



## International Affairs

## US House approves Uighur bill



### Issue

The U.S. House of Representatives have approved a bill that would require the Trump administration to toughen its response to China's crackdown on its Muslim minority, the Uighurs.

### Background

United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minority groups have been detained in the camps, located mainly in Xinjiang province of China.

### Details

The Uighur Act of 2019 is a stronger version of a bill that angered Beijing when it passed the Senate in September. It calls on President Donald Trump to impose sanctions for the first time on a member of China's powerful politburo.

The bill requires the U.S. president to condemn abuses against Muslims and call for the closure of mass detention camps in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

The revised bill still has to be approved by the Senate before being sent to Trump. The President has the power to Veto the bill if he believes that to be in national interest.

The bill also requires the secretary of state to submit a report on abuses in Xinjiang, to include assessments of the numbers held in re-education and forced labor camps.



## Uighurs

The Uyghurs alternately Uigurs, are a minority Turkic ethnic group originating from and culturally affiliated with the general region of Central and East Asia.

The Uyghurs have been recognized as native to only one region, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. They are considered to be one of China's 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities. The Uyghurs are recognized by China only as a regional minority within a multicultural nation and China rejects the idea of them being an indigenous group.

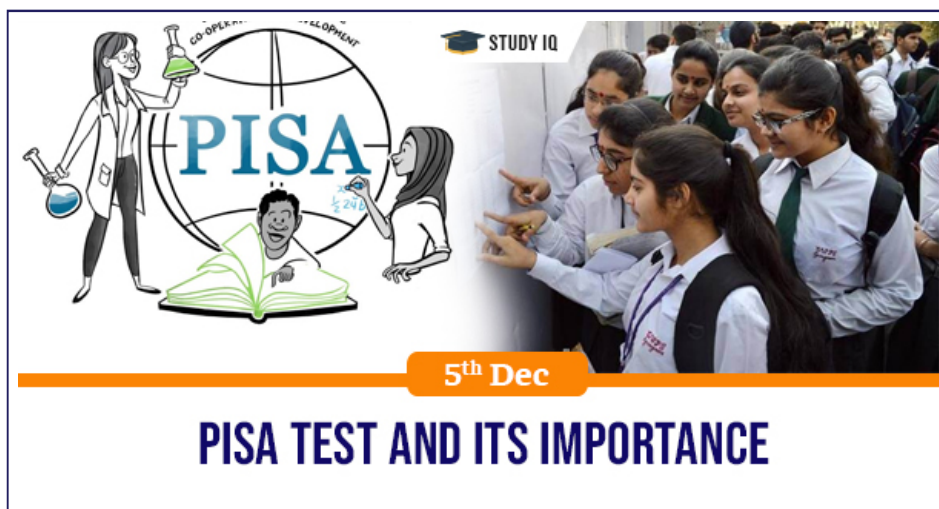
The Uyghurs have traditionally inhabited a series of oases scattered across the **Taklamakan** Desert.

It is estimated that over a million Uyghurs have been detained in Xinjiang re-education camps. The main feature of the camps is to ensure adherence to Chinese Communist Party ideology.

Voluntary departure from the camps is not possible and Inmates are detained for a minimum of 12 months depending on their performance in Chinese ideology tests.



## PISA test and its importance



### Issue

Students of Chandigarh's government schools will represent India in the Programme for International Student Assessment test in 2021, which will be the first in 6 years.

### Background

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a study done to produce comparable data on education policy and outcomes across countries. It is initiated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries.

### Details

The study, which began in the year 2000, conducts a test evaluating 15-year-olds in member and non-member countries to assess the quality and inclusivity of school systems in these countries.

The PISA test is held every three years and the next test will be held in 2021, in which students from government schools in Chandigarh will represent India.

The test is set by educational experts from across the world. Experts from more than eighty countries have contributed towards framing the test questions, mostly from countries that have already participated in the test.

The PISA test does not assess students on their memory, but attempts to evaluate whether students can apply the knowledge they have gained through primary and secondary education.

Apart from subjects such as Math, reading comprehension and science, the test also includes an optional section on innovative subjects such as collaborative problem-solving and financial literacy. The test is taken in the language of instruction that the students are familiar with.

