycle: ~98% of ozone-depleting substances phased out worldwide (relative to a 1990 baseline); current projections put full ozone layer recovery at around 2040 (rest of world), 2045 (Arctic) and 2066 (Antarctic) if current policies hold.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid "global financial turmoil" complicating the Multilateral Fund replenishment negotiations — a recurring theme across nearly every multilateral environmental fund in this period (echoing GEF and climate-finance funding pressure elsewhere in this document).

India angle

- India is a Montreal Protocol party and Kigali Amendment ratifier; India's HFC phase-down commitments link to its Cooling Action Plan and refrigerant-transition industrial policy.

Exam focus / traps

- Montreal Protocol is widely regarded as the most successful international environmental treaty (universal ratification, measurable ozone recovery) — a strong contrast point to draw against less successful MEAs (e.g., UNFCCC's non-binding NDC system) in essay-type answers.
- Do not confuse the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985, the framework treaty) with the Montreal Protocol (1987, the binding implementing protocol under it) — a classic static-GK pairing trap, analogous to UNFCCC (framework) vs Paris Agreement/Kyoto Protocol (implementing instruments).

43. Basel Convention (hazardous waste) — 15th Open-ended Working Group

Established	1989 (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal); entered into force 1992
Secretariat	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland (jointly serviced with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions)
Core purpose	Reduce/minimise transboundary movements of hazardous waste, ensure environmentally sound management, and regulate/restrict waste shipments to developing countries

Current leadership & how elected

- BRS Conventions Executive Secretary: heads the joint Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Secretariat in Geneva — appointed by the UNEP Executive Director; the post has been held in recent years by Rolph Payet.
- Basel Convention COP President rotates each COP, elected by that session's Conference of the Parties from among its own delegates (distinct from the standing Executive Secretary).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	15th meeting of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group (BC OEWG-15)
Dates	23-26 June 2026
Venue	Geneva, Switzerland
Level	Technical/preparatory working group — not the full Conference of the Parties (COP)

Major outcomes / decisions

- Prepared technical and legal groundwork for the next full joint Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions — the three chemicals/waste conventions that meet jointly on a biennial cycle (the most recent joint COPs were held in 2025; the next full COP round falls outside this Feb-Jul 2026 window).
- Basel Convention's recurring agenda items include revisions to Annex IV (disposal operations) and guidelines for environmentally sound management of specific waste categories (e.g., textile waste, plastic waste, e-waste).

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened against a backdrop of global chemical manufacturing growing ~3.5% annually (on track to double by 2030) and increasingly shifting to the Global South, raising transboundary hazardous-waste management stakes for developing economies including India.

India angle

- India is a Basel Convention party; India's e-waste and plastic-waste management rules (under domestic environmental law) are periodically benchmarked against Basel Convention guidelines.

Exam focus / traps

- BC OEWG-15 is a technical working group, NOT a Conference of the Parties (COP) — do not report it as 'India attended Basel Convention COP in 2026'; the actual joint BRS COPs are biennial and did not fall in this window.
- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm are three DISTINCT conventions (waste / hazardous-chemicals-trade / persistent-organic-pollutants respectively) that share one Secretariat and meet jointly — a common source of exam confusion.

44. CMS — Convention on Migratory Species, 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15)

Established	1979 (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 'Bonn Convention'); entered into force 1983
Secretariat	Bonn, Germany (UNEP-administered)
Core purpose	Conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species across their range, through legally binding agreements and less formal Memoranda of Understanding

Current leadership & how elected

- CMS Executive Secretary: heads the CMS Secretariat in Bonn (UNEP-administered) — appointed by the UNEP Executive Director.
- COP15 was chaired by Brazil as host government, per CMS's standard practice of the host country chairing its own COP session.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	CMS COP15
Dates	23-29 March 2026
Venue	Bosque Expo, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil
Theme/slogan	"Connecting Nature to Sustain Life"
Significance	First time a CMS COP has been hosted in Brazil, the world's most biodiverse country, at the gateway to the Pantanal

Major outcomes / decisions

- Focused on ecological connectivity for migratory species and strengthening synergies with other biodiversity-cluster conventions (explicitly named: CITES, CBD, Ramsar).
- Addressed conservation status reviews and potential Appendix listing changes for migratory species facing cross-border range pressures.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened in the same broad window as CBD-related preparatory work (SBSTTA/SBI, ahead of CBD COP17 in Yerevan, Oct 2026) — CMS COP15 is part of the same biodiversity-cluster negotiating calendar even though it is a legally separate convention with its own COP cycle.

India angle

- India is a CMS party; India's migratory-species commitments include the Central Asian Flyway for birds and the National Marine Turtle Action Plan, periodically referenced in CMS reporting.

Exam focus / traps

- CMS (migratory species) is legally DISTINCT from CBD (biodiversity generally), CITES (international wildlife trade) and Ramsar (wetlands specifically) — all four are commonly bundled as 'the biodiversity conventions' but have separate COPs, separate Secretariats-in-practice, and separate ratification lists; do not conflate CMS COP15 (Brazil, Mar 2026) with CBD COP17 (Armenia, Oct 2026).

Major Environmental & Chemicals COPs — Complete Reference (In-Window and Just Outside It)

"COP" (Conference of the Parties) is the supreme governing body of most multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This table places every major environment/chemicals/biodiversity COP relevant to current affairs on one timeline, so none are wrongly reported as falling inside the Feb-Jul 2026 window when they do not — and so the ones that genuinely touched this window (via working groups, or via a decision taking effect) are not missed either.

