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Program : **B.E**

Subject Name: **Cyber Law and Ethics**

Subject Code: **CS-8004**

Semester: **8th**



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Introduction to comp and its impacts

Computer is an electronic device that receives input, stores or processes the input as per user instructions and provides output in desired format.

Input-Process-Output Model

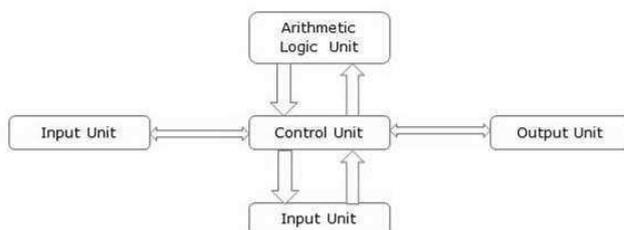
Computer input is called **data** and the output obtained after processing it, based on user's instructions is called **information**. Raw facts and figures which can be processed using arithmetic and logical operations to obtain information are called **data**.



The processes that can be applied to data are of two types –

- **Arithmetic operations** – Examples include calculations like addition, subtraction, differentials, square root, etc.
- **Logical operations** – Examples include comparison operations like greater than, less than, equal to, opposite, etc.

The corresponding figure for an actual computer looks something like this –



The basic parts of a computer are as follows –

- **Input Unit** – Devices like keyboard and mouse that are used to input data and instructions to the computer are called input unit.
- **Output Unit** – Devices like printer and visual display unit that are used to provide information to the user in desired format are called output unit.
- **Control Unit** – As the name suggests, this unit controls all the functions of the computer. All devices or parts of computer interact through the control unit.

- **Arithmetic Logic Unit** – This is the brain of the computer where all arithmetic operations and logical operations take place.
- **Memory** – All input data, instructions and data interim to the processes are stored in the memory. Memory is of two types – **primary memory** and **secondary memory**. Primary memory resides within the CPU whereas secondary memory is external to it.

Control unit, arithmetic logic unit and memory are together called the **central processing unit** or **CPU**. Computer devices like keyboard, mouse, printer, etc. that we can see and touch are the **hardware** components of a computer. The set of instructions or programs that make the computer function using these hardware parts are called **software**. We cannot see or touch software. Both hardware and software are necessary for working of a computer.

Characteristics of Computer

To understand why computers are such an important part of our lives, let us look at some of its characteristics –

- **Speed** – Typically, a computer can carry out 3-4 million instructions per second.
- **Accuracy** – Computers exhibit a very high degree of accuracy. Errors that may occur are usually due to inaccurate data, wrong instructions or bug in chips – all human errors.
- **Reliability** – Computers can carry out same type of work repeatedly without throwing up errors due to tiredness or boredom, which are very common among humans.
- **Versatility** – Computers can carry out a wide range of work from data entry and ticket booking to complex mathematical calculations and continuous astronomical observations. If you can input the necessary data with correct instructions, computer will do the processing.
- **Storage Capacity** – Computers can store a very large amount of data at a fraction of cost of traditional storage of files. Also, data is safe from normal wear and tear associated with paper.

Computers have both positive and negative impact in our daily life as well as in our social life. But the gross development of the nation is faster with the application of

computers in industries and education. The both positive and negative impacts of computers are listed below.

Positive Impact of Computer -

- *The work can be done in very less time.*
- *More information can be stored in small space.*
- *Multitasking and multiprocessing capabilities of data.*
- *Easy to access data.*
- *Impartiality.*
- *Documents can be kept secret.*
- *Error free result.*
- *It can be used for various purposes. i.e. It can be used in any type of work.*

Negative Impact of Computer -

- *Highly expensive.*
- *Accidents.*
- *Data piracy.*
- *Increased Unemployment.*
- *Huge data and information can be lost sometimes.*
- *Fast changing computer technology.*
- *Service distribution.*
- *Illiteracy of computing and computers.*

INTRODUCTION AND WEB DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES / WEBTEAM