Regions are identified within the country where the test can be conducted. Within the region, individual schools are chosen which are approved by the PISA governing board and evaluated using stringent criteria. These schools represent the country's education system.

The aim of the test is not to rank the countries which volunteer to participate in the evaluation, but to give a comprehensive analysis of how education systems are working in terms of preparing its students for higher education and subsequent employment.

After collecting results from across the world, experts translate these results into data points which are evaluated to score the countries.

If a country scores well, it suggests that not only does it have an effective education system but an inclusive one, in which students from privileged and underprivileged backgrounds perform equally well.

OECD also hopes that the test will allow countries to learn from each other about effective education policies and improve their own systems, using others as examples.

### India's participation

India has participated in the PISA test only once before, in 2009. In this round of PISA, where students from Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu sat for the test, India ranked 72nd out of 73 countries, outranking only Kyrgyzstan.

### Way forward

Indian education is immersed in rote learning and memorisation. PISA requires experiential learning and out of the box thinking. Educators and students need to work hard to adapt to innovative learning.



## Russia banned from Olympics on doping charges



### Issue

Russia has been banned from the Olympics and world championships in a range of sport for four years after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) ruled to punish it for manipulating laboratory data.

### Background

The punishment however allows clean Russian athletes to compete at major international sporting events without their flag or anthem for four years.

### Details

The decision was taken after it was found that Moscow had tampered with laboratory data by planting fake evidence and deleting files linked to positive doping tests that could have helped identify drug cheats.

Russia has tried to showcase itself as a global sport power but has been embroiled in doping scandals since a 2015 report commissioned by WADA found evidence of mass doping in Russian athletics.

The biggest beneficiaries of Russia's exclusion are likely to be the United States, China and Japan, who should claim 10 of the banned nation's projected gold medals between them in the upcoming Olympics in Tokyo.

### World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports. Its Headquarters is located in Montreal, Canada.

The agency's key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code, whose provisions are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.

### National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.

NADA deals with adopting and implementing anti-doping rules and policies which conform with the World Anti-Doping Agency, cooperates with other anti-doping organisations and promotes anti-doping research and education.

NADA is formed by the Union Government under the societies Registration Act. NADA includes scientists and representatives from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Notes

# India-Australia Mutual Logistics Support Agreement



## Issue

India and Australia have moved one step closer towards signing the Logistics Exchange Agreement, which will enhance cooperation between the two countries considerably.

## Background

The LSA will be one of the key agenda points during Prime Minister Morrison's scheduled visit. The Agreement will allow the two countries to use each other's military bases for logistics support, including food, water, and petroleum.

## Details

India and Australia share a common concern over China, which forms a lot of the bilateral transactions between the two countries.

While Australia is worried about China's presence in the Pacific, India is worried about China's increasing activities and influence in the Indian Ocean.

The Australian and Indian navies had recently concluded a two-week-long bilateral maritime exercise code-named **AUSINDEX**. It was carried out to strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.



From 2016-18, the armies of the countries conducted a joint military exercise dubbed "AUSTRA HIND". Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper identifies India as being at the "front rank" of Australia's international partnerships, "on par with the US, Japan, Indonesia, and China."

### The QUAD

The informal strategic Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) that was initiated by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007 was largely in response to China's growing power and influence.

Australia chose to withdraw when Kevin Rudd was Prime Minister, since it did not want to be a part of an anti-China alliance at the time.

Australia later rejoined the dialogue in 2017 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, signalling a change in its stand.

### Logistics Support Agreement (LSA)

Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement, simplifying logistical support and increasing operational turnaround of the military away from India.

Notes

## USCIRF and its relevance



### Issue

The **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** said that should The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) go through Parliament, Washington should in-turn consider imposing sanctions on Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

### Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 was passed by the 105th US Congress (1997-99) and signed into law by the then President Bill Clinton on October 27, 1998. It is a statement of the United States' concern over violations of religious freedoms overseas.

### Details

The USCIRF describes itself as an independent, bipartisan US federal government commission that was created by The International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).

The USCIRF is mandated by US statute to “monitor the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad using international standards to do so and makes policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress.

USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and Congressional leaders of both political parties. While USCIRF is separate from the State Department, the Department's Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom is a non-voting ex officio Commissioner.

**The USCIRF's main responsibilities are:**

To issue an annual report by May 1 of each year, assessing the US government's implementation of IRFA.

To engage Congress by working with Congressional offices, advising on legislation, testifying at hearings, and holding briefings on religious freedom issues.

To meet regularly with Executive Branch officials, including the Departments of State and Homeland Security, to share information, highlight situations of concern, and discuss USCIRF's recommendations for US policy.

Notes

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## USMCA trade group



### Issue

Mexico's Senate has approved the revised U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade deal that includes tougher enforcement of worker rights and the elimination of a patent provision for biologic drugs.

### Background

Senators approved the changes to USMCA, which was signed more than a year ago to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

### Details

Once it passes into law in the three countries, USMCA will encompass \$1.2 trillion in annual trade across the continent and support 12 million U.S. jobs and a third of American agricultural exports.

Democrats controlling the U.S. House of Representatives had insisted on major changes to labor and environmental enforcement in USMCA before bringing it to a vote in the United States.

### USCMCA

The Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada is a signed but not ratified free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Compared to NAFTA, USMCA increases environmental and labour regulations, and incentivizes more domestic production of cars and trucks.

The agreement also provides updated intellectual property protections, gives the United States more access to Canada's dairy market. Additionally, there is a stipulation that the agreement itself must be reviewed by the three nations every six years, with a 16-year sunset clause. The agreement can be extended for additional 16-year terms during the six-year reviews.

The deal establishes requirements for currency and macroeconomic transparency which, if violated, would constitute grounds for a dispute appeal.



Notes

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## US approves Space Force Bill



### Issue

The U.S. House of Representatives approved a defense policy bill providing the first paid family leave for all federal workers and the creation of a Space Force, a top military priority for President Donald Trump.

### Background

The establishment of the U.S. Space Force as the sixth Armed Service of the United States, under the Air Force, fulfills one of Trump's most high-profile requests.

### Details

The United States Space Force (USSF) is the anticipated space warfare service branch of the United States Armed Forces.

It will be the sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces and the eighth U.S. uniformed service.

It will be organized as a military service branch within the Department of the Air Force, one of the three military departments within the Department of Defense.

Once established, the U.S. Space Force is intended to become the lead military service for space operations, responsible for space doctrine, organization, training, matériel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy.



### Functions

As described in the Space Force Act, the U.S. Space Force will be organized, trained, and equipped to:

"Provide freedom of operation for the United States in, from, and to space"

"Provide prompt and sustained space operations"

### Duties

The duties of the Space Force include:

"Protect the interests of the United States in space"

"Deter aggression in, from, and to space"

"conduct space operations"

Notes

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## Anti-Semitism executive order of US President



### Issue

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that will prohibit federal funding for colleges and universities that allow anti-semitism.

### Background

The order is being seen as a threat to those college and university campuses that tolerate anti-Israel movements such as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that describes itself as working towards ending international support for Israel's "oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law."

### Details

The order extends the protections against discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act to people who are subjected to anti-Semitism, which is described as having feelings of hostility or discrimination against Jews, either as a religious group or as a race.

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These include targeting the state of Israel, which is considered to be a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

Other things include calling for, aiding or justifying the killing of Jews in the name of “radical ideology”, making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising or stereotypical allegations against Jews, using symbols and images associated with “classic” anti-Semitism and holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel among others.

### Criticism

Free speech advocates have criticised it on the grounds that it goes against the tenets of the right to free speech as put forth by the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Notes

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## 'Phase One' trade agreement between US and China



### Issue

The United States and China cooled their trade war by announcing a "Phase one" agreement that reduces some U.S. tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm goods.

### Background

Reaching the agreement will serve the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries and the world, and is expected to bring positive influences on areas including economy, trade, investment and the financial market.

### Details

The US will be maintaining 25 per cent tariffs on approximately \$250 billion of Chinese imports, along with 7.5 per cent tariffs on approximately \$120 billion of Chinese imports.

