

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK

BRIEF ON INDIA AND UNITED NATIONS

India's deepening engagement with the United Nations is based on its steadfast commitment to multilateralism and dialogue as the key for achieving shared goals and addressing common challenges faced by the global community including those related to peace building and peacekeeping, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, climate change, terrorism, disarmament, human rights, health and pandemics, migration, cyber security, space and frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence, comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, among others.



Picture Above: A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, supply member of the Governor General's executive council and leader of the delegation from India, signing the UN Charter at a ceremony held at the Veterans' War Memorial Building in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.

Source: UN Photo/Rosenberg

India was among the select members of the United Nations that signed the Declaration by United Nations at Washington on 1 January 1942. India also participated in the historic

UN Conference of International Organization at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945.

As a founding member of the United Nations, India strongly supports the purposes and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions to implementing the goals of the Charter, and the evolution of the UN's specialized programmes and agencies.

India strongly believes that the United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for tackling today's global challenges. India is steadfast in its efforts to work with the committee of Nations in the spirit of multilateralism to achieve comprehensive and equitable solutions to all problems facing us including development and poverty eradication, climate change, terrorism, piracy, disarmament, peace building and peacekeeping, human rights.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Independent India viewed its membership at the United Nations as an important guarantee for maintaining international peace and security. India stood at the forefront during the UN's tumultuous years of struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

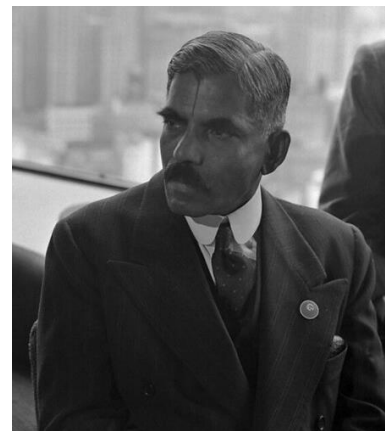
India was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on UN on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. India was also elected the first chair of the Decolonization Committee (Committee of 24) where its ceaseless efforts to put an end to colonialism are well on record.

India was amongst the most outspoken critics of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. In fact, India was the first country to raise this issue at the UN (in 1946) and played a leading role in the formation of a Sub-Committee against Apartheid set up by the General Assembly. When the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted in 1965, India was among the earliest signatories.

India's status as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 cemented its position within the UN system as a leading advocate of the concerns and aspirations of developing countries and the creation of a more equitable international economic and political order.

Indians at United Nations

Mr. Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar was India's delegate to the San Francisco Conference leading to the creation of the United Nations. He also had distinction of serving as the first President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946.





Mrs. Hansa Mehta represented India on the Nuclear Sub-Committee on the status of women in 1946. As the Indian delegate on the UN Human Rights Commission in 1947–48, she was responsible for changing the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from “all men are created equal” to “all human beings”, highlighting the need for gender equality.

Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, India’s delegate to the

Third Committee in 1948, argued forcefully in favour of non-discrimination based on sex and “the equal rights of men and women” in the in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A strong advocate of the “universality” of human rights, she argued that “if women and people under colonial rule were not explicitly mentioned in the Universal Declaration, they would not be considered included in “everyone”.



Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi

Pandit entered on a distinguished diplomatic career, leading the Indian delegation to the United Nations (1946–48, 1952–53) and serving as India’s ambassador to Moscow (1947–49) and to Washington and Mexico (1949–51). In 1953 Pandit became the first woman to be elected president of the UN General Assembly. From 1954 to 1961 she was Indian high commissioner (ambassador) in London and concurrently ambassador to Dublin.

Mr. Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan served as ECOSOC President in 1990. In January 1993 was

appointed by the UN Secretary General as a special envoy to the Middle East peace process in the capacity of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, a position he held until 1999.

Currently there are eight Indians in senior leadership positions at the United Nations at the levels of Under Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.

- **Mr. Atul Khare**, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Operational Support
- **Ms. Anita Bhatia**, Assistant Secretary-General for resource management, sustainability and partnerships and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Women

- **Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**, Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget, and Finance in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- **Mr. Nikhil Seth**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- **Mr. Satya S. Tripathi**, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar**, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- **Mr. Ovais Sarmad**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Assistant Secretary-General level.
- **Mr. Sudhir Rajkumar**, Secretary General's Representative for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund Asset Investments.