Internet or commonly known as WEB is defined as a network of networks. The statement 'NETWORK OF NETWORK' contains a hidden definition in itself. As we know that in the early stage of development in networks only homogenous systems were able to communicate. But, as the technology has grown, new technology devices and software had emerged which allow heterogeneous network to behave like a common group. Internet is collection of such

heterogeneous/homogeneous networks. The technologies in internet allow one network to communicate with another transparently. These days internet is covering almost all aspects of humans daily life and therefore well defined strategies are required to develop as well as use this emerging technology. Emerging of

E-commerce and its vast use by banks and other corporate

had lead to think about these development strategies a lot. These development and use is under a law commonly known as

CYBER LAW (Will be dealing in detail later on) and organizations/individuals are bound to follow these rules and regulations. Prior to the widespread inter-networking that led to the Internet, most communication networks were limited by their nature to only allow communications between the stations on the network,

and the prevalent computer networking method was based on the central mainframe method. In the 1960s, computer researchers, Levi C. Finch and Robert W. Taylor pioneered calls for a joined-up global network to address interoperability problems. Concurrently, several research programs began to research principles of networking between separate physical networks, and this led to the development of Packet switching. These included Donald Davies (NPL), Paul Baran (RAND Corporation), and Leonard Kleinrock's MIT and UCLA research programs.

This led to the development of several packet switched networking solutions in the late 1960s and 1970s, including ARPANET, and X.25. Additionally, public access and hobbyist networking systems grew in popularity, including UUCP. They were however still disjointed separate networks, served only by limited gateways between networks. This led to the application of packet switching to develop a protocol for inter-networking, where multiple different networks could be joined together into a super-framework of networks. By defining a simple common network system, the Internet protocol suite, the concept of the network could be separated from its physical implementation. This spread of inter-network began to form into the idea of a global inter-network that would be called 'The Internet', and this began to quickly spread as existing networks were converted to become compatible with this. This spread quickly across the advanced telecommunication networks of the western world, and then began to penetrate into the rest of the world as it became the de-facto international standard

and global network. However, the disparity of growth led to a Digital divide that is still a concern today. Following commercialization and introduction of privately run Internet Service Providers in the 1980s, and its expansion into popular use in the 1990s, the Internet has had a drastic impact on culture and commerce. This includes the rise

of near instant communication by e-mail, text based discussion forums, the WorldWide Web. Investor speculation in new markets provided by these innovations would also lead to the inflation and collapse of the Dot-com bubble, a major market collapse. But despite this, growth of the Internet continued, and still does.

Cyber law

The computer-generated world of internet is known as cyberspace and the laws prevailing this area are known as Cyber laws and all the users of this space come under the ambit of these laws as it carries a kind of worldwide jurisdiction. Cyber law can also be described as that branch of law that deals with legal issues related to use of inter-networked information technology. In short, cyber law is the law governing computers and the internet.

The growth of Electronic Commerce has propelled the need for vibrant and effective regulatory mechanisms which would further strengthen the legal infrastructure, so crucial to the success of Electronic Commerce. All these governing mechanisms and legal structures come within the domain of Cyber law.

Cyber law is important because it touches almost all aspects of transactions and activities and on involving the internet, World Wide Web and cyberspace. Every action and reaction in cyberspace has some legal and cyber legal angles.

Cyber law encompasses laws relating to:

- Cyber crimes
- Electronic and digital signatures
- Intellectual property
- Data protection and privacy

Need of cyber law

In today's techno-savvy environment, the world is becoming more and more digitally sophisticated and so are the crimes. Internet was initially developed as a research and information sharing tool and was in an unregulated manner. As the time passed by it became more transactional with e-business, e-commerce, e-governance and e-procurement etc. All legal issues related to internet crime are dealt with through cyber laws. As the number of internet users is on the rise, the need for cyber laws and their application has also gathered great momentum.

