

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency is an important United Nations agency working in the field of nuclear cooperation. International agencies are relevant for the UPSC exam, particularly, the [UPSC Prelims](#).

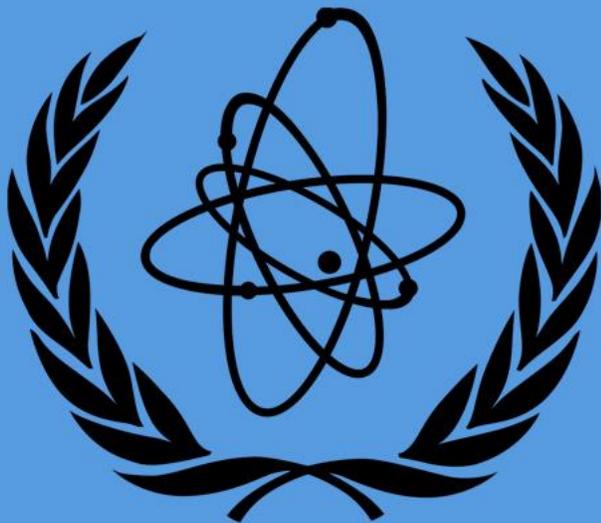
In this article, you can read all about the IAEA, its functions, mandate, relations with India, all of which are important for the international relations segment of the [UPSC syllabus](#).

In this article, you can read all about the International Atomic Energy Agency – IAEA for the [Civil Services Exam](#).

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear/atomic field. It is a UN agency. It works with its member countries and many partners to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.

UPSC PRELIMS FACTS : (UN IAEA)



IAEA

Name: United Nation's International Atomic Energy Agency

Year of Formation: 1957

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Sector: Nuclear Energy

Is India a member: Yes

Initially established as 'Atoms for Peace'.

In 2019, the 63rd general conference of the IAEA, India launched a global cancer care network, "NCG-Vishwam Cancer Care Connect" (NCG-Vishwam 3C)

IAEA History and Origins

IAEA's origins can be traced back to an address of the former US President Dwight Eisenhower to the General Assembly of the [United Nations](#) in 1953.

- The address was known as '**Atoms for Peace**' and this was the organisation's first name when it was formally established in 1957.
- Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, the IAEA is a UN agency.
- The primary mandate of the organisation was and continues to be promoting safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.
- Currently, it has 171 members. The latest member is Saint Lucia which joined the IAEA in 2019.
- India became a member in 1957 itself.
- By ensuring the peaceful usage of nuclear technologies, the IAEA contributes to peace and security in the world and also towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
- The current Director-General of the organisation is Rafael Mariano Grossi.
- The IAEA, along with its former Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.
- Although the IAEA is an independent international organisation, it reports annually to the UNGA.
- The IAEA has regional offices in Geneva, New York, Toronto and Tokyo; and research laboratories in Austria, Italy and Monaco.

IAEA Functions

The functions of the IAEA are discussed below.

- Promoting and assisting the research, development and practical applications of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.
- Establishing and administering safety guards to ensure that such research/development, etc., by the IAEA is not used for military purposes.
- Applying, under the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\)](#) and other international treaties, mandatory comprehensive safeguards in non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS) parties to such treaties.

The IAEA's three chief areas of work are:

1. Safety and security
2. Science and technology
3. Safeguards and verification

**Iran has granted IAEA inspectors access to one of two sites where undeclared nuclear activity may have taken place in the early 2000s. Iran signed the nuclear deal in 2015 known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – JCPOA with the United States, Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia. The deal allows Iran only to keep a stockpile of 202.8 kilograms (447 pounds). However, as per the report of IAEA, Iran

continues to increase its stockpile of enriched uranium in violation of limitations set in the deal. Details on the same can be checked on the [Iran Sanction](#) page linked here.

IAEA Governance

The IAEA has two policymaking bodies. They are:

1. General Conference
2. Board of Governors

General Conference

- It consists of all the member countries of the IAEA.
- It meets in a regular annual session.
- The annual general conference usually takes place in September.

64th General Conference of IAEA was held in Vienna from September 21st to 25th 2020.

Board of Governors

- Here, there are 35 members.
- The board members for 2020-21 are:

Argentina	Australia	Austria	Brazil	Canada
China	Egypt	Estonia	France	Germany
Ghana	Greece	Hungary	India	Japan
Kuwait	Malaysia	Mexico	Mongolia	New Zealand
Nigeria	Norway	Panama	Paraguay	Peru
Poland	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	South Africa
Sweden	Switzerland	UAE	UK	USA

- The Board generally meets five times a year.
- It examines and makes recommendations to the IAEA's General Conference on the organisation's programme, financial statements and budget.
- The Board considers membership applications, approves safeguards agreements and the publication of the safety standards of the IAEA.
- It also appoints the Director-General of the IAEA, with the approval of the General Conference.

Secretariat

The IAEA also has a Secretariat which comprises the organisation's professional and general service staff. It is headed by the Director-General.

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UPSC Questions related to IAEA

Is India a member of IAEA?

India is a founding member of the IAEA. As of 2019, India has put 26 reactors under IAEA safeguards. Also, India joined the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) in January 2020. RANET is a group of countries that provide assistance to reduce the consequences of nuclear or radiological emergencies.

Is the IAEA part of the United Nations?

The IAEA is an autonomous organisation within the United Nations system.

How is the IAEA funded?

The IAEA is funded by contributions from member states and donations from non-members.

Is IAEA a specialized agency of the UN?

No, it is considered to be a 'related organization' by the United Nations. It is not a specialised agency because of the political nature of the work done by it.