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Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

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Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

This lesson explains the OPCW, the body that enforces the world ban on chemical weapons. It covers the treaty, the three organs and the destruction record. It then covers Syria, the Nobel Prize, India's part and the present leaders. It ends with two exam questions and the traps. Web pages and reports were read on 9 October 2026 unless a line gives another date. Each figure carries its own date.

Born 29 April 1997, with the Convention
Seat The Hague, Netherlands
Members 193 States Parties (UN record, 8 Oct 2026)
Destroyed 72,304 tonnes of declared weapons (7 Jul 2023)
Nobel Peace Prize, 2013
Leader Sabrina Dallafior, from 27 Jul 2026

Sources: opcw.org; treaties.un.org

What must I know about the OPCW?

1 What is the OPCW, and who belongs to it?

The OPCW is the organisation that runs the Chemical Weapons Convention. This card shows what it is and who belongs to it. Later cards give its history and its work.

What is the OPCW?

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is the treaty that bans chemical weapons. The OPCW is the implementing body for the CWC. That means it is the office that checks the treaty is followed.



The OPCW headquarters in The Hague, seen in 2017. Photo: CEphoto, Uwe Aranas, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0. Resized from the original.

Think of a referee for one rule only. The rule says: no chemical weapons. The OPCW is that referee.

The OPCW was established when the Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997. Its headquarters is in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Is it an EU body?

No. The OPCW calls itself a global, treaty-based international organisation. Its Member States are grouped into five regional groups. It is not an EU body. The 2016 UPSC statement that called it one was wrong.

How many countries belong?

The OPCW's Basics page says there are 193 Member States. The UN treaty record, as at 8 October 2026, lists 193 Parties and 165 signatories.

A signatory has signed the treaty. A Party has gone further and become bound by it. The OPCW page says its members are countries that "signed" the Convention. The UN record is more exact: members are States Parties, which have become bound by it.

How does a country join?

All States Parties to the Convention are automatically members of the OPCW, each with one vote. So a country does not apply to the OPCW separately. Joining the treaty makes it a member.

A state can join by ratifying after it signs. Ratifying means giving formal approval at home. A state can also accede without signing earlier. The UN record marks accession with the letter a, as in Syria's entry of 14 Sep 2013.

Can a member be thrown out?

No. A State Party cannot be deprived of its membership of the OPCW. The Conference can restrict or suspend a State Party's rights and privileges. Card 6 shows how this was done to Syria.

Which four states have not joined?

The OPCW says four States have still not joined the Convention (OPCW page read on 9 October 2026). The OPCW pages do not name them here.

Inferred from the UN treaty record, the four are likely Egypt, Israel, North Korea and South Sudan. The record lists Israel as a signatory on 13 Jan 1993 with no ratification. Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan do not appear on it. This is our reading of the record, not an OPCW statement.

How many people does the Convention cover?

The OPCW says 98% of the global population live under the protection of the Convention. This is the OPCW's own figure, as shown on its pages in 2026.

> **Quick check 1.** The OPCW is a body of the European Union that works with NATO and the WHO. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org; treaties.un.org

2 How did the world reach a ban on chemical weapons?

The ban took decades of talks. This card follows the key dates in order. It then shows why the treaty took until 1997 to start.

What did the 1925 Geneva Protocol do?

The 1925 Protocol bans the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in war. It does not prohibit their development, production or possession. It only bans use.

So a country could still make and keep such weapons. The Convention, opened for signature in 1993, went further. It prohibits development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use.

Misconception: the Geneva Protocol did not ban making chemical weapons. It banned using them in war.

How was the Convention agreed and opened?

In 1992 a draft Convention was formally adopted by the Conference on Disarmament. The UN record gives the date as 3 September 1992, in Geneva.

The UN Secretary-General is the depositary of the Convention. A depositary is the official keeper of a treaty.

The Convention opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993. During the three-day Paris conference, 130 states signed it.

Why did it take until 1997?

The Convention set two conditions for entry into force. Two years had to pass after it opened for signature. It also entered into force 180 days after the 65th instrument of ratification was deposited.

Hungary became the 65th state to ratify on 31 October 1996. The Convention entered into force 180 days later, on 29 April 1997.

In the four years before that, a Preparatory Commission met 16 times. It laid the foundation for the future OPCW.

What happened in May 1997?

The first Conference of the States Parties met on 6 May 1997, one week after entry into force. It appointed José Mauricio Bustani of Brazil as the first Director-General.

The diagram below puts the dates in order.



Illustration: Dates from the OPCW history page and the UN treaty record, as in this card.

Quick check 2. The 1925 Geneva Protocol banned the production of chemical weapons. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org; treaties.un.org

3 How is the OPCW organised?

The OPCW has three organs. This card says what each one does. The diagram shows how they fit together.

What are the three organs?

The OPCW comprises three main bodies. They are the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat.