In today's highly digitalized world, almost everyone is affected by cyber law. For example:

- Almost all transactions in shares are in demat form.
- Almost all companies extensively depend upon their computer networks and keep their valuable data in electronic form.
- Government forms including income tax returns, company law forms etc. are now filled in electronic form.
- Consumers are increasingly using credit/debit cards for shopping.
- Most people are using email, phones and SMS messages for communication.
- Even in "non-cyber crime" cases, important evidence is found in computers/cell phones eg: in cases of murder, divorce, kidnapping, tax evasion, organized crime, terrorist operations, counterfeit currency etc.
- Cybercrime cases such as online banking frauds, online share trading fraud, source code theft, credit card fraud, tax evasion, virus attacks, cyber sabotage, phishing attacks, email hijacking, denial of service, hacking, pornography etc. are becoming common.
- Digital signatures and e-contracts are fast replacing conventional method of transacting business.

Technology per se is never a disputed issue but for whom and at what cost has been the issue in the ambit of governance. The cyber revolution holds the promise of quickly reaching the masses as opposed to the earlier technologies, which had a trickle-down effect. Such a promise and potential can only be realized with an appropriate legal regime based on a given socio-economic matrix.

Cyber Jurisprudence at International and Indian Level

Jurisdiction means the authority which a court has to decide matters that are litigated before it or to take cognizance if matters are presented in a formal way for its decisions, it could be said that it is the power/authority of the court to decide matters that are brought before him. In this context, jurisdiction over activities on the Internet has become a battleground for the struggle to establish Rule of Law in the Information Society.^[2] The rise of the global computer network is destroying the link between geographical location and:

- 1) The power of local governments to assert control over online behavior;
- 2) The effects of online behavior on individuals or things;
- 3) The legitimacy of the efforts of a local sovereign to enforce rules applicable to global phenomena; and
- 4) The ability of physical location to give notice of which sets of rules to apply.

The net thus radically subverts a system of rule-making based on borders between physical spaces, at least with respect to the claim that cyberspace should naturally be governed by territorially defined rules.^[3]

The Internet explosion has generated many jurisdictional disputes, putting the onus on courts to determine how to apply historic concepts regarding personal jurisdiction to the boundary-less world of the Internet. With so many outsourcing activities in India and the popularity of networking websites, a fresh continuum of cases related to “Personal Victimization” and “Economic Offences” in the nature of data protection, cyber defamation, security, etc have evolved. Hacking initiated at one place adversely affects any other place/institution and brings them to limbo.

Relevant Legislations: –

- 1) **Information Technology Act, 2000:** –Section 75 of the Act implies that the Act shall apply to an offence or contravention committed outside India by any person if the act or conduct constituting the offence involves a computer, computer system or computer network located in India.

- 2) **Indian Penal Code, 1860:** – Section 3 and 4 of the Act deals with the extra-jurisdictional power given to the Indian Courts. [4]
- 3) **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973:** -Section 188 provides that even if a citizen of India outside the country commits the offence, the same is subject to the jurisdiction of courts in India. In India, jurisdiction in cyberspace is similar to jurisdiction as that relating to traditional crimes and the concept of subjective territoriality will prevail. Moreover Section 178 deals with the crime or part of it committed in India and Section 179 deals with the consequences of crime in Indian Territory. [5]

In a leading case of cyber crime, *SMC Pneumatics (India) Pvt. Ltd. v. Jogesh Kwatra* [6], India's first case of cyber defamation, High Court of Delhi assumed jurisdiction over a matter where a corporate's reputation was being defamed through e-mails, and passed an important ex-parte injunction. The concept of consequence and cause of action extends jurisdiction but a conflicting situation arises where there is no defined regulation at one of the places. For example, the Act does not provide any provision to catch the internet pornography on foreign websites but only for sites in India.

The Supreme Court of India, in the case of *SIL Import v. Exim Aides Silk Importers* [7] has recognized the need of the judiciary to interpret a statute by making allowances for any relevant technological change that has occurred. Until there is specific legislation in regard to the jurisdiction of the Indian Courts with respect to Internet disputes, or unless India is a signatory to an International Treaty under which the jurisdiction of the national courts and the circumstances under which they can be exercised are spelt out, the Indian Courts will have to give a wide interpretation to the existing statutes, for exercising Internet disputes.