UN COMMITTEES

First Committee: Disarmament & International Security

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.

India is committed to non-proliferation in all its aspects. Accordingly, India has joined various multilateral export control regimes. With a view to address global concerns on the proliferation of WMD to terrorists, India has been tabling the consensus resolution on 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring WMD'. With a view to promote effective implementation of UNSCR 1540, India, in cooperation with Germany and the UNODA, hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 in April 2018.

India remains committed to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It believes that this goal can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework, as outlined in India's Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted to the UNGA in 2006.

India attaches great importance to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which embodies the global norm against the use of chemical weapons. It has been India's consistent position that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody, under any circumstances, cannot be justified and the perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable. At a time when the Convention is facing serious challenges, India is committed to maintaining its credibility and integrity.

India remains opposed to the weaponization of outer space. India has not, and will not, resort to any arms race in outer space. India has been a consistent advocate of preserving

the outer space as a common heritage of humankind, as an ever-expanding frontier for cooperative endeavors of all space faring nations.

India supports substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the multilateral framework of the UN. India is committed to negotiation of a legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space to be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament, where it has been on the agenda since 1982. India has been an active participant in the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space which concluded its session in March 2019. India also participated in deliberation on TCBMs held in informal meeting of the UNDC April 2019.

At the 73rd session of the First Committee in 2018, India voted in favor of all resolutions submitted under the Outer Space cluster, including on the Prevention of an arms race in outer space (which India also co-sponsored), on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, on No first placement of weapons in outer space as well as on Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

Since 2017, India has been presenting resolution on the 'role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament' which has been adopted by consensus and attracted co-sponsors across regions. The resolution had mandated the UNSG to submit a report on the current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts.

India remains committed to playing a leading and constructive role together with other partners, in deliberations and negotiations on prevention of an arms race in outer space, including legally binding measures, TCBMs and long-term sustainability guidelines.

Second Committee: Economic & Financial

The Second Committee deals with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions; financing for development; sustainable development; human settlements; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; operational activities for development; agriculture development, food security and nutrition; information and communications technologies for development; and towards global partnerships.

India presented its 'Voluntary National Review Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' at the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017. It highlighted that apart from integrating the SDGs into its on-going national and sub-national policies and programmes, India will continue to focus on nurturing partnerships at the regional and global levels

India has consistently reiterated its support to multilateral trading system and the centrality of the WTO as the cornerstone of a rule based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral trading system with development at the core of

its agenda. India has underlined that the reform of institutions such as the IMF remains an important goal to better address the interests of the developing nations.

India actively contributed to the debates and deliberations leading to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. India believes that safe, orderly and regular Migration will help in achievement of SDGs and achievement of SDGs will ensure that Migration will be out of choice and not out of compulsion.

Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural

The Third Committee deals with a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. The Committee discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. It also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

Representing India at the first session of the Commission of Human Rights in 1947, drafting the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, Dr. Hansa Mehta, a bold and visionary woman social activist, played an important role in ensuring that the first Article of the UDHR spoke of 'all human beings' rather than 'all men' being 'free and equal'. This was well before equal rights for women and men were recognized in most legal systems.

India has consistently underlined that genuine improvement in human rights cannot be achieved by undertaking aggressive and overly intrusive methods without consultation and consent of the country concerned. Such confrontational approach is counterproductive, leading to politicization of human rights issues. India believe that only an approach based on dialogue, consultation and cooperation with non-selectivity and transparency as guiding principles will be effective.

India has partnered UN Women since its inception to address critical issues concerning gender equality and empowerment of women in national and global context. India has so far made voluntary contribution of US\$ 8 million to UN Women for its global operations. It is in this context that India facilitated the field visit of the UN-Women Executive Board Bureau to India in 2017 which provided an opportunity for the UN Women delegation to gain first-hand understanding of UN-Women's work at the country level and its cooperation with the Government of India.

Fourth Committee: Special Political & Decolonization

The Fourth Committee considers a broad range of issues related to decolonization, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices and International

cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In addition to these annual items, it also considers the items on assistance in mine action, and University for peace biennially and triennially respectively.