- **The Conference of the States Parties:** the principal and plenary organ. Plenary means a meeting of all members. Each State Party has one vote.
- **The Executive Council:** 41 Member States (9 Oct 2026), elected by the Conference. It supervises the Technical Secretariat.
- **The Technical Secretariat:** about 500 staff from over 80 Member States (9 Oct 2026). It carries out the verification measures.

What does the Conference do?

The Conference oversees the implementation of the Convention and reviews compliance. It adopts the programme and budget. It also elects the members of the Executive Council.

It meets annually for one week in The Hague. In 2003, 2008 and 2013, and at five-yearly intervals after, it held special sessions to review the Convention.

Substantive decisions should, if possible, be taken by consensus. If consensus fails, the Conference may decide by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

How does the Executive Council work?

The Council has 41 Member States (OPCW pages, 9 Oct 2026). They rotate every two years. The Convention asks for due regard to geographical distribution, the importance of chemical industry, and political and security interests.

The Council holds three regular sessions a year (OPCW page, 9 Oct 2026). A three-quarter majority of the Council is required to stop a challenge inspection. Card 4 explains that term.

What does the Technical Secretariat do?

It assists the Conference and the Council, and it does the checking work. Verification means checking that states keep their promises.

The head of the Technical Secretariat is the Director-General. Card 9 names the Directors-General.



Illustration: The three organs and their sizes as given on the OPCW pages read on 9 October 2026.

> **Quick check 3.** The Technical Secretariat carries out the Convention's verification measures. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org

What is good to know about its rules and its record?

4 What does the Convention ban, and how does it check?

The Convention bans chemical weapons and checks that states obey. This card shows the rules and the three Schedules. It ends with the surprise inspection.

What is in the treaty?

The Convention has a Preamble, 24 Articles and 3 Annexes. The Annexes are the Annex on Chemicals, the Verification Annex and the Confidentiality Annex.

It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties.

States Parties agree to destroy any stockpiles and the facilities that made them. They also agree to destroy weapons they abandoned on the territory of other States Parties.

What are the three Schedules?

The Annex on Chemicals lists toxic chemicals and their precursors in three Schedules. A precursor is a chemical used to make another chemical.

States Parties agreed to a verification regime for these chemicals. It makes sure they are used only for purposes the Convention allows.

Schedule	Examples on the OPCW pages
Schedule 1	Sarin, soman, tabun, VX
Schedule 2	Amiton, PFIB, BZ
Schedule 3	Phosgene, cyanogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, chloropicrin

How are weapons grouped into categories?

Category 1 weapons are based on Schedule 1 chemicals. Category 2 weapons are based on other chemicals. Category 3 weapons are unfilled munitions, devices and other equipment.

Munitions are shells, rockets and bombs. Do not mix the two systems. Schedules list chemicals. Categories group weapons.

What is a challenge inspection?

A challenge inspection is a surprise inspection. Any State Party in doubt about another State Party's compliance can request one.

States Parties have committed themselves to the principle of "any time, anywhere" inspections with no right of refusal. The OPCW calls this a unique feature of the Convention.

It works like a spot check that the other side cannot refuse. A three-quarter majority of the Executive Council is required to stop one from proceeding.

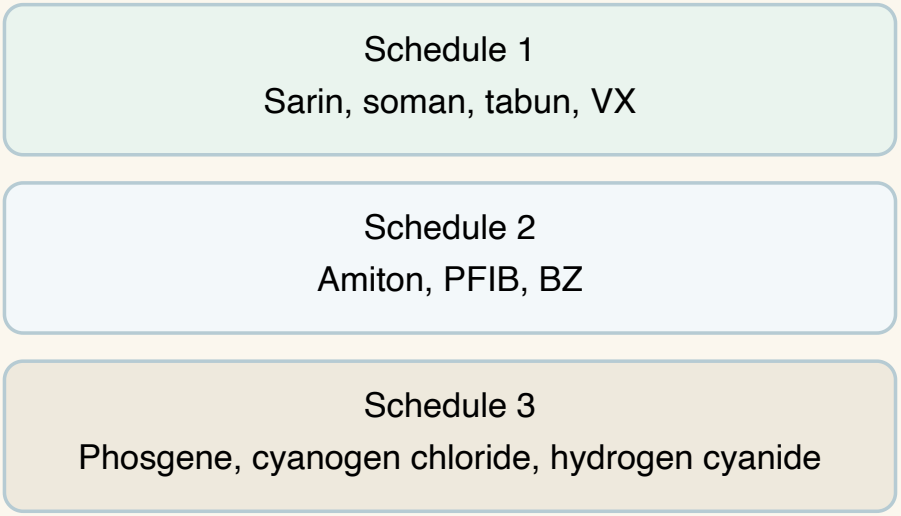


Illustration: Some of the examples named on the OPCW Schedule pages. The lists are longer.