In the Phase One agreement, the chapter on trade expansion mentions commitments from China to import various US goods and services over the next two years, the total amount for which will exceed China's annual levels of imports for those goods and services in 2017 by not less than \$200 billion.

The agreement addresses unfair currency practices by committing to refrain from competitive devaluations and exchange rate targeting.

If the agreement is signed, for the first time in any trade agreement, China would have agreed not to pressure foreign companies to transfer their technology to Chinese companies.

The deal would increase Chinese purchases of American agricultural and energy products, and also place limits on Beijing's ability to weaken its currency and provide greater protection to US companies that are operating in China.

Notes

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## Global Refugee Forum



### Issue

The first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), a two-day gathering of United Nations member states, began in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Background

The Forum is jointly hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the government of Switzerland. It aims to debate and discuss the response of the world's countries to the global refugee situation.

### Details

According to the **UNHCR**, the first GRF is being held at the end of a tumultuous decade in which the number of refugees has risen to over 25 million people worldwide.

The GRF will be held every four years at the Ministerial level. It is intended to present an opportunity for UN member states and other stakeholders to announce action plans and pledges towards meeting objectives such as easing the burden on the host country, enhancing refugee self-reliance, expanding access to third-country solutions, and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The first GRF has been organised around six areas of focus: burden- and responsibility-sharing, education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacity.



Some of the issues discussed at the Forum include the displacement of Afghans and Central Americans, providing education for refugee children, and emergency situations and financial support through Islamic finance.

### UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nations agency with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. UNHCR's mandate does not apply to Palestinian refugees, who are assisted by UNWRA.

Its headquarters are in **Geneva, Switzerland** and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

### Functions

The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees (other than Palestinian refugees) and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

UNHCR's mandate has gradually been expanded to include protecting and providing humanitarian assistance to whom it describes as other persons "of concern," including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

## No United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on Kashmir



### Issue

A move by China to get the Kashmir issue on the agenda for consultations in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been thwarted by other members led by the US and France.

### Background

China had earlier managed to hold informal closed-door consultations on Kashmir in the UNSC on August 16, days after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 on August 5.

### Details

Beijing had sent a note to the UNSC over the weekend to “echo the request” of Pakistan for a briefing on Kashmir.

But the US, which holds the presidency of the UNSC for December, did not yield to the latest request by China. France also joined in and said that the Kashmir issue has to be discussed bilaterally.

China's move was rebuffed at a time when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are meeting their American counterparts for the first 2+2 engagement.

## UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), charged with ensuring international peace and security, accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its charter.

Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations and international sanctions as well as the authorization of military actions through resolutions.

It is the only body of the United Nations with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II – the Soviet Union (now represented by **Russia**), the **United Kingdom**, **France**, Republic of **China** (now represented by the People's Republic of China), and the **United States** serve as the body's five permanent members.

These can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.

In addition, the council has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

The ten non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for two-year terms starting on 1 January, with five replaced each year. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.



## 2+2 meeting between India-US



### Issue

Enhanced defence cooperation, furthering their Indo-Pacific strategy, and discussions on global challenges, including U.S. policy in Iran and Afghanistan, are likely to feature at the top of the agenda as India and US ready for second 2+2 combined ministerial meeting.

### Background

The first 2+2 ministerial dialogue was held in New Delhi in September last year after the mechanism was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

### Details

On the defence front, the two sides are expected to sign the **Industrial Security Annex (ISA)** and review steps being taken to operationalise the foundational agreement **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** which was signed during the previous 2+2 talks. However, discussions on the last foundational agreement, **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)** are not concluded yet, as some differences still remain.

The ISA is crucial for U.S. companies bidding for big ticket Indian deals to partner with Indian private industry, especially the multi-billion dollar deal for 114 fighter jets.

As part of efforts for co-development and co-production of military hardware, a **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Defence Technology Trade Initiative (DTTI)** is also expected to be signed that will act as a guide to coordinate projects.

### The 2+2 meeting

The 2+2 dialogue is the highest-level institutional mechanism between India and USA that brings together the perspectives on foreign policy, defence and strategic issues. The meeting will be held between Defence ministers and Foreign ministers of both the countries.

