

Subject:- History and Civics

Purpose of Setting up the UN Agencies.

The United Nations is not only concerned with the maintenance of peace and security in the world, it is also expected to establish social progress and better standards of life in different nations. It has 18 Specialised Agencies and 14 Major Programmes and Funds for social and economic development and human welfare.

1. United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF]

UNICEF was set up by the General Assembly in 1946 A.D. It then aimed at giving relief to the children and their mothers as an emergency measure after the Second World War. Soon its programme was extended to provide long range benefits to children of all developing countries.

Headquarters

The UNICEF has its headquarters in New York [USA]. It has more than 200 offices in developing countries.

Finance :-

It is financed by voluntary contributions from governments and organisations. Sale of Greeting Cards has now become an important source of UNICEF's income.

Objective:-

The main objective of UNICEF is to look after children's welfare by providing with low cost community-based services in maternal and child-health, nutrition and immunisation.

Functions:-



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1. To help countries in providing protective food like milk, meat, fish, fats etc
2. To take care of the women and pregnant mothers.
3. To provide funds for training of health and Sanitation workers and creche workers.
4. To undertake Child Immunization Projects in order to prevent diseases.
5. UNICEF helps to supply medicine and equipment and to conduct research in the areas of child development programmes and also to monitor these.
6. To prevent trafficking in women and children.
7. To get clean drinking water in villages, it supplies pumps and pipes to the countries.
8. To provide basic education and supply paper to publish literature relating to child.

UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in the year 1965 and the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace in 1989.

UNICEF Programmes in India:-

1. The government of India has started with the help of UNICEF - the National Mission on Immunisation, the National Mission for Drinking Water and the National Literacy Mission.
2. Community Development Programme has been started in the rural areas of India with the help of UNICEF
3. UNICEF is a partner of the Indian government in the rural water supply programme.
4. UNICEF is helping India in the promotion of iodised salt as the best way of preventing iodine deficiency.



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2. World Health Organisation [WHO]

The World Health Organisation was established on 7th April, 1948. This day is observed as World Health Day.

Objective:-

Fighting Disease, bringing development, Health promotion and Health Education is the objective of WHO.

Headquarters:-

Its headquarters is at Geneva in Switzerland.

Functions:-

1. It promotes and coordinates research in fields like Communicable diseases, maternal and child health, mental health and diseases like cancer, blindness diabetes and heart attacks.
2. It sets international standards with respect to food, biological and pharmaceutical products.
3. WHO helps to fight diseases all over the World. Smallpox was eradicated from the world through a global campaign coordinated by WHO.
4. The WHO organises seminars and conferences to train doctors and other health experts so that they can deal with the diseases in an effective way.
5. It also assists projects related to clean drinking Water and other basic amenities on the request of the government.
6. It also organises global campaigns to encourage healthy life styles with an emphasis on the health development of children and adolescents.
7. It also publishes magazine, journals to inform people about the state of health programmes.
8. For medical and scientific information, it has built a



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splendid library on Medical Sciences at Geneva.

### Achievements of WHO

1. A coverage of over 80 per cent of immunisation has been achieved.
2. Diarrhoeal deaths have reduced significantly.
3. The infant mortality rate has dropped all over the world.
4. Cholera and plague epidemics are rare occurrences now.
5. Smallpox has been eradicated.
6. Leprosy is being managed better.

### 3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO]

UNESCO was established on November 4, 1946.

It has its headquarters in Paris.

#### Objective :-

The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and Communication.

#### Functions:-

Its main functions include

#### (a) Educational Advancement.

1. To work for universal primary education, distance education and open school system and also adult education for the removal of illiteracy.
2. To give advice and financial help for the education of the disabled children, the girl child and women.
3. To give advice and expert help in school building construction, preparation of courses of study and textbooks.



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4. To hold book fairs at national and international level.

5. To develop libraries with financial help.

(b) Development of Science and Technology.

1. To provide financial help and promote research in mathematics, geology, physics, engineering and technology in developing countries.

2. To organize seminars, regional and world conferences of scientists, engineers and technologists.

3. To inform all countries about the progress in science through bulletins, exhibitions and journals.

"Courier" is the official monthly magazine of the UNESCO

4. It encourages the study of social sciences in order to focus attention on putting an end to all forms of discrimination, improving the status of women and helping the youth in solving their problems.

(c) Cultural Interchange and Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

1. To help nations to preserve their cultural heritage, encourage translation of rare manuscripts, to protect monuments of historic or artistic interest.

2. To encourage cultural exchange, it also gives travel-grants to writers and artists.

3. To encourage countries to buy books from other countries.

4. To promote artistic creation in literature and fine arts.

5. To spread and distribute knowledge about human rights.

6. To undertake projects in the field of mass communication



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like Television, Films, New Agencies etc.

(d) Communication

1. It has set up regional networks and deals with both hardware and software aspects of information.
2. It improves the quality of the Press, the films and video services.
3. It helps developing countries to develop communication.
4. It helps to establish the freedom of the press and independence of the media.

India's Association with UNESCO

India has been a member of the UNESCO since 1948 A.D. The Government of India has set up a National Commission for Cooperation with the help of UNESCO. It promotes UNESCO programmes and appoints experts to participate in conferences, seminars, and workshops organised by UNESCO. It is helping India to repair and clean the Taj Mahal.

Home Work.

Q1. The opening words of the UNESCO constitution states that "Since war begins in the minds of men, it is the minds of men defence of peace must be constructed."

- (a) What were the objectives of setting up of UNESCO?
- (b) State the functions of the UNESCO in the field of Education and Scientific activities.

Q2. With reference to UNICEF, answer the following questions:-

- (a) What was the purpose of setting up of UNICEF?
- (b) Briefly mention the functions of UNICEF.
- (c) Mention some of the UNICEF programmes followed in India.