Chapter – 5

INDIA AND UN
SPECIALISED AGENCIES
The United Nations Organisation is not only concerned with establishment of peace and security in the world but also expected to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development. It is charged with the duty of providing solutions for the International economic, social, health and related problems and promoting universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction of race, sex, language and religion. In this task the United Nations is assisted by number of specialised agencies, which though not a part of the world body play an important role in this regard.

The specialised agencies can be broadly classified into four categories:

❖ First, there are some agencies like International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO), Universal Postal Union (UPU) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which are concerned with technical matters.

❖ Secondly, there are agencies like the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) which are concerned with social and humanitarian activities.
Thirdly, there are agencies like International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (the World Bank), International Development Association (IDA), International Monetary Fund (IMF) etc. which are concerned with financial and economic development.

Finally, there are agencies like Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and International Trade Organisation, which are concerned purely with economic problems.

All specialised agencies fall in one of the above noted categories, some of these agencies like Universal Postal Union have largest membership than the United Nations. Almost all these agencies work through a Central Bureau. In addition they have General Assemblies composed of representatives of the member states and a secretariat.

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**

It came into existence in November-1946, and was recognised as a specialised agency of the United Nations in December 1946. The organisation of UNESCO consists of a General Conference, an Executive Board and the Secretariat. The General Conference, which is the governing body of the Organisation consists of representatives of the member states. Each member state can send up to five delegates but possess only one vote. The Executive Board is composed of 51 members.
elected by General Conference from amongst delegates appointed by the member states. The members of the Executive Board are elected for three years. The Board meets at least twice in a year. The Executive Board is responsible for the execution of programmes adopted by the Conference. The Secretariat is headed by the Director General, who is appointed by the General Conference on the recommendations of the Executive Board for a period of Six Years.

The UNESCO mainly performs three types of functions. In the first place it promotes education among children as well as adults. It provides educational materials, books, fellowships and study grants to the war devastated countries. It helps in the promotion of education by providing advice and expert assistance on matters like teachers training, school construction, preparation of curricula and text books etc.

The UNESCO has also attached great importance to problems of human rights and socio-economic implications of disarmament. It helps the member states in the preservation and protection of their cultural heritage and gives every possible encouragement to artistic activities. The UNESCO tries to promote a spirit of intellectual co-operation amongst the people of different countries of the world with a view to promote peace.
India and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

India joined UNESCO on November 4, 1946. The UNESCO Cluster Office in New Delhi covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Education is a top priority in India’s cooperation with UNESCO. The E-9 Initiative was launched in New Delhi in 1993 at the Education for All Summit of the Nine High-Population Countries. Most recently, a conference of E-9 countries was organized in Bangalore in October 2007 to discuss results of the project ICTs for the promotion of literacy.

The fourth UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy was held on 29th and 30th November 2007 in New Delhi. India participated in a variety of UNESCO activities related to cultural heritage and to intercultural dialogue. The Maitreya Temples (Ladakh, India) received the Award of Excellence in the 2007 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. UNESCO’s World Heritage Biodiversity Programme in India was formally launched in July 2007. The UNESCO/ECOSS project has been successful in Sikkim, a small, mountainous Indian State bordering Nepal that has spectacular natural sites combined with a fascinating cultural heritage, including 194 Buddhist monasteries. The project promotes community
participation in developing tourism in the Central Asia/Himalayan region, by helping to generate employment for local people.

**Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Regions of Central Asia and in the Himalayas**

Tourism is coming to the previously isolated mountainous regions of Central and South Asia. The challenge is to ensure that it is well-managed and that its benefits are shared by all. The spectacular mountainous regions of Central Asia, the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas, closed for many years to visitors from abroad, now attract growing numbers of foreign tourists attracted by the unique cultures and natural beauty of these hitherto isolated areas.

However, while growing tourist numbers are bringing economic opportunities and employment to local populations, helping to promote these little-known regions of the world, they have also brought challenges with them. To ensure the local communities fully benefit from the development of tourism and the growth in tourism helps to preserve and sustain the natural and cultural riches of these regions, rather than putting them in danger.

This project, the Development of Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Regions of Central Asia and the Himalayas, generously
sponsored by the Norwegian Government as well as by UNESCO Regular Programme funds, aims to establish links and promote cooperation between local communities, national and international NGOs, and tour agencies in order to involve local populations fully in the employment opportunities and income-generating activities that tourism can bring.

An interdisciplinary project, drawing on the expertise of international NGOs and tourism professionals in the seven participating countries, the project is making a practical and positive contribution to alleviate poverty by helping local communities to draw the maximum benefit from their region’s tourism potential, while protecting the environmental and cultural heritage of the region concerned.

Mountain areas concerned by the project include Ladakh in India, Masouleh in Iran, the Northern Tien Shen Mountains in Kazakhstan, the mountainous region around Lake Issy Kul in Kyrgyzstan, a Biosphere Reserve of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), Humla in Nepal, Chitral and the Kalash Valleys in Pakistan and the Pamir Mountains in Tajikistan. Local project partners include the Mountain Institute and Snow Leopard Conservancy in Ladakh (India), the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Chitral (Pakistan) and the Kazakh
Mountaineering Foundation and the Novinomad Ecotourism Development Company in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, respectively.2

Project activities include training local tour guides, producing high-quality craft items and promoting home-stays and bed-and-breakfast type accommodation, while fully involving local communities in these income-generating activities. Recommendations on best practices, Web resources and a database on community profiles, including maps, research data and regional attractions and resources, are all included in the project. The aim is to promote these unspoilt regions of the world for foreign tourists and researchers, while helping local communities to benefit fully from the economic opportunities that their environments can bring.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - Sikkim

Sikkim, a small, mountainous Indian state bordering Nepal, China and Bhutan, offers many opportunities for trekking, mountain biking, mountaineering and yak safaris, with its lush green mountain trails, high mountains and spectacular mountain rivers. However, in addition to its spectacular natural heritage, Sikkim also possesses a fascinating cultural heritage and is home to large Nepali, Bhutia and Lepcha speaking communities.
Boasting some 194 Buddhist monasteries, Sikkim shares many features with neighbouring Bhutan and Tibet, lying to the east and north beyond high mountain ranges. Sikkim itself lies in the shadow of Khangchendzonga, the third highest mountain in the world, which towers majestically above the mountains in its vicinity like a god surrounded by smaller deities and can be seen from almost any part of Sikkim.\(^3\)

Sikkim is a major regional centre for biodiversity, due to its variety of landscapes and climates ranging from tropical to alpine. There are some 6,000 plant species, including around 4,000 flowering plants, and the state’s alpine areas are famous for their medicinal herbs (100 species) and rhododendrons, while the temperate and sub-tropical belts boast 400 species of orchid. Sikkim has around 1,400 species of butterfly, many hundred different species of birds and tens of different species of amphibians and reptiles. Around 13% of the state’s area has been declared a protected area for wildlife.

The second of the UNESCO regional ecotourism programme’s project sites in India, after activities carried out by UNESCO partner the Snow Leopard Conservancy in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, the Sikkim project is being implemented by UNESCO project partner in Sikkim, the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS), together with the Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee and the
Dzongu Ecotourism Committee, at sites in Dzongu and Yuksam in north and west Sikkim.

The aim of the UNESCO / ECOSS project in Sikkim is to promote community participation in the area’s of Tourism Development, helping to generate employment opportunities and income-generating activities for local people through the development and management of tourist home-stays, as well as through training in the skills needed for local people to become cultural and nature guides.

A Code of Best Practice is being drawn up for home-stay development and awareness of community-based tourism opportunities promoted. Training is being given in enhancing awareness of the outstanding natural environment and cultural heritage of Sikkim, and information produced on the state, both in electronic and print form, for a wider audience worldwide.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – Ladakh

Covering an area of some 90,000 sq. km at altitudes of 2,750 to 6,670m, the Ladakh region of northern India, situated between the Western Himalayas and Tibet and containing the spectacular Hemis National Park, attracted some 18,000 tourists in 2000 for a variety of
activities including trekking, white-water rafting, camel and wildlife safaris and sightseeing. Apart from the beauty of the mountain landscape, the region is also home to a variety of cultural resources, such as local homes and ancient monasteries, and it supports a high-altitude ecosystem of rare and endangered flora and fauna.