COP / body	Full form	Session & dates	Key note
CITES CoP20	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	24 Nov-5 Dec 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan (just before this window)	Marked CITES' 50th anniversary; 51 proposals to amend Appendices I/II adopted; amendments took legal effect 5 March 2026 — that effective date DOES fall inside this Feb-Jul window even though CoP20 itself does not.
UNFCCC COP31	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	9-20 November 2026, Antalya, Türkiye (outside this window)	Türkiye hosts, Australia's Chris Bowen presides over negotiations — a split-hosting arrangement reached after both countries refused to withdraw their bids. Bonn SB64 (entry 23) and the Petersberg Dialogue (entry 35) are this window's preparatory track toward it.
CBD COP17	Convention on Biological Diversity (UN Biodiversity Conference)	October 2026, Yerevan, Armenia (outside this window)	Held jointly with the 12th Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the 6th Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing; will be the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). IPBES-12 (entry 39) and CBD's own subsidiary bodies SBSTTA-28/SBI-7 (27 Jul-12 Aug 2026, Nairobi — opening days just brush this window's end) feed into it.
UNCCD COP17	UN Convention to Combat Desertification	17-28 August 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (outside this window)	Theme: 'Restoring Land, Restoring Hope.' The G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (entry 36) explicitly flagged COP17 as a test of its own desertification/land-degradation commitments.
Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm joint COPs	Hazardous waste / hazardous-chemicals-trade / persistent organic pollutants	Most recent: 2025; next joint COP: 2027 (biennial cycle) — outside this window	This window saw only the technical Basel Convention OEWG-15 (entry 43), not a full joint COP.
OPCW CSP-31	Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention	23-27 November 2026, The Hague, Netherlands (outside this window)	OPCW's annual governing session; notably, the incoming Director-General elected at CSP-30 (Nov 2025) — Switzerland's Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter — took office 27 July 2026, a leadership transition date that DOES fall right at the edge of this window even though CSP-31 itself does not.
Montreal Protocol OEWG48 + ExMOP6	Ozone-depleting substances / HFCs	13-19 July 2026, Bangkok, Thailand — fully INSIDE this window	Covered in full as entry 42; the next full Meeting of the Parties (MOP38) falls later in 2026, outside this window.
CMS COP15	Convention on Migratory Species ('Bonn Convention')	23-29 March 2026, Campo Grande, Brazil — fully INSIDE this window	Covered in full as entry 44; a genuine Conference of the Parties (not a working group) met entirely within this window — the clearest exception to the pattern below. First CMS COP hosted in Brazil, themed 'Connecting Nature to Sustain Life.'
Ramsar COP15 / Minamata COP-6	Wetlands / Mercury	Ramsar: 23-31 Jul 2025, Zimbabwe; Minamata: 3-7 Nov 2025, Geneva — both BEFORE this window	Most recent sessions of both concluded before Feb 2026; neither has a session scheduled inside this window.

Exam trap: Two environment-linked bodies had genuine Conference/Meeting-of-Parties-level sessions inside Feb-Jul 2026: CMS COP15 (Brazil, March — a full, numbered COP) and the Montreal Protocol's OEWG48/ExMOP6 (Bangkok, July — a working group and extraordinary meeting, NOT a numbered "COP" in Montreal Protocol terminology). CITES, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, Ramsar, Minamata, Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm and OPCW all have their governing sessions in the second half of 2026, in 2025, or later. Do not answer "which COP met in Feb-Jul 2026" with CBD, CITES or UNFCCC — the correct headline answer is CMS COP15 (entry 44), with the Montreal Protocol track (entry 42) as a secondary, sub-COP-level answer. Also note the Montreal Protocol's own parent framework treaty, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, DOES use "COP" for its governing body, while the Montreal Protocol itself (the implementing instrument) uses "Meeting of the Parties" — a further naming trap.

45. European Union (EU) — European Council

Established	1993 (Maastricht Treaty)
Headquarters	Brussels (Council, Commission); Parliament splits Strasbourg/Brussels
Membership	27 states — Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (post-Brexit, since UK exit 31 Jan 2020)
Nature	Supranational + intergovernmental hybrid; members pool sovereignty via directly-applicable EU law
Core purpose	Political/economic integration: single market, eurozone, common foreign/security policy

Current leadership & how elected

- European Council President: António Costa (Portugal, former PM) — in office since 1 December 2024, a 2.5-year term (renewable once); elected by the European Council itself (the 27 Heads of State/Government) by qualified majority.
- European Commission President: Ursula von der Leyen (Germany) — proposed by the European Council and elected by the European Parliament; began a second 5-year term in 2024.
- President of the European Parliament: elected by MEPs themselves from among their number, for a 2.5-year (half-term) mandate.
- Presidency of the Council of the EU (a separate rotating post, held by a member state government, NOT an individual): rotates every 6 months among member states; Cyprus held it for part of 2026.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	European Council — 3 sessions in this window: 19-20 Mar, 23-24 Apr (informal), 18-19 Jun
Venue	Brussels (all sessions)
Chaired by	President António Costa, with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen
2026 Council-of-EU Presidency (rotating, distinct post)	Cyprus, part of 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- 19-20 Mar: 5th anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine; €194.9bn cumulative Ukraine support reaffirmed (€69.7bn military); launched 'One Europe, One Market' competitiveness agenda; updated 2022 Strategic Compass.
- 18-19 Jun (major summit): opened first accession-negotiation chapter cluster with Ukraine and Moldova, ending a long impasse; conclusions on Ukraine, Middle East, MFF 2028-2034 budget (~€2 trillion), defence, migration, enlargement, DRC/Uganda Ebola; met Zelenskyy.
- 23-24 Apr (informal): discussed 'AccelerateEU' response to Middle East-driven energy shocks; EU-GCC summit announced for later 2026.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid Russia's ongoing war, Middle East energy shocks, a contentious budget fight, and renewed enlargement momentum.

India angle

- India-EU FTA negotiations concluded on a separate track this period (referenced at WTO MC14, entry 3); India is an EU strategic partner, not a member/candidate.

Exam focus / traps

- European Council (political direction) ≠ Council of the EU (legislates) ≠ European Commission (executive) — common trap; only the European Council has a full-time President (Costa), distinct from the rotating Council-of-EU Presidency.
- EU is not a UN specialized agency but holds Permanent Observer status; it participates directly in G7, G20, WTO, Pax Silica (entries 5, 6, 3, 29).

46. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) — 70th Session (CSW70)

Nature	Functional commission of ECOSOC (parallel in structure to the Commission for Social Development, entry 1/34)
Established	1946
Headquarters	UN Headquarters, New York
Core purpose	The UN's principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women; documents women's and girls' lived realities worldwide and shapes global gender-equality standards

Current leadership & how elected

- Chaired by an elected Bureau (Chairperson + Vice-Chairs) drawn from Commission member states for each session; oversight sits with ECOSOC, whose own President is elected annually by ECOSOC's 54 members (same governance pattern as the Commission for Social Development, entry 1/34).

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)
Dates	9-19/20 March 2026
Venue	UN Headquarters, New York
Priority theme	"Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and addressing structural barriers"
Review theme	Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, and elimination of violence, per the 65th session's agreed conclusions

Major outcomes / decisions

- Billed as the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's rights; opened 9 March 2026, immediately after the UN Observance of International Women's Day (theme: 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls') held the same day in the General Assembly Hall.
- Agreed conclusions on the priority theme were adopted on 9 March 2026; the CSW70 Youth Forum 'Voices Without Borders' convened ~200 young feminists and allies alongside the formal session.

- Key statistic cited in the concept note: women worldwide hold, on average, only 64% of the legal rights that men have — the evidentiary basis for the 2026 priority theme on access to justice.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid what UN Women's own framing called a period of shrinking democratic space and rule-of-law rollback affecting women's rights specifically — echoing the broader 'multilateralism under strain' thread running through WTO MC14, ILO's funding crisis, and other entries this window.

