About Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR):

- The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) is a recurrent publication prepared by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- It provides information on and independent analyses of trends and developments in:
  
  a) intra- and inter-regional trade in goods and services;
  b) foreign direct investment;
  c) trade facilitation measures;
  d) trade policy measures; and
  e) preferential trade policies and agreements.

- The report offers insights into the impacts of these recent and emerging developments on countries’ abilities to meet the challenges of achieving inclusive and sustainable development.
- The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) is a biennial publication.

2019 Theme:

The theme of APTIR 2019 is Navigating Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) towards Sustainable Development.

What is Non trade Measures?

NTMs include technical measures such as sanitary (for protection of human and animal health), and phytosanitary (for protection of plant health), or SPS, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), which are related to environmental and sustainable standards that are set to block or slow down trade instead of regular tariffs or duties.

About Non Tariff Measures (NTMs):
Non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the past two decades and are affecting trade as well as sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Asian countries.

- NTMs affect **58 per cent of the trade in Asia-Pacific.**
- NTMs can have a direct impact on the performance of trading partners. They can also impact issues such as health, safety, environment, climate, public security and peace, which in turn, influence SDGs.
- **Around half the Asia-Pacific’s economies have at least one NTM** addressing water and energy efficiency and only 10 per cent have measures addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and illegal timber trade.