Leh, the capital of Ladakh, is dominated by the picturesque palace of the former Ladakhi royal family, together with the Victory Fort, built to commemorate an important 16th century Ladakhi victory over neighbouring kingdoms.

From Leh, many of the region’s surrounding white-washed Buddhist hill monasteries, or gompas, may be visited, including the Hemis Gompa, one of the best-known. Most tourists visiting Ladakh do so through treks organized through Delhi-based travel operators, tourism thus bringing few benefits to local communities. As a result, local people have few incentives to participate in the conservation of the area’s cultural and natural resources, and there is a lack of active policy support for sustainable tourist development or for the development of community-based tourism, such as home-stays and locally based businesses.
The Mountain Institute, an international NGO with programmes in the Himalayas, Andes and Appalachian mountain ranges, is the UNESCO partner in the Ladakh region of Northern India, together with the snow.

Leopard Conservancy, an NGO dedicated to protecting the region’s rich biodiversity. The aim of the UNESCO / Mountain Institute / Snow Leopard Conservancy project is to promote community participation in the area’s tourism development, helping to generate employment opportunities and income-generating activities for local people. Training is being given in the development and management of tourist home-stays, as well as in the skills needed for local people to become cultural and nature guides.4

The International Labour Organisation (ILO)

This organisation was created in April 1919 as a part of the League of Nations. In 1946 it became the first specialised agency of the United Nations. It has three organs, viz., International Labour Conference, the Governing Body and the International Labour Office. The International Labour Conference is the General Conference of the member states. Each member sends four delegates to the General Conference. These delegates represent the government (2), Workers (1), and employers (1). The Governing Body of ILO consists of 56 members - 28 representing the Government, 14 representing the employers and 14 representing the
workers. The Governing Body elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for one year from amongst its members. The governing body appoints the International Labour Office. The International Labour Office is a sort of Secretariat of the ILO. In addition it also acts as World Information Centre and Publishing House. The Director General appointed by the Governing Body heads the office.

Main Functions

❖ It tries to raise the standards of the workers by setting International Labour Standards through International Conventions.

❖ It prevents unemployment and conducts comprehensive studies of the factors, which can help in achieving the objective of full employment.

❖ It looks after the problems of social security of employees in industry, commerce and agriculture.

❖ It tries to improve the working conditions of the merchant sailors.

❖ It encourages the employees as well as employers to form their own associations.

❖ It pays special attention to the problems of women and children.

❖ It provides technical assistance to Member’s States.\(^5\)
India and the International Labour Organisation

India is a founder member of the International Labour Organization, which came into existence in 1919. At present the ILO has 175 Members. A unique feature of the ILO is its tripartite character. The membership of the ILO ensures the growth of tripartite system in the Member countries. At every level of the Organization, Member States are associated with the two partners, namely the workers and employers. All the three groups are represented on almost all the deliberative organs of the ILO and share responsibility in conducting its work. The three organs of the ILO are:

❖ International Labour Conferences: - General Assembly of the ILO – Meets every year in the month of June.

❖ Governing Body: - Executive Council of the ILO. Meets three times in a year in the months of March, June and November.

❖ International Labour Office: - A permanent secretariat.

The work of the Conference and the Governing Body is supplemented by Regional Conferences, Regional Advisory Committees, Industrial and Analogous Committees, Committee of Experts, Panels of Consultants, Special Conference and meetings, etc.\textsuperscript{6}
International Labour Conference

Except for the interruption caused by the Second World War, the international Labour Conference has continued, since its first session in 1919 to meet at least once a year. The Conference, assisted by the Governing Body, adopts biennial programme and budget, adopts International Labour Standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations and provides a forum for discussing social economic and labour related issues. India has regularly and actively participated in the Conference through its tripartite delegations.

The Conference has so far had 4 Indian Presidents viz., Sir. Atul Chatterjee (1927), Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour (1950), Dr. Nagendra Singh, President, International Court of Justice (1970) and Shri Ravindra Verma, Minister of Labour and Parliamentary Affairs (1979). There has also been 8 Indian Vice Presidents of the International Labour Conference, 2 from the Government group, 3 from the Employers and 3 from the Workers Group. Indians have chaired the important Committees of the Conferences like Committee on Application of Standards, Selection Committee and Resolutions Committee.\(^7\)
Governing Body

The Governing Body of the ILO is the executive wing of the Organization. It is also tripartite in character. Since 1922 Indian has been holding a non-elective seat on the Governing Body as one of the 10 countries of chief industrial importance. Indian employers and workers’ representatives have been elected as Members of the Governing Body from time to time.

Four Indians have so far been elected Chairman of the Governing Body. They are Sir Atul Chatterjee (1932-33), Shri Shamal Dharee Lall, Secretary, Ministry of Labour (1948-49), Shri S.T. Merani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour (1961-62) and Shri B.G. Deshmukh, Secretary, Ministry of Labour (1984-85).

The Governing Body of ILO functions through its various Committees. India is a member of all six committees of the Governing Body viz. (i) Programme, Planning & Administrative; (ii) Freedom of Association; (iii) Legal Issues and International Labour Standards; (iv) Employment & Social Policy; (v) Technical Cooperation and (vi) Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related issues.
The International Labour Office

The International Labour Office, Geneva provides the Secretariat for all Conferences and other meetings and is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of decisions taken by the Conference, Governing Body etc. Indians have held positions of importance in the International Labour Office. Special mention must be made of Shri S.K. Jain who retired as Deputy Director General of the ILO. Shri Gopinath is currently the Director International Institute of Labour Studies, Geneva.8

International Labour Standards - ILO Conventions

The principal means of action in the ILO is the setting up the International Labour Standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations. Conventions are international treaties and are instruments, which create legally binding obligations on the countries that ratify them. Recommendations are non-binding and set out guidelines orienting national policies and actions.

The approach of India with regard to International Labour Standards has always been positive. The ILO instruments have provided guidelines and useful framework for the evolution of legislative and administrative measures for the protection and advancement of the interest of labour. To that extent the influence of ILO Conventions as a standard for reference for labour legislation and practices in India, rather than as a legally binding norm, has been significant. Ratification of a
Convention imposes legally binding obligations on the country concerned and, therefore, India has been careful in ratifying Conventions. It has always been the practice by India that we once it ratifies a convention it means that it was fully satisfied that its laws and practices are in conformity with the relevant ILO Convention. It is now considered that a better course of action is to proceed with progressive implementation of the standards, leave the formal ratification for consideration at a later stage when it becomes practicable. India so far ratified 39 Conventions of the ILO, which is much better than the position obtaining in many other countries. Even where for special reasons, India may not be in a position to ratify a Convention, India has generally voted in favour of the Conventions reserving its position as far as its future ratification is concerned.

**Core Conventions of the International Labour Organisation and India**

The eight Core Conventions of the ILO (also called fundamental/human rights conventions) are:

1. Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
3. Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
4. Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)

(The above four have been ratified by India).
5. Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)

6. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)

7. Minimum Age Convention (No.138)

8. Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)

(These four are yet to be ratified by India)

Consequent to the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, the above-mentioned Conventions (Sl.No. 1 to 7) were categorised as the Fundamental Human Rights Conventions or Core Conventions by the ILO. Later on, Convention No.182 (Sl.No.8) was added to the list.

As per the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, each Member State of the ILO is expected to give effect to the principles contained in the Core Conventions of the ILO, irrespective of whether or not the Core Conventions have been ratified by them.

