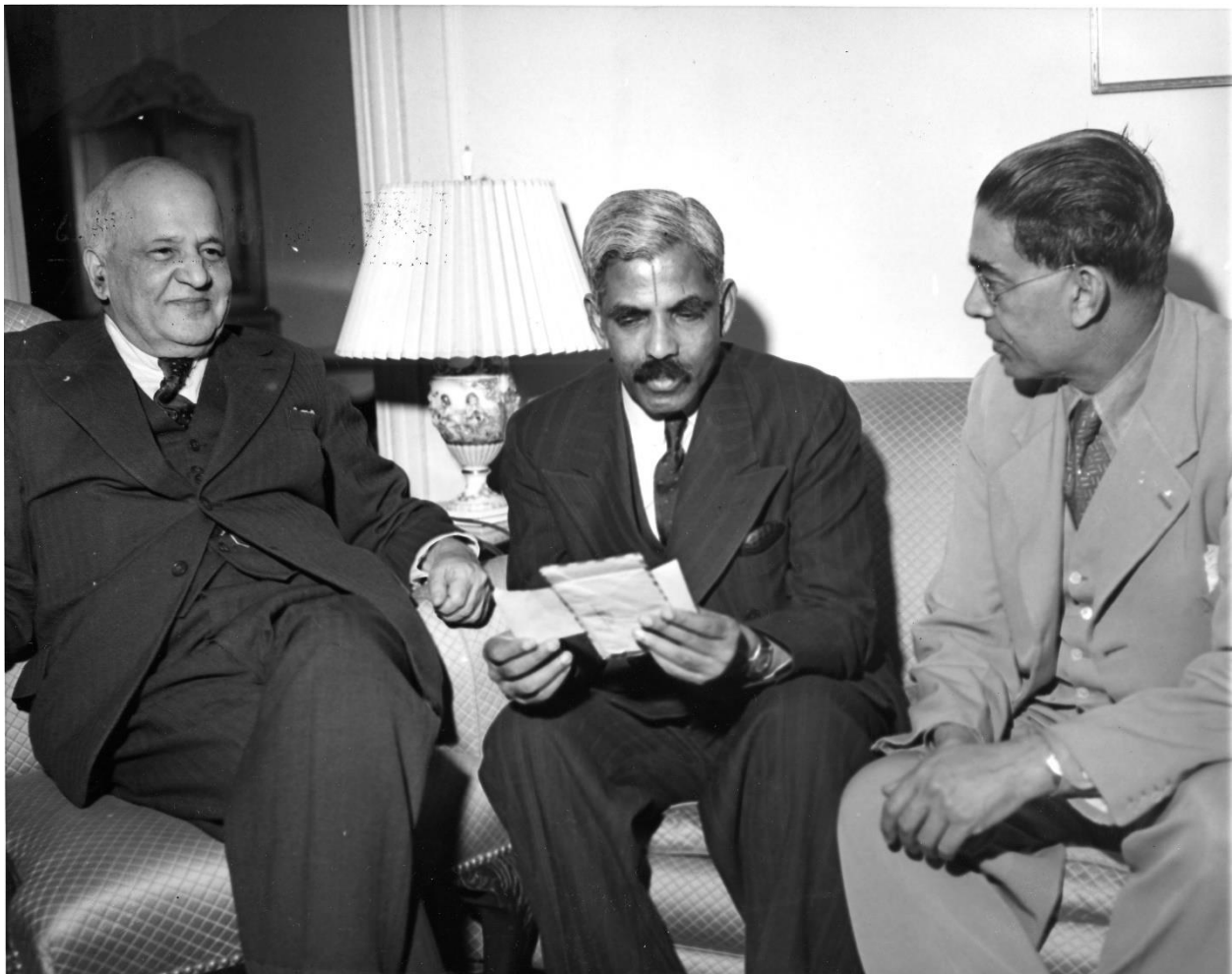


PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK

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.



Pic: Indian Delegates arrive for United Nations Security Conference San Francisco: L to R; seated - Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, Representative of Indian States; Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Head of Indian delegation, Supply member Viceroy's Executive Council and Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Defence member, Viceroy's Council, April 22, 1945. **Source:** UN Archives

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.