India angle

- India participates through its Ministry of Women and Child Development and UN Permanent Mission; Indian delegations to CSW typically highlight legal-empowerment and women-led-development framing consistent with India's G20 presidency legacy themes.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- India's delegation to CSW70 is led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development; India routinely cites flagship schemes (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, women's land/property rights initiatives, Mudra Yojana's high female borrower share, and women's political reservation in local bodies) when presenting its national record at CSW sessions.
- India frames its CSW engagement around 'women-led development' (as opposed to simply 'women's development') — a framing PM Modi elevated during India's 2023 G20 presidency and that Indian statements continue to reference at UN gender-equality forums including CSW.

Exam focus / traps

- CSW is a functional commission of ECOSOC — do NOT confuse it with UN Women (the operational UN entity/programme, entry in the UN Structure reference) or with CEDAW (the treaty-monitoring Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a separate treaty body).
- CSW70 (2026) is numerically distinct from UN Women's founding year (2010) and from International Women's Day's own history (marked since 1911) — three separate anniversaries that are easy to conflate in an exam.

47. Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) — 69th Session

Nature	Functional commission of ECOSOC; since 1991 also serves as the governing body of UNODC (entry cross-reference: UNODC appears in the UN Structure Programmes & Funds table)
Established	1946
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria (Vienna International Centre)
Core purpose	Assists ECOSOC in supervising international drug-control treaties; reviews the global drug situation covering both supply and demand reduction

Current leadership & how elected

- CND69 Chair: Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan (Armenia) — elected by the Commission's own membership for that session, following the same rotating-chair pattern as other ECOSOC functional commissions.
- UNODC Acting Executive Director (at time of CND69): John Brandolino — UNODC's Executive Director is appointed by the UN Secretary-General; CND, as UNODC's governing body, provides policy oversight rather than appointing this post directly.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Meeting	69th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND69)
Dates	9-13 March 2026
Venue	Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria
Chair	Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan (Armenia)
Opened by	The Chair and the Acting Executive Director of UNODC, John Brandolino

Major outcomes / decisions

- Brought together 2,078 participants from 134 Member States, 20 intergovernmental organisations, 9 UN entities and 198 NGOs; included 169 side events and 23 exhibitions.
- Adopted 5 resolutions and placed 3 new substances under international control; constituted an independent expert panel (per CND resolution 68/6) to prepare non-binding recommendations ahead of a comprehensive 2029 review of global drug-policy commitments.
- Colombia's President Gustavo Petro addressed the General Debate, highlighting challenges faced by drug-producer countries and calling for alternative development and action against transnational criminal networks over purely punitive approaches.
- International Narcotics Control Board President Sevil Atasoy stressed the need for consistent, predictable funding to protect the Board's treaty-mandated monitoring functions.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid an ongoing global reassessment of punitive vs. public-health-centred drug policy approaches, with mass incarceration effects on women in Latin America highlighted as a specific side-event theme.

India angle

- India is a CND member state and party to the three underlying drug-control conventions (1961 Single Convention, 1971 Psychotropic Substances Convention, 1988 Trafficking Convention); India's positions typically emphasise balanced supply/demand reduction and international cooperation against trafficking.

Exam focus / traps

- CND is a functional commission of ECOSOC AND the governing body of UNODC simultaneously — a dual role unique among the ECOSOC commissions covered in this document.
- Do not confuse CND (drug policy, Vienna) with CCPCJ (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, also Vienna-based, a separate ECOSOC functional commission on broader criminal-justice matters, which sometimes meets jointly with CND in reconvened sessions but did not hold its own main session in this window).

48. India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) — bilateral trade negotiations

Nature	Bilateral India-Canada trade negotiation (not multilateral) — a major India-specific thread through this window
Launched	23 Nov 2025, G20 Johannesburg (PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney)
Scope	Beyond a standard FTA — Goods, Services, Investment, IP, Rules of Origin, SPS, TBT, regulatory cooperation
Backdrop	A diplomatic and economic reset after strained India-Canada relations

Current leadership & how elected

- No standing leadership — a bilateral negotiation between the Indian and Canadian governments, conducted through each country's own trade ministry (India's Department of Commerce; Canada's Global Affairs Canada) rather than a joint institutional structure.

Feb-Jul 2026 meeting / session

Milestone 1	Terms of Reference signed, 2 March 2026
Round 2	4-8 May 2026, New Delhi
Round 3	6-10 July 2026, Ottawa

High-level input	Modi-Carney bilateral at G7 Evian, June 2026 (entry 5)
Target	Conclude by end of 2026

Major outcomes / decisions

- Three full rounds completed by July 2026 (per MEA's Rajya Sabha reply); discussions advanced across all major chapters.
- Round 2 (New Delhi) covered Goods, Services, IP, Rules of Origin, SPS/TBT in detail; Round 3 (Ottawa) built on Modi-Carney momentum, reaffirming the end-2026 target.
- Canada ran public consultations (13 Dec 2025 – 27 Jan 2026) ahead of the rounds.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Part of India's push to diversify trade partnerships — sits alongside concluded UAE, Australia and EFTA deals, and parallel EU/US FTA tracks (entry 3).

India angle

- This entry IS the India angle: bilateral trade ~USD 17bn now, target ~USD 50bn by 2030; Canada is India's 10th-largest trading partner.

PIB Highlights (India's official coverage)

- Negotiations formally launched 23 November 2025, when PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney agreed on the margins of the G20 Summit (Johannesburg, South Africa) to begin talks — marking a diplomatic reset after several years of strained India-Canada relations.
- Terms of Reference signed by both countries' Trade Ministers on 2 March 2026, providing the roadmap and defining the scope of the agreement (going beyond a standard FTA to cover goods, services, investment, IP, and regulatory cooperation).
- Round 1: prior to this window's main activity; Round 2: 4-8 May 2026, Vanijiya Bhawan, New Delhi (hosted by India's Department of Commerce) — covered Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Intellectual Property, Rules of Origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade.
- Round 3: 6-10 July 2026, Ottawa — both sides reaffirmed the shared target of concluding the agreement by end-2026.
- MEA informed the Rajya Sabha (per MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh) that three rounds had been completed by July 2026, with discussions advancing across multiple negotiating areas.
- Target: raise bilateral trade from ~USD 17 billion currently to ~USD 50 billion by 2030; Canada is India's 10th-largest trading partner. PM Modi's G7 Evian bilateral with Carney (entry 5) provided high-level political momentum alongside the technical negotiating rounds.

Exam focus / traps

- CEPA is broader than a plain FTA — same distinction applies to India's UAE and Australia deals.
- Don't confuse with India's separate EU or EFTA trade tracks mentioned elsewhere (entry 3).

