

# United Nations

## Formation of United Nations

- The United Nations is an international organisation founded in 1945 after World War II with the aim of preventing another such conflict. It is currently made up of 193 member states.
- The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.

1. **General Assembly** The General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, the only one in which all member states have equal representation one nation, one vote.
2. **The Security Council** Under the charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
3. **The Economic and Social Council** It is the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development- economic, social and environmental.
4. **The Trusteeship Council** The Trusteeship Council is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council-China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

5. **The International Court of Justice** It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

6. **The Secretariat** It is one of the main organs of the UN, is organised along departmental lines, with each department or office having a distinct area of action and responsibility.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1945	Washington DC
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	1945	New York
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	1945	Rome
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	1946	Paris
World Health Organisation (WHO)	1948	Geneva
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	1957	Vienna
International Development Association (IDA)	1960	Washington DC
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1965	New York
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)	1972	Nairobi (Kenya)
World Trade Organisation (WTO)	1995	Geneva

## India and United Nations

- India was among the original members of the UN that signed the declaration by UN at Washington, DC, in 1944 October and also participated in UN conference at San Francisco in 1945.
- India took an active part in drafting of the Human Rights Declaration. Dr Hansa Mehta (Gandhian Political Activist) took keen part in it.
- In 1953, the chief delegate of India at that time, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly.
- So far India has taken part in 43 peacekeeping missions. India is one of the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping troops.
- In service to the UN, Satish Nambiar was appointed as Ist Force Commander and Jai Shanker Menon was appointed as Head of Mission of UN Disengagement Observer Force.
- On 11th December, 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted 21st June as the International Yoga Day, recognising the holistic benefits of this timeless practice and its inherent compatibility with the principles and values of the United Nations.
- Now India is trying hard to get a permanent seat in United Nations Security Council because it wants bigger recognition at the international platform. India believes that now UN must undergo reforms to give representation to emerging economies like India.

## India's Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy of a country is determined by two sets of factors-domestic and international. Under domestic factors the role of geographical, historical, economic and cultural factors needs to be understood. At international level- policies of other countries and other international factors plays an important role.

Important foreign policy initiatives are

1. **Non-Alignment** This policy initiative emerged during the time of cold war in the form of Non-Aligned Movement. Under this India decided not to join any cold war bloc and to follow independent foreign policy.
  2. **Nuclear Policy** India believes in the policy of 'No first use' which means that India will use its nuclear weapons only in case of an attack by other nuclear weapon country. India also believes in the policy of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.
  3. **Look East Policy** It was initiated in 1992 by India's visionary Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao. It is an effort by India to cultivate extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of South-East Asia.
  4. **Gujarat Doctrine** I. K Gujaral (the earlier Foreign Minister of India) articulated the Gujarat Doctrine in 1996 in order to achieve better relations with neighbours and to secure peace in South Asia.
- The Foreign Policy of India is based upon the basic principles of universal brotherhood, peace, tolerance, non-discrimination, disarmament. One of the most fundamental doctrine of India is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which underlines all our foreign policy initiatives.

## Human Rights

- These rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status.
- **Human Rights include** the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more.
- Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.
- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (Universal Declaration) is an international document that states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.
- It was **adopted** by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10th December, 1948.

# Practice Exercise

- The United Nations was created after which of the following event ?  
(a) World War I (b) World War II  
(c) Cold War (d) French Revolution
- When did the United Nations came into existence ?  
(a) 25th October, 1945 (b) 20th October, 1950  
(c) 24th October, 1944 (d) 24th October, 1945
- Headquarters of the United Nations is situated at  
(a) San Francisco (b) Geneva  
(c) New York (d) Washington, DC
- How many official languages are there in UN ?  
(a) 7 (b) 6 (c) 5 (d) 8
- The role of which of the following UN organ is over now ?  
(a) Trusteeship Council (b) Secretariat  
(c) ECOSOC (d) Security Council
- How many members are there in ECOSOC ?  
(a) 55 (b) 192  
(c) 50 (d) 54
- Which among the following pair is rightly matched ?  

Organisation	Headquarters
(a) UNDP	: Washington, DC
(b) IMF	: New York
(c) WHO	: Vienna
(d) WTO	: Geneva
- The headquarters of International Court of Justice is situated at which place ?  
(a) Vienna (b) Geneva  
(c) Hague (d) Nairobi
- Which among the following Indian political activist took active part in drafting of Human Rights Declaration?  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi  
(b) BR Ambedkar  
(c) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit  
(d) Dr. Hansa Mehta
- Who was the first woman President of UN General Assembly ?  
(a) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit  
(b) Sarojini Naidu  
(c) Aruna Asaf Ali  
(d) Annie Besant
- In how many missions did India has taken part till now ?  
(a) 43 (b) 44 (c) 45 (d) 40
- In service to UN who has been appointed as the Ist Force Commander ?  
(a) Satish Nambiar (b) Jai Shanker Menon  
(c) VK Singh (d) Vishwanath Sharma
- Which day is celebrated as the International Yoga Day?  
(a) 21st June (b) 5th May  
(c) 23rd March (d) 22nd July
- India wants to be the permanent member of which of the following UN organ ?  
(a) Security Council (b) General Assembly  
(c) ECOSOC (d) ICJ
- Which among the following is not a Foreign Policy of India ?  
(a) No first use  
(b) Look East Policy  
(c) Gujaral Doctrine  
(d) Nuclear Proliferation

## Answers

1	(b)	2	(d)	3	(c)	4	(b)	5	(a)	6	(d)	7	(d)	8	(c)	9	(d)	10	(a)
11	(a)	12	(a)	13	(a)	14	(a)	15	(d)	16	(c)								