

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - UPSC Notes

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#). In this article, you can read all about the United Nation's International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its functions along with its relevance to the [IAS Exam](#).

International organizations and groupings are an important part of the International Relations section of the General Studies paper-2 in the [UPSC Syllabus](#).

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Established in 1865, the International Telecommunication Union is the UN's agency for Information and Communication technologies. Its mission is to connect all the people in the world and also to protect and support the right of the people to communicate.

Originally founded as the International Telegraph Union to promote cooperation among *international telegraphy networks* of the day, the ITU predates many other standardization bodies and its long and distinguished history contains a number of important 'firsts', such as the standardization of the use of the Morse Code and the world's first radiocommunication and fixed telecommunication networks.

- ITU has 193 member countries.
- The 6 regional offices of ITU are mentioned in the table below:

America	Europe	Africa
Arab States	Asia & Pacific	CIS Region

To know more about [Important Headquarters of International Organizations](#), check the linked article.

UPSC PRELIMS FACTS

ITU



Name: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

A specialized agency of the UN

Year of Formation: 1865

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

Sector: Telecommunications

Is India a member? Yes, since 1869

Functions of the International Telecommunication Union

The ITU consists of 3 sectors, that are: Radiocommunication (ITU-R); Telecommunication (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D)

The major functions of ITU can be listed below:

- Allocates radio spectrums
- Allocation of Satellite orbits
- Develops technical standards for the networks for them to function seamlessly
- Strives to provide access to ICT to underserved communities worldwide
- The ITU also brings out several reports related to telecommunications.

To get a list of [international organizations and their reports published](#), click on the linked article.

International Telecommunication Union and India

India is a member of the International Telecommunication Union since 1869. India comes under the Asia Pacific region of the ITU with its head office in Bangkok, Thailand.

- India is actively engaged in all the three sectors of ITU on different platforms.
- The Department of Telecommunications is the nodal agency for coordinating with ITU from India.
- Several Indian industry members and associations are members of the ITU.

Also read about [the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India \(TRAI\)](#).

UPSC Questions related to International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

What does the International Telecommunication Union do?

A specialized agency of the UN, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is responsible for coordinating telecommunication operations and services throughout the globe. The primary objective of ITU is to promote the development of telecommunication networks.

Can private organisations be a part of ITU?

- Yes, ITU's global membership includes 193 Member States as well as some 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organizations.
- Members of ITU should be UN Members.
- They represent a cross-section of the global ICT sector, from the world's largest manufacturers and carriers to small, innovative players working with new and emerging technologies, along with leading R&D institutions and Academia.