Notes

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## Industrial Security Annex



### Issue

India and the US have signed the Industrial Security Annex (ISA) during the 2+2 dialogue held in Washington.

### Background

With signing of ISA, three of four foundational agreements are through. The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) is still under negotiation.

### Details

The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which India signed with the U.S. long back. It became critical as India opened up the defence sector to the private sector and the Strategic Partnership policy, which has few big military platforms and is reserved for the Indian private sector.

The 2+2 meeting will also be taking a review of the progress made on operationalising the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) which India has already signed with the US.

### Benefits

ISA will open the door for U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector for several multi-billion dollar deals in the pipeline, especially the deal for 114 fighter jets.



### COMCASA

The COMCASA once operationalised will enable the ability between Armed Forces from the two nations to carry out encrypted communications and information sharing.

### LEMOA

LEMOA is a facilitating agreement that establishes basic terms, conditions, and procedures for reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services between the armed forces of India and the United States. Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services include food, water, billeting, transportation, petroleum, oils, lubricants, clothing, communication services, medical services, storage services, training services, spare parts and components, repair and maintenance services, calibration services, and port services.

### GSOMIA

General Security Of Military Information Agreements (GSOMIA) is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.

The agreement enables the sharing of military intelligence between the two countries and requires each country to protect the others' classified information.

### BECA

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.

## Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)



### Issue

Russia is looking forward to India concluding a new Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

### Background

Russia is trying to include India in its plan for having a multi-continental grouping that includes countries from both Europe and Asia.

### Details

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an economic union of states located in central and northern Asia and Eastern Europe.

The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union was signed on 29 May 2014 by the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, and came into force on 1 January 2015.

The EAEU encourages the free movement of goods, services and provides for common policies in the macroeconomic sphere, transport, industry and agriculture, energy, foreign trade and investment, customs, technical regulation, competition and antitrust regulation.

Provisions for a single currency and greater integration are envisioned in future. The union operates through supranational and intergovernmental institutions.

The Eurasian Economic Union is located at the eastern end of Europe, bounded by the Arctic in the north, the Pacific Ocean to the east and East Asia, the Middle East and part of Central Asia to the south.

### Member countries

Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.



Notes

STUDY IQ



## Italy approves digital tax



### Issue

Italy has approved a new tax to be levied on large tech companies, a move that is likely to put more strain on the country's relations with the U.S.

### Background

The tax is similar to the one France implemented earlier this year which has attracted severe criticism from the U.S.

### Details

The Italian parliament has approved a three percent digital tax on some digital revenue of technology companies that make over \$831 million in global revenue, including least \$6 million in Italy.

Dozens of countries are working on proposals to change corporate tax schemes to capture money from tech firms that have users across the world, such as Facebook and Google's parent company Alphabet.

The U.S has opposed digital services taxes because they have a discriminatory impact on U.S.-based businesses and are inconsistent with the architecture of current international tax rules.

Representatives of trade body say that France's digital services tax discriminates against U.S. companies, is inconsistent with prevailing principles of international tax policy, and is unusually burdensome for affected U.S. companies.

Authorities are also planning to explore Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which provides the U.S. with the authority to enforce trade agreements, resolve trade disputes, and open foreign markets to U.S. goods and services.

### Digital tax

Digital tax is a tax applied to digital business activities. Those include both digital-only brands which deal with virtual commodities and the services traditional market players use while transforming their businesses with digital technologies.

### Digital businesses have three distinct characteristics:

- (a) They are not physically established - for example, Facebook, can offer all of their services with limited or no physical presence.
- (b) They heavily rely on intellectual property assets (which can be quite mobile) and are typically located in, or worse shifted to, a low-tax jurisdiction.
- (c) They are able to generate value through highly engaged 'user participation' from the source country market.

### Protectionism

Protectionism refers to government actions and policies that restrict or restrain international trade for the benefit of a single domestic economy.

## Treaty to combat cybercrimes



### Issue

The U.N. General Assembly has approved a resolution that will start the process of drafting a new international treaty to combat cybercrime over objections from the European Union, the United States and other countries.

