**Short notes on United Nations (Paper XI)**

**Q. What is veto power?**

A veto is the power to unilaterally stop an official action, especially the enactment of legislation. The UN Security Council ‘veto power’ refers to the power of the permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, Russia, France, UK and USA) to veto any substantive resolution.

In common parlance, veto power can be defined as the power vested in one branch of a government. To cancel or postpone the decisions, enactments, etc of another branch especially the right of a President, governor, or other chief executive to reject bills passed by the legislature.

**Q. Write a short note on Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a historic document that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December 1948. The Declaration consists of 30 Articles affirming an individual’s rights. The Declaration was the first step in the process of formulating the International Bill of Human Rights. For the first time, it sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into 0ver 500 languages. The UDHR is the cornerstone of modern human rights.

**Q. Procedure for admission of new members to the UN.**

The procedures for admission of new members to the UN are:

1. The state submits an application to the Secretary-General.
2. The Security Council considers the application.
3. If the Council recommends admission, the recommendation is presented to the general Assembly for consideration.
4. Membership becomes effective the date the resolution for admission is adopted.

Membership in the organization in accordance with the charter of the UN, is open to all peace-loving states that accept the obligations contained in the UN Charter and in the judgment of the organization, are able to carry out these obligations.

**Q. Secretary-General of the UN.**

The Secretary- General of the UN is the head of the United Nations Secretariat, one of the six principal organs of the UN. The Secretary- General serves as the chief administrative office of the UN. The role of the UN Secretariat and of the Secretary- General in particular, is laid out by Chapter XV of the UN Charter. Over the decades, the Secretary- General stands as a symbol of UN ideals and serves as a spokesperson for the interests of the world’s people.

As of 2019, the Secretary- General is Antonio Guterres, appointed by the general Assembly on 13th October 2016.

**Q. Relevance of the UN in the post – Cold War Period.**

After the Cold War, the UN faced several changes and challenges. The Cold war climate gave way to today’s unipolar ideologies. The unipolar World is exposed to multilateral threats such as terrorism, poverty, global warming and natural calamities etc. In the changed environment, the UN is doing a service to the world through its various organizations that work to maintain peace and good health, eradicate hunger, disease and misery all around the world. The world needs an organization which genuinely expresses the collective will, upholds common standards and is willing and able to take consistent action wherever there is default in its resolutions and international law.

**Q. Three reasons for the emergence of Cold War.**

The Cold War was a period of tension and hostility between America and the Soviet Union from the mid 1940’s to the late 1980’s. It began with the end of the Second world war. Three reasons for the emergence of Cold War:

1. The Soviet Union wanted to spread its ideology of communism worldwide, which claimed the Americans who followed democracy.
2. The acquisition of atomic weapons by America caused fear in the Soviet.
3. The Soviet Union’s action of taking control over Eastern Europe.

**Q. Mention three reasons for failure of the League of Nations.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Write the role of the UN in keeping International Peace.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Functions of the UNDP.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. ILO.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Write on the objectives of the UN.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Write on the working of the International Court of Justice.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Write a short note on WHO.**

**(See descriptive).**

**Q. Write on the working of the UNEP.**

**(See descriptive).**