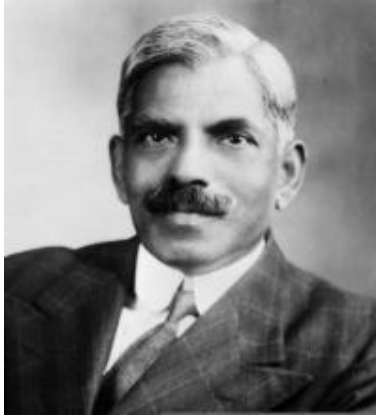
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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.

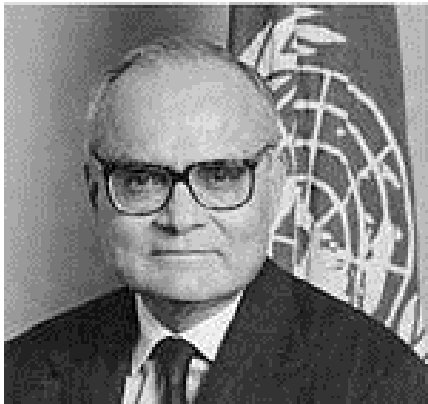
Mrs. Hansa Mehta represented India on the Nuclear Sub-Committee on the status of women in 1946. As the Indian delegate on the UN Human Rights Commission in 1947–48, she was responsible for changing the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from “all men are created equal” to “all human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

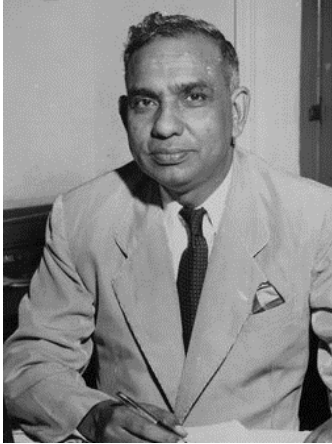
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit had the distinction of being the first woman to be elected President of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953.



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.





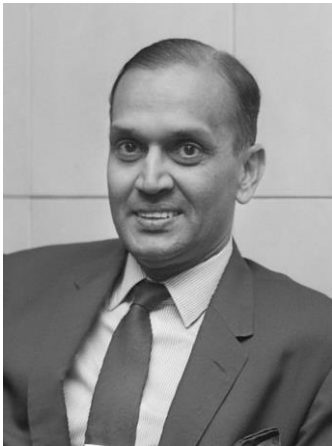
1947 - 1956 P. S. Lokanathan
(India) Executive Secretary,
UNESCAP



1956-1967: Binay Ranjan Sen
Director General of the FAO



1965-1967: Manohar Balaji
Sarwate, Secretary-General,
ITU



1956 - 1959 Chakravarthi V.
Narasimhan, Executive
Secretary of UNESCAP



1968: Sushil K. Dev (India)
Acting Executive Director, World
Food Programme



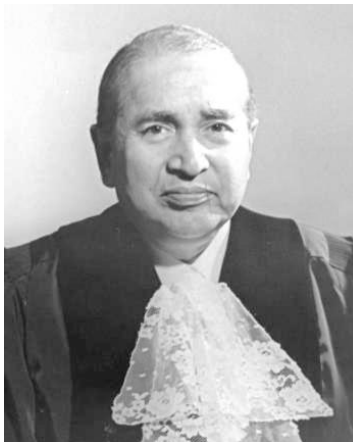
1978-1992: Arcot
Ramachandran, Executive
Director of UN- Habitat



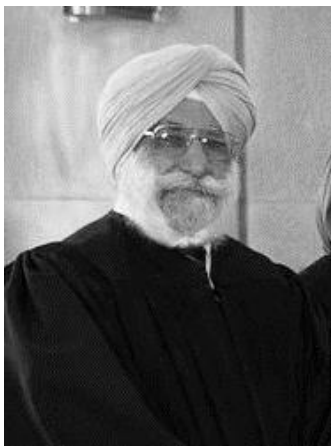
1974-1989: Chandrika Prasad
Srivastava, Secretary-General
of the International Maritime
Organization (IMO)



1979-1981: Padinjarethalakal
Cherian Alexander, Executive
Director, Int'l Trade Centre



1985 - 1988: Judge Nagendra
Singh, President of the
International Court of Justice



2009 - 2012: Judge Kamaljit Singh Garewal, Judge on the UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT)

Currently there are **seven 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, Dpt.
of Operational Support



Ms. Anita Bhatia,
Assistant Secretary-General &
Deputy Executive Director of the
UN Women



**Mr. Chandramouli
Ramanathan,** Assistant
Secretary-General, Dept of Mgt
Strategy, Policy & Compliance



Mr. Nikhil Seth,
ASG & Executive Director,
UNITAR



Mr. Satya S. Tripathi,
ASG, UNEP



Lt General Shailesh Tinaikar,
Force Commander, UNMISS



Judge Dalveer Bhandari,
Judge, ICJ



Mr. Ovais Sarmad, ASG &
Deputy Executive Secretary,
UNFCC

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



Pic: India's Defence Minister V.K. Krishna Menon addresses a First Committee meeting to consider the priority to be given to the items on its agenda. (17 October 1961)

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.

