



India at UNSC: Previous Contribution & Current Challenges

Why in News

India, for the **eighth time**, has entered the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) as a **non-permanent member** recently. It will stay on the council for two years i.e **2021-22**.

Key Points

- **Contributions of India at UNSC:** India has served **seven times** in the **UN Security Council**.
 - **1950-51:** India, as President of UNSC, presided over the **adoption of resolutions** calling for cessation of hostilities during the **Korean War and for assistance to the Republic of Korea**.
 - **1967-68:** India **co-sponsored Resolution 238** extending the mandate of the **UN mission in Cyprus**.
 - **1972-73:** India pushed strongly for **admission of Bangladesh into the UN**.
 - **1977-78:** India was a **strong voice for Africa in the UNSC** and **spoke against apartheid** and for **Namibia's independence** in 1978.
 - **1984-85:** India was a **leading voice in UNSC for resolution of conflicts in the Middle East, especially Palestine and Lebanon**.
 - **1991-92:** Participated in the **first ever summit-level meeting** of the UNSC and **spoke on its role in