

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-II]

Topic: International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) was formed on 16th November 1994 as an intergovernmental body under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, ISA was formed as an initiative for organising, regulating and controlling all the mineral-related activities in the international seabed area that are beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.



Who are the governing bodies of ISA?

Headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has 167 members and the European Union, composed of all parties to the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#). The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is controlled and governed by the following bodies:

1. **Assembly of International Seabed Authority:** The supreme authority of ISA is the assembly consisting of all ISA members. This assembly is responsible for establishing general policies and budgets.
2. **Executive Authority:** ISA also elects the executive authority of ISA which is a 36-member council and is responsible for approving contracts with private corporations and government

entities. These contracts deal with the exploration and mining in the specified areas of the international seabed.

3. **Secretary-General:** The secretary-general of the ISA is nominated by the council and is elected by the assembly to a four-year term. Michael W. Lodge is the current secretary-general of International Seabed Authority (ISA).

The Finance Committee deals with budget-related matters. There is also a Legal and Technical Commission consisting of 30 members who control the Council and Finance Committee. All members are experts nominated by governments and elected to serve in their individual capacity.

International Seabed Authority (ISA) Functions

ISA focuses mainly on organising, regulating and controlling all the mineral-related activities in the international seabed area that are beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Some of the major functions of the International Seabed Authority of India (ISA) are mentioned below:

- Regulation of deep seabed mining.
- Protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of mining, exploration and exploitation.
- The authority also promotes marine scientific research and conducts training programmes, seminars, conferences and workshops on the scientific and technical aspects.

International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an important organisation under the United Nations. Candidates preparing for the [UPSC 2020](#) should have a clear concept about the various organisations of the world. Candidates should also keep a track of the latest current affairs to know about any new developments in the world.