



Permanent Mission to UN

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Why in News

India has appointed **T S Tirumurti** as its **Permanent Representative to the United Nations** (UN).

Key Points

- **Permanent Mission to the United Nations**

- It is the **diplomatic mission** that every member state deputed to the UN.
- It is **headed by a Permanent Representative** who is also referred to as the **UN ambassador**.
- According to **Article 1(7) of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, 1975** it is a mission of permanent character, representing the State, sent by a State member of an international organization to the organization.
Other important Vienna Conventions are the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961** and the **Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963**.
- According to the **UN General Assembly resolution 257(III) of 3rd December, 1948**, permanent missions assist in the realization of the purposes and principles of the UN.
They keep the **necessary liaison between the Member States and the Secretariat** in periods between sessions of the different organs of the UN.
- UN Permanent Representatives are assigned to the UN **headquarters in New York City**, and at other offices in **Geneva, Vienna** and **Nairobi** as well.

- **Indian Permanent Mission at the United Nations**

- There are **currently eight Indians** in **senior leadership positions** at the UN at the levels of Under Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.
- The **first Indian delegates** at the UN included statesman **Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar** and freedom fighters **Hansa Mehta, Lakshmi N. Menon** and **Vijayalakshmi Pandit**
 - Mehta and Pandit were among the 15 women members of the Indian Constituent Assembly.
- **India was among the select members** of the UN that signed the **United Nations Declaration** at **Washington** on 1st January, **1942**.
- India also participated in the historic **UN Conference of International Organization** at **San Francisco** from 25th April to 26th 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.

Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar (1887-1976)

- **One of the prominent lawyers** of his time and joined the Justice Party in 1917.
- Took part in **Joint Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms** in India and the **Round Table Conferences**.
- He was **India's delegate to the San Francisco Conference**.
- In 1946 he was elected the **first President of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC).
- He also served as the **chair of the executive boards** of the **World Health Organisation** (WHO) and **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO).

Hansa Mehta (1897-1995)

- After studying Journalism and Sociology from England, she returned to India and served as the **President** of the **Bhagini Samaj** and played a crucial role during the **campaign against the Simon Commission**.
- She was the **first woman to be elected to the Bombay Legislative Council in 1931**.
- She **represented India on the Nuclear Sub-Committee** on the status of women in 1946.
- As the Indian delegate on the **UN Human Rights Commission (now known as the UN Human Rights Council)** in 1947–48, she was **responsible for changing the language Justice Party** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from **"all men are created equal"** to **"all human beings"**, highlighting the need for gender equality.

Lakshmi Menon (1899-1994)

- She was **one of the founder** members of the **All India Women's Conference**.
- She was **India's delegate to the Third Committee in 1948** and 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**.
- In 1949-1950, she **headed** the **UN Section on the Status of Women and Children**.

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1900-1990)

- She **led the Indian delegation to the UN** (1946-48 and 1952-53).
- In 1953, she became the **first woman to be elected president of the UN General Assembly**.
- In 1978, she was appointed the **Indian representative to the UN Human Rights Commission**.

Source: IE