

India re-elected to UN Human Rights Council

October 18, 2021

In news- Recently, India got re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term (6th term) with 184 votes in 193 member assembly.

Key updates-

- **The 76th UN General Assembly recently held elections for 18 new members** of the U.N. Human Rights Council who will serve for a period of three years, starting in January 2022.
- **India's current term was set to end on December 31, 2021.**
- **For election for the term 2022-2024, there were five vacant seats** in the Asia-Pacific States category – India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

About UNHRC-

- UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly **on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251.**
- Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006.
- It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It holds **no fewer than three regular sessions a year, for a total of at least 10 weeks.**
- Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- It is Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Human Rights Council, which **consists of 47 Member States**

elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

- The members of the Council **serve for a period of three years** and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.
- **The membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.**
- The seats are distributed along the following lines:
 - 13 for the African Group.
 - 13 for the Asia-Pacific Group.
 - 6 for the Eastern European Group.
 - 8 for the Latin American and Caribbean Group.
 - 7 for the Western European and Others Group.

The Council also established subsidiary expert mechanisms to provide the Council with thematic expertise and forums providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation. They meet and report annually to the Council:

- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.
- Forum on Minority Issues.
- Social Forum.
- Forum on Business and Human Rights.
- Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.