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Pakistan Suspends Exchange of Postal Mails

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In a unilateral decision, Pakistan has stopped the exchange of postal mails with India without any prior notice.

- Under **Universal Postal Union (UPU) rules**, when a country decides to suspend postal exchange with a country, it must notify the operator of the other country and, if possible, the duration for which services are being stopped.
 - The **UPU's International Bureau** too has to be notified.
- Apart from UPU rules, three other agreements cover postal exchange between India and Pakistan:
 - Exchange of Value Payable Article, 1948
 - Exchange of Postal Article, 1974
 - International Speed Post Agreement, 1987

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- Universal Postal Union is the **specialized agency** of the United Nations.
- It was established in **1874** and is the second oldest international organization worldwide after **International Telecommunication Union (1865)**.
- Its headquarter is located in **Bern, Switzerland**, and consists of 192 member countries.
- The UPU consists of 4 bodies:
 - The Congress
 - The Council of Administration
 - The Postal Operations Council
 - The International Bureau
- It frames rules for international mail exchange and fixes rates for international postal services.
- It performs advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed.
- India joined the UPU in 1876.

Source: The Indian Express