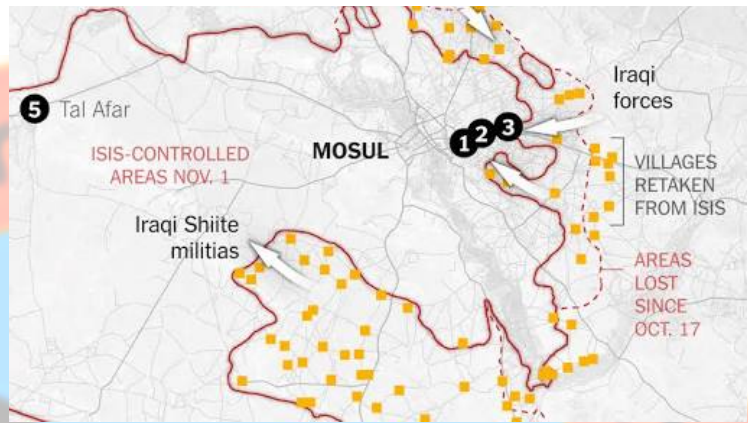




Important Location For Prelims -2017 -Prepared By -Ambrish Kumar



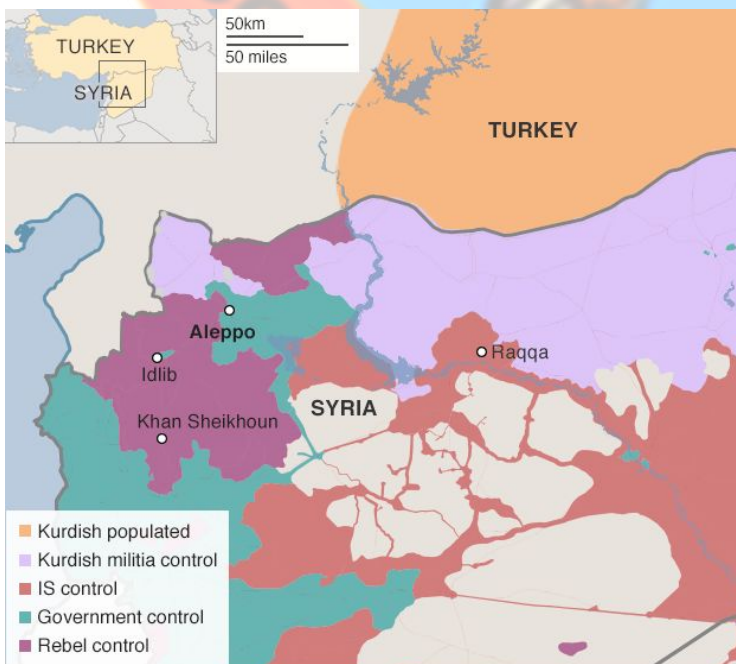


Russia, Turkey agree to intensify military, intelligence contacts

The Russia and Turkey have agreed to intensify military and intelligence contacts. They also have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

Decision in this regard was taken after meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President

Vladimir Putin on sidelines of World Energy Congress in Istanbul.



Source: IHS Conflict Monitor (3 April 2017)



Note - You Should No Why These locations were in News

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC)

Overview

- **Opened for Signature:** 13 January 1993
- **Entered into Force:** 29 April 1997
- **Duration:** Indefinite
- **Membership:** 192 State Parties, 1 Signatories
- **Signatories:** Israel
- **Depositary:** UN Secretary-General

Excerpts of Treaty Text

Obligations

States Parties are required not to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons (CW), or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to anyone; not to use chemical weapons; not to engage in military preparations for use of chemical weapons; not to assist, encourage, or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under the convention.

Each State Party is required to destroy all chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities it owns



or possesses or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, as well as any chemical weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State Party no later than 10 years after entry into force of the Convention or as soon as possible in the case of States ratifying or acceding more than 10 years after entry into force. Each State Party also undertakes not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare (Article I).