International Perspectives UN

- The United Nations serves the average American citizen in invisible but important ways on a day-to-day basis— through keeping planes aloft to monitoring nuclear facilities worldwide or investigating the death toll in Syria. As with so many things, the fact that citizens only read about problems in the news creates a negative bias.

- One major benefit to the U.S. taxpayer from the United Nations is peacekeeping. Without a single U.S. troop, the UN peacekeeping forces are deployed in roughly fifteen conflicts around the world to preserve regional security that the United States would likely otherwise have to protect by itself with U.S. military forces. The total UN peacekeeping budget is about the same price as U.S. operations per month in Afghanistan, and the United States only pays about a quarter of the UN budget.
- The universal membership of the United Nations and the fact that its charter has the force of international law provides legitimacy to many U.S. international initiatives—which ultimately increases their efficacy and cost-effectiveness. But at the same time, U.S. citizens and policymakers alike must have realistic expectations of the organization. Structurally, if the UN Security Council members disagree, the UN will not be able to act forcefully, which is why the Obama administration reserves the right to take action outside the UN if necessary. This is particularly important to bear in mind when analyzing the international approach in Syria. While the United States could always cobble together a coalition outside the United Nations—as done in Kosovo—these decisions can be dicey and have extensive international consequences.
- One of the unsung successes over the past decades is the incredible increase in female literacy. A generation ago, two-thirds of women could not read. Today, thanks in part to major international efforts to improve education and

girl's access to schools, between 60 and 80 percent of women can read.

- Without question, Syria is one of the most difficult questions on the security agenda today. Because of Chinese and Russian opposition to international action in Syria, the United States has been very active in other channels—including in the Human Rights Council and in providing substantial humanitarian aid.

International telecommunication union(ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an agency of the United Nations (UN) whose purpose is to coordinate telecommunication operations and services throughout the world. Originally founded in 1865, as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organization. ITU headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ITU consists of three sectors:

- Radiocommunication (ITU-R) -- ensures optimal, fair and rational use of the [radio frequency](#) (RF) spectrum
- Telecommunication Standardization ([ITU-T](#)) -- formulates recommendations for standardizing telecommunication operations worldwide
- Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) -- assists countries in developing and maintaining internal communication operations

The ITU sets and publishes regulations and standards relevant to electronic communication and broadcasting technologies of all kinds

including radio, television, [satellite](#) , telephone and the [Internet](#) . The organization conducts working parties, study groups and meetings to address current and future issues and to resolve disputes. The ITU organizes and holds an exhibition and forum known as the Global TELECOM every four years.

Another important aspect of the ITU's mandate is helping emerging countries to establish and develop telecommunication systems of their own. Although the recommendations of the ITU are non-binding, most countries adhere to them in the interest of maintaining an effective international electronic communication environment.

Itu sectores



The ITU comprises three sectors, each managing a different aspect of the matters handled by the Union, as well as ITU Telecom.^[7] The sectors were created during the restructuring of ITU at its 1992 Plenipotentiary Conference.^[8]

Radio communication (ITU-R)

Established in 1927 as the International Radio Consultative Committee or **CCIR** (from its French name "Comité consultatif international pour la radio"), this sector manages the international radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources. In 1992, the CCIR became the ITU-R.

Standardisation (ITU-T)

Standardisation was the original purpose of ITU since its inception. Established in 1956 as the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee or **CCITT** (from its French name "Comité consultatif international téléphonique et télégraphique"), this sector standardizes global telecommunications (except for radio).^[8] In 1993, the CCITT became the ITU-T.

Development (ITU-D)

Established in 1992, this sector helps spread equitable, sustainable and affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICT).

ITU Telecom

ITU Telecom organizes major events for the world's ICT community.

A permanent **General Secretariat**, headed by the Secretary General, manages the day-to-day work of the Union and its sectors.