Under the reporting procedure of the ILO, detailed reports are due from the Member States that have ratified the priority Conventions and the Core Conventions every two years. Under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, a report is to
Reasons for Non-Ratification

Conventions No.87 and 98

Convention No.87 provides for the right of workers and employers, without any distinction to establish and join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorisation. Their organizations have the right to form or join federations and confederations, including on the international level. These organizations or federations may not be liable to arbitrary dissolution or suspension by an administrative authority. The only exception provided for in the Convention to the right to organise without distinction whatsoever are the armed forces and the police, to whom special rules and regulations may apply. Convention No.98 aims to protect the exercise of the right to organise and to promote voluntary collective bargaining. The guarantees provided for under these two Conventions are by and large available to workers in India by means of constitutional provisions, laws, regulations and practices. The main reason for our not ratifying these two Conventions is the inability of the Government to promote unionisation of the Government servants in a highly politicised trade union system of the country. Freedom of expression, freedom of association and functional democracy are
guaranteed by Indian Constitution. The Government has promoted and implemented the principles and rights envisaged under these two Conventions in India and the workers are exercising these rights in a free and fair democratic society. Our Constitution guarantees job security, social security and fair working conditions and fair wages to the Government servants. They have also been provided with alternative grievance redressal mechanisms like Joint Consultative Machinery, Central Administrative Tribunal etc. Hence, Indian’s stand has been that this section of the workforce cannot be said to have been deprived of the right of association.10

**Convention No.138**

As of now, there is no omnibus provision in our labour laws prohibiting children below certain age from doing any work whatsoever. For ratifying Convention No.138, enactment of a suitable all encompassing Central Legislation for minimum age of entry to employment would need to be enacted to have provisions for:

- fixing a minimum age of 14 years for admission to employment or work in all occupations, employment and work but excluding agriculture in family and small holdings producing for own consumptions and not regularly employing hired workers; and
fixing a minimum age of not less than 18 years for admission to any type of employment or work which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons.

The definition of child in all concerned existing legislations would then need to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Central Legislation on minimum age for admission to employment. Thus, the Bill on the above lines on its enactment was to replace or supersede the concerned existing legislations like the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 etc.

Fixing of minimum age for admission to employment needs to be preceded by creation of suitable enforcement machinery and measures as would warrant the children not being compelled by circumstances to seek employment. The setting up of such machinery, particularly, for the unorganised sector in agriculture, cottage and small-scale industries etc., (except for those industries which are covered under the Factories Act) becomes a difficult task in a developing country like India.

In the background of the above position, consultations have been held with the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments to examine the existing provisions of national laws and practices on the
subject vis-à-vis the provisions of the Convention. Since there is no omnibus law on minimum age for entry into employment and the existing laws prescribe different minimum ages for different sectors, the process is likely to be long drawn.\textsuperscript{11}

**Convention No.182**

Ratification of Convention No.182 concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour is being pursued by the ILO with all member countries. The ILO has also initiated a concerted campaign for this purpose. India is examining the feasibility of ratifying this convention in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments. This is also to be discussed in a tripartite forum with the participation of the Employers and Workers Representatives.

**The World Health Organisation (WHO)**

The World Health Organisation came into being on 7\textsuperscript{th} April 1948 when 26 United Nations members ratified its constitution. Its membership is open to all the members of the UNO. The states, which are not members of UNO can become member of WHO after their application is approved by the Health Assembly. Non-sovereign states and territories can become its associate members. It aims at creating proper health conditions through international cooperation.
The organisation of the WHO consists of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board, and the Secretariat. The World Health Assembly is composed of representatives of all the member states. The Assembly holds annual meetings and it is responsible for laying down general policies. The Assembly appoints the Director General, who heads the secretariat. The Executive Board consists of 31 members.

These members are selected by the World Health Assembly from amongst persons most qualified by their technical competence in the field of health. These members are elected for three years. The Board carries out the decision of the Assembly.

Functions

The WHO performs the following functions:

❖ The WHO tries to prevent the spread of disease by providing assistance to the states, to check the disease at the source, to prevent it from spreading to other countries.

❖ The WHO tries to cure the disease once it has spread, by imparting scientific knowledge about the disease and suggesting ways to compact the same.

❖ The WHO provides training to personnel of different states for the prevention of diseases.
The WHO helps the member states to improve the health administration by imparting education regarding health through seminars, conferences and training projects to deal with problems like environmental, hygiene, eradication of disease, control of disease etc.

**India and World Health Organisation**

WHO is the United Nations specialized agency for Health. It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health. WHO's objective is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.

WHO’s Secretariat is staffed by health professionals, other experts and support staff working at headquarters in Geneva, six regional offices and country offices. In carrying out its activities, WHO’s secretariat focuses its work on the following six core functions:

- Articulating consistent, ethical and evidence-based policy and advocacy positions;
- Managing information by assessing trends and comparing performance; setting the agenda for, and stimulating research and development;
- Catalysing change through technical and policy support, in ways that stimulate cooperation and action and help to build sustainable national and inter-country capacity;
❖ Negotiating and sustaining national and global partnerships;

❖ Setting, validating, monitoring and pursuing proper implementation of norms and standards;

❖ Stimulating the development and testing of new technologies, tools and guidelines for disease control, risk reduction, health care management, and service delivery.

Activity Areas in India

In India, WHO provides technical assistance and collaborates with the Government of India and major stakeholders in health development efforts. It assists notably in Policy Development; Capacity Building and Advocacy. Technical assistance to the Government is provided through the following:13

Core Programme Clusters

❖ Communicable Diseases and Surveillance including Leprosy; Malaria; Filariasis; Tuberculosis; HIV/AIDS and International Health Regulations.

❖ Evidence & Information for Policy including National Health Accounts; Policies; Medical Ethics; Information System; Burden of Diseases; Essential Drugs and Medicines; World Health Survey; Health Finance; Trade Agreements and Reform Issues.
❖ Family and Community Health including Reproductive Health and Research; Child and Adolescent Health; Gender and Women Health; Immunization and Vaccine Development including Hepatitis B; Nursing and Midwifery; Nutrition and Development and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

❖ Social Change and Non-Communicable Diseases including Cardiovascular Diseases; Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Disability, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation; Tobacco Control; Health Care for the Elderly; Prevention of Deafness; Prevention of Blindness; Health Promotion; Oral Health; Cancer; Non-Communicable Disease Risk Factors Surveillance and other Non-Communicable Diseases.

❖ Sustainable Development and Healthy Environment including Chemical Safety; Emergency & Humanitarian Action; Food Safety; Health & Environment; Healthy Cities; Environmental Epidemiology and Water Sanitation.

Special Programmes

National Polio Surveillance Programme, Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Emergency and Humanitarian Action in Gujarat and Rajasthan, Commission on Macroeconomics and Health,
HIV / AIDS, Leprosy Elimination, Roll Back Malaria, Tobacco Free Initiative, Lymphatic Filariasis and Health Internetwork.

External Collaboration and Partnerships

Recently WHO has worked closely with the government on health issues in the aftermath of the tsunami, and for epidemic outbreaks like the Japanese Encephalitis. WHO is also working with the MOH in the pandemic preparedness plans for the Avian Influenza.

Fellowships and Training Programmes in India

A WHO fellowship is defined as a specially tailored training activity for an individual or a group for the purpose of fulfilling specific learning objectives. The programme which may be of short or long duration and which takes place in a training institution or in the field inside or outside the fellow’s country, in response to nationally approved health or health related priorities. The WHO fellowships provide opportunities for:

❖ Specialist training in the candidate’s own country where suitable facilities exist.
❖ The international exchange of scientific knowledge and transfer of technology.
❖ Training and study in health matters which may not be available in the candidate’s own country.

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Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The FAO has founded at a conference in Quebec on 16th October 1945 with a view to find out means for developing and maintaining an adequate food supply by encouraging the use of modern tools and methods, serving existing food supplies, searching new sources etc. The FAO like other agencies also operates through three organs, viz., the Conference, the Council and the Secretariat. The Conference consists of representatives of member states with each such state enjoying only one vote. The Conference decides the policy of the organisation. The Council consists of 49 members elected by the Conference. It discharges all the functions of the Conference during the intervening period between its sessions. The secretariat is headed by the Director General Chosen by the Conference. The Secretariat has five Technical divisions. In addition it has certain regional offices as well.

Functions: The Main functions of the FAO include the following.

❖ It collects, analyses, interprets and disseminates information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. It has setup an International Emergency Food Council which recommends allocation of scarce food stuffs and other products among the importing countries.

❖ It provides technical assistance to the Member States to improve food production.
❖ It helps in combating various animal and plant diseases. It has done valuable work in this regard by inventing new vaccines and medicines. It also helps in controlling the locust.

❖ It helps the countries in increasing production of food stuffs by developing and introducing new seeds and methods of cultivation. It also helps in promoting fishery by suggesting new methods.