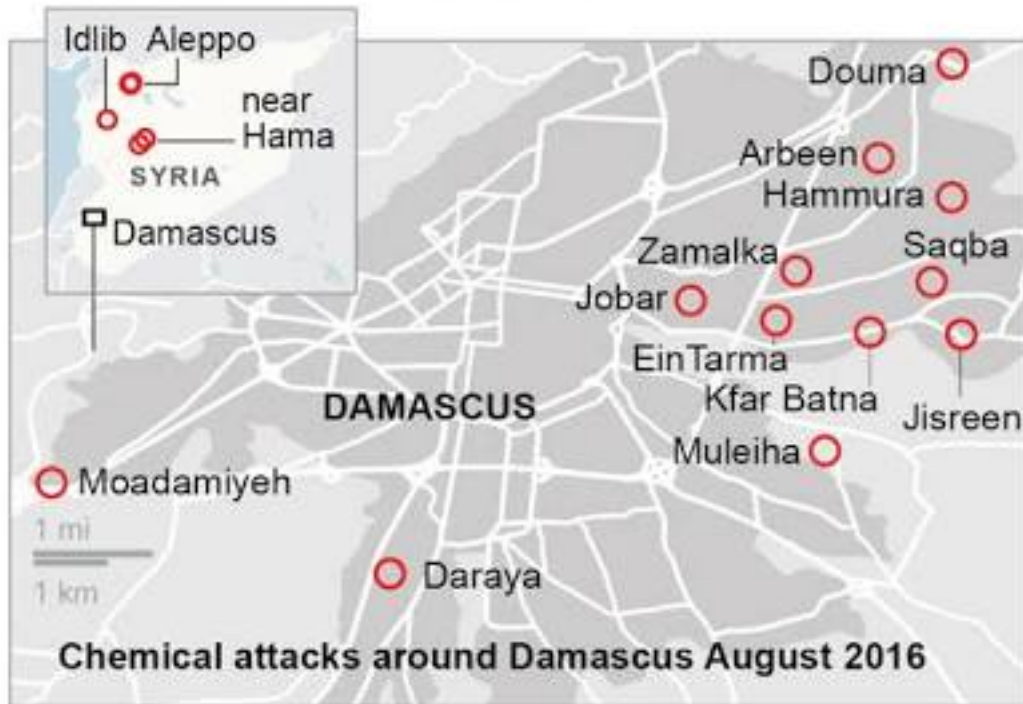
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

The provisions of the Treaty, particularly article VIII, paragraph 3, envisage a review of the operation of the Treaty every five years, a provision which was reaffirmed by

Chemical attacks across Syria

Locations of chemical attacks since 2012



SOURCES: White House; Violations Documentation Centre

AP

Sarin gas used in Syria chemical attack, Turkey says

the States parties at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while



safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

The **2015 Review Conference** of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 27 April to 22 May and presided over by Ambassador Taous Feroukhi (Algeria), ended without the adoption of a consensus substantive outcome. After a successful 2010 Review Conference at which States parties agreed to a final document which included conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, including the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the 2015 outcome constitutes a setback for the strengthened review process instituted to ensure accountability with respect to activities under the three pillars of the Treaty as part of the package in support of the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is the Treaty banning all nuclear explosions - everywhere, by everyone. The Treaty was negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It opened for signature on 24 September 1996. Since then, the Treaty has reached near-universality. 182 countries have signed the Treaty – the last country to do so was Trinidad and Tobago on 8 October 2009 which also ratified the Treaty on 26 May 2010. 154 countries have ratified the Treaty – most recently Ghana on 14 June 2011.

Why is the CTBT so important?

The CTBT is the last barrier on the way to develop nuclear weapons. It curbs the development of new nuclear weapons and the improvement of existing nuclear weapon designs. When the Treaty enters into force it provides a



legally binding norm against **nuclear testing**. The Treaty also helps prevent human suffering and environmental damages caused by nuclear testing.

India as 35th member of Missile Technology Control Regime

Benefits from MTCR for Space Programme

India joining MTCR would benefit our space development programme in:-

- (i) **Strengthening our international cooperation activities in high technology areas with other space faring nations.**
- (ii) **Easing the procurements & supplies of export controlled high/ advanced technology items, components, materials, and equipment from other countries, especially MTCR partner states.**
- (iii) **Enhancing our commercial ventures in terms of export of sub-systems, satellites and commercial launch services etc.**

India as a major space faring nation and as a partner state in MTCR could play critical roles in various international fora such as UNCOPUOS, UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) and other space related international fora in major policy decisions relating to space applications, space security topics.

7 India, as a Partner State of MTCR, can take part in the decision



making process in ensuring non-proliferation of sensitive space technology related items, which are controlled through a list (called Technical Annex) and reviewed & revised annually through Technical Experts Meetings.

India joins Missile Technology Control Regime. Top 5 things to know

In a boost to its non-proliferation credentials, India on Monday joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) at a ceremony in South Block, attended by Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and diplomats from the Netherlands, France and Luxembourg missions.

The Ministry of External Affairs said India's MTCR membership would help in "furtherance of international non-proliferation objectives," even as a statement from the MTCR chair at The Hague said India would enjoy "full participation in organisational activities, including the October 2016 plenary of the regime in South Korea."

India had intensified efforts at gaining membership of the MTCR, the NSG, the Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement since getting a waiver at the NSG in 2008.

Membership of these groups would help India trade more effectively in critical high tech areas.

MTCR: Top five things to know

>>



MTCR membership will enable India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhance its joint ventures with Russia.