Initiative council of Europe

The **Council of Europe (CoE)**; French: *Conseil de l'Europe*, *CdE*; German: *Europarat*) is an international organisation whose stated aim^[3] is to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.^[4] Founded in 1949, it has 47 member states, covers approximately 820 million people and operates with an annual budget of approximately 500 million euros.^[5]

The organisation is distinct from the 28-nation European Union (EU), although it is sometimes confused with it, partly because the EU has adopted the original European Flag which was created by the Council of Europe in 1955,^[6] as well as the European Anthem.^[7] No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe.^[8] The Council of Europe is an official United Nations Observer.^[9]

Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states on various topics. The best known body of the Council of Europe is the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Council's two statutory bodies are the Committee of Ministers, comprising the foreign ministers of each member state, and the Parliamentary Assembly, composed of members of the national parliaments of each member state. The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states. The Secretary General heads the secretariat of the organisation. Other major CoE bodies include the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and the European Audiovisual Observatory.

The headquarters of the Council of Europe are in Strasbourg, France. English and French are its two official languages. The Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress also use German, Italian, Russian, and Turkish for some of their work.

Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

The Budapest Convention is a criminal justice treaty that provides States with (i) the criminalisation of a list of attacks against and by means of computers; (ii) procedural law tools to make the investigation of cybercrime and the securing of electronic evidence in relation to any crime more effective and subject to rule of law safeguards; and (iii) international police and judicial cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence.

It is open for accession by any State prepared to implement it and engage in cooperation. By November 2016, which marked also the 15th anniversary of the Convention, 50 States were Parties (European countries as well as Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Israel, Japan, Mauritius, Panama, Sri Lanka and the USA). Another 17 from all regions of the world had signed it or been invited to accede.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), is an economic group of 21 members, formed in 1989, with the primary goal of promoting [free trade](#) and sustainable development in the [Pacific Rim](#) economies. Creation of APCE was primarily in response to the increasing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies. Also, the proliferation of regional economic blocs, such as the European Union (EU) and the, now defunct, North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), encouraged its formation.

In the years since its launch, APEC witnessed numerous marquis accomplishments. They are fundamental in reducing tariffs, improving customs efficiency, and closing the gap between developing and [developed economies](#). APEC also combated climate change, dismantled terrorist networks, increased [transparency](#), and stimulated [economic integration](#). Furthermore, the group raised living standards and education levels, and fostered a greater sense of

community among Asia-Pacific countries, by nurturing shared interests.

APEC provides funding for approximately 100 projects annually, with around USD 15.4 million available in 2018.

Nations Comprising APEC

The founding members of APEC were Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the U.S. Since its launch, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russia, and Vietnam have joined its ranks. APEC refers to its members as economies rather than as states due to the disputed status of Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) refuse to recognize Taiwan because they claim the island as a province under their constitution. Hong Kong functions as semi-autonomous regions of China and not a sovereign state.

APEC's Actions and Goals

At a landmark summit meeting in 1994, APEC announced a lofty goal of establishing free trade and investment regimes in the Asia-Pacific region by 2010 for members with developed economies. The group hopes to achieve those same goals for its developing economy members by 2020.

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In 1995, APEC adopted the Osaka Action Agenda, a program designed to facilitate business activities, liberalize trade and investment and promote economic and technical cooperation. However, progress on these efforts has somewhat slowed, due to APEC's culture of making all decisions by consensus. While some decisions are in the absence of unanimity, they are not legally binding, by the member governments.