Sources: opcw.org

5 How far has the destruction of stockpiles gone?

The OPCW says all declared stockpiles are destroyed. This card gives the date and the numbers. It also shows what is left to do.

When did the destruction of declared stockpiles end?

The last chemical munition of the United States' declared stockpile was destroyed on 7 July 2023. It happened at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Kentucky.



Aerial view of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Kentucky, June 2022. Photo: PEO ACWA, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0. Resized from the original.

The United States was the last possessor State. A possessor State is one that declared a chemical weapons stockpile. The OPCW confirmed that day that all declared stockpiles were verified as destroyed.

How much was destroyed?

Since 1997 the OPCW has verified the destruction of 72,304.34 metric tonnes of declared chemical weapons (as at 7 July 2023).

India's NACWC page gives the total as 72,304 metric tonnes, declared by eight States Parties. It says 70,493 tonnes were Category 1 weapons and 1,811 tonnes were Category 2. The page was last updated on 29 September 2026.

What about the production facilities?

A production facility is a site that made chemical weapons. NACWC's page says 97 such sites in 14 States Parties were declared. Of these, 74 were verifiably destroyed and 23 were converted for peaceful purposes. These are the page's figures as it stood in October 2026.

Is the work finished?

No. In its release of 7 July 2023 the OPCW said four countries had yet to join the Convention. It also said abandoned and old chemical weapons still need to be recovered and destroyed.

The same release said that preventing re-emergence will remain a priority. Re-emergence means the weapons coming back.

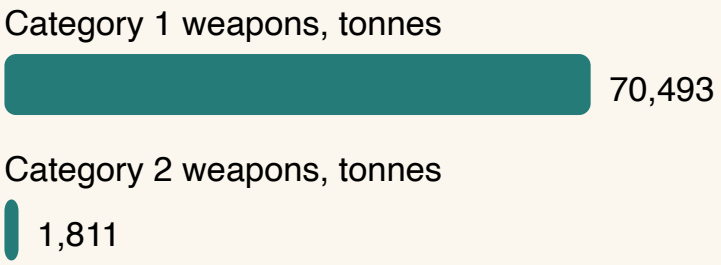


Illustration: Figures from India's NACWC page, last updated 29 September 2026. Together they give 72,304 tonnes.

Quick check 4. The last declared chemical munition was destroyed in the United States on 7 July 2023. *(True or False?)*

See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org; nacwc.gov.in

What is great to know about Syria, India and the leaders?

6 What is the Syria file?

The Director-General said on 6 October 2026 that Syria has been at the fore of the OPCW's efforts for over a decade. This card gives the dates in order. It also says which team does what.

How did Syria join, and what was done?

The UN record says Syria acceded to the Convention on 14 September 2013. The OPCW says Syria became a State Party in October 2013.

A joint OPCW-UN mission ran from October 2013 to September 2014. All the chemical weapons that Syria declared were removed and verifiably destroyed outside its territory.

Questions about the completeness of Syria's declaration remain, says the OPCW.

Which OPCW teams work on Syria now?

As at 9 October 2026, three missions have an active mandate. Each has a different mandate.

- **Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), 2014:** works with Syrian authorities on gaps and inconsistencies in Syria's initial declaration.
- **Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), 2014:** investigates whether toxic chemicals have been used as weapons in Syria.
- **Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), 2018:** identifies the perpetrators of specific instances of chemical weapons use.

A simple memory aid: the FFM asks whether. The IIT asks who.

What was the JIM?

The OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) was set up by the UN Security Council. Its job was to identify the perpetrators of attacks that the FFM had confirmed. Its mandate expired in November 2017.

So the JIM is not the IIT. They are different bodies from different years.

What changed in 2021 and 2026?

In April 2021 the Conference suspended certain rights and privileges of Syria under Article XII. After the fall of the Assad regime, the new Syrian authorities committed to meet Syria's obligations.

The Conference then gave the Executive Council the power to lift the measures once enough progress was shown. In July 2026 the Council reinstated Syria's rights and privileges. The decision was co-sponsored by 67 States Parties and adopted by consensus.

Since November 2025 the OPCW has kept a continuous presence in Syria. On 6 October 2026 the Director-General said the August mission included the first verified destruction of declared chemical weapons since 2014.