The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament: This issue was first added to the agenda of the First Committee in 1988, with India as the main sponsor. In introducing a draft resolution, the Indian delegate recalled that increasing amounts of resources were being devoted to developing new weapon systems, which caused uncertainty and insecurity. Developments such as the graduated use of nuclear explosive power, miniaturization and large-scale computing capabilities using micro-electronics, and fuel and laser technology were transforming the security environment. Therefore, it was argued that work should be initiated to develop a shared perception of the problems involved and to make possible concerted efforts to

resolve them. On 7 December 1988, the first resolution on the issue, 43/77 A was adopted with a recorded vote of 129 in favour, 7 against with 14 abstentions.

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.



Pic: Mr. I.S. Chadha of India (first from right) at the Second Committee meeting on the World Economic Situation

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.

In 2020, the 50 countries (27 first time presenters, and 23 second time presenters) will be conducting Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF. India will be among the countries that will be presenting its VNR for the second time (first time presented in 2017). The VNR presentations are planned to begin on Monday, 13 July 2020 (the last of the first five days of HLPF) and proceed for the three days of the ministerial segment of HLPF (14 – 16 July 2020).

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



Pic: India's Permanent Representative Samar Sen attends Third Committee Meeting on East Pakistan Refugees, 1971

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 believes 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



Pic: India Chairs the Special Committee on Decolonization - 1962

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 in its assessment rates. India is one of the few countries which has been paying all assessments in full and on time, including peacekeeping contributions.



Pic: Maharaja Jam Sahab of Nawanagar of India (second from left), Chairs the Fifth Committee of the UN, 1950

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. As per latest figures, as of 30 September 2020, \$357 million was owed to Member States for troops and formed police units, compared to \$6 million last year.

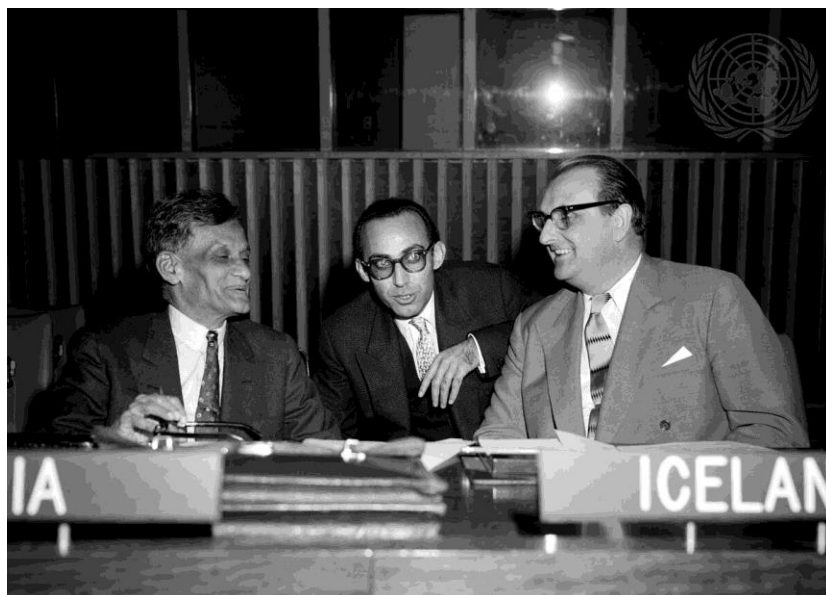
The ongoing liquidity crisis in the regular budget is a cause for concern. While the cash position has improved slightly as compared to the previous years, it can be attributed primarily to austerity measures such as the hiring freeze, and lower spending due to COVID-19. This calls for our continued focus on the issue.

The fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a challenge in the 75th session of the General Assembly and for the working of the Fifth Committee. However, India remains fully committed to a thorough consideration of the agenda items allocated to the Committee and in the weeks ahead will address issues of crucial importance to the General Assembly and the Organization. The Group will actively engage in the deliberations of this session on both the Proposed Programme Plan and Programme Budget for 2021.