Official observers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation include the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

Sub-Groups of APEC

APEC engages in multiple micro causes and has many sub-groups which aim to advance policy and awareness. Examples of these sub-groups include:

- **Gender Issues:** APEC members recognize the entire potential of women's participation in the Asia-Pacific economy continues untapped. As a result, the economic empowerment and inclusion of women are essential agenda items. An estimated 600 million women are currently in the region's labor force.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** In 1996, APEC's Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) established an Intellectual Property Rights Get-Together (IPR-GT). This initiative aims to ensure, through legislation, the adequate protection of [intellectual property rights](#) in the Asia-Pacific region. Also, administrative and enforcement mechanisms will help in this endeavor. AOEC bases its principles on those of the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and other agreements.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Most APEC economies lay along the Pacific Ring of Fire, where strong tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions present constant threats. The region is also vulnerable to tropical cyclone formations, including yearly occurrences of Category 5 cyclones, or super typhoons.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a [group of 34](#) member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy. OECD members are democratic countries that support free [market economies](#).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is variously referred to as a think tank or monitoring group. Its stated goals include fostering economic development and cooperation; fighting poverty, and ensuring the environmental impact of growth and social development is always considered. Over the years, it has dealt with a range of issues, including raising the [standard of living](#) in member countries, contributing to the expansion of world trade and promoting economic stability.

The OECD was established on Dec. 14, 1960, by 18 European nations plus the United States and Canada. It has expanded over time to include members from South America and the Asia-Pacific region. It includes most of the highly [developed economies](#).

Background of the OECD

In 1948, in the aftermath of World War II, the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) was established to administer the predominantly U.S.-funded [Marshall Plan](#) for post-war reconstruction on the continent. The group emphasized the importance of working together for economic development, with the goal of avoiding more decades of European warfare. The OEEC was instrumental in helping the European Economic Community (EEC), which has since evolved into the [European Union \(EU\)](#), to establish a European Free Trade Area.

In 1961, the United States and Canada joined the OEEC, which changed its name to OECD to reflect the broader membership. Fourteen other countries have joined since then as of 2016. It is headquartered in the Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France.

Functions

The OECD publishes economic reports, statistical databases, analyses and forecasts on the outlook for [economic growth](#) worldwide. Reports are variously global, regional or national in orientation. The group analyzes and reports on the impact of social policy issues such as gender discrimination on economic growth, and makes policy recommendations designed to foster growth with sensitivity to

environmental issues. The organization also seeks to eliminate bribery and other financial crime worldwide.

The OECD maintains a so-called "black list" of nations that are considered uncooperative [tax havens](#). It led a two-year effort with the Group of 20 (G20) nations to encourage tax reform worldwide and eliminate [tax avoidance](#) by profitable corporations. The recommendations presented at the end of the project included an estimate that such avoidance costs the world's economies between \$100 billion and \$240 billion in tax revenue annually. The group provides consulting assistance and support to nations in central and eastern Europe that implement market-based economic reforms.

World bank

What Is the World Bank?

The World Bank is an international organization dedicated to providing financing, advice, and research to developing nations to aid their economic advancement. The bank predominantly acts as an organization that attempts to fight poverty by offering developmental assistance to middle- and low-income countries.

Currently, the World Bank has two stated goals that it aims to achieve by 2030. The first is to end extreme poverty by decreasing the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to below 3% of the world population. The second is to increase overall prosperity by increasing the income growth in the bottom 40% of the world's population.

Understanding the World Bank

The World Bank is a provider of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the globe. The bank considers itself a unique financial institution that sets up partnerships to reduce poverty and support economic development.

The World Bank is an international organization dedicated to providing financing, advice, and research to developing nations to aid

their economic advancement, working with both the public and private sectors.

It supplies qualifying individuals and governments with low-interest loans, zero-interest credits, and grants. These debt borrowings and cash infusions help with global education, healthcare, public administration, infrastructure, and private-sector development. The World Bank also shares information with world governments through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. It offers advice and training to both the public and private sectors.

History of the World Bank

The World Bank was created in 1944 out of the [Bretton Woods agreement](#), which was secured under the auspices of the United Nations in the latter days of World War II because many European and Asian countries were going to need financing to fund post-war reconstruction efforts. The bank is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and currently has more than 10,000 employees in more than 120 offices worldwide. It has expanded from a single institution to a group of five unique and cooperative institutional organizations.

