

10th ICSE

United Nations (UN)

The **United Nations (UN)** was formed after **World War II** to prevent future wars and maintain global peace.

Reasons for UN Formation

- **World War Devastation** – Millions died, and economies collapsed.
 - **Failure of the League of Nations** – Could not prevent **World War II**.
 - **Cold War Tensions** – Divisions between the **USA (capitalist bloc)** and **USSR (communist bloc)**.
 - **Destructive Weapons** – Threats of nuclear warfare required international regulation.
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Origin of the UN

- **Initiated by USA (F.D. Roosevelt) and Britain (Winston Churchill)**.
 - **San Francisco Conference (June 1945)** – Drafted the UN Charter.
 - **Officially established on 24 October 1945** with **29 ratifying nations**.
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Aims & Principles of the UN

Aims

- Maintain **international peace and security**.
- Promote **friendly relations** among nations.
- Encourage **economic, social, and humanitarian cooperation**.

Principles

- **Sovereign equality** of all members.
 - No use of **force or threats** against any nation.
 - No **interference in the internal affairs** of nations.
 - **Member nations must support UN actions**.
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Facts about the UN

- **Headquarters: New York, USA (except the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, Netherlands)**.

- **Flag:** Light blue with a world map and olive branches (**adopted in 1947**).
 - **Members: 193 nations.**
 - **India: Founding member**, represented by **Jawaharlal Nehru** at the **San Francisco Conference**.
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Organs of the UN

1. General Assembly

- **Main deliberative body;** includes all **member nations (one vote each)**.
- Decisions on major issues require **two-thirds majority**.
- **Elects the UN President annually.**

Functions

- Discusses **peace and security issues**.
 - Approves the **UN budget**.
 - Elects **non-permanent Security Council members** and **judges of the International Court of Justice**.
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2. Security Council (Executive Body)

- **15 members:**
 - **5 Permanent (China, France, Russia, UK, USA)** – Have **veto power**.
 - **10 Non-permanent** (elected for **2 years**).
- **Decisions need 9 votes**, including all **permanent members**.

Functions

- Maintains **global peace**.
 - Investigate **conflicts and tensions**.
 - Imposes **sanctions or military actions**.
 - **Admits new UN members** and **elects the Secretary-General**.
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3. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- Located in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- **15 judges** (elected for **9 years**).

Functions

- Settles **international legal disputes**.
 - Interprets **international laws and treaties**.
 - Gives **advisory opinions** on global legal issues.
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4. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Works on **global economic progress, employment, and social welfare**.
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5. Trusteeship Council

- Managed **territories under UN administration** before **World War II**.
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6. Secretariat

- **Administrative body** of the UN.
- Led by the **Secretary-General** (Chief Executive Officer of the UN).
- **Coordinates UN activities** globally.