❖ It seeks to check disease among children resulting from malnutrition.

Food and Agricultural Organisation in India

For the last few decades FAO has continuously been a partner in India’s development from a food deficit country to a net food exporting country. FAO concentrates on its technical assistance in a relatively small number of catalytic areas where high quality technical assistance can be effectively leveraged into a large quantum of ultimate development. FAO’s current focus in India is mainly on plant production activities, forestry, fisheries, nutrition, and food quality and safety.\textsuperscript{15}

Regular Support

The FAO in India provides regular support to many activities within its mandate, particularly in the field of Food Security and Nutrition. Household food security through small and large scale production activities, community nutrition, nutrition education, street foods, food safety and quality control are examples of issues FAO
supports through its elaborate technical services in its Head Quarters in Rome and Regional Office in Bangkok. A special interest lies in the field of vulnerability mapping through the establishment of a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) and the preparation of a Nutrition Country Profile for India. In addition, under its Special Programme for Food Security, FAO supports the design of a large scale maize production scheme.

**Technical Cooperation Programme**

The FAO's own Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is funded from the Organizations Regular Programme, and is used to respond rapidly to urgent and unforeseen requests for technical and emergency assistance. By its very nature, the TCP is unprogrammed. Other characteristics are its limited project duration; low costs; practical orientation; and catalytic role and complementarity to other sources of assistance.\(^\text{16}\)

Examples of TCP projects in India are:

- Transfer of technology for vegetative propagation of walnuts in Jammu & Kashmir
- Assistance to apiculture in Karnataka
- Development of integrated plant nutrition systems methodology
- Training in sea safety development programmes
❖ Greenhouse technology for floriculture
❖ Food quality control.

**Trust Fund projects**

Trust Funds are set up and administered by FAO on behalf of the countries and institutions that donate them and on behalf of the recipient countries that benefit from them.

The twelve current Trust Fund projects cover a wide range of activities like; forestry, fisheries, local fiber industries, animal genetic resources, integrated pest control, watershed management, population and development dynamics and wood energy development.

Four World Bank funded Trust Fund projects specifically emphasize capacity building through fellowships and study tours. The Agriculture Human Resources Development project has trained some 200 fellows whereas 50 are under training.

**United Nations Development Programme Funded Projects**

FAO provides technical assistance to the execution of UNDP funded projects. The current areas of involvement are; establishment of a phytotron facility, plant quarantine and inspection facilities, oilseeds and pulses, bio-village demonstration, and forestry.
TELEFOOD

An initiative of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, TELEFOOD is an annual campaign to raise funds through broadcasts, concerts, and other events dedicated to reducing hunger and malnutrition in the world. TELEFOOD harnesses the power of the people, including renowned actors, singers and athletes, to get its message out to the public. Money raised goes to hundreds of small projects in developing and transition countries that help poor farmers grow the food they need for their hungry families.17

The Tele Food approach to fight hunger is based on the belief that public opinion counts. If enough people decide that they can no longer accept conditions that condemn 800 million people to lives of chronic hunger in a world of plenty, then by sheer weight of numbers they can change those conditions. Person to person, village to village, hunger must be beaten.

Tele Food '99 is the global campaign to raise public awareness of the problem of world hunger and to give hope to the hungry. An estimated 320 million people live below the poverty line in India - a majority of them not certain whether they will be able to have even one square meal in a couple of days.
The battle to end hunger in the world continues this year with World Food Day ‘99 theme ‘Youth Under Hunger’ which focuses attention on what more than one billion young people between the ages 15-24 can do to defeat hunger. With heads full of dreams and hearts full of hope, youth can play a decisive role in making ‘Food for All’ a reality in the century that is about to dawn.

Under TELEFOOD ’99 a number of activities have been planned. Personalities from different walks of life such as Mr. R. Venkataraman, Ex-President of India, Ustaad Amjad Ali Khan, Sarood Maestro etc., have expressed their solidarity towards the ‘Fight Against Hunger’. A school orchard in the Suraj Bhan DAV school (Vasant Vihar, Delhi) has already started bearing fruits. There are also plans to have a concert of various Indian classical artistes and/or a cricket match at a later date.

The corporate sector has also been requested to give their support. The cooperative fertiliser giant IFFCO has donated US$10,000 to the TeleFood Fund and the India Grains Council has agreed to donate US $1,000 as well 10% of its advertisement revenues henceforth.

Under the activities planned to celebrate this year’s World Food Day, a Workshop has been organised on the 15th of October to review the agricultural development strategies planned on the eve of World Food
Summit in 1996. The Government of India had planned a number of activities across the country which include elocution, essay writing and painting contests as well as cultural programmes by the Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (a country wide network of youth clubs organisation mainly located in the rural and semi-rural areas.) Awards will be presented to outstanding media persons, Doordarshan, Rotary International, School and students who have actively contributed to the field of agriculture and World Food Day activities.  

Projects Handled

FAO is currently supporting the implementation of 36 projects comprising 7 UNDP funded, 10 FAO technical Cooperation projects, 7 Trust Fund and 12 Regional projects.

The ongoing FAO projects include those in the fields of sea safety development, greenhouse floriculture, apiculture, walnut propagation, establishment of phytotron facility, plant quarantine and inspection facilities, integrated pest management, oilseeds and pulses, development of hybrid rice technology, agro-forestry conservation of animal genetic resources, coir processing, technical assistance for dairy development, development of small-scale fisheries and coastal fisheries management and tuna development.
Under TeleFood the project which has started is the school orchard in a school in Delhi. Others in the pipeline include a horticulture garden to reduce malnutrition in Kumaon hills, onion production in Bulandshahar, Tapioca production in Lalitpur, support to rainfed rice crop activities of tribals in Bihar and rice productivity in Vindhyan region.

Other activities in India’s relate to India’s participation in international conferences, recruitment of Indian specialists for FAO assignments in other member countries and placement of fellows from other countries from training at Indian institutions. All FAO projects have the common feature of being complementary to ongoing government funded programmes which are much larger in size and the FAO technical assistance plays a catalytic role in addressing technology gaps, institutional build-up support and human resource development at the management and technical levels. FAO also supports exchange of technical know-how and technical cooperation among developing countries, through its various programmes.\(^9\)

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

The organisation of the IMF comprise of Board of Governors, the Executive Board and the Managing Director. The Board of Governors is the highest authority and comprises of representatives of all the member
states. It meets once a year. The daily business of the fund is conducted by the Executive Board comprising Director. The Managing Director also acts as the Chief of staff of more than 1700 international civil servants. It helps to promote International monetary co-operation through permanent institution which provides the Machinery for consultation and collaboration on international monetary problems. It facilitates the expansion and balanced growth of international trade and to promote high levels of employment and real income\textsuperscript{20}. It aims to promote exchange stability and maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members. It also provide fund resource available to the members with a view to correct mal-adjustment in the balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.

The necessary funds for the IMF are contributed by the members. Actually in the IMF the states have been accorded weightage of voting in accordance with their contributions to the fund which gives an advantages to countries like UK and USA. As a result of this, changes can be effected only with the consent of these two countries.

**International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**

The IBRD came into existence in December 1945 and was accorded the status of a special agency of the UN in November 1947. All powers of Bank are vested in the Board of Governors, which meets annually and
consists of one Governor and one Alternate appointed by each member. The Board has delegated most of its powers to twenty Executive Directors, who meet at least once in a month. They function as a Board. The President of the Bank is selected by the Executive Director and serves as their Chairman. Subject to the general direction of the executive directors on questions of policy, he is responsible for conducting the business of the bank.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is an essential adjunct to the International Monetary Fund. The primary purpose of the Bank is as its title indicates, to assist the reconstruction and development of member states and this is to be achieved by facilitating the investment of capital for productive purpose. It makes loans to members-governments and Government Agencies of private enterprises under governmental guarantee.


The UNICEF was created in December 1946 through a resolution of the UN General Assembly with a view to help those countries with money, goods and services, who are unable to meet the needs of their children out of their own resources. The UNICEF works through an Executive Board of 41 members designated by the Economic and Social Council of the UN. It also has an Executive Director who is appointed by
the General Secretary of UNO in consultation with the members of the Executive Board. The necessary funds for the UNICEF are raised through voluntary contributions of government persons and organisations. Roughly three-quarter of its income is from government and the remainder from general public. The UNICEF renders assistance in providing balanced food to children and provides assistance in providing to them protective food like milk, meat, fish, fats, fish liver oil etc. It also co-operates with other organizations for the improvement of children's health and provision of clothing.