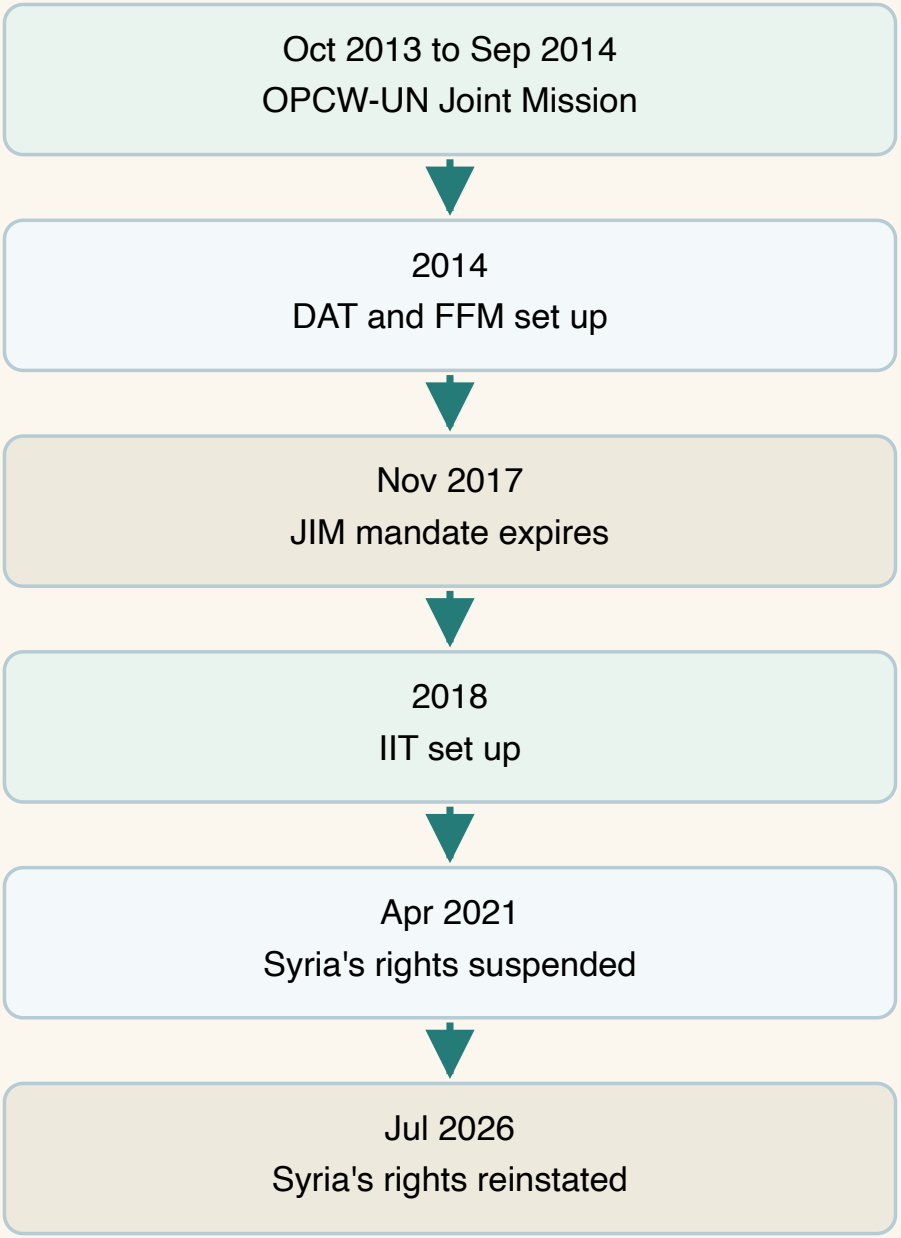


Illustration: Dates from the OPCW page on Syria read on 9 October 2026.

Quick check 5. The Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) investigates whether toxic chemicals were used in Syria. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org; treaties.un.org

7 Why did the OPCW win the Nobel Peace Prize?

The OPCW won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. This card gives the reason and the date. It then shows the fund and the award that grew from the prize.

What did the Nobel Committee say?

The 2013 prize went to the OPCW “for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons”. The Committee said the conventions and the OPCW’s work have defined the use of chemical weapons as a taboo under international law.

It pointed to Syria, where chemical weapons had again been put to use. It also noted that some states were still not members of the OPCW.

It said certain states had not observed the April 2012 deadline for destroying their weapons. This applied especially to the USA and Russia.

When was it awarded?

The prize was awarded on 10 December 2013. Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü delivered the Nobel Peace Prize Lecture.



OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü with the organisation's Nobel Peace Prize, March 2014. Photo: U.S. Department of State, via Wikimedia Commons, Public domain. Resized from the original.

At that time the OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria was under way, from October 2013 to September 2014.

What is the OPCW-The Hague Award?

In 2014 the OPCW established the OPCW-The Hague Award. It honours people and institutions with an outstanding contribution to a world permanently free of chemical weapons.

The award fund was created from the nearly €900,000 prize money of the Nobel Prize. The City of The Hague adds to the fund. The maximum annual monetary prize is €90,000.

Which Indian body won it in 2024?

The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) was a co-recipient of the 2024 Award. PIB says it was conferred on 25 November 2024, during the 29th Session of the Conference.

PIB calls it the first time the Award recognised a chemical industry body. The Council is an industry association.

