



Colombo Process

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, India has **become chair of the regional grouping Colombo Process** for the **first time** since its inception in 2003.

- India would lead the grouping for the **period 2024-26**.

What is the Colombo Process?

▪ About:

- The **Colombo Process comprises 12 Asian member states** and serves as a regional consultative forum. It aims to promote the sharing of best practices related to overseas employment for **countries in South and Southeast Asia** that send [migrant workers](#) abroad.
- The 12 member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - **The founding states include** Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - In the past, it has been **chaired by** Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the **Philippines, Indonesia**, and Bangladesh.
- The **decisions** under Colombo Process are made by **consensus** and are **non-binding**.

▪ Objectives:

- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices.
- Consult on issues **faced by overseas workers**, and offer **practical solutions**.
- **Optimise development benefits** from organised overseas employment.
- Review and monitor the implementation of the **ministerial recommendations**.

▪ Secretariat: The [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#) provides technical and administrative support to the Colombo Process.

- The Colombo Process Technical Support Unit (CPTSU), based in Sri Lanka, **provides technical support** to the Colombo Process in its thematic areas of focus.

▪ Five Thematic Priority Areas:

- Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes
- Fostering Ethical Recruitment Practices
- Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment
- Promote Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittances
- Labor Market Analysis

▪ Achievements:

- A **regional workshop for employment agencies** in Asia on placing workers in Europe and ethical recruitment was held in Manila (2006).
- A feasibility study to establish an **Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC)** in one of the contractual labour destination countries in the [Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)](#) has been completed.
- Organised the first "**Asia-EU Consultation on Labour Migration**" held in Brussels in 2008 attended by Colombo Process countries and 16 EU member states.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

- It is part of the [United Nations System](#) as the leading inter-governmental organisation promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, with 175 member states and a presence in 171 countries.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. India is a member of which of the following? (2008)

1. Asian Development Bank
2. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
3. Colombo Plan
4. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below Code:

- (a)** 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (a)