**India and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF has been working in India since 1949. The largest UN organisation in the country, it is currently implementing a $400 million programme from 2003 to 2007. UNICEF is fully committed to working with the Government of India to ensure that each child born in this vast and complex country gets the best start in life, thrives and develops to his or her full potential.21

The challenge is enormous but UNICEF is well placed to meet it. The organisation uses quality research and data to understand issues,
implements new and innovative interventions that address the situation of children, and works with partners to bring those innovations to fruition.

The UNICEF in India has a network of 13 regional offices. These enable the organisation to focus attention on the poorest and most disadvantaged communities, alongside its work at the national level. UNICEF uses its community-level knowledge to develop innovative interventions to ensure that women and children are able to access basic services such as clean water, health visitors and educational facilities, and that these services are of high quality. At the same time, UNICEF reaches out directly to families to help them to understand what they must do to ensure their children thrive.22

UNICEF also wants them to feel a sense of ownership of these services. That same knowledge and interface with communities enables the organisation to tackle issues that would otherwise be difficult to address. The complex factors that result in children working, or the growing threat that HIV/AIDS poses to children. UNICEF knows that key to addressing these challenges are its partnerships with sister UN agencies, voluntary organisations active at the community level, women’s groups and donors.
United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund in Emergencies

Since its inception, UNICEF’s mandate has involved a rapid response to humanitarian crises. Originally called the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund, the organisation was created to provide humanitarian assistance to children living in a world shattered by the Second World War. Though emergencies have grown increasingly complex and their impacts ever more devastating, UNICEF remains dedicated to providing life-saving assistance to children affected by disasters, and to protecting their rights.

UNICEF is guided in its emergency response by its Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies, which builds on our experience in recent crises and outlines our initial response and timeframe for response. It states the core responses at all levels of the organisation. UNICEF works in collaboration with local and international partners, including governments, UN agencies, and civil society. These partnerships are crucial to ensuring comprehensive and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In recent times, UNICEF has been an active member of the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) in India. UNICEF also has regular disaster preparedness programmes where communities are
motivated to build on their traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms to deal with annual climate-based phenomena such as floods.

With its network of 13 field offices covering 16 states in India – UNICEF has played a critical role in times of crisis by gathering information, conducting rapid assessments and providing a platform for the UNDMT to coordinate the UN system’s response in areas where it has a presence.

Over the last two decades, India has borne the brunt of several major natural disasters such as the Latur Earthquake in 1993; the Orissa super cyclone in October 1999, the Bhuj earthquake in January 2001, the Tsunami strikes in December 2004 and lastly, the earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir. During emergencies, children are especially vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and violence. Measles, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, malaria and malnutrition are the major killers of children during humanitarian crises. Therefore, emergency immunization is one of UNICEF’s priority interventions, along with vitamin A supplementation and therapeutic feeding centres. 23

UNICEF also works to ensure safe supplies of drinking water, and to improve sanitary conditions for communities and the displaced.
UNICEF also advocates for early resumption of schooling as key to restoring a semblance of normalcy in the lives of affected children.

In responding to emergencies, UNICEF commits itself to not just bringing the situation back to how it was before the emergency, but if possible, in so doing, to build back better. This has been its guiding principle in restoring and rebuilding education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation systems after major natural calamities. It is undertaking following major projects in India.

**Eradicating Guinea Worm**

1980s - 40,000 Indians suffered from an agonising disease caused by guinea worms – parasites which grow to more than a metre in length, leaving their hosts bed-ridden and often destitute.

1983 - India launched the world’s first National Guinea Worm Eradication Programme.

The population at risk - five million people across 7 states - was generally poor, illiterate and living in remote communities. The success of the programme depended on all sectors working together:

- Thousands of step wells and ponds, sources of contaminated water, were sealed and safe water sources were provided.
Massive campaigns were launched to ensure the support of public to the project.

Health camps were conducted.

The Water Revolution

During the 1970s UNICEF became a key partner with the Government of India in the world’s largest rural water supply programme. UNICEF brought drilling rigs to India which could drill boreholes in hard rock. The Government supplied hand pumps.

The White Revolution: A beginning

1940s - Kaira Union (AMUL), a milk cooperative, faced a problem. Their surplus milk could not be sold. The livelihood of thousands of milk farmers was in jeopardy. Dr. Verghese Kurien, the legendary ‘Father of the White Revolution’, convinced UNICEF and others that the surplus buffalo milk could be converted into powder. In 1954 - UNICEF signed an agreement with the Government of India to fund the Aarey and Anand milk processing plants. In return free and subsidised milk would be provided to needy children in the area. Within a decade, India had thirteen UNICEF assisted milk processing plants.

Today, cooperatives produce an average 15.6 million liters of milk per day. They operate in 346 districts and have 12.3 million farmer
members, many of them were women. India has become the world’s largest producer of milk with an annual value of INR 950 billion.

Joyful Learning

Non-interactive, chalk and talk methods used in classrooms end up producing children able to replicate but not create knowledge. In the last 14 years, joyful learning has emerged as a powerful concept to change the way we manage schools and classrooms.

Central to the success of the programme is teacher empowerment. Teachers use songs and games as well as a variety of locally available materials, such as leaves, stones and trees, as teaching tools. A joyful classroom is an active, bright and cheerful place.

Whether it is in Nalli Kalli of Karnataka, the Quality Education Schools in UP or elsewhere-- joyful learning classrooms are characterised by the glow on children's faces as they come willingly to school. UNICEF has collaborated with central and state governments and NGOs to support joyful learning initiatives.

Girl Star Project

Despite a major improvement in literacy rates in India over the past decade, the number of children who are not in school remains high.
Gender disparities in education persist with far more girls than boys failing to complete primary school.

The national literacy rate of girls over seven years is 54% against 75% for boys. In the Northern Hindi-speaking states of India, girls literacy rates are particularly low, ranging between 33 – 50%. Although lower primary schools are within one kilometer of 94 percent of India’s population, at an average every second girl child in India has not been enrolled. While the enrolment rate is high in urban areas, it is conspicuously low in rural areas and amongst the backward and minority communities. The disparity is also regional with higher literacy rate across the Southern and North-Eastern states, but very low in some of the most densely populated Northern states. In Uttar Pradesh, the most populated state in India with a population of 172 million (larger than that of Brazil which ranks the fourth most populated country in the world) an average of only one out of four girls is enrolled in the upper primary school. Amongst the marginalized communities in the state of Bihar, the situation is far worse where only one out of every six girls is literate. The national average shows that there are twice as many illiterate women as there is men.\(^{25}\)
West Bengal Sanitation Programme

Started in 1991, the successful West Bengal Sanitation Programme is now serving as a global model for developing countries. The programme, which began in the Midnapur district, has demonstrated that remarkable improvements are possible in household toilet coverage through a decentralised, community-based system.

The creation of easily accessible rural sanitary marts where low cost sanitary products could be purchased was an innovative strategy implemented in every block of Midnapur district. Managed by NGOs and supported by local government and UNICEF, these marts have played a major role in empowering women, who usually run them. Strong state and district level political will has put the sanitation programme high on the development agenda. With 100% coverage, Midnapur has inspired other districts in the state; such that, the overall sanitation coverage in the state is 65%, well above the national coverage of 32%.

The Tsunami

The tsunami, which struck on December 26th 2004, killed more than 12,400 in India three quarters were women and children. The worst damage was sustained in Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Government of India, UNICEF—under its ‘Build Back Better’ programme, and other UN agencies responded very well to the tsunami in
the immediate relief phase as well as in the two years following the disaster. Emphasis has been placed on raising the standard of child-centred services and quality of life for households and communities to higher levels than they were before the disaster.

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, UNICEF became the first international humanitarian agency to reach and work in Mahila Samakhya – meaning education for women’s equality - was launched in 1989 by the Government of India in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka.