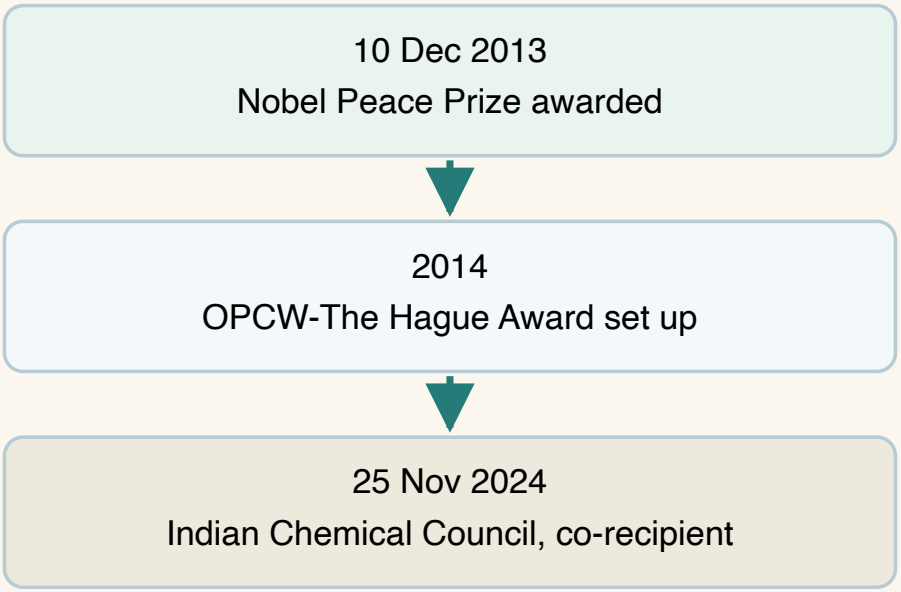


Illustration: Dates from the OPCW and PIB pages in this card.

Sources: opcw.org; nobelprize.org; pib.gov.in

8 What is India's part in the OPCW?

India signed the treaty in January 1993 and has a national office for it. This card gives India’s dates and its office. It also lists what India has done since.

When did India join?

India signed on 14 January 1993. It ratified on 3 September 1996. The OPCW page gives entry into force as 29 April 1997.

What is the NACWC?

The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) is an office in the Cabinet Secretariat. A national authority is a country's own office for the treaty.

It was set up under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000. It acts as the national focal point for liaison with the OPCW and other States Parties. It was first constituted by a resolution dated 5 May 1997.

Misconception: NACWC is not part of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It sits in the Cabinet Secretariat.

What did India destroy?

On 26 March 2009, India notified the Technical Secretariat that it had completely destroyed its declared chemical weapons stockpile.

The Director-General called India the third State Party, after Albania and one other, to meet its destruction duties. OPCW inspectors ended their physical presence at the facility by the end of March 2009.

Where does India sit in the OPCW?

The Executive Council page lists India among its members, with the term marked (2027). The Council had 41 members when read on 9 October 2026.

India hosted the OPCW's 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities for Asia in New Delhi, from 1 to 3 July 2025. PIB says 38 delegates from 24 States Parties attended.

The OPCW reported that India contributed €10,000 to support its assistance activities, on 18 December 2024. The money is for assistance and protection if chemical weapons are used or threatened.

How does industry link in?

PIB says the Indian Chemical Council works closely with NACWC to reach industry. Its CWC Helpdesks increased industry compliance, according to PIB. Card 7 covers its 2024 award.

