



# United Nations Democracy Fund

## Why in News?

India is the **fourth highest donor to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)**, which funds at least 68 projects worldwide linked to George Soros's Open Society Foundation.

- India has put George Soros's NGO on watchlist in 2016.

## What is UNDEF?

### ▪ About:

- UNDEF was established in 2005 by [UN Secretary-General](#) Kofi A. Annan as a [United Nations General Trust Fund](#) to **support democratization efforts** around the world.
  - It was welcomed by the General Assembly in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit.
- UNDEF plays a unique role in complementing the UN's other work with governments to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

### ▪ UNDEF's Mandate and Projects:

- UNDEF funds projects that empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes.
- The majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations (CSOs).
  - The **Advisory Board of the UNDEF offers policy guidance and funding** guidelines, considers proposals for funding, and recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.
- UNDEF **provides grants** ranging from **USD 100,000 to USD 300,000**.
- In 15 rounds of funding so far, UNDEF has supported over 880 two-year projects in more than 130 countries.

### ▪ India's Support for UNDEF:

- India has contributed **over USD 32 million** since its inception (2005).
  - **Top three** donors are **US, Sweden, and Germany**.
- **In 2022**, when India **contributed USD 150,000** to the fund, it was the fourth highest among 45 donors, after
- India has **consistently supported UNDEF's mission** of promoting democratic governance worldwide through funding of projects carried out by local and international CSOs and NGOs.

[Source: IE](#)