As a country that itself was colonized, India has always been in the forefront of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid since its own independence seven decades ago. India was actively engaged with the organization of the historic Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. Five years later, India was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly. The Declaration proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

India believes that pursuing a pragmatic approach towards Decolonization would lead to fulfillment of legitimate wishes of the people of 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. India has consistently called for increased efforts to reach the conclusion of this long-drawn process.

India is in favour of integrated studies of radiobiology and epidemiology at international level in order to collect more systematic information about health effects of low dose of radiation and re-examine (linear no-threshold model) LNT hypothesis.

India has supported efforts to build mutual trust and confidence, including through the discussions on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space activities at UNCOPUOS. India has also supported substantive consideration of the issue of Prevention of Arms Race (PAROS) at the Conference on Disarmament. India has also been actively engaged in capacity building in space law, through hosting several national and international workshops and seminars on these issues.

In 2017, India hosted the 24th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) with the theme 'Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development' in Bengaluru. The same year India hosted the 38th Asian Conference of Remote Sensing with the theme 'Space Applications: Touching Human Lives' in New Delhi. In June 2018 India hosted the 46th Plenary of the Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS). The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continues to share its facilities and expertise through the UN-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) based in Dehradun. There have been more than 1600 participants from more than 50 countries.

Fifth Committee: Administrative & Budgetary

The Fifth Committee considers and approves the budget of the United Nations. It also considers and approves financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies and makes recommendations to the agencies concerned. It may also consider urgent matters relating to the financing of a peacekeeping mission authorized by the Security Council at any of its sessions.

India has stressed that resource allocation should be commensurate with our collective commitment towards realization of the Agenda 2030. The UN system must be adequately resourced to service the Member States in achieving this goal. The imperative of 'doing more with less', rationalization of resources should not undermine the ability of the UN system to deliver its mandate. India has supported delegation of authority to managers at the field level, aligning authority with responsibility and changing organizational designs to strengthen accountability.

India's share of the UN's budget has been increasing in recent years, including a 13% increase from 2019. India is one of the few countries which has been paying all assessments in full and on time.

India is among those member states who continue to be owed significant sums towards troop and COE reimbursements from the active peacekeeping missions. India has highlighted that these arrears and recurrent delay in reimbursement have turned the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) as de facto financiers of UN peacekeeping, which is involuntary and beyond many TCCs' capacity to pay.

Sixth Committee: Legal

The Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly.

India is an active participant in the multilateral efforts at developing a collective management of ocean affairs and one of the early parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In addition to UNCLOS, India is party to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention of 10 December 1982, Fish Stocks Convention 1995, MARPOL 73/78, the International Ballast Water Convention 2004 that protects invasive aquatic Alien species, the London Convention 1972 and other agreements that regulate various activities of the oceans, especially the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources.

India is actively engaged in discussions and negotiations towards developing norms relating to the emerging complex areas of Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM).

India played an active role in the first Cycle of the Regular Process during 2010-2015, which resulted in the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment on state of the health of the oceans. India contributed its expertise in the area of marine chemistry, physical oceanography, marine geology, and marine biology. In collaboration with the UN-DOALOS, India hosted the eight UN Workshop on 27-29 January 2014 at Chennai in India. It facilitated and contributed to the preparation of the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.

India continues to make serious efforts to bring its national laws in consonance with its international obligations. India ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change under

UNFCCC and acceded to the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol. India has also acceded to the UN Customs Convention on International Transport Goods under cover of TIR carnets. In the last few years, India has enacted nearly 20 new acts, ranging from legislations on Mental Health, Rights of persons with disabilities, Goods and Services Tax, National Waterways, Anti-Hijacking etc.

India has been contributing to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone to enable the Court to carry out its functions effectively.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

India has stated that the upcoming 75th anniversary of the United Nations presents an opportunity for all to recommit themselves to the goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. It is an opportunity to catalyze our efforts to rejuvenate and revitalize. India has underlined that the agenda for such revitalization needs to be broad and inclusive, as well as transformative and imbued, with the objective of breathing new life. The General Assembly, with its universal membership, can be a precious asset in this effort for change.

Indian Contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping

India has a long and distinguished history of service in UN peacekeeping, having contributed more personnel than any other country. To date, more than 244,500 Indians have served in 49 of the 71 UN peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948. Currently, there are 6,178 troops & police from India who have been deployed to UN peacekeeping missions, the fourth highest amongst troop-contributing countries.

