78th Anniversary Of UN Charter Guardian Of International Peace & Security

Why In The News?

- United Nations Day Commemorates Official Creation Of The United Nations On **24 October 1945**. In 1947, The United Nations General Assembly Declared 24 October, The **Anniversary Of The Charter Of The United Nations.**
- **In 1971,** UNGA Adopted A Further Resolution Declaring That United Nations Day Shall Be An International Observance Or International Holiday And Recommended That It Should Be Observed As A **Public Holiday By United Nations Member States.**
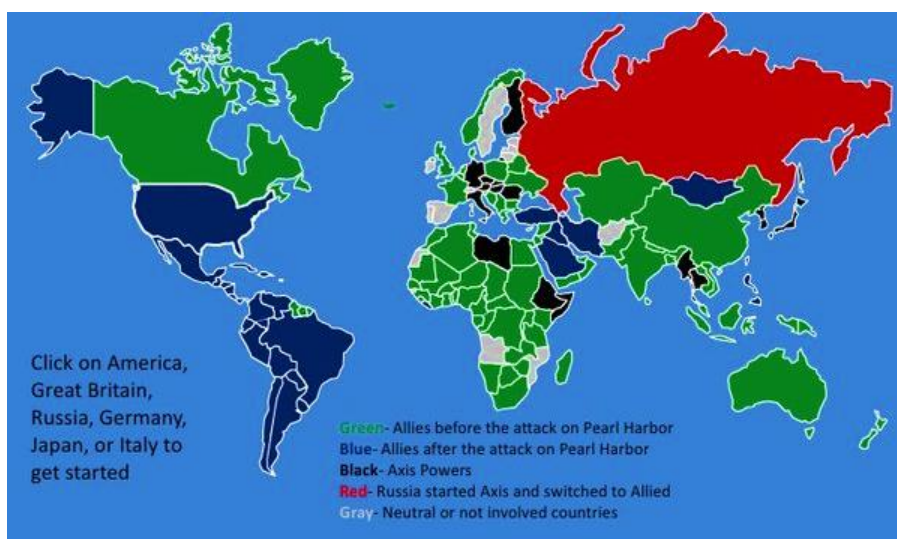

The Birth Of The United Nations

- The UN Was Born Out Of **The League Of Nations** Created In **June 1919**, After World War I, As Part Of The **Treaty Of Versailles**. However, When The Second World War Broke Out In 1939, The League Closed Down And Its Headquarters In Geneva Remained Empty Throughout The War.
- In August 1941, American President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** And British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** Held A Secret Meetings And Discussed The Possibility Of Creating A Body For International Peace Efforts And A Range Of Issues Related To The War.

- Together They Issued A Statement That Came To Be Called The **Atlantic Charter.** It Was Not A Treaty, But Only An Affirmation That Paved The Way For The Creation Of The UN.

- The United States Joined The War In December 1941, And For The First Time The **Term 'United Nations' Was Coined By President Roosevelt** To Identify Those Countries Which Were Allied Against The Axis Powers Germany, Italy And Japan.
- On January 1, 1942, Representatives Of **26 Allied Nations** Met In Washington DC To Sign The Declaration Of The United Nations, Which Basically Spelt Out The War Objectives Of The Allied Powers. India, Which Was Under British Colonial Rule At The Time, Was Also Among These Nations.

- Over The Next Couple Of Years, Several Meetings Took Place Among The Allied Big Four The **United States Of America, The Soviet Union, The United Kingdom And China** To Decide On The **Post-War Charter** That Would Describe The Precise Role Of The United Nations.
- UN Finally Came Into Existence On **October 24, 1945**, After Being **Ratified By 51 Nations**, Which Included Five Permanent Members (France, The Republic Of China, The Soviet Union, The UK And The US) And 46 Other Signatories. The First Meeting Of The General Assembly Took Place On **January 10, 1946.**

Achievements And Failures Of The UN

- While At The Time Of Its Formation, The UN Consisted Of Only 51 Member States, Independence Movements And Decolonization In The Subsequent Years Led To An Expansion Of Its Membership. At Present, **193 Countries Are Members Of The UN.**
- Soon After Its Formation, It Passed A Resolution To Commit To The Elimination Of **Nuclear Weapons In 1946**. In **1948, It Created The World Health Organisation (WHO)** To Deal With Communicable Diseases Like Smallpox, Malaria, HIV.
- In 1950, The UN Created The **High Commissioner For Refugees** To Take Care Of The Millions Who Had Been Displaced Due To World War II. In 1972, The **UN Environment Programme** Was Created.

- More Recently In 2002, The UN Established The **UN Criminal Court** To Try Those Who Have Committed War Crimes, Genocide, And Other Atrocities. The UN Has Also Met With Its Share Of Criticisms. In 1994, For Instance, The Organisation **Failed To Stop The Rwandan Genocide**.

- In 2005, UN Peacekeeping Missions Were **Accused Of Sexual Misconduct** In The Republic Of Congo, Cambodia And Haiti. In 2011, **The UN Peacekeeping Mission In South Sudan Was Unsuccessful** In Eliminating The Bloodshed Caused By The Civil War That Broke Out In 2013.