

INDIA AGAIN ABSTAINS AT U.N. VOTE ON SEXUAL MINORITIES

Prelims- International Policies and Schemes IR

Mains- GS2 - Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

Context:

- ✚ India abstained at the vote for extending the mandate of an important UN official who reports on violence and discrimination against sexual minorities.

Issue:

- ✚ Human Rights Council (HRC) celebrated the United Nations Human Rights Council's vote to renew for a second three-year term the mandate of the U.N. Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- ✚ **India's abstention at the resolution** for term renewal of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the UN Human Rights Council.
- ✚ Indian delegation had supported some amendments brought by countries that opposed the work of the Independent Expert.

U.N. Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI):

- ✚ Established in 2016 by the U.N. Human Rights Council, the IE SOGI.
- ✚ working collaboratively with U.N. and regional leaders, has helped nations develop policies and actions to protect people from discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- ✚ The Independent Expert oversees the implementation of international human rights law, raises awareness, engages in dialogue with stakeholders and provides advisory and technical assistance.

Connecting Dots in India

- ✚ Indian Supreme Court struck down Section 377 and decriminalised the LGBTQ community.