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India's Campaign Brochure for UNSC Seat

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Why in News

Recently, India has released a **campaign brochure** ahead of the vote for the **non-permanent member** of the **United Nations Security Council** (UNSC) in 2021-22.

- This will be the **eighth time** India will occupy a non-permanent UNSC seat, with its last term in 2011-2012.
- India also seeks for a **permanent membership in the UNSC**.
 - India along with **other countries of G4 grouping (Japan, Brazil and Germany)** is asking for a spot for permanent membership in UNSC.
 - **Five permanent members:** China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA.

Key Points

- India is guaranteed a place as it is the **sole candidate for Asia-Pacific** but needs two-thirds of the 193-member General Assembly to vote in its favour in a secret ballot scheduled for 17th June, 2020 in New York (USA).
- **Issues Highlighted:**
 - International governance has been under increasing strain due to traditional and non-traditional security challenges. **Terrorism** is one of the most cited examples.
 - Unreformed and under-representative global institutions and the **Covid-19 pandemic** with its economic impact has increased challenges for the UNSC.
- **India's Solutions:**
 - Its objective will be the achievement of **N.O.R.M.S: a New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System**.
 - India will highlight international terrorism, **United Nations** reforms and Security Council expansion, streamlining the peacekeeping operations and technology initiatives during its upcoming tenure.

- **Background:**

- Since 2013, India has been planning for a seat in **2021** as the year will mark its **75th year of Independence**.
- Identifying an uncontested spot is not an easy task.
- However, the **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** agreed to set aside for the 2021-22 seat, in a **friendly gesture**.
- India also **persuaded** the **Asia-Pacific grouping nomination** by diplomacy and negotiations to avoid any last-minute contenders against India.
 - India was able to win a **unanimous endorsement from the 55-nation** grouping that **included both China and Pakistan**, in June 2019.
- However, **winning the maximum votes** at the General Assembly this time will be a little **hard for India due to:**
 - Rising **tensions** in relations with both **Pakistan and China**.
 - Criticism from Turkey, Malaysia and the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation** (OIC) over the government's decision on scrapping Article 370 as well as the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019**.

Selection of Non-permanent Members of Security Council

- Each year, the General Assembly **elects five non-permanent members** (out of ten in total) for a **two-year term**. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis:
 - Five for African and Asian countries.
 - One for Eastern European countries.
 - Two for Latin American and Caribbean countries.
 - Two for Western European and other countries.
- **Article 23 of the UN Charter** concerns the composition of the Security Council.
- **Other Contenders for Other Seats:**
 - **Mexico** is expected to be elected unopposed for the **Latin American group**.
 - **Canada, Ireland and Norway** will contend for two seats of the **West European and Others Group** (WEOG).
 - **Kenya and Djibouti** will contend for an **African seat**.

Way Forward

- India for long has been of the view that the UNSC sought to be reformed by expansion in its permanent membership and non-permanent membership as well.
- India has been acknowledged as a rising power by most of the states. Also, there is a pressing need to democratize multilateral fora, starting from the United Nation system itself. In this context, India is making a legitimate claim for its rightful place in the changing architecture of global governance, including the UNSC.

Source: TH