49. G20 Summit 2023 — New Delhi, India (18th Summit)

Nature	Historical G20 leaders' summit — India's first time hosting; added for comparison alongside the last 3 summits
Dates	9-10 September 2023
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Host / President	India, PM Narendra Modi
Theme	'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' — 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'

Current leadership & how elected

- No independent leadership — this was a G7-track leaders' summit; see entry 6 (G20) for the general 'no permanent head, host rotates' governance pattern that also applied to this historical 2023 edition (hosted that year by India, PM Narendra Modi).

Summit details (historical — outside Feb-Jul 2026)

Outcome document	New Delhi Leaders' Declaration — adopted by consensus
Scale	200+ meetings across 60 Indian cities, 28 states and 8 UTs

Major outcomes / decisions

- African Union granted permanent G20 membership — the summit's single most cited outcome.
- Launched the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a rail-and-shipping connectivity initiative.
- Consensus reached on Russia-Ukraine language (a dilution from the 2022 Bali position); commitments on tripling renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, crypto-asset regulation, and reform of multilateral development banks.
- PM Modi handed the presidency gavel to Brazil's President Lula at the close.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Held amid rising geopolitical rivalry; hailed by India as its highest-profile international gathering since independence, spotlighting Global South priorities and India's own Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative.

India angle

- India's own presidency — the entire summit IS the India angle. PM Modi's Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) approach made it a national, people-centric endeavour.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse this with India's future G20 chairship — India will not hold the presidency again until a much later rotation; the next three presidencies were Brazil (2024), South Africa (2025), USA (2026).

50. G20 Summit 2024 — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (19th Summit)

Nature	Historical G20 leaders' summit
Dates	18-19 November 2024
Venue	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Host / President	Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
Theme	'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'

Current leadership & how elected

- No independent leadership — hosted by Brazil (President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva) under the same rotating G20 host-presidency model described in entry 6.

Summit details (historical — outside Feb-Jul 2026)

Outcome document	Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration
Priorities	(i) social inclusion and fight against hunger/poverty; (ii) sustainable development, energy transition, climate action; (iii) reform of global governance institutions

Major outcomes / decisions

- Launched the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty (148 founding members, incl. 82 countries, AU and EU) — the summit's flagship achievement.
- Created the G20 Social Summit, a new civil-society engagement platform; established a Women's Empowerment Working Group.
- Declaration endorsed 'taxation of billionaires,' energy transition, and support for the upcoming COP30 (Belem, Brazil); reaffirmed Multilateral Development Bank reform.

- Held alongside COP29 (Baku) — climate-finance language stayed at the 2023 New Delhi Declaration's level, without new commitment on 'transitioning away from fossil fuels.'

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Overshadowed by Russia's war reaching its 1,000th day, the Middle East conflict, and Donald Trump's US election win days before the summit, raising uncertainty about future US engagement with the G20 process.

India angle

- India, represented at head-of-government level, continued Global-South-oriented themes it had championed during its own 2023 presidency; presidency passed from India's immediate predecessor cycle to Brazil this year.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse the G20 Social Summit (a NEW civil-society platform launched in 2024) with the G20 Leaders' Summit itself — two distinct events in Brazil's presidency calendar.

51. G20 Summit 2025 — Johannesburg, South Africa (20th Summit)

Nature	Historical G20 leaders' summit — first ever held on African soil
Dates	22-23 November 2025
Venue	Johannesburg Expo Centre, Johannesburg
Host / President	South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa
Theme	'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability'

Current leadership & how elected

- No independent leadership — hosted by South Africa (President Cyril Ramaphosa) under the same rotating G20 host-presidency model described in entry 6; presidency passed to the USA for 2026.

Summit details (historical — outside Feb-Jul 2026)

Outcome document	Johannesburg Declaration — 122-paragraph, ~30-page document, adopted despite notable absences
Significance	Fourth consecutive Global-South presidency in a row, after Indonesia, India and Brazil

Major outcomes / decisions

- US did not officially participate/boycotted; China's President Xi skipped the summit, sending Premier Li Qiang instead; Argentina also stayed away — among the most politically fractured G20 summits in the forum's history.
- Declaration covered debt sustainability for low-income countries, mobilising finance for just energy transitions, critical minerals for inclusive growth, AI/data governance (including launch of an 'AI for Africa' initiative), and reform of the international financial architecture.
- A G20 Social Summit was again convened (20 November, per the Brazil-established format) ahead of the main Leaders' Summit.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Capped a four-year run of Global South-led G20 presidencies (Indonesia → India → Brazil → South Africa); presidency passed next to the USA for the 2026 cycle (Miami Summit, 14-15 Dec 2026 — outside this document's Feb-Jul 2026 window, see entry 6).

India angle

- India attended at head-of-government level; Japan's PM Takaichi and other leaders held bilateral meetings on the margins — illustrating the summit's continued role as a hub for sideline diplomacy even amid boycotts.

Exam focus / traps

- Do not confuse South Africa's 2025 host year with its unrelated position as a BRICS full member (entry 7) — South Africa holds G20 and BRICS membership on two entirely separate tracks.
- The US absence/boycott in 2025 is a notable exam trap: the G20 host year rotates regardless of any single member's attendance — non-attendance does not skip or alter the rotation.

52. 1st BRIC Summit (2009) — Yekaterinburg, Russia (founding summit)

Nature	Historical — the founding summit of the grouping, before South Africa's 2010 accession (BRIC → BRICS)
Dates	16 June 2009
Venue	Yekaterinburg, Russia
Host	Russia, President Dmitry Medvedev
Founding leaders	Medvedev (Russia), Lula da Silva (Brazil), Manmohan Singh (India), Hu Jintao (China)

Current leadership & how elected

- No independent leadership — this was BRIC's founding summit, hosted by Russia (President Dmitry Medvedev) under the same rotating chairship model later formalised for BRICS (see entry 7).

Summit details (historical — outside Feb-Jul 2026)

Backdrop event	Convened in the shadow of the 2008 global financial crisis
Outcome document	Yekaterinburg Declaration + BRIC Action Plan

Major outcomes / decisions

- Focused on the G20's role in crisis response, reform of international financial institutions (IMF/World Bank) to give more voice to emerging markets, support for the multilateral trading system, and cooperation in science, energy and education.
- BRIC leaders called for a new, more diversified global reserve currency system — widely read as an early signal of the bloc's long-term de-dollarisation interest, without naming the US dollar directly.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Marked the first-ever standalone BRIC leaders' summit, following informal BRIC meetings on the margins of the 2008 G8 summit (Toyako, Japan) and a Foreign Ministers' meeting at UNGA in 2006.

India angle

- India represented by PM Manmohan Singh, one of the four founding leaders.