INDIA
HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN
200,000 MILITARY AND POLICE
OFFICERS TO UN PEACEKEEPING
OVER THE LAST 70 YEARS


**THANK YOU
INDIA**
FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

 peacekeeping.un.org/service #ServingForPeace

Commencing with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1950s, India's mediatory role in resolving the stalemate over prisoners of war in Korea led to the signing of the armistice ending the Korean War. India chaired the five-member Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission while the Indian Custodian Force supervised the process of interviews and repatriation that followed. The UN entrusted Indian armed forces with subsequent peace missions in the Middle East, Cyprus, and the Congo (since 1971, Zaire). India also served as chair of the three international commissions for supervision and control for Vietnam, Cambodia, and

Laos established by the 1954 Geneva Accords on Indochina.

India has a long tradition of sending women on UN peacekeeping missions. In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission. The Formed Police Unit in Liberia provided 24-hour guard duty and conducted night patrols in the capital Monrovia and helped to build the capacity of the Liberian police. Hailed as role models, these female officers not only played a vital role in restoring security in the West African nation but also contributed to an increase in the number of



women in the Liberia's security sector. In addition to their security role, the members of the female Indian Formed Police Unit also distinguished themselves through humanitarian service, including organizing medical camps for Liberians, many of whom have limited access to health care services.

Above Pic: The first all-female police unit in the history of UN peacekeeping, was drawn from the Rapid Action Force of India's Central Reserve Police Force and deployed with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2007. Above pic shows then Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in a friendly conversation with the all-female police unit.

Medical care is among the many services Indian peacekeepers provide to the communities in which they serve on behalf of the Organization. They also perform specialized tasks such as veterinary support and engineering services. Indian veterinarians serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), stepped up to help cattle herders who were losing much of their stock to malnutrition and disease in the war-torn nation. The Indian contingent in South Sudan has gone the extra mile by providing vocational training and life-saving medical assistance, as well as carrying out significant road repair work.

The Indian contingent in the Upper Nile region (includes the Indian Battalion, the Horizontal Mechanical Engineering Company, the Level II hospital, the Petroleum Platoon and the Force Signal Unit) have all received UN medals of honour for their dedication and service in peacekeeping.

Indian peacekeepers have also brought the ancient Indian practice of yoga to UN missions. Members of the UN mission in Lebanon, UNIFIL and UNMISS, South Sudan celebrate the International Yoga Day.

India has also provided 15 Force Commanders to various missions, and was the first country to contribute to the Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse, which was set up in 2016. India's longstanding service has not come without cost. 169 Indian

peacekeepers have paid the ultimate price while serving with the United Nations. India has lost more peacekeepers than any other Member State.

Representation in UN Bodies

India has continued its successful run at the elections to various UN bodies. India has won several major elections in the last few years including elections to the Human Right Council (HRC), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Ms. Jagjit Pavadia's election to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Judge Dalveer Bhandari's election to International Court of Justice (ICJ), Amb Preeti Saran's election to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Dr. Neeru Chadha's election to International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), Dr. Aniruddha Rajput's election to International Law Commission (ILC), Amb. P. Gopinathan's election to Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), among others.

Currently India is represented in the following 22 UN Bodies whose elections are held at United Nations headquarters in New York.

1	Human Rights Council (HRC)	2019-2021
2	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	2018-2020
3	International Court of Justice (ICJ) - Judge Dalveer Bhandari	2018-2026
4	Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) - Amb. P. Gopinathan	2018-2022
5	International Law Commission (ILC) - Dr. Aniruddha Rajput	2017-2021
6	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) - Mr. Mahesh Kumar	2017-2019
7	International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) - Ms. Jagjit Pavadia	2020-2025
8	UN Board of Auditors (BOA) - CAG of India	2015-2020
9	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) - Amb. Preeti Saran	2019-2022
10	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO)	2019-2022
11	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	2016-2022
12	Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	2019-2021
13	Executive Board of UN-Women	2019-2021
14	Executive Board of UNAIDS	2017-2019
15	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	2018-2021
16	Commission for Social Development (CSocD)	2018-2021
17	Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)	2018-2020
18	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	2018-2021
19	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)	2019-2021
20	International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council	2017-2020
21	Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA	2017-2021
22	Finance Committee of ISA	2017-2021

Familiarization visits to India

India has been closely engaging closely with the global community at the United Nations by promoting familiarization visits to India by the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of various member states represented at the United Nations. In the last two years, UN Ambassadors of over 50 countries have undertaken visits to India for a better understanding of India's growth dynamics, vibrant democracy, developments in science and technology, including atomic energy and space science.

