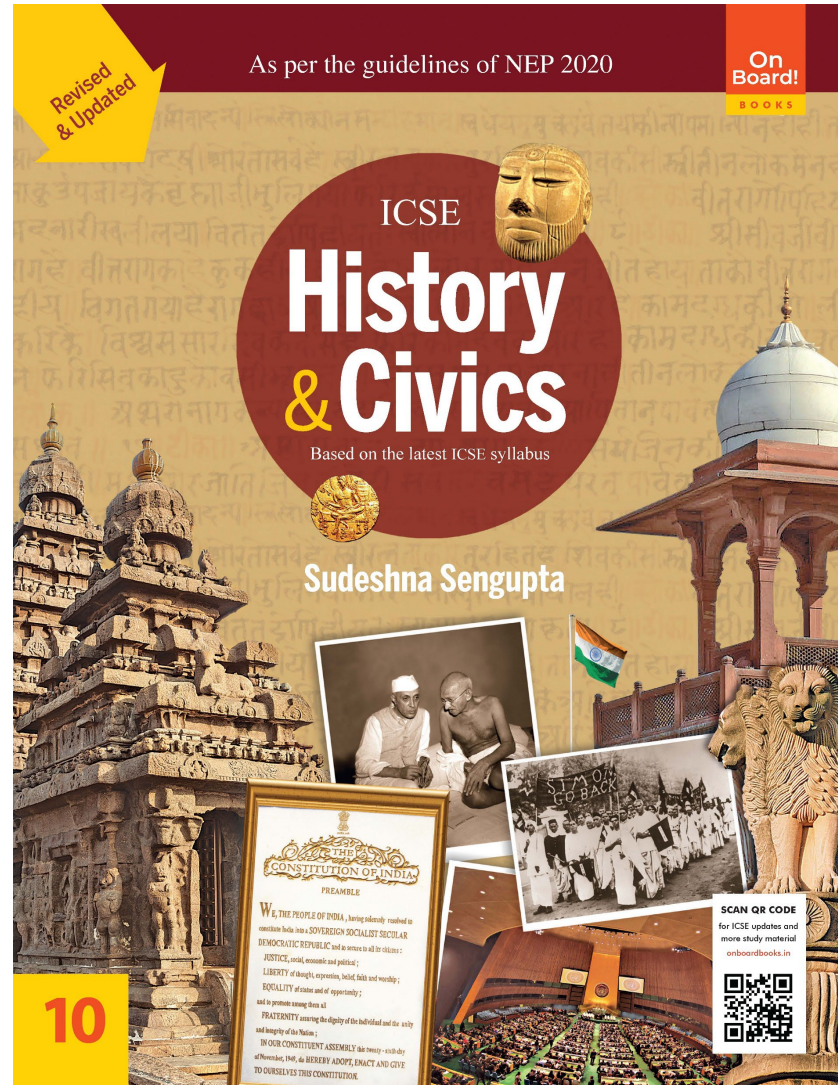


# On Board!

**BOOKS**

# ICSE History and Civics 10



# Section B: History

# Chapter 13 Major Agencies of the United Nations

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# Chapter 13 Major Agencies of the United Nations

Article 35 of the UN Charter committed the United Nations to promote:

- higher standards of living
- full employment
- conditions of economic and social progress and development
- international, cultural and educational cooperation
- universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language and religion

## AGENCIES OF THE UN

The UN has 18 specialized agencies, and 14 major programmes and funds for socio-economic development and human welfare.

### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The acronym in its original context stood for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Then the programme moved not just beyond the crisis of the Second World War but it also embraced children from all over the globe, members or otherwise. No distinctions were made. Hence, at present the words, 'International' and 'Emergency' have been put to disuse.

Its Headquarters are New York, USA. It is funded by voluntary contributions from member organizations and individuals and is managed by 41 members of Executive Board.

## Objective

Its objective is the realization of the opportunity for every child to enjoy the basic rights as a child. It strives to improve the quality of life of children and women in developing countries.

## Functions

Its main functions include:

- To assist countries in providing nutritious food to children and train nutritionists in this regard.
- To take care of women.
- To provide funds for training of health and sanitation workers, and crèche workers.
- To undertake Universal Child Immunization Against Preventable Diseases, which is a joint programme with the World Health Organization.
- To provide consultancy service, supply medicine and equipment and to conduct research in the areas of child development programmes and also to monitor these for future application.
- To support programmes to prevent trafficking of women and children, and to prevent crime by and against them.
- To provide instant help to children and women during an epidemic or in the wake of a natural disaster like earthquake or the outbreak of a war.

The UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965 and the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 1989.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization was established on 7 April 1948. This day is observed annually as the World Health Day.