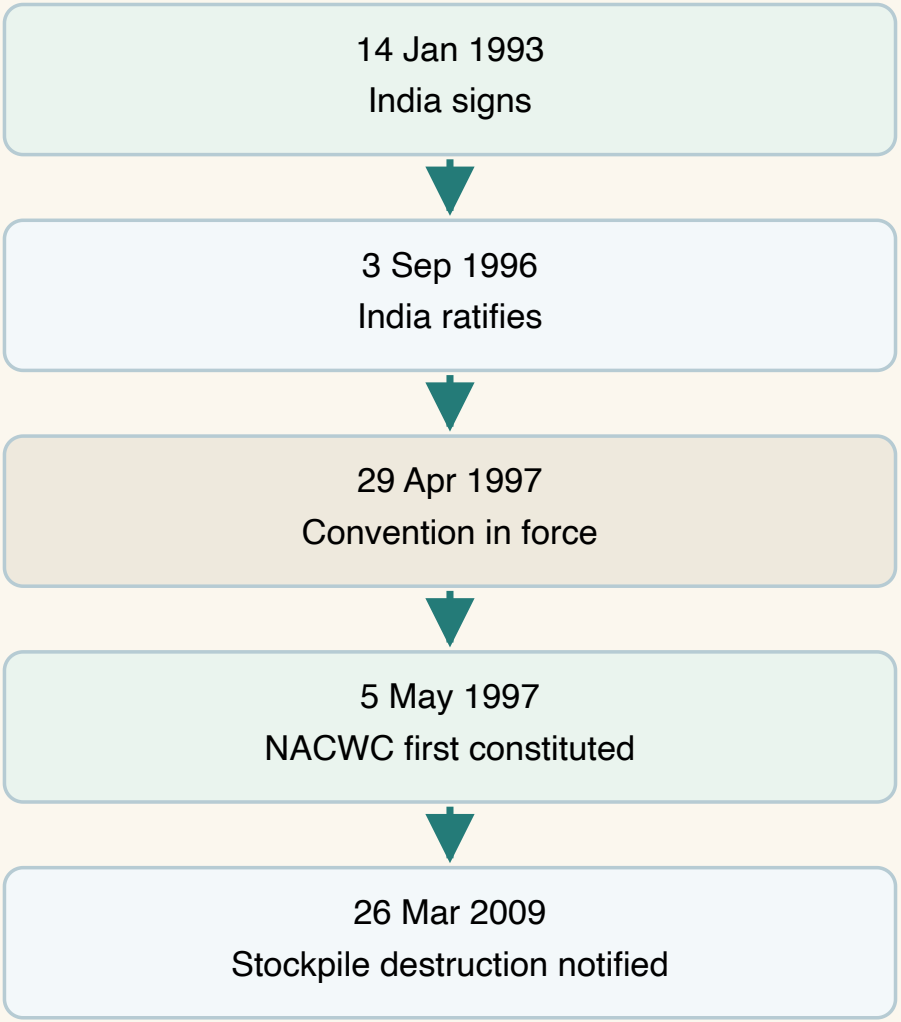


Illustration: Dates from the OPCW India page, the NACWC site and the OPCW update of April 2009.

Quick check 6. India's National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention is an office in the Ministry of Home Affairs. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: opcw.org; treaties.un.org; nacwc.gov.in; pib.gov.in

9 Who leads the OPCW now, and what else is in the news?

A new Director-General took office in July 2026. This card names the leaders. It then lists two current items, the 2026 inspection numbers and the Navalny case.

Which Directors-General does the record name?

This is a partial list. The OPCW has had five Directors-General. Four are named here.

- **First, from 1997:** José Mauricio Bustani of Brazil, appointed at the first Conference.
- **In 2013:** Ahmet Üzümcü was Director-General when the OPCW won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- **Fourth:** Fernando Arias of Spain took office on 25 July 2018.
- **Fifth:** Sabrina Dallafior of Switzerland, the first woman to lead the OPCW.

When did Dallafior take office?

The OPCW's release of 27 July 2026 says she "today assumed office". It calls her the fifth Director-General and the first woman to lead the OPCW since its establishment. Her term is four years.

States Parties appointed her unanimously in November 2025. The OPCW release of 27 November 2025 had named 25 July 2026 as her start date. The release of 27 July 2026 says she assumed office that day.

When did Arias take office?

The OPCW's release of 25 July 2018 says he took office that day as the fourth person to hold the post. The November 2025 release says he has served "since December 2017".

What do the 2026 inspection numbers show?

On 6 October 2026 the Director-General told the Executive Council that 166 industry verification inspections had taken place so far in 2026. The target for 2026 is 210. She said the OPCW may not meet it.

What was the Navalny case?

In September 2020, Germany asked the OPCW for technical assistance under Article VIII, paragraph 38(e). It concerned the alleged poisoning of Alexei Navalny.

OPCW designated laboratories found biomarkers of a cholinesterase inhibitor in his samples. Their structure was similar to chemicals in Schedules 1.A.14 and 1.A.15. The Conference added those entries to the Annex in November 2019.

The OPCW said the inhibitor itself is not listed in the Annex on Chemicals. Its report is dated 6 October 2020.