Exam focus / traps

- BRIC (4 members) became BRICS only after South Africa joined in 2010/2011 — do not describe this 2009 founding summit as a 'BRICS' summit; it was a BRIC summit.
- Do not confuse this founding summit with India's own 2026 chairship (entry 7) — 17 summits and 16 years separate them.

53. 17th BRICS Summit (2025) — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Nature	Historical — most recent BRICS Leaders' Summit before India's 2026 chairship (entry 7)
Dates	6-7 July 2025
Venue	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Museum of Modern Art)
Host	Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
Theme	'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance'

Current leadership & how elected

- No independent leadership — hosted by Brazil (President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva) under BRICS's rotating annual chairship model (see entry 7); chairship passed to India for 2026.

Summit details (historical — outside Feb-Jul 2026)

Outcome document	Rio de Janeiro Declaration — 126 commitments across 6 pillars
Significance	Indonesia's first summit as the 11th full member; bloc now ~49.5% of world population, ~40% of global GDP

Major outcomes / decisions

- Adopted 3 additional documents alongside the main Declaration: a Framework Declaration on Climate Finance, a Declaration on Global Governance of AI, and a Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases.
- Endorsed the 'Tropical Forests Forever Facility' (China and UAE pledged investment) ahead of Brazil's COP30 hosting; called for multilateral, UN-anchored AI governance.
- No explicit condemnation of Israel or the US; no mention of de-dollarisation despite reaffirming local-currency trade settlement work — read by analysts as a deliberately 'mild' outcome.
- Xi Jinping did not attend in person; Putin joined only via video link (due to an ICC arrest warrant), raising visible questions about bloc cohesion.
- Post-summit, then-candidate Trump threatened 10% tariffs on BRICS countries over de-dollarisation concerns, drawing sharp pushback from Lula and other members.

Backdrop - why it mattered

- Convened amid deep global fractures — Middle East tension, the Russia-Ukraine war, and US tariff threats — testing the bloc's cohesion even as its membership and economic weight kept expanding.

India angle

- PM Modi addressed the inaugural session on 'Reform of Global Governance and Peace and Security' and the session on 'Strengthening Multilateral, Economic-Financial Affairs and Artificial Intelligence'; India backed Ghana's future BRICS-membership bid, stressing expansion must stay consensus-driven.

Exam focus / traps

- This is the LAST summit before India's own 2026 chairship (entry 7) — useful as the direct 'previous summit' reference point.
- Do not confuse Indonesia's accession (2025, taking full membership to 11) with the larger 2024 Kazan expansion (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE joined) — two separate expansion rounds.

Which Bodies in This Document Have NO Permanent Headquarters?

Six bodies covered in this document are informal groupings with no fixed secretariat — they operate purely through a rotating annual host/chair country, which runs the presidency, hosts the year's meetings, and hands off at the end of the year. This is a distinct structural category from every treaty-based organisation in this document (which all have a fixed HQ city, even if a small secretariat).

Body	How it operates without a HQ	2026 status
G7 (entry 5)	Rotates among the 7 members annually	France held 2026; USA holds 2027
G20 (entry 6)	Rotates among all members annually	USA holds 2026 (Miami Summit, Dec); South Africa held 2025
BRICS (entry 7)	Rotates among full members annually	India holds 2026; Brazil held 2025 (entry 53)
Quad (entry 15)	No chair/host convention — meetings rotate by country as scheduled	India hosted 2026 Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Pax Silica (entry 29)	Convened by the US State Department — not member-rotated	Both editions (2025, 2026) held in Washington, D.C.
Petersberg Climate Dialogue (entry 35)	Permanently hosted by Germany, co-chaired with the incoming COP presidency	17th edition, Berlin, 2026

Exam trap: "No permanent headquarters" does NOT mean "no permanent structure" — G7/G20/BRICS all have established annual cycles (Sherpa tracks, ministerial meetings, working groups) that repeat every year regardless of host; only the physical secretariat location changes. Contrast this with bodies like NATO (Brussels), ASEAN (Jakarta) or SAARC (Kathmandu), which have a fixed administrative secretariat even though their political leadership/chairship still rotates.

Comparing the Major Development Banks & Financial Institutions

IMF, the 5 World Bank Group institutions, and the major regional development banks are frequently confused with one another in exams. This table lays out established year, HQ, membership, and — most importantly — exactly what kind of financing/role each one provides, side by side.

Institution	Established	Headquarters	Membership	Core role
IMF	1944 (Bretton Woods)	Washington, D.C., USA	191	Monetary/financial stability; short-term balance-of-payments lending, economic surveillance, technical assistance. NOT a project-financing body.
IBRD	1944 (Bretton Woods, oldest WBG institution)	Washington, D.C., USA	189	Lends to creditworthy MIDDLE-income and lower-income governments for development projects. Together with IDA = 'the World Bank.'
IDA	1960	Washington, D.C., USA	174	Interest-free credits/grants to the POOREST countries; funded via periodic donor replenishments (every ~3 years), unlike IBRD's bond-market borrowing.
IFC	1956	Washington, D.C., USA	186	Lends AND takes equity stakes directly in PRIVATE-sector companies in developing countries; does not lend to governments.
MIGA	1988	Washington, D.C., USA	182	Provides political-risk insurance/guarantees to foreign investors against non-commercial risk (expropriation, war, currency transfer restrictions).
ICSID	1966	Washington, D.C., USA	158 (India is NOT a member)	Arbitrates investment disputes between foreign investors and host states; provides NO financing of any kind — purely a dispute-resolution body.
ADB (entry 18)	1966	Manila, Philippines	69	Regional development bank for Asia-Pacific; lends to governments and increasingly the private sector; President always Japanese by convention.
AfDB (entry 33)	1964	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	81 (54 African + 27 non-African)	Regional development bank for Africa; President always African by convention (currently Mauritania's Sidi Ould Tah).

AIIB (entry 30)	2015/2016	Beijing, China	111	Infrastructure-focused multilateral bank, China-led; President always Chinese by convention; world's 2nd-largest multilateral development institution by membership.
NDB / 'BRICS Bank'	2014 (agreement)/ 2015 (operational)	Shanghai, China	9 (5 founders: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + Bangladesh, Egypt, UAE, Algeria; Uruguay/ Uzbekistan/Colombia in process)	Infrastructure/sustainable-development lending for BRICS and other emerging economies; UNIQUE governance feature — equal voting power for all members regardless of shareholding (no single-country veto, unlike IMF/World Bank quota-based voting).