Moreover, India also intends to actively participate in the Committee's deliberations on other agenda items, including the review of the implementation of the peace and security pillar reform, review of the implementation of resolution 72/266B, Construction and Property Management, the funding model of the DMSPC and DOS, Review of budgetary

cycle involving CPC and ACABQ Sequencing, the United Nations Common System, Pension System, Umoja and Administration of Justice. Close attention will also be paid to deliberations on the Scale of Assessments, the Capital Master Plan, all programme budget implications and revised estimates, Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations, as well as the reports of the Board of Auditors and the OIOS.

Sixth Committee: Legal



Pic: On left, Sixth Committee expert Mr. Akbar Ali Khan (India), 1953

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 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 a 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 the state of the health of the oceans. India is also playing an active role in the second cycle of the Regular Process (2017 – 2020) for preparation of a second world ocean assessment and Regular Process support to other ongoing ocean-related processes. India contributed its expertise in the area of marine chemistry, physical oceanography, marine geology, and marine biology.

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

under UNFCCC, and Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. India has acceded to the UN Customs Convention on International Transport Goods under cover of TIR carnets and also signed the UN (Singapore) Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation. In the last few years, India has enacted nearly 43 new acts, ranging from legislations on Mental Health, Rights of persons with disabilities, Civil Aviation, labour and employment, agriculture and farmers' welfare, Goods and Services Tax, National Waterways, Anti-Hijacking etc.

India is a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws (UNCITRAL) since its establishment and also playing an active role in its all six working groups. India is a party to UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) — provide the bases upon which contracting states may adopt domestic laws to implement a cross-border arbitration system and has adopted, in large measure, the UNCITRAL Model Law through the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 (the Arbitration Act).

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

Indian Contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping

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 253000 Indians have served in 49 of the 71 UN peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948. Currently, there are around 5,500 troops & police from India who have been deployed to UN peacekeeping missions, the fifth highest amongst troop-contributing countries.

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.

Medical care is among the many services Indian peacekeepers provide to the



Indian troops join Danish and Swedish peacekeepers on a training exercise on a beach in Gaza in 1958 as part of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF).

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 provided 17 Force Commanders to various missions. Besides the Force Commanders, India also had the honour of providing two Military Advisors, one Female Police Adviser and one Deputy Military Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations. India 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. 173 Indian peacekeepers have paid the ultimate price while serving with the United Nations. India has lost more peacekeepers than any other Member State.

In September 2020, based on an urgent request received from the UN Secretariat, India deployed two medical teams of 15 medical personnel each at Goma (DRC) and Juba (South Sudan). The main hub of command-and-control center of MONUSCO is located in Goma, DRC. The Hospital by India in Goma, operational since January 2005, has 90 Indian nationals including 18 specialists. Given the rising COVID cases in the area, the "Level-3" facility, which is the highest level of medical care provided by a deployed UN unit, is now being upgraded to a Level-3 Plus facility. The "Level-2 plus" Hospital by India in Juba, South Sudan (UNMISS), operational since December 2016, has 77 Indian nationals including 12 specialists. The Indian facility in Juba is presently the one of highest level of medical facilities existing in South Sudan. This facility is now being upgraded from Level-2 plus to a Level-3 facility.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

The year 2020 marks the **75th anniversary** of the United Nations and its founding Charter. This anniversary comes in a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with severe economic and social impacts. Many of the **planned modalities of the commemoration**, agreed to by Member States in 2019, have had to be modified in view of the restrictions on international travel and in-person meetings, leading to **virtual and hybrid-format events**.

The UN marked the occasion with a **High-Level Meeting of the 75th UN General Assembly** on 21 September 2020 on the theme '*The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism*'. In his intervention, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the need for a **reformed multilateralism** that reflects today's realities, gives voice to all stakeholders, addresses contemporary challenges and focuses on human welfare. During this meeting, world leaders also adopted the **UN@75 Political Declaration** commemorating 75 years of the UN.

Other commemorative events included observance ceremonies to mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the **UN Charter** (26 June 2020) and to mark the **75th UN Day** (24 October 2020). A special **UN@75 Virtual Youth Plenary** was also organised on 9 September 2020.