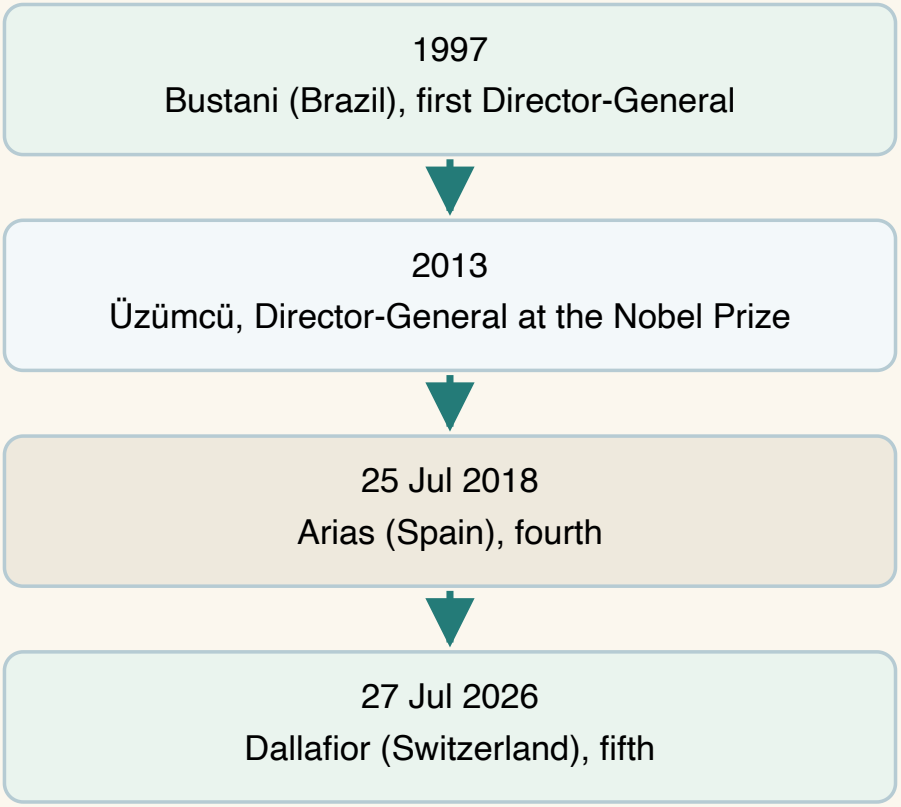


Illustration: Partial list: the OPCW has had five Directors-General. Dates from the OPCW releases of 2018 and 2026 and the OPCW history page.

Sources: opcw.org

What did the exams ask? Exam practice

10 What did UPSC and CAPF ask about the OPCW, and what are the traps?

Two official papers asked about the OPCW. This card shows both questions with the official answers. It then lists the traps.

Which questions were asked?

How do the answers work?

For the 2025 question, PIB reports that the Indian Chemical Council was a co-recipient of the 2024 Award. PIB's two releases do not name the other three options as winners.

For the 2016 question, statement 1 is false. The OPCW is a global, treaty-based organisation, not an EU body.

Statement 2 is true. Inspections take place at industry facilities, and the Director-General reports on them to the Conference. Statement 3 is true. The Executive Council has a special role on assistance and protection under Article X.

What are the traps?

1. **"EU, NATO, WHO."** The OPCW is a treaty body with 193 States Parties.
2. **Signed or joined.** The OPCW page says "signed". The UN record counts 193 Parties and 165 signatories.
3. **"The Protocol banned making."** The 1925 Geneva Protocol bans use only.
4. **Membership by application.** Joining the Convention makes a state a member automatically.
5. **Schedule or category.** Schedules list chemicals. Categories group weapons.
6. **FFM, IIT or JIM.** The FFM asks whether. The IIT asks who. The JIM expired in November 2017.
7. **NACWC or ICC.** The 2024 Award went to the Indian Chemical Council. NACWC is a government office.

8. **Two 1997 dates.** The Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997. The first Conference met on 6 May 1997.

FFM
Asks whether chemicals were used

IIT
Asks who did it

JIM
Mandate expired Nov 2017

Illustration: Our summary of card 6.

Sources: upsc.gov.in; pib.gov.in; opcw.org; treaties.un.org

Review your 6 understanding checks

Review the feedback after each answer. The understanding-check score lasts for this page session.

Reset the checks when you want another attempt. This score is separate from the practice score below.

Questions to think through

Why does joining the Convention make a country an OPCW member?

The Conference page says all States Parties to the Convention are automatically members of the OPCW, each with one vote. So there is no second application. A State Party cannot be deprived of its membership.

Why could Syria's rights be suspended but not its membership?

The Conference may suspend rights and privileges but may not remove membership. In April 2021 it suspended certain Syrian rights under Article XII. In July 2026 the Executive Council reinstated them.

Which two dates do students mix up for the Convention?

The Convention opened for signature on 13 January 1993. It entered into force on 29 April 1997. The gap came from the rule of 65 ratifications plus 180 days.

How do the FFM, the IIT and the JIM differ?

The Fact-Finding Mission, set up in 2014, investigates whether toxic chemicals were used. The Investigation and Identification Team, set up in 2018, identifies perpetrators. The UN Security Council's JIM also identified perpetrators, but its mandate expired in November 2017.

Sources: opcw.org

Practice MCQs

1. With reference to 'Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)', consider the following statements:

1. It is an organization of European Union in working relation with NATO and WHO.

2. It monitors chemical industry to prevent new weapons from emerging.

3. It provides assistance and protection to States (Parties) against chemical weapons threats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