### Objective

- To help combat epidemics
- To improve nutrition and sanitation
- To promote maternal and child welfare

Headquarters	Funded By	Managed By
Geneva, Switzerland	Voluntary contributions from member-states, governments and organizations	World Health Assembly, Executive Board and Director General

### Functions

- To promote and coordinate research in the field of health.
- To set international standards for food, water, biological and pharmaceutical products.
- To bring about improvement in standards of nutrition, housing, sanitation, work conditions and environmental hygiene.
- To provide safe drinking water to specified areas.
- To fight diseases throughout the world and to prevent their spread at the source.
- It has built a splendid library on medical sciences and publishes an illustrated magazine.
- It organizes seminars, conferences and workshops to train personnel.

## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO was established in 1946. As defined by its constitution, the purpose of the organization is 'to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms.'

Headquarters	Funded By	Managed By
Paris, France	Voluntary contributions from countries seeking assistance and organizations as well	General Conference comprising 50 members, Executive Board, Secretariat

### Functions

- To promote education among children and adults.
- To give financial assistance for the education of the disabled children, the girl-child and women.
- To give advice and expert assistance in construction of school building, preparation of study materials, courses and textbooks.
- To provide fellowships and study-grants to teachers
- To organize book fairs at national and international level.
- To develop good libraries with an adequate supply of books and to eradicate illiteracy.
- To organize regional and world conferences.
- To provide information to all countries about progress in science and social sciences
- To encourage cultural exchange.



## United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP came into being in 1965. It was born out of the merger of UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (UNEP/TA) and the UN Special Fund. The UNDP is the world's largest body in the field of technical and investment cooperation amongst nations. It is active in some 170 countries and territories.

Headquarters	Funded By	Managed By
New York, USA	Contributions from donor countries, especially the developed member-states of the UN	An Executive Board

### Functions

- To survey and assess a country's natural resources.
- To expand education.
- To promote scientific research and discoveries.
- To expand the level of economic and technical cooperation among developing nations.
- To provide technical assistance to boost social and economic planning.
- To help mobilize capital investment and to fund risky enterprises from its own sources.
- To arrange facilities or experts for training locals in the developing nations.

## International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO was first set up in 1919 as an autonomous part under the League of Nations. On 14 December 1946, it became the first specialized agency of the UN. Its mandate is, 'more jobs, better jobs, industrial harmony, social justice.'

Headquarters	Funded By	Managed By
Geneva, Switzerland	Governments and organizations requiring services	International Labour Conference, Governing Body, International Labour Office

### Functions

- To promote social justice for labour.
- To create international labour standards.
- To pay special attention to the needs of women labourers and children.
- To assist member-countries in vocational training, management, planning, employment policies, social security system, cooperation, small scale and handicraft industries.
- To assist the UN and other agencies to improve world's economic and social well being.
- To encourage research in the field of social and labour policies.
- To investigate complaints of infringement of trade union rights.
- To create awareness amongst labour about their rights and role in economic development.
- To popularize workers' cooperative enterprises and to encourage labour's share in management.

## To Remember

**UN agencies** – Aim and purpose: To promote higher standards of living, solutions to economic, social and health-related problems, 18 specialized agencies.

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** – Set up in 1946, provides relief to mothers and children whenever and wherever required, original name changed though the acronym remained, headquarters are in New York, USA. Functions: Assists countries in providing nutritious food for the children and women, trains health and sanitation workers, supplies medicines, equipment to conduct research, prevents trafficking of women and children, provides help during calamities.

**World Health Organization (WHO)** – Set up in April 1948, purpose to help combat diseases of epidemic proportions, improve sanitation, maternal and child welfare, headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Functions: Promotes research work in the field of health, sets international standards for food, water, etc. improvements in standards of nutrition and sanitation, provides drinking water when required, fights diseases, immunizes children against six major diseases, Health for All was the target for 2000.

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** – Set up in 1946, promotes international understanding among all, a consultative body, its aim is that since wars begin in the minds of men, the defences of peace must also be built there, headquarters in Paris, France, Functions: Promotes education among children, universal primary education, education of the disabled, girl-child and women, provides fellowships and grants, promotes research work, organizes conferences, provides current information, encourages study of social sciences, checks violation of human rights, preserves cultural heritage, encourages cultural exchange.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** – Set up in 1965, largest body in the field of technical and investment cooperation, headquarters in New York, USA, Functions: Surveys natural resources, spreads education, promotes scientific research, expands technical cooperation, mobilizes capital investment and arranges experts for training local people.

**International Labour Organization (ILO)** – Set up under the League of Nations in 1919, mandate-more jobs, better jobs, industrial harmony, social justice, headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Functions: Promotes social justice, improves labour conditions, creates international standards for wages, hours of work, social insurance, special care for women labourers, ban on child labour, implements vocational training programmes.

**Thank You**