Exam traps to remember: (1) Every World Bank Group institution and the IMF share the SAME Washington, D.C. headquarters city — they are neighbours, not the same building or the same institution. (2) 'The World Bank' = IBRD + IDA only; the other three (IFC, MIGA, ICSID) are part of the wider 'World Bank Group' but are not called 'the World Bank' in strict usage. (3) India is a member of IBRD, IDA, IFC and MIGA — but NOT of ICSID, over concerns that its arbitration rules favour developed/investor countries. (4) Regional development bank presidents follow unwritten nationality conventions: ADB = Japanese, AfDB = African, AIIB = Chinese, World Bank = American (by separate, older convention), IMF Managing Director = European. (5) NDB is the only major MDB in this table with equal one-country-one-vote-style governance rather than shareholding-weighted votes — a deliberate design choice distinguishing it from the Bretton Woods institutions.

Example projects/loans financed by each institution

Institution	Illustrative example
IMF	Not project loans — e.g. a 2024 Stand-By Arrangement for Pakistan (balance-of-payments support, not a specific project)
IBRD	e.g. India's Mumbai Urban Transport Project, various middle-income infrastructure loans worldwide
IDA	e.g. concessional credits for India's rural sanitation/Swachh Bharat-linked programmes in earlier decades, and ongoing IDA support to low-income African states
IFC	e.g. direct equity/debt investment in private renewable-energy companies, microfinance institutions and private hospital chains across developing countries
MIGA	e.g. political-risk insurance covering a private power plant or telecom investment in a fragile/conflict-affected state
ADB	e.g. Mumbai Metro Line financing, Bangladesh Padma Bridge Rail Link, various Asia-Pacific renewable-energy and urban-transport loans
AfDB	e.g. Trans-African Highway corridor projects, African power-pool/electrification programmes
AIIB	e.g. India's Bangalore Metro Rail Project, Mumbai Urban Investment Programme, and numerous Asian/African renewable-energy and transport loans — India has been AIIB's single largest borrower by cumulative approved financing
NDB	e.g. India's Mumbai Metro Rail and various renewable-energy/urban-water projects across all 5 founding BRICS members, funded partly through Panda Bonds and other local-currency debt issuance

Why shareholding matters

In every institution in this table EXCEPT the NDB, voting power is weighted by a member's financial shareholding/quota (how much capital it has contributed) — NOT by population or one-country-one-vote. This means: (i) the countries that contribute the most capital get the most say over lending policy, budget, and leadership appointments (explaining the unwritten nationality conventions above — whichever country holds the largest single shareholding effectively locks in the presidency by convention); (ii) larger shareholders can block major decisions requiring supermajorities (e.g. the US holds enough IMF/World Bank voting share to single-handedly block certain supermajority decisions); (iii) a country's borrowing capacity and access to concessional terms is often linked to its own capital contribution and income classification, not just its development need. The NDB deliberately broke from this model — its 5 founding members hold EQUAL votes regardless of the size of their economy, a design choice meant to avoid recreating the same US/Europe-dominated governance pattern found in the IMF and World Bank.

Binding Treaty Bodies vs. Non-Binding Dialogue Platforms

A frequent exam trap is treating every body in this document as equally "binding." In reality they fall into sharply different legal categories — from hard treaty law that creates enforceable obligations, to informal forums whose outputs are purely political/voluntary. This table sorts the major bodies covered by category.

Category	Examples (entry numbers)	What this means in practice
Legally BINDING on ratifying states	UN Charter, UNCLOS (entry 25), Paris Agreement/UNFCCC (entry 23), WTO Agreements (entry 3), Montreal Protocol (entry 42), Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Conventions (entry 43), CMS (entry 44), Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, IAEA Safeguards Agreements (entry 27), ICSID Convention	These create enforceable international-law obligations; breach can trigger dispute-settlement mechanisms (WTO's DSB, ICJ, ICSID arbitration, or treaty-specific compliance committees).
Binding ONLY on states that opt in / ratify specific instruments	ILO Conventions (entry 22) — binding only on member states that individually ratify each specific Convention, not automatically binding on all 187 ILO members; OECD legal instruments (entry 20) — Decisions are binding on adopting members, Recommendations are not	A common trap: assuming ILO/OECD instruments bind the whole membership automatically — they don't; each instrument requires individual state ratification/adoption.
NON-BINDING / political commitments only	G7 (5), G20 (6), BRICS (7), Quad (15), SCO declarations beyond its founding charter, SAARC/BIMSTEC summit declarations, Petersburg Climate Dialogue (35), Pax Silica (29), Munich Security Conference (31), CSW/CND agreed conclusions (46, 47), UNGA resolutions (as opposed to UNSC Chapter VII resolutions)	These produce joint statements, declarations or communiqués that carry political weight and reputational pressure but NO legal enforcement mechanism — a state cannot be taken to a tribunal for breaching a G7 communiqué.
Advisory / standard-setting, not binding, but carries major REAL-WORLD consequences	FATF Recommendations (21) — not a treaty, yet grey/black-listing triggers serious de facto financial consequences (entry 21 backdrop); WHO Recommendations (2) — non-binding, unlike the binding International Health Regulations (IHR) which ARE a binding treaty instrument under WHO	FATF is the clearest example of a body whose output is technically 'soft law' but functions almost like hard law in practice, given how banks and regulators treat its lists.

Exam trap: Don't assume "treaty-based organisation" = "everything it produces is binding." The WTO itself is a binding treaty framework, but individual Ministerial Conference declarations (like the incomplete Yaoundé outcome at MC14, entry 3) are political texts, not binding law, unless and until incorporated into a ratified WTO agreement. Likewise, UNGA resolutions are political recommendations; only UNSC resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter are binding on all member states.

Month-wise Rapid Revision (Updated with New Additions)

FEBRUARY — UN Commission for Social Development, 64th Session (2-11, New York); WHO EB158 (2-7, Geneva); IPBES-12 (2-8, Manchester); APEC Finance Deputies (4-5, Shanghai); SAARC Programming Committee (11-12, Kathmandu); FATF Plenary (11-13, Mexico City); Munich Security Conference, 62nd (13-15, Munich); AU Summit (14-15, Addis Ababa); India AI Impact Summit (16-20/21, New

Delhi); World Sustainable Development Summit, 25th/Silver Jubilee (25-27, New Delhi); UNHRC 61 opens (23 Feb); ISA session (23 Feb-6 Mar); OIC emergency FM meeting (26 Feb, Jeddah).

MARCH — IAEA Board, March session (2-6, Vienna); India-Canada CEPA Terms of Reference signed (2 Mar); Nuclear Energy Summit, 2nd edition (10 Mar, Paris); CND 69th Session (9-13, Vienna); CSW70 (9-19/20, New York); European Council summit (19-20 Mar, Brussels); CMS COP15 (23-29 Mar, Campo Grande, Brazil); WHO Pandemic Agreement IGWG (23-28, Geneva); Cabinet approves India's NDC 2031-2035 (25 Mar, New Delhi); WTO MC14 (26-30, Yaounde); Arab League 165th session opens virtually (29 Mar); UNHRC 61 continues.