At present, Mahila Samakhya is active in 12,000 villages, over 60 districts in 9 states including Bihar, where UNICEF and Mahila Samakhya have been partners for a long time. The guiding principle of the programme is the centrality of education in empowering women to achieve basic equality. It strives to make women aware, empowered, capable and self-reliant.

Mahila Samakhya has been particularly successful in targeting out-of-school girls by working with the community to create learning opportunities in alternative centres, residential camps and early childhood development centres. The programme has been supported by State government, UNICEF, World Bank and others.
Janshala

A globally acknowledged best practice in education, and awarded as a model of joint programming by the UN, Janshala covered 25 districts and reached almost three million children in nine states. Flexible, open and decentralised, Janshala had a community-centred approach, without any rigid framework. The aim was to address state-specific needs and preserve the local flavour. Yet, the programme had one vision; that of achieving universal elementary education.

Janshala focused on establishment and training of Village Education Committees in microplanning, developing Government schools as ‘empowering community schools’ and establishment of institutions like Cluster and Block Resource Centres. In Janshala for the first time, five UN agencies UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and UNFPA joined together with the governments to improve the quality of education.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, India started working towards universal child immunization. With around twenty-four million newborns a year the task was enormous. In 1985, the then Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi committed India to universal child immunization by 1990, as a living memorial to his mother. Rajiv’s
Government launched six national missions. UNICEF collaborated closely on three, including the National Mission on Immunization.

A massive communication campaign ran nationwide to create a sense of urgency among parents. At the end of 1990, India announced that immunization coverage for children under the age of one had surpassed 80%. UNICEF assisted in:

- Creation of a cold chain to ensure that vaccines did not deteriorate. Low cost freezers and specially insulated cold boxes were developed and supplied.
- Creation of a ‘Fixed Day’ schedule to ensure that vaccines and children arrived at the Anganwadi Centres on the same day.


On 26th January 2001 Gujarat was hit by a devastating earthquake. An estimated 13,000 people were killed, about 200,000 injured and more than a million homes destroyed. Nearly 12,000 schools were either damaged or destroyed.

At the request of the Gujarat Government, UNICEF responded to the needs of women and children by supporting the revitalisation of
health, water, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection services. Many agencies worked together with the Government of Gujarat to bring relief to the area. UNICEF took the lead in inter-agency coordination for education.

**Universal Postal Union (UPU)**

The Universal Postal Union has established in 1874 by the Berne Treaty with a view to overcome the difficulties which the states were facing with regard to International mail. This union has to administer the services necessary for uniting the world in a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence. Most of the states are members of this Union despite their ideological differences. The Universal Postal Union works through a central office, the International Bureau, headed by the Director General. The Bureau is responsible for the Collections.

The Universal Postal Union Compiles useful information regarding the list of airports, air-mail lines, world map of surface communication routes, a directory of post offices etc. The Bureau also brings out a monthly journal in a number of languages to keep the members informed about the latest developments. The Universal Postal Union has greatly contributed to the creation and maintenance of conditions for free flow of message among the people of the world and they contributed to the promotion of world peace and fraternity of nations.
India and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The post-war years have seen an unprecedented pre-occupation with economic performance. Governments in developed countries (DCs) have attempted to combine achievements of full employment with their more traditional concern of price stability and balance in their external accounts; governments in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have tried to accelerate the process of economic growth as well as to achieve various social objectives such as better income distribution and elimination of poverty. Government's intervention was needed because the desired objectives, it was thought, could not be achieved through the market mechanism. While Keynes had demonstrated that a state of considerable unemployment was not an exceptional feature of market economies, he also pointed that full-employment could be achieved by varying the level of government expenditures. At the same time, economists such as Myrdal, Nurkse, Rosenstein-Rodan, Prebisch and Singer indicated the various facets of the working of the market which would hinder economic growth and actually result in these economies being trapped in low income cycle.

India's interest in the negotiations for the New International Economic Order stems both from political and economic motives. Also, as Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), it has an additional
responsibility to articulate the viewpoint of the movement. At the same time nevertheless, its role as Chairman of NAM may conflict with its ability to pursue its own economic interests which lie in supporting reforms that would lead to a better economic performance in the eighties and nineties. The major problems currently facing the economy are slackening rates of growth of productivity in agriculture and industry, a substantial balance of payments deficit, difficulty in generating sufficient resources for investment by the public sector and infrastructural constraints. It is argued below that even if the reforms proposed under the New International Economic Order (NIEO) are accepted they would only make a small contribution towards resolving India’s economic problems, so that India does not have a great stake in the proposed reforms. 27

India has successfully diversified its export structure during the past two to three decades and no longer depends on a few primary commodities for a large part of its export earnings. Therefore, fluctuations in the prices of India’s primary exports no longer have a very large destabilizing effect on its balance of payments and through it on the economy. Furthermore, the problems facing two of India’s important primary exports-tea and jute- are more of a structural nature than those arising merely from sharp price variations. Exports of tea and jute have been stagnant because of low elasticity of demand for these products in
the developed countries, competition from other countries or substitute products and inability to face competition because of low productivity due to old shrubs in the case of tea and obsolete technology, and machinery in the case of jute. Operation of a price stabilization fund is unlikely to bring much benefit in the case of tea and jute. Even the operation of the second window which is supposed to improve the market for primary products is likely to have only limited benefit. The installation of new machinery in the jute industry and replanting on the tea estates can be handled by domestic policy.

A matter of somewhat greater interest to India than the Common Fund, is the operation of a Food Security Programme (FSP). When the harvest is poor, India needs to import foodgrains to meet the domestic consumption requirements, particularly to meet the demands of the public distribution system. If a situation of shortfall in domestic production coincides with that of international scarcity, the importance of foodgrains can be a serious drain on India’s foreign exchange resources. For instance, in 1974 such a situation arose and the import of foodgrains at high prices from the international market had as much impact on the balance of payments as the increased oil prices. Furthermore, imports could not be passed on to the consumers as this would have priced food beyond the reach of the poorer sections of the population.
A food security programme was thought to be necessary because there was widespread fear in the mid-seventies that the world was headed for a period, perhaps a perpetual period, of food shortages. Then special provision would have to be made for the consumption needs of the poorer LDCs since they would not be able to purchase food in the international market. This fear of widespread food shortage has been belied by recent development. The increase in production of foodgrains has been so large that large stocks have been accumulated and to stop further accumulation a substantial amount of the land in the United States has been withdrawn from cultivation. Furthermore, large harvests despite reduced use of fertilizers have been achieved. These bumper harvests have reduced the prices of foodgrains and made it uneconomic to apply the recommended dosages of fertilizers. Therefore, for the next few years at least, there seems little likelihood of a worldwide shortage of food and high prices. The main problem is lack of purchasing power either with governments of countries or with their people to purchase the food. Under such conditions the main purpose of an international foodgrain stock might be to provide food aid. 28

The main problem from India's viewpoint is to reverse the recent stagnation of productivity in agricultural production. This requires broadening of the green revolution which has to date been concentrated in
wheat production and in rice cultivation in some areas. Assistance is, therefore, required in basic plant research in dissemination of the results of the research, neither of which is to be the responsibility of the proposed food security programme.

Removal of the infrastructural constrains facing the Indian economy requires better management of existing capacity, larger investments for developing new capacity and improved project design and implementation to reduce the time required for capacity creation. Of course, to the extent that management of existing on going projects improves the requirement for additional capacity would be reduced. Investments in creation of new capacity are constrained by a shortage of financial resources. The long time-lags in commissioning infrastructure projects may perhaps make recourse to commercial borrowing unwise. Because of a tight domestic resource situation and of the debt service implication of commercial borrowing, investment in infrastructure could be more easily increased if aid funds were available, particularly if they were available on soft terms. Consequently, India has a strong interest in larger aid flows.

To accelerate the rate of growth in India it is imperative to hasten the technological change in industry and in agriculture. In the latter sector, as noted above, it is largely a question of improving India’s
capacity to use modern genetic theory to generate new high yielding varieties, dissemination of the results of such research, and of improved management of the country's water resources. It is more difficult to improve productivity in the industries sector; the obsolete machinery and techniques used in many branches of industry make it difficult for their products to compete in international markets. Also, there has been little improvement in productivity through learning by doing and improvements in operation of existing technology.

