



Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

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Why in News?

- Recently, in response to the allegations raised by the **Canadian Foreign Minister** regarding India's purported violation of diplomatic protocols, the **Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** emphasized that India's actions are consistent with the provisions outlined in **Article 11.1 of the [Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations](#)**.

What is the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations?

▪ About:

- The **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)** is established to **define fundamental principles** and terms governing how countries must treat each other's diplomatic representatives.
 - It was adopted on **14th April 1961** by the **United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities** held at the **Neue Hofburg in Vienna, Austria**.
- It aims to foster friendly relations and maintain effective communication channels between nations.
- Today, **193** countries have ratified the convention.
 - India ratified it through the **Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act of 1972**.

▪ Major Provisions:

- A key principle of the Convention is **diplomatic immunity**. It grants **diplomats exemption** from certain laws and taxes in the host country where they are posted. It ensures that diplomats can fulfill their duties **without fear, threat, or intimidation**.
 - **According to Article 29 of the Convention, diplomats** are not subject to arrest or detention. The host country must **accord the diplomatic agent the appropriate level of respect** and is responsible for undertaking all necessary measures to prevent any form of harm or violation to the **diplomat's person, liberty, or dignity**.
- **Article 11.1** of the Convention **empowers the host country to establish reasonable and appropriate limits** on the **size of a foreign diplomatic mission**, taking into consideration the prevailing conditions and circumstances in the host nation, as well as the unique requirements of the particular diplomatic mission.
- **Article 9** of the Convention **allows the receiving State to declare the head of the mission or any member of the diplomatic staff persona non grata** or unwelcome **without the need for an explanation**, and this notification can be made at any time.