The **75th session of the UN General Assembly** opened on 15 September 2020, with Ambassador Volkan Bozkir of Turkey as President (PGA). Upon taking office, the new PGA emphasized that in his term, his **priority areas** will be:

- i. Fighting COVID-19 together
- ii. Celebrating 75 years of the UN
- iii. Recommitting to and strengthening Multilateralism
- iv. Advancing humanitarian agenda with a focus on the most vulnerable
- v. Taking action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs
- vi. Promoting Gender Equality

The theme for the **75th UNGA General Debate** was *“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”*. Addressing the General Assembly (through per-recorded message) in the General Debate on 26 September 2020, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** said called for **urgent reform of the United Nations** and for inclusion of **India’s voice** in its decision-making structures. He also outlined **India’s contribution to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic**, announcing that India will make available its vaccine production and delivery capacities to the rest of the world, in keeping with its philosophy of seeing the **world as one family**.

Other UN@75 initiatives: In January 2020, the United Nations also launched a **“global conversation”** to mark its 75th anniversary. Through **ongoing surveys and informal dialogues** with multiple stakeholders including civil society, youth and women, this initiative seeks to **understand peoples’ expectations** of international cooperation and of the UN in particular. It is also the largest survey to date on priorities for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Early results from the survey indicate that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the immediate priority of most respondents is improved access to basic services, and increased support for tackling poverty, inequalities and boosting employment.

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 23 UN Bodies whose elections are held at United Nations headquarters in New York.

1.	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	2016-2022
2.	International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council	2017-2020

3.	Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA	2017-2021
4.	Finance Committee of ISA	2017-2021
5.	International Law Commission (ILC) - Dr. Aniruddha Rajput	2017-2021
6.	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	2018-2020
7.	International Court of Justice (ICJ) - Judge Dalveer Bhandari	2018-2026
8.	Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) - Amb. P. Gopinathan	2018-2022
9.	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	2018-2021
10.	Commission for Social Development (CSocD)	2018-2021
11.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	2018-2021
12.	Human Rights Council (HRC)	2019-2021
13.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) - Ambassador Preeti Saran	2019-2022
14.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO)	2019-2022
15.	Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	2019-2021
16.	Executive Board of UN-Women	2019-2021
17.	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)	2019-2021
18.	Programme Coordination Committee of UN AIDS Executive Board	2020-2022
19.	International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) - Ms. Jagjit Pavadia	2020-2025
20.	Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)	2021-23
21.	Commission on the Status of Women	2021-25
22.	Commission on Population and Development	2021-25
23.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions – Ms. Vidisha Maitra	2021-23

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. The next visit for UN Ambassadors is being planned for 2021/2022, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

Significant Achievements

2014-20

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).
- On 15 Sept 2020, India was elected to the Commission of the Status of Women by the ECOSOC. India secured 38 out 54 votes polled. India’s tenure on the CSW will last from 2021 to 2025. India was also elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and Commission on Population and Development.
- Ms. Vidisha Maitra was elected to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by vote of the General Assembly. Ms. Vidisha won the highest number of votes - 126 out of the 192 valid votes (with 2 abstentions).

3. Other achievements / participation in important events:

- 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. India presented its second VNR virtually at the 2020 HLPF on 13 July 2020. Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr Rajiv Kumar presented India's VNR. India's commitment to the SDGs was presented by highlighting our national development agenda as reflected in the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas (Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth).
- 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".
- On 24th September 2019, India commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by holding a high-level event at the UN. The event was hosted by Prime Minister Modi in which the UNSG Antonio Guterres, President of South Korea Moon Jae In, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of New Zealand Jessica Arden, and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness.
- 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; (iii) Special commemorative stamp sheet on Diwali; and (iv) Special commemorative stamp on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a virtual keynote address at the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC on 17 July 2020. The theme of the session was "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" PM in his remarks touched upon several subjects such as India's commitment to achieve the SDGs and actions taken to combat COVID-19

pandemic. PM pitched for reformed multilateralism and human-centric globalization.

- Prime Minister Modi delivered his virtual address at the UN on 21st Sept 2020 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN. He also delivered India's national statement at the 75th UNGA General Debate on 26th Sept 2020. In his General Debate speech, PM said "A fragmented world is in the interest of no one", he said. "In this new era, we will have to give new direction to multilateralism, and to the United Nations".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke virtually at the Climate Ambition Summit on 12 Dec 2020. He pledged that by 2047, centennial India will exceed the world's expectations in implementing actions to counter climate change. He said, "on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement the world shouldn't lose sight of historical emissions". He called for a review of actions taken by all countries based on the commitments they had made under the agreement.