### Background

The Russian-drafted resolution was approved by the 193-member world body by a vote of 79-60 with 33 abstentions.

### Details

The resolution establishes an expert committee representing all regions of the world to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Parties say that this resolution will undermine international cooperation to combat cybercrime at a time when enhanced coordination is essential.

The resolution requires that the new committee must take into account the results of the work of the expert group on cybercrime.



### Convention on Cybercrimes

The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the **Budapest Convention** on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

It was drawn up by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, Philippines, South Africa and the United States.

Important countries like Brazil and India have declined to adopt the Convention on the grounds that they did not participate in its drafting. Russia opposes the Convention, stating that adoption would violate Russian sovereignty, and has usually refused to cooperate in law enforcement investigations relating to cybercrime. It is the **first multilateral legally binding instrument to regulate cybercrime**.

The following offences are defined by the Convention: **illegal access, illegal interception, data interference, system interference, misuse of devices, computer-related forgery, computer-related fraud, offences related to child pornography, and offences related to copyright and neighbouring rights**.

### Objectives

The Convention aims principally at:

Harmonising the domestic criminal substantive law elements of offences and connected provisions in the area of cyber-crime.

Providing for domestic criminal procedural law powers necessary for the investigation and prosecution of such offences as well as other offences committed by means of a computer system or evidence in relation to which is in electronic form.

Setting up a fast and effective regime of international cooperation.

## Pakistan to host OIC meeting



### Issue

Pakistan will hold a ministerial meeting of the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir in April 2020.

### Background

If confirmed, the move would be a setback to the government's efforts to increase its engagement with the Islamic grouping, including attending the OIC conference in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

### Details

Both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been muted in their comments on the government's actions in Kashmir as well as the CAA subsequently.

The decision of the Saudi leadership to send its foreign minister on his first visit abroad to Pakistan, as well as to agree to an OIC statement on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act stems from Riyadh's concerns over losing control of key Islamic nations to a parallel formation, headed by Malaysia and Turkey.

Saudi Arabia leads OIC nations to showcase its control of the Islamic world, while allowing its members to use the forum to attack their own rivals.

Pakistan says that the Arab world largely ignored the issue of Kashmir until Pakistan was forced to reach out to Turkey, Iran and Malaysia for forming a new Muslim Block. This created ripples among the old block, dominated by Saudi and UAE.

## OIC

The **Organisation of Islamic Countries** (OIC) is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states, with a collective population of over 1.8 billion as of 2015 with 53 countries being Muslim-majority countries.

The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union.

Islam is the second-largest religion in India after Hinduism, with roughly 15% of the country's population or 201 million people identifying as adherents of Islam. It makes India the country with the largest Muslim population outside Muslim-majority countries.

However, India's relationship with Pakistan has always been tense and has a direct impact on India-OIC relations, with Pakistan being a founding member of the OIC. India has pushed for the OIC to accept India as a member, arguing that about 11% of all Muslims worldwide live in India. Pakistan opposes India's entry into the OIC.

The Permanent Secretariat is the executive organ of the Organisation, entrusted with the implementation of the decisions of the two preceding bodies, and is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Notes





## RRB JE-Mechanical (Tech+Nontech)

~~Rs.30,000~~

~~Rs.12,000~~

**Rs.10,000**



## RRB JE - Electrical (Tech+Nontech)

~~Rs.30,000~~

~~Rs.12,000~~

**Rs.10,000**



## RRB JE - Civil (Tech+Nontech)

~~Rs.30,000~~

~~Rs.12,000~~

**Rs.10,000**



## RRB JE- Electronics (Tech+Nontech)

~~Rs.30,000~~

~~Rs.12,000~~

**Rs.10,000**



## RRB Non-Tech Exams

~~Rs.18,000~~

~~Rs.8,000~~

**Rs.6,000**



## RRB TC - Ticket Collector

~~Rs.32,000~~

~~Rs.12,500~~

**Rs.10,500**



## ALP - Electrical

~~Rs.20,000~~

~~Rs.8,500~~

**Rs.7,000**



## ALP Electronics & Comm

~~Rs.21,000~~

~~Rs.9,800~~

**Rs.7,200**