APRIL — OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (11-12, Baghdad); IPU 152nd Assembly (15-19, Istanbul); IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings (13-18, Washington); G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors (16, Washington); Petersberg Climate Dialogue, 17th (21-22, Berlin); Informal European Council meeting (23-24 Apr, Brussels); G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (23-24, Paris); GCC Extraordinary Consultative Summit (28, Jeddah); resumed WHO Pandemic Agreement talks (27 Apr-1 May).

MAY — ADB 59th Annual Meeting (3-6, Samarkand); India-Canada CEPA Round 2 (4-8, New Delhi); ASEAN 48th Summit cluster (6-8, Cebu); AfDB 2026 Annual Meetings (25-29, Brazzaville); BRICS Foreign Ministers (14-15, New Delhi); WHA79 (18-23, Geneva); NATO Foreign Ministers (21-22, Helsingborg); Quad Foreign Ministers (26, New Delhi); WHO EB159 (25-26, Geneva).

JUNE — ILO ILC114 (1-12, Geneva); OECD MCM (3-4, Paris); IAEA Board, June session (from 8, Vienna); UNFCCC SB64 / Bonn Climate Conference (8-18, Bonn); GCC 167th Ministerial Council (10, Manama); G7 Summit incl. Modi-Carney bilateral (15-17, Evian); IORA CSO 28th (15-16, New Delhi); World Environment Day (5 Jun, Baku, Azerbaijan); European Council summit (18-19 Jun, Brussels); Basel Convention OEWG-15 (23-26, Geneva); FATF Plenary (17-19, Paris); NATO Defence Ministers (18, Brussels); Arab League 165th session resumes in person (22, Amman); APEC Tourism Ministers (27, Macao); Pax Silica 2nd Summit (25-26, Washington DC).

JULY — NATO Summit (7-8, Ankara); India-Canada CEPA Round 3 (6-10, Ottawa); AI for Good (7-10, Geneva); WIPO Assemblies (7-15, Geneva); BRICS Women Ministerial (8-9, Kochi); OIC Women Ministerial (12-13, Islamabad); Montreal Protocol OEWG48 + ExMOP6 (13-17, Bangkok); BIMSTEC Security Chiefs (16, New Delhi); Montreal Protocol ImpCom76 (18-19, Bangkok); BRICS Health track (22-24, Chandigarh); SCO Foreign Ministers (24, Cholpon-Ata); OIC-UN cooperation meeting (27-29, Geneva).

High-Yield One-Liners for Exams (Updated)

- 2026 AU theme: sustainable water availability and safe sanitation for Agenda 2063.
- 2026 ASEAN Chair: Philippines; theme "Navigating Our Future, Together."
- 2026 G7 Summit: Evian-les-Bains, France, 15-17 June.
- 2026 NATO Summit: Ankara, Türkiye, 7-8 July; Ankara Summit Declaration.
- 2026 WTO MC14: Yaounde, Cameroon, 26-30 March.
- WHA79: Geneva, 18-23 May; theme "Reshaping global health: a shared responsibility."
- ADB 59th Annual Meeting: Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 3-6 May; "Crossroads of Progress: Advancing the Region's Connected Future."
- OECD MCM: Paris, 3-4 June; Finland chaired.
- Quad Foreign Ministers: New Delhi, 26 May; Quad Critical Minerals Initiative.
- IORA 28th CSO: New Delhi, 15-16 June; India held 2025-27 chairship.
- FATF June 2026 Plenary removed Algeria and Namibia from increased monitoring after successful on-site visits.
- SAARC had official-level meetings in 2026 but no leaders' summit; last summit was Kathmandu 2014.
- BIMSTEC Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement entered into force on 16 May 2026; it was signed in 2025.
- AIIB Annual Meeting 2026 is in September (Doha, Qatar), not Feb-Jul.
- **NEW:** 62nd Munich Security Conference: Munich, 13-15 February; theme "Under Destruction."
- **NEW:** Arab League elected Nabil Fahmy (Egypt) as new Secretary-General in March 2026; he took office 1 July, succeeding Ahmed Aboul Gheit.
- **NEW:** AfDB 2026 Annual Meetings: Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 25-29 May; do not confuse AfDB (Abidjan HQ, Africa) with ADB (Manila HQ, Asia).
- **NEW:** GCC had TWO 2026 sessions in this window: an Extraordinary Consultative Summit (leaders, 28 Apr, Jeddah) and the 167th Ministerial Council (foreign ministers, 10 Jun, Manama) — do not conflate the two.
- **NEW:** UN Commission for Social Development, 64th Session: New York, 2-11 February — a functional commission of ECOSOC, not the Human Rights Council.
- **NEW:** Petersberg Climate Dialogue, 17th edition: Berlin, 21-22 April 2026 — co-hosted by Germany with COP31 Presidency-designate Türkiye and Australia; the year's first major climate ministerial, setting direction for Bonn SB64 and COP31 (Antalya, Nov 2026).
- **NEW:** G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting: Paris, 23-24 April 2026 — 7 declarations, 84 commitments on biodiversity/water/desertification/oceans, but climate change was deliberately excluded from the agenda to avoid friction with the US.
- **NEW:** World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), 25th/Silver Jubilee edition: New Delhi, 25-27 February 2026 — India's own TERI-organised Global South sustainability platform, theme "Parivartan | Transformations."
- **NEW:** Nuclear Energy Summit, 2nd edition: Paris, 10 March 2026 — hosted by France with the IAEA; ~40 countries (Russia absent); first edition was Brussels, 2024. Focus: tripling global nuclear capacity by 2050, financing, advanced reactors/SMRs.
- **NEW:** IPBES-12: Manchester, UK, 3-8 February 2026 — the "IPCC for biodiversity"; first Plenary without the USA; only the Business and Biodiversity Assessment was adopted due to budget constraints.
- **NEW:** World Environment Day 2026: 5 June, hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku; theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." — an observance, NOT a negotiating summit; do not confuse with UNEA.
- **NEW & HIGH-YIELD:** India's Cabinet approved its NDC for 2031-2035 on 25 March 2026: emissions intensity cut to 47% (from 2005 levels, up from 45%/2030), non-fossil installed capacity to 60% (up from 50%/2030), forest/tree carbon sink of 3.5-4 billion tonnes CO₂eq — all guided by Viksit Bharat @2047 and Net-Zero by 2070. India's 2015 targets were met 11 and 9 years early respectively.
- **NEW:** Montreal Protocol OEWG48 + 6th Extraordinary MOP: Bangkok, 13-17 July 2026 — ~98% of ozone-depleting substances phased out globally; Vienna Convention (1985, framework) vs Montreal Protocol (1987, binding protocol) is a classic pairing trap.
- **NEW:** Basel Convention OEWG-15: Geneva, 23-26 June 2026 — a technical working group, NOT the full Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm joint COP (which is biennial and did not fall in this window).
- **NEW:** CMS COP15 (Migratory Species): Campo Grande, Brazil, 23-29 March 2026 — the ONLY full, numbered COP (of any environmental convention) to meet entirely within Feb-Jul 2026; theme "Connecting Nature to Sustain Life," first CMS COP hosted in Brazil.
- **NEW:** CITES CoP20 (Nov-Dec 2025, Samarkand) itself falls before this window, but amendments to its Appendices took legal effect on 5 March 2026 — that effective date IS inside this window even though the CoP session is not.
- **NEW:** European Council held its major 2026 summit 18-19 June, Brussels — opened the first EU accession-negotiation chapter cluster with Ukraine and Moldova, ending a long impasse; also met 19-20 March and informally 23-24 April. Chaired by President António Costa; NOT the same body as the Council of the EU or the European Commission.
- **NEW:** CSW70 (Commission on the Status of Women): New York, 9-19/20 March 2026 — the UN's largest annual gender-equality gathering; priority theme "access to justice for all women and girls"; do not confuse with UN Women (an operational entity) or CEDAW (a treaty body).
- **NEW:** CND69 (Commission on Narcotic Drugs): Vienna, 9-13 March 2026 — 2,078 participants, 134 member states; CND doubles as UNODC's governing body, a dual role unique among ECOSOC functional commissions in this document.
- **NEW:** India-Canada CEPA: launched 23 Nov 2025 (G20 Johannesburg); ToR signed 2 Mar 2026; Round 2 in New Delhi (May), Round 3 in Ottawa (July); target USD 50 billion bilateral trade by 2030 (from ~USD 17 billion now); conclusion targeted by end-2026.
- **NEW:** Last 3 G20 Leaders' Summits — 2023 New Delhi (theme: "One Earth, One Family, One Future"; AU got permanent membership; IMEC launched); 2024 Rio de Janeiro (theme: "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet"; Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty launched); 2025 Johannesburg (theme: "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability"; first G20 summit on African soil; US and China's Xi absent).
- **NEW:** BRIC founding summit: 16 June 2009, Yekaterinburg, Russia (Medvedev, Lula, Manmohan Singh, Hu Jintao) — South Africa joined only later (2010/2011), making it "BRICS."

