

8. Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU)

Prelims Level: Regulatory Bodies

Mains Level: GS-II Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector or Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in News?

- Union HRD Minister chairs a meeting of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO in New Delhi.

INCCU:

- The INCCU is a governmental body formed by the Government of India which functions under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The objective of the Commission is to advise the Government in matters relating to the UNESCO.
- India has been a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a specialized agency of the United Nations since its inception in 1946.
- The Constitution of the UNESCO mandates each member to form a national commission to function as agencies of liaison between the national government and UNESCO.
- Accordingly, an interim Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO was set up in 1949 by the Government of India, Ministry of Education.
- A permanent Commission was established in 1951.

Functions of the INCCU:

- To promote understanding of the objects and purposes of UNESCO among the people of the Republic of India;
- To serve as a liaison agency between the Government of India and the institutions concerned with the working for the advancement of education, science and culture;
- To cooperate with the Government departments and with services, organizations and institutions concerned with questions within UNESCO's competence;
- To encourage participation of national, governmental and non-governmental institutions and various individuals in the formulations and execution of UNESCO's programmes so as to secure for UNESCO all the intellectual, scientific, artistic or administrative assistance that it may require;

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- To collaborate with the National Commissions of Asia and the Pacific and with UNESCO's Regional Offices and centres in fostering regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation in education, the sciences, culture and information, particularly through the joint formulation and execution of programmes;
 - To disseminate information on the objectives, programme and activities of UNESCO and endeavour to arouse public interest in them; and
 - To advise the Government of India on matters relating to UNESCO.

India and UNESCO:

- India is among the founding members of UNESCO and has been playing a very active role in promoting UNESCO's ideals and objectives.
- UNESCO's Executive Board examines the programme of work for the Organization and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General.
- It consists of 58 Member States, each with a four-year term of office.
- India was one of the six elected Vice-Chairpersons for 2012-2013.
- India was re-elected as a Member of the Executive Board for 2014-17 in the election held in the 37th General Conference in November 2013.
- India has established an office of Permanent Delegation at UNESCO, Paris.
- Since 2013, India's contribution is 0.666 percent of the total budget of UNESCO.