»

MTCR aims at restricting the proliferation of missiles, complete rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles and related technology for those systems capable of carrying a 500 kilogramme payload for at least 300 kilometres, as well as systems intended for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

»

India's efforts to get into the MTCR also got a boost after it agreed to join the Hague Code of Conduct, dealing with the ballistic missile non-proliferation arrangement, earlier this month.

»

India's membership had been blocked in 2015 by Italy, which seemed to link it to the standoff over the detention of the Italian marines. With the return of the second marine, Salvatore Girone, to Rome on May 29, the sources said, "Italy is no longer blocking the consensus."

»

China, which stonewalled India's entry into the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) at the just-concluded Seoul plenary, is not a member of 34-nation MTCR.

Vienna Convention not for 'spies' involved in terror: Pakistan to ICJ

PTI

The Vienna Convention provisions on consular access were not intended for a "spy" involved in terror activities, Pakistan on Monday told the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is hearing India's plea on the death sentence given to its national Kulbhushan Jadhav.



India's application on Mr. Jadhav, who was arrested in March last year and sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and subversive activities, was "unnecessary and misconceived" and must be dismissed, Pakistan told the U.N.'s highest judicial body. India has been unable to provide an explanation for Mr. Jadhav's passport which bears a Muslim name, Mohammad Faisal of the Pakistan Foreign Office said in his opening remarks in response to India's submissions earlier in the day.

India was using the court as the "scene of political theatre" but "we will not respond in kind," Mr. Faisal told the ICJ which held daylong proceedings to decide the fate of the former Indian Navy officer.

There has been deafening silence and no response from India on Pakistan's accusations on Mr. Jadhav, Pakistan's lawyer Khawar Qureshi said.

Expressing the fear that Mr. Jadhav, 46, might be executed before the hearing was over, India accused Pakistan of violating the Vienna convention and conducting a "farcical trial" without a "shred of evidence."

Pakistan had denied India its 16 requests for consular access, India's lead attorney Harish Salve said.

The urgent hearing comes after the ICJ last week stayed Mr. Jadhav's execution. While India presented its argument over 90 minutes, Pakistan, which claims that Mr. Jadhav is an agent of India's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), took less than an hour.

India wants the ICJ to annul Mr. Jadhav's death sentence and for Pakistan to ensure that no action is taken that may prejudice the rights of India or of Mr. Jadhav.



Mr. Jadhav, the latest flashpoint in the tensions between Pakistan and India, was sentenced last month. On May 8, India moved the ICJ against the death penalty, alleging violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. On May 9, the highest court in the UN gave Mr. Jadhav a lease of life.

India, in its appeal to the ICJ, had asserted that Mr. Jadhav was kidnapped from Iran where he was involved in business activities after retiring from the Indian Navy. However, it denies that he has any connection with the government. Pakistan claims to have arrested Mr. Jadhav from its restive Balochistan province.

International Court of Justice

"World Court" redirects here. For other uses, see [World Court \(disambiguation\)](#).

The **International Court of Justice** commonly referred to as the **World Court**, **ICJ** or **The Hague** is the primary judicial branch of the [United Nations](#) (UN). Seated in the [Peace Palace](#) in [The Hague](#), [Netherlands](#), the court settles legal disputes submitted to it by [states](#) and provides advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international branches, agencies, and the [UN General Assembly](#).

Activities

Established in 1945 by the [UN Charter](#), the Court began work in 1946 as the successor to the [Permanent Court of International Justice](#). The [Statute of the International Court of Justice](#), similar to that of its predecessor, is the main constitutional document constituting and regulating the Court.



The Court's workload covers a wide range of judicial activity. After the court ruled that the **United States's** covert war against **Nicaragua** was in violation of international law (*Nicaragua v. United States*), the United States withdrew from compulsory jurisdiction in 1986 to accept the court's jurisdiction only on a case-by-case basis.[4] **Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter** authorizes the **UN Security Council** to enforce Court rulings. However, such enforcement is subject to the veto power of the five permanent members of the Council, which the United States used in the *Nicaragua* case.[5]

Composition

ICJ is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The election process is set out in Articles 4–19 of the ICJ statute. Elections are staggered, with five judges elected every three years to ensure continuity within the court. Should a judge die in office, the practice has generally been to elect a judge in a special election to complete the term.

No two judges may be nationals of the same country. According to Article 9, the membership of the Court is supposed to represent the "main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world". Essentially, that has meant **common law**, **civil law** and **socialist law** (now post-communist law).

