United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | International organisation*

Why in News?

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has been elected the 81st president of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), defeating Cyprus Ambassador Andreas Kakouris in a rare contested vote.

- **UNGA** – It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), serving as its main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ.
- **Establishment** – In 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations.
- **Headquarter** – New York, United States.
- **Membership** – Comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations, including India.
- **Decision-making** – Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote.
- Important issues like peace/security, elections and budget require a two-thirds majority, whereas others require a simple majority.
- **Consensus** – Most resolutions adopted *without a formal vote* after informal consultations.
- **6 Main Committees** –
    - Disarmament and International Security
    - Economic and Financial
    - Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural
    - Special Political and Decolonisation
    - Administrative and Budgetary
    - Legal

Key Functions

- **Budgetary Authority** – It considers and approves the UN budget; sets financial contributions for member states.
- **Elections & Appointments** – Elects non-permanent members of the Security Council, members of other UN bodies, and appoints the Secretary-General (on Security Council recommendation).
- **Peace & Security** – Discusses international peace and security issues; makes recommendations except when the Security Council is actively handling a dispute.
- **Law & Human Rights** – Initiates studies and recommendations to promote international law, human rights, and cooperation in economic, social, cultural, and health fields.

- **Emergency Action** – Under the Uniting for Peace resolution (1950), can recommend collective measures if the Security Council fails to act due to a veto.

References

1. Indian Express | Bangladesh Foreign Minister elected 81st president of UNGA
2. UNGA | UNGA Functions

