



# Vienna Convention

## Why in News?

After pro-Khalistan people took down the Indian flag at the **High Commission in London**, the Indian government summoned the “senior-most” UK diplomat, Deputy High Commissioner and reminded her of the basic obligations of **the UK Government under the Vienna Convention**.

## What is the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations?

- The Convention was adopted on **14<sup>th</sup> April 1961** by the **United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities** held in Vienna, Austria. India has ratified the convention.
- It entered into **force on April 24, 1964, and is nearly universally ratified**, with Palau and South Sudan being the exceptions.
- It sets out the **special rules - privileges and immunities** - which enable diplomatic missions to act without fear of coercion or harassment through enforcement of local laws and to communicate securely with their sending Governments.
- It makes **provision for withdrawal of a mission** - which may take place on grounds of economic or physical security - and for breach of diplomatic relations which may occur in response to abuse of immunity or severe deterioration in relations between sending and receiving States.
  - A **“receiving State”** refers to the **host nation where a diplomatic mission is located**.
- In either of these cases - or where permanent missions have not been established - a framework is provided for the interests of each sending State to be protected in the receiving State by a third State.
- It affirms the concept of “inviolability” of a diplomatic mission, which has been one of the **enduring cornerstones of international diplomacy**.
- Basically, the security of any **High Commission or Embassy is the responsibility of the host nation**. While diplomatic missions can also employ their own security, ultimately, the host nation is accountable for security.
  - The difference between high commission and embassy is basically where they are situated. **Commission applies to [Commonwealth member states](#)** whereas Embassy applies to the rest of the world.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/vienna-convention>