Getting modern technology is, however, only part of the solution. Unless India develops the ability to further improve on the imported technology it would become relatively backward again after a short period of time as the rest of the world continues to improve. India has the advantage of a large body of scientific technical personnel, but till yet only limited success has been achieved in developing new technology. This lack of success probably reflects the lack of appropriate facilities for research and the brain drain which deprives the country of some of the best scientists. Success in developing new technology will depend mainly on domestic efforts development of the local milieu for research would also encourage TNCs to conduct more basic research in the country.

India's main interests in the international negotiations is for larger aid flows, access to markets in the developed countries at least more
clearly defined rules as to when such access can be limited, and a change in rules regarding technology transfer. While all of these are covered in the proposals of a NIEO, a large part of UNCTAD’s efforts have been spent on negotiating the Common Fund for commodity price stabilization which is only of marginal interest to India. In the latest gathering of UNCTAD steps for recovery of the international economy from the current stagflatinary conditions received considerable attention. But the stress on world recovery seems a dead-end to us. As argued above, the current state of economic theory does not support the reflationary policies recommended by the LDCs. Nor does the current political environment in Western countries support such policies. Even if recovery of the Western Economics is achieved by the policies currently being adopted it would have very little effect on the Indian economy as exports to these countries play only a small role in the Indian economy. Therefore, though Indian exports might increase somewhat, a substantial balance of payments problem would remain.

Indian interest in larger aid flows is served either through larger aid allocations through the World Bank and IDA or by some of the proposals advanced earlier to build an independent fund for providing aid. Such a fund would be independent of governmental budget allocation procedures and could be formed by taxing mining of sea-bed resources and earnings
of non-residents. These interests will, however, only be indirectly served by the more recent proposals that the first priority is to have a world recovery programme and a monetary conference to deal with the debt problems of LDCs. Debt renegotiation unless coupled with larger financial transfer night merely means a diversion of current flows towards those countries facing a debt problem. Such diversion is more likely to hurt the Indian interest.\textsuperscript{29}

\textbf{India and World Trade Organization}

India is a founder member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1948 and its successor, the World Trade Organization (WTO), which came into effect on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1995 after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round (UR) of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. India’s participation in an increasingly rule based system in the governance of international trade is to ensure more stability and predictability, which ultimately would lead to more trade and prosperity for itself and the 134 other nations which now comprise the WTO. India also automatically avails of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports to all WTO Members.

The origin of World Trade Organization (WTO) lies in General agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) which was established in 1948 by 23 original founders, India being one of them. The 8\textsuperscript{th} round of talks
under GATT (1986-1994) known as the Uruguay Round, led to the birth of WTO. Till 1995, GATT covered only issues related to trade in goods. However, in the Uruguay Round, new agreements covering trade in services and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) were also negotiated. All these three major agreements along with their associated agreements influencing Indian economy.

**Impact and implications of the Agreements for the Indian Economy**

The various multilateral agreements, which have been agreed upon under the WTO, have given rise to various issues. The Indian Government has taken various measures to stand in accordance with the agreements signed to. Yet with Seattle meeting many new issues are being brought to the forefront. The tackling of these issues has great impact on the Indian policy decisions and has remarkable implications on the growth of business in the Indian economy.

**General agreement on Tariffs and Trade**

The objective is to provide national treatment to all imports made. Its impact on Indian policy is that, India started its reforms during GATT negotiation period (1986-1994) itself and import duties have been brought down from 300 per cent to 50 per cent. Further there is commitment to remove all Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) by 2003, i.e., import restrictions/licenses are to be removed, such that free trade regime
is developed. From the point of view of business houses, GATT's impact will be on all manufacturers, traders and service providers. Competition will intensify as more imported products find easy access.

Removal of QRs will further accelerate import of all products. Various business units have already felt the strong below due to liberalization. It is more so because external liberalisation has been speedily done, but internal adjustments of domestic industries have not been adequately done. Industries suffer from poor infrastructure, obsolete labour laws, lack of coordination among ministries and non-availability of economical, quality services in Banking, Insurance, Transport, etc. Awareness about WTO implications in shockingly low among small and medium entrepreneurs.

Hence, reassessment of comparative advantage is required in all the product categories. And, only those business, whether producing for domestic or for foreign markets, who have international vision will survive and grow.

**Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT (Valuation of Goods)**

The objective is that, countries should follow agreement for valuation of imports so as to check arbitrary decisions of customs. Its
impact on our policy is that, India has amended its laws in conformity with the agreement by notification 26 (NT)/24.04.95; The direct benefits of this agreement to business houses is that, importers and exporters benefit from more transparent regime. Clear guidelines have been provided for computing value. While rejecting the value given by importer, customs should give reasons in writing.

**Agreement on Preshipment Inspection**

The objective is to check arbitrary ways of PSI companies in valuation of goods (around 30 countries use them). This agreement has no impact on Indian Policy since it does not use services of PSI companies. But the business implication is that, Indian companies training with countries using PSI companies are benefited.

**Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade**

Its objective is that countries should base their product standards around international standards and should establish ‘enquiry points’. Its impact on Indian policy is that the Bureau of Indian Standards has taken measures on the lines of the agreement and it serves as an enquiry point.

The business implications are that, Indian exporters of electrical machinery, consumer articles, pharmaceuticals, detergents, automobiles household electric/electronic gadgets, insecticides, hazardous chemicals,
fertilizers, toys etc., will benefit from the agreement as import of these products are subject to mandatory product standards. Enquiry points will it also covers Process and Production Methods (PPM). This could be used for discriminating against Indian export of agri/food/pharma products.

**Agreement on Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Measures**

This agreement aims that; international standards should be followed world wide. Hence, MFN rule countries can deny import from certain region/country due to fear of spread of pests/disease. The policy specification in India is a par with International Standards. Its impact on business units will be that, companies exporting fresh/processed fruit/vegetables, juice, meat, dairy products etc, should understand the mandatory standards. They should follow the developments taking place at various institutions like, FAO, Codex Alimantarius etc., which have serious implications for their businesses in agriculture, processed food and dairy products.

**Agreement on Import licensing procedures**

It aims to ensure transparency in issuance of import licenses and to subscribe time limit for licenses to be issued. To stand in accordance with this agreement, system has still to be improved and EDI is being developed to improve the prevailing systems.
**Rules applicable on Exports**

The objectives are i) Export products are to be relieved of indirect taxes (e.g. excise) ii) Prohibit direct tax waivers (e.g. income tax waivers on export earnings). The agreement allows duties on exports, in exceptional cases, if situations so demand. The agreements impact on Indian policy is that, the Export-Import Policy) EXIM policy has been suitably modified through DEPB, Adv.Licence, S.I.L., Drawback etc., Yet IT waiver continues on export earnings. Its business implications are that the IT waiver on export earnings is temporary measure; India will have to scrap it by 2003. So could be the future of DEPB.

**Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures**

This agreement aims to prohibit export subsidies but allows permissible subsidies. It requires countries to phase them out by 2003 and to freeze their level and coverage during transitional period. Being signatory to the agreement the EXIM policy of India is following the GATT directives cautiously in introducing the duty exemption schemes and is modifying them to make them WTO compatible.

The business implications are that business houses should understand what is permissible and what is not e.g., subsidies given by government to small businesses are usually permissible, or given for Research and Development (R&D) or for adaptation to new environment.
requirements. Export subsidies on import sensitive products (textiles, leather products etc) can be maintained by importing countries. During the transition period (that is upto 2003) importing countries can countervail ‘subsidies’ by increasing duties.

**Agreement on Safeguard Measures**

It envisages allowing countries to take action against undue import surge injurious to domestic manufacturers during the transition period. In India, the Commerce Ministry has taken due action. Business implication is that, measures can be taken against imports causing injury to domestic manufacturers, during the transition period, initially for 4 years extending up to 10 years from 1st January 1995.

**Agreement on Anti-Dumping Measures**

The agreement allows measures to be taken against imported goods benefiting from unfair trade practices. In the Indian context, Directorate of Anti-Dumping has been established in Commerce Ministry. Anti dumping duties have already been imposed in more than 30 cases on products ranging from chemicals to graphite electrodes, originating from countries like China, USA, Russia, Thailand, Korea, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Italy, etc.
The business implication of the agreement is that, it is a most important provision for domestic manufacturers. Business units must be aware of this provision to safeguard their industry.