There is an informal understanding that the seats will be distributed **by geographic regions** so that there are five seats for Western countries, three for **African states** (including one judge of **francophone civil law**, one of Anglophone **common law** and one **Arab**), two for **Eastern**



European states, three for Asian states and two for Latin American and Caribbean states.[6] The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (France, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States) always have a judge on the Court, thereby occupying three of the Western seats, one of the Asian seats and one of the Eastern European seats. The exception was China, which did not have a judge on the Court from 1967 to 1985 because it did not put forward a candidate.

Article 6 of the Statute provides that all judges should be "elected regardless of their nationality among persons of high moral character" who are either qualified for the highest judicial office in their home states or known as lawyers with sufficient competence in international law. Judicial independence is dealt with specifically in Articles 16–18. Judges of the ICJ are not able to hold any other post or act as counsel. In practice, Members of the Court have their own interpretation of these rules and allow them to be involved in outside arbitration and hold professional posts as long as there is no conflict of interest. A judge can be dismissed only by a unanimous vote of the other members of the Court. Despite these provisions, the independence of ICJ judges has been questioned. For example, during the *Nicaragua* case, the United States issued a communiqué suggesting that it could not present sensitive material to the Court because of the presence of judges from Eastern bloc states

Judges may deliver joint judgments or give their own separate opinions. Decisions and Advisory Opinions are by majority, and, in the event of an equal division, the President's vote becomes decisive, which occurred in the *Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed*



Conflict (Opinion requested by WHO), [1996] ICJ Reports 66. Judges may also deliver separate dissenting opinions.

About the NSG

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.

The NSG Guidelines also contain the so-called “Non-Proliferation Principle,” adopted in 1994, whereby a supplier, notwithstanding other provisions in the NSG Guidelines, authorises a transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Non-Proliferation Principle seeks to cover the rare but important cases where adherence to the NPT or to a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty may not by itself be a guarantee that a State will consistently share the objectives of the Treaty or that it will remain in compliance with its Treaty obligations.

The NSG Guidelines are consistent with, and complement, the various international, legally binding instruments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok), and the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Semipalatinsk).



The NSG Guidelines are implemented by each Participating Government (PG) in accordance with its national laws and practices.

Decisions on export applications are taken at the national level in accordance with national export licensing requirements.

Why India wants to be in the NSG: 10 things you need to know

There is a lot of anticipation about the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary session that is taking place in Seoul on Thursday and Friday. But what exactly is the NSG and why is it crucial for India to be a member of this group? Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convinced several members, including US, Mexico and Switzerland, to allow India on board but with China yet to accept India's inclusion and Pakistan's outright protest against it, the plenary session of 23 and 24 June takes on significant meaning.

Here's a primer:

1. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) states on its website that it is "a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports." The guidelines includes a principle that states that transfer of nuclear technology will be authorised only on the condition that such a deal will not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. That's why all the member states of the NSG are signatories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

(NPT). The NSG guidelines also complement several other international treaties related to nuclear non-proliferation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. Mexico is supporting India's bid for NSG membership. Reuters

2. India is not a member of the NPT. It is a point that China has consistently raised while trying to block India's membership to the NSG. However, China is supporting Pakistan's membership. Pakistan too has not signed the NPT.

3. NSG was set up in response to India's own clandestine nuclear test in 1974, which made New Delhi something of a pariah in the West. Joining the club requires the unanimous approval of all 48 members.

4. Analysts say joining the NSG is chiefly a matter of pride and desire to be taken seriously by some of the world's most powerful nations. Since prompting international technology sanctions and limits on exports by conducting nuclear tests in 1998, India has been eager to gain legitimacy as a nuclear power.

5. Joining the NSG will give India better access to low-cost, clean nuclear energy -- important for its economic growth. Nuclear power is one way India, the third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, could cut its emissions and reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

6. As Jaideep Prabhu points out in [this Firstpost article](#), NSG membership would put India on a firmer footing to propose the idea of plutonium trade for its thorium programme that has been waiting in the wings. An early



adoption of thorium technology would give India enormous energy independence and security.

7. PM Modi is so keen on the NSG membership that he set up a meet with China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent on Thursday. It is the same day when the NSG plenary session in Seoul begins, a meeting in which India's membership application is expected to come up. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar is in Seoul to closely monitor the NSG meet.

8. The US has openly supported India's membership to the NSG and even urged other members to do so. "We believe, and this has been US policy for some time, that India is ready for membership and the United States calls on participating governments to support India's application at the plenary session of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters. Among others who have publicly backed India's bid to NSG are Mexico, France, Switzerland, Russia, Japan, UK and Canada.

9. Other than China, countries that are opposing India's inclusion in the NSG are Turkey, South Africa, Ireland and New Zealand.

10. While considering India's membership application, the NSG will also have to consider the fact that accepting this application can pose problems on the processing of applications from Pakistan and Israel, both of whom have not signed the NPT.