See answer ↓

2. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has its headquarters in

A. Geneva, Switzerland

B. The Hague, Netherlands

C. Vienna, Austria

D. Brussels, Belgium

See answer ↓

3. OPCW won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, at the same time its inspectors were engaged in

A. Investigating nuclear proliferation in North Korea

B. Inspecting biological weapons facilities in Iraq

C. Monitoring the Iran nuclear deal

D. Verifying and destroying Syria's chemical weapons arsenal

See answer ↓

4. The Chemical Weapons Convention, which OPCW implements, entered into force in

A. 1993

B. 1997

C. 2001

D. 2013

See answer ↓

5. How does a country become a member state of the OPCW?

A. By separate application to the OPCW Secretariat, distinct from the CWC

B. Only by UN Security Council appointment

C. Only if it already possesses chemical weapons stockpiles

D. Automatically, upon becoming a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention

See answer ↓

6. The 2024 OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons)-The Hague Award has been conferred upon which one of the following organizations? [CAPF (ACs) 2025]

A. The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention

B. The Indian Chemical Council

C. The Indian Chemical Society

D. Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited

See answer ↓

7. Which OPCW body has 41 Member States that rotate every two years?

A. The Technical Secretariat

B. The Executive Council

C. The Conference of the States Parties

D. The Scientific Advisory Board

See answer ↓

8. Which Indian government office sits in the Cabinet Secretariat and acts as India's national focal point for the OPCW?

A. The Indian Chemical Council

B. The Permanent Representation of India to the OPCW

C. The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention

D. The Ministry of External Affairs

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **B.** The correct answer is 2 and 3 only. Statement 1 is false. The OPCW calls itself a global, treaty-based international organisation. Statement 2 is true. Inspections take place at chemical weapons-related facilities and at industry facilities. The Director-General also reports to the Conference on industrial inspections. Statement 3 is true. The Executive Council has a special role in requests for assistance and protection against chemical weapons, under Article X. The official UPSC key for CSP 2016, Series A, gives (b), which is 2 and 3 only. ↑ Q1
2. **B.** The correct answer is The Hague, Netherlands. The OPCW Basics page shows the headquarters of the OPCW in The Hague. PIB also says the OPCW has its Secretariat in The Hague. Geneva is where the Conference on Disarmament adopted the Convention on 3 September 1992. That makes Geneva a place linked to the treaty, not the seat of the OPCW. ↑ Q2
3. **D.** The correct answer is verifying and destroying Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the OPCW on 10 December 2013. An OPCW-UN Joint Mission ran in Syria from October 2013 to September 2014. All chemical weapons that Syria declared were removed and verifiably destroyed outside its territory. The Nobel Committee also pointed to recent events in Syria when it explained the award. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** The correct answer is 1997. The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997. It opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993, so 1993 is the signing date. Hungary deposited the 65th instrument of ratification on 31 October 1996. Entry into force followed 180 days later. The year 2013 is when the OPCW won the Nobel Peace Prize, and when Syria acceded. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** The correct answer is Automatically, upon becoming a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW page says all States Parties to the Convention are automatically members of the OPCW, each with one vote. The OPCW lists 193 Member States. The UN treaty record of 8 October 2026 lists 193 Parties. So there is no separate application. A State Party cannot be deprived of its membership. The Conference can restrict or suspend its rights and privileges. ↑ Q5

6. **B.** The correct answer is The Indian Chemical Council. PIB reports that the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award was conferred on the Indian Chemical Council on 25 November 2024. A second PIB release calls it a co-recipient. PIB says this was the first time the Award recognised a chemical industry body. The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention is India's national authority. PIB does not name it as a winner. The official CAPF (ACs) 2025 key, Series A, gives (a). ↑ Q6
7. **B.** The correct answer is The Executive Council. The OPCW page says the Council consists of 41 Member States elected by the Conference. They rotate every two years. The Conference is made up of all States Parties, each with one vote. The Technical Secretariat is a staff of about 500 people. The Scientific Advisory Board is not one of the three organs. The three organs are the Conference, the Council and the Secretariat. ↑ Q7
8. **C.** The correct answer is The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC). NACWC says it was established under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000, and is an office in the Cabinet Secretariat. It is India's national focal point for liaison with the OPCW. PIB's 2025 release also places NACWC in the Cabinet Secretariat. The Indian Chemical Council is an industry body that works with NACWC. The Permanent Representation is India's mission to the OPCW. ↑ Q8

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** The OPCW calls itself a global, treaty-based international organisation. Its 193 members are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. They sit in five regional groups. ↑ 1
2. **False.** The Protocol bans only the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in war. It does not prohibit development, production or possession. The 1993 Convention went further. ↑ 2
3. **True.** The OPCW page says the Technical Secretariat assists the Conference and the Council. It also carries out the verification measures. About 500 staff work there. ↑ 3
4. **True.** The OPCW confirmed that the last munition of the US stockpile was destroyed on 7 July 2023. It happened at the Blue Grass plant in Kentucky. The US was the last possessor State. ↑ 4
5. **False.** The Fact-Finding Mission investigates whether toxic chemicals were used. The IIT, set up in 2018, identifies the perpetrators of specific uses. ↑ 5

6. **False.** NACWC is an office in the Cabinet Secretariat. It was set up under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000. ↑ 6

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