- **NEW:** 17th BRICS Summit (last before India's 2026 chairship): 6-7 July 2025, Rio de Janeiro; theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation..."; Indonesia's first summit as 11th member; Xi absent, Putin joined only by video (ICC warrant).
- **NEW:** 6 bodies in this document have NO permanent headquarters (G7, G20, BRICS, Quad, Pax Silica, Petersberg Dialogue) — all run on a rotating host/chair model instead of a fixed secretariat; see the dedicated reference table after entry 53.

Source Base and Verification Notes (Updated)

- Entries 1-30 verified from official/primary sources: NATO, WTO, WHO, African Union, ASEAN/Philippine Presidency, BIMSTEC Secretariat, SCO Secretariat, OIC, GCC Secretariat, ADB, AIIB, OECD, FATF, U.S. Treasury/G20, Japan MOFA/Quad, IAEA, UN/UNFCCC and organisation calendars/official releases.
- Entries 31-34 (Munich Security Conference, League of Arab States, African Development Bank Group, UN Commission for Social Development) added from a supplementary research pass, cross-checked against official MSC, Arab League, AfDB and UN DESA/ECOSOC sources.
- Entries 35-37 (Petersberg Climate Dialogue, G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting, World Sustainable Development Summit) added to cover the major climate-related conferences in this window beyond UNFCCC's own Bonn SB64 session (entry 23), cross-checked against official German BMUKN, French G7 Presidency, and TERI/WSDS sources.
- Entry 38 (Nuclear Energy Summit, Paris) added as a closely related energy/climate leaders' summit, cross-checked against official IAEA and French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs sources.
- Entries 39-40 (IPBES-12, World Environment Day 2026) added to round out environment-specific (not purely climate) coverage, cross-checked against official IPBES Secretariat and UNEP/host-country sources.
- Entry 41 (India's NDC 2031-2035) added as the single most important India-specific climate-target fact from this window — a genuine Union Cabinet decision (25 March 2026), cross-checked against the PMO/PIB press release and independent legal/policy analysis.
- Entries 42-44 (Montreal Protocol OEWG48/ExMOP6, Basel Convention OEWG-15, CMS COP15) added to cover the chemicals/ozon/biodiversity treaty bodies in this window, cross-checked against the Ozone Secretariat, BRS Conventions Secretariat and CMS Secretariat sources, plus a dedicated "Major Environmental & Chemicals COPs" reference table (after entry 44) explicitly marking every major COP as inside or outside this window — CMS COP15 is the only full COP inside it; UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, CITES, Ramsar, Minamata, Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm joint COPs and OPCW's CSP all fall outside Feb-Jul 2026 and are noted with their actual dates rather than omitted silently.
- Entry 45 (European Union / European Council) added as a standalone entry — previously the EU was only mentioned in passing as a G7/G20 participant or Pax Silica signatory; cross-checked against official Consilium (Council of the EU) press releases and summit conclusions for the March, April and June 2026 European Council meetings.
- Entries 46-47 (CSW70, CND69) added as the remaining major ECOSOC functional commissions that met in this window, parallel in structure to the Commission for Social Development already covered (entry 1/34); cross-checked against official UN Women, ECOSOC and UNODC sources.
- Entry 48 (India-Canada CEPA) added as a bilateral India-specific economic-diplomacy thread running through the whole window (three negotiating rounds tracked), cross-checked against PIB/PMO joint statements, Global Affairs Canada, and MEA's written Rajya Sabha reply on the negotiations' status.
- Entries 49-51 (G20 Summits 2023/2024/2025) added as historical reference — outside the Feb-Jul 2026 window itself, but high-frequency static GK for host/theme/outcome questions; cross-checked against European Parliament think-tank briefings, official G20 presidency documents, and Consilium summit records.
- Entries 52-53 (1st BRIC Summit 2009, 17th BRICS Summit 2025) added on the same historical-reference basis as entries 49-51, giving BRICS the same founding-summit + most-recent-summit treatment as G20; cross-checked against official BRICS Secretariat sources (brics2026.gov.in), the Rio de Janeiro Declaration text, and independent think-tank analysis. A dedicated reference table on bodies with no permanent headquarters follows entry 53.
- Where no credible evidence supported a leaders' summit in the period, the note explicitly uses the highest-value ministerial/official meeting instead of inventing a summit.
- This is an exam-oriented "major meetings" compendium, not a literal record of every working-group or technical committee meeting held worldwide.