Significant Achievements

2014-19

1. Major Initiatives:

- The UNGA Resolution declaring 21 June every year as the International Day of Yoga was adopted in Dec 2014 with a record number of 177 co-sponsors. This set-in motion global annual observance of the International Day of Yoga.
- Usage of Hindi in UN public communications (UN news, weekly audio bulletins on UN radio and UN social media) began in March 2018 following the first MoU signed by the UN with any country.
- The first evert single-country South-South cooperation initiative at the UN was launched in June 2017 through the "India-UN Development Partnership Fund", a \$100 million fund facility to undertake projects across the developing world. In April 2018, a US\$50 Million Commonwealth window was created under the Fund to support SDG related projects in developing countries of the Commonwealth.
- Following the efforts made in three previous attempts (2009, 2016 and 2017), the Security Council finally on 1 May 2019 approved the addition of Masood Azhar to the 1267 Sanctions of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

2. Elections: India is one of the few countries whose candidates have won every election at the UN in New York.

- The election of Judge Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Nov 2017 was a landmark event for India in terms of its unprecedented success in unseating a sitting judge from UK, a P5 member.
- Dr. Neeru Chadha became the first Indian woman to be elected in June 2017 as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the period 2017-2026.
- Dr. Aniruddha Rajput was elected to the International Law Commission (ILC) in Nov 2016 for the term 2017-2021 with highest number of votes (Total of 160 out of 193 votes) in the Asia-Pacific Group.
- India was elected to the Human Rights Council in Oct 2018 for the period 2019-2022 with highest number of votes (188/193).

- Ms. Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected as Member to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on 7th May 2019 for the term 2020-25 with the highest number of votes (44 out of the 54-member ECOSOC).

3. Other achievements:

- In Nov 2017, a voluntary compact was reached between UN Secretary-General and the Government of India on commitment to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping, humanitarian and development work. Prime Minister also joined the Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations
- In Sept 2018, UNEP recognized Prime Minister Modi in the “Policy Leadership” category for pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and for the pledge to eliminate single-use plastic in India by 2022. UNEP also selected **Cochin International Airport**, which is fully-powered by solar energy, for the Champion for entrepreneurial vision award.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) was registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization with effect from 9th Feb 2018.
- India ratified the Paris Agreement and 'Second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol' in Climate Change in Aug 2017.
- UNGA adopted a Resolution in Dec 2014 on recognizing the Indian festivals of Diwali, Buddha Purnima and Gurpurab by the UN. The first official celebration of Diwali at UN Headquarters took place in 2016.
- First reference to ‘Yoga’ was made in Sept 2018 in the Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases, a health-related resolution in UNGA.
- India was among the 40 plus countries in 2017 that presented their Voluntary National Review at the UN on the progress made in achievement of SDGs.
- In Nov 2018, India successfully operationalized the co-deployment of 120 troops from Kazakhstan as part of its contingent in UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). India also initiated the process of deployment of a mixed Formed Police Unit to UN Mission in South Sudan.
- India’s contribution to the Voluntary Trust Fund of the UN Tax Committee (to promote the participation of developing countries in the work of UN committee on tax matters that looks at key issues that could mobilize resources for sustainable development) was recognized in UNGA Resolution of Sept 2017.
- UN Day Concert (featuring Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan) organized on 24 Oct 2018 after a gap of 52 years under the theme, "Traditions of Peace and Non-Violence".
- United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) brought out the following three postal stamps in collaboration with the Mission: (i) Personalized stamp sheet on Birth Centenary and 50th Anniversary of Performance at the UN by M.S. Subbulakshmi; (ii) Special commemorative stamp sheet on International Day of Yoga; and (iii) Special commemorative stamp sheet on Diwali.



UN Secretary General meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 45th G7 Summit in Biarritz, France in August 2019.