The first organization is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an institution that provides [debt financing](#) to governments that are considered middle income. The second organization within the World Bank is the International Development Association (IDA), a group that gives interest-free loans to the governments of poor countries.

The [International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#), the third organization, focuses on the private sector and provides developing countries with investment financing and financial advisory services. The fourth part of the World Bank is the [Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency \(MIGA\)](#), an organization that promotes [foreign direct investments](#) in developing countries. The fifth organization is the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an entity that provides [arbitration](#) on international investment disputes.

Commonwealth of Nations

The **Commonwealth of Nations**, normally known as **the Commonwealth**,^[3] and historically the **British Commonwealth**, is a unique political association of [53 member states](#), nearly all of them former [territories](#) of the [British Empire](#).^[4] The chief institutions of the organisation are the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#), which focuses on intergovernmental aspects, and the [Commonwealth Foundation](#), which focuses on non-governmental relations between member states.^[5]

The Commonwealth dates back to the first half of the 20th century with the [decolonisation](#) of the British Empire through increased [self-governance](#) of its territories. It was originally created as the *British Commonwealth of Nations*^[6] through the [Balfour Declaration](#) at the [1926 Imperial Conference](#), and formalised by the [United Kingdom](#) through the [Statute of Westminster](#) in 1931. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the [London Declaration](#) in 1949, which modernised the community, and established the member states as "free and equal".^[7]

The human symbol of this free association is the [Head of the Commonwealth](#), currently [Queen Elizabeth II](#), and the [2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](#) appointed [Charles, Prince of Wales](#) to be her designated successor, although the position is not technically hereditary. The Queen is the [head of state](#) of 16 member states, known as the [Commonwealth realms](#), while 32 other members are [republics](#) and five others have different monarchs.

Member states have no legal obligations to one another. Instead, they are united by [English language](#), history, culture and their shared values of [democracy](#), [human rights](#) and the [rule of law](#).^[5] These values are enshrined in the [Commonwealth Charter](#)^[8] and promoted by the quadrennial [Commonwealth Games](#).

The countries of the Commonwealth cover more than 29,958,050 km² (11,566,870 sq mi), equivalent to 20% of the world's land area, and span all six inhabited [continents](#).

Origin

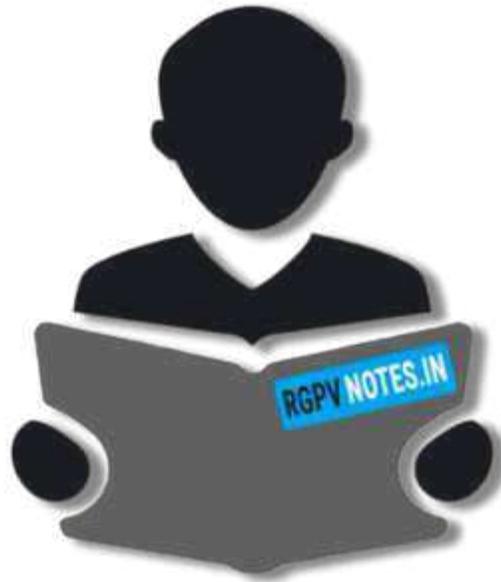
The term the Commonwealth of Nations originated in 1884. [Lord Rosebery](#) was on a visit to [Australia](#) in 1884. At [Adelaide](#) he said that over a period of time a number of [colonies](#) of the British Empire will become free and many may become more independent. He further said that all of these countries would then become the Commonwealth of Nations.

Purpose

The Commonwealth of Nations is not a political organization. Queen Elizabeth II is also head of state of 16 Commonwealth countries, referred to as Commonwealth realms. Canada and Australia are two of the largest realms. A Secretary General manages the day-to-day matters of the Commonwealth of Nations. However, the United Kingdom or the Secretary General does not have any direct or indirect control over these countries. In fact, almost all the 53 members are independent countries with their own governments. These countries have come together to form an association with some common aims. Such common aims include:

- To increase economic cooperation among the member countries.
- To encourage democracy in the member countries.
- To ensure that member countries follow human rights.





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