**Trade Related Investment Measures**

The agreement currently prohibits countries from imposing five types of investment conditions on investors. This agreement’s impact on Indian policy/laws is that, it has industrial policies. Of this agreement, business houses should take into account that currently five types of TRIMS are prohibited out of 24 already identified. It allows export performance requirement, majority stakes for local etc. The issue has much to be discussed and settled during the WTO rounds.

**Market access negotiations**

Towards providing more market access, by 1st January 2000, developed countries are to cut tariff to 40 per cent and developing countries to 30 per cent. Due to this agreement, in India the peak rate of duty is down form 300 per cent to 50 per cent and on finished good from 150 per cent to 40 per cent. This agreement has great business implications. There will be massive increase in competition for domestic industries. The actual benefit for India will come from removal of QRs in developed countries rather than their tariff reduction.
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing

The agreement focuses that, Quantitative Restrictions and Multi Fibre Agreement imposed by developed countries is phases out by 2005 in four phases. It has great impact on Indian Policy. The policy should be challenge. This agreement has very great business implications in the Indian context. Quotas will be phased out and real benefits would accrue from 2002 onwards. Non tariff barriers (in the name of antidumping, consumer safety, eco-labeling etc) are fast replacing quotas. The level of competition will be manifold.

Agreement on Agriculture

This agreement insists that subsidies be removed and converted into tariffs. It draws out minimum market access in closed markets. Its impact on Indian policy is that (i) No obligation for India to reduce subsidy given to farmers (AMS, aggregate measure of subsidy, calculations reveal it is taxed than subsidized) (ii) No commitment regarding market access, being under balance of payment cover (yet this has been disputed). This is yet another important agreement in the Indian context. Its business implication is that, it will expand the market for Indian Agricultural Products (closed markets like Japan will have to procure rice, minimum three per cent of home consumption). QRS
imposed by India will have to be phased out, so competition will become very severe.

**Agreement on government procurement**

Its aim is that, MFN and National Treatment be provided on the purchase of goods. India is not a party to the agreement. Yet the implications of the agreement will be that the rights of the GOI will come under severe pressure in the coming negotiations.

**Agreement on State Trading Enterprises**

The objective is that STEs conduct their activities commercially. Its impact on Indian policy will be the restructuring of STEs like STc, MMTC for commercialization of their activities. Its business implication is that in the coming negotiations the monopoly/canalizing agency status will be brought down.

**General Agreement on Trade in Services**

This agreement aims that (i) all services to come under GATS (12 services) (ii) require countries to ensure MFN principle, transparency mutual recognition of qualifications etc (iii) list out liberalization commitments of countries. Further negotiations are to be held in the coming years. Its impact on Indian policy is that, EXIM Policy (amended in 1999) incorporates service chapter for the first time, giving same status
as merchandise. It has committed to open 10 sectors. Partial liberalization in banking sector, Telecom sector and Insurance is being envisaged. Services constitute 40 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The government has monopoly in all the major sectors Banking, Insurance, Transport, etc). The business implications of this agreement will be that private parties/companies will welcome liberalization in these sectors. There exists huge potential for export of services like accountancy, software, management, consultancy, legal services, and feasibility studies.

**Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights**

Objective of TRIPS is to provide protection to IPRs, such as patents, copyrights, trade marks, industrial designs, and layout designs for integrated circuits, geographical indications and undisclosed information. It aims to provide National and MFN treatments. Developing countries are to implement the provisions of the agreement within 5 years and LDCs in 11 years. Its impact on Indian policy is that, immediate change is required in Patents Act (1970) Trade and Merchandise Marks Act (1958) Designs Act (1911) Copyright Act (1957). Should also change certain provisions of Contract Act (1872) Companies Act (1961) IT Act (1961) MRTP Act (1969) etc. In addition new acts are to be enacted. Business implication of the agreement is that, its impact will be on all
businesses. Reverse engineering will be difficult with stricter IPR regime. India's own R&D institutions can reap benefits within India as well as abroad.

**Patent**

Its objective is that (i) patent to be given for process as well as for products. (ii) Compulsory licensing on case to case basis. (iii) Patent life to be 20 years (iv) micro-organisms to be patented and protection of plant varieties by patents or a *sui generis* system or both.

**Copy Right**

Under this the definition and scope has been broadened. It now includes software, sound recordings, films etc. The minimum protection given is for 50 years (25 years for photographic works). In the Indian context, the new amendment bill contains changes as per Trips. Among the business houses, it would benefit Indian software, music, film industry, authors and publishing companies.

**Trade Marks**

Objective is to provide protection for seven years. In India, the new amendments bill is yet to be passed to cover TRIPS provisions. Business houses should exercise sufficient care in choosing names of companies or products.
Industrial designs and Layout designs

It covers new and original designs and layout decisions of integrated circuits. The minimum protection is 10 years. New amendment bill in India contains changes as per agreement. It has significant implication for Indian Designers as well as Garment/Textile Industry using protected designs and manufacturers of Integrated circuits.

Undisclosed information and Trade Secrets

They are not intellectual property, but are protected through contractual obligations. Its impact will be on know-how agreements. Contract Act, etc. The business implication is that, employees, consultants, licensees, sub contractors and the like are restrained from divulging confidential information. Provision on undisclosed test data submission of which is required by Government before grant of permission, stipulates adequate protection.

Geographical Indications

It aims to prohibit countries to permit trademarks containing misleading information on geographical origin of goods. In India no specific law has yet been drafted on geographical indications. Standing in accordance with this agreement, India will have to decide about taking up membership of Paris convention and other important treaties like Lisbon Treaty of GIs. Business implication of this agreement will be that (i) there
will be major impact on agri-food products (ii) our not having law on GIs has led to controversies on Basmati, Darjeeling Tea, Alphanso Mangoes, etc.

India’s views were that there would be ‘no compromises’ in four areas namely labour, environment, investment and competition policy. The opinion is that WTO is meant only for trade related matter and issues like social clauses, labour standards and environment should be left to be dealt with at the concerned international forums, like ILO an the other forms in the UN.

India and other developing nations like Pakistan, Indonesia and Egypt (the like minded group) wanted to make implementation issues the core of post-settle negotiations. The group wanted a more meaningful dismantling of barriers to its textile exports (the MFA) and a re-orientation of the existing provisions on patent, anti dumping, subsidies and better investment measures. They also insisted on a longer transition period for implementing the provisions of patents. They wanted to first address the problem of implementations before negotiating on new issues.
Inference

To improve the living standards and to enhance standards and to enhance socio-economic conditions of the people living in different parts of the world the UNO established several allied agencies. The UNO specialized agencies are classified into four types on the basis of nature of their work. Some are concerned with technical, financial matters and some others are concerned financial and economic matters. UNESCO was established in November 1946 and Indian joined and India soon after it’s formation. Under the guidance to UNESCO several educational and tourism projects were undertaken in India. The ICO which was established in 1919 has three organs. So far 4 Indians acted as Presidents of International labour conference as and other four Indians have been elected as the chairman’s the Governing body of the ILO. India also ratified four out of eight core conventions of ILO. The World Health Organisation (WHO) was established on 7th April 1948 and became it member in the same month. Under the aegis of WHO several health programmes like vaccination, reproductive health protection etc. The FAO was established in October 1945. FAO helped India sever times, when country faced severe food deficit crisis. FAO also providing technical assistance to the implementation of UNDP funded projects. The monetary institutions of UNO like IMF, IBRD, World Bank Library sanctioning lakhs of dollars for the development of various sectors of the
economy. The UNICLF has been working in India since 1949 and it has a network of 73 regional offices. The help rendered by UNICEF during humanitarian crises in India is laudable. It also funded several educational projects to marginalized sections of society. The links between India and Universal Postal Union and UNCTAD also helped for the development of postal and commercial services in India. India as a founder member of GATT and latter WTO, playing crucial role in presenting the views of developing countries of the world from time to time.
References


11.http://labour.nic.in/ilas/indiaandilo.htm

27. Ibid, pp.454-455.
29. Ibid, p.58.