



# Universal Postal Union

## Why in News?

Recently, The Union Cabinet approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** as contained in the Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution signed during the 27th Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Abidjan 2021.

## What is the Significance of the Approval?

- It would enable the **Department of Posts, Government of India to have the “Instrument of Ratification”** signed by the Hon’ble President of India and have the same deposited with the Director General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.
  - Further, it would **fulfill the obligations arising from Articles 25 and 30 of the UPU Constitution which provides for ratification of the amendments** to the Constitution adopted by a Congress as soon as possible by the member countries.
  - It would resolve many long-standing discrepancies in the text and accommodate provisions for ‘acceptance or approval of the Acts in consistency with the **Vienna Conventions on Law of Treaties, 1969.**
    - Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, an international agreement **governing treaties between states** that was drafted by the **International Law Commission of the United Nations** and adopted on May 23, 1969, and that entered into force on January 27, 1980.

## What is Universal Postal Union?

- The UPU was established by the **Treaty of Bern of 1874.**
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.
- It is the **second oldest international organization worldwide.**
- UPU’s headquarters are located in **Bern, Switzerland.**
- The UPU contains four bodies consisting of
  - The Congress.
  - The Council of Administration (CA).
  - The Postal Operations Council (POC) and
  - The International Bureau (IB).
- It also oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives.
- **Any member country of the United Nations** may become a member of the UPU.
- Any non-member country of the United Nations may become a UPU member provided that its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU.
- With its 192 member countries, the organization fulfills an advisory, mediating, and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed.
- The union sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel, and financial services volumes and improve the quality of service for customers.
- **India joined the UPU in 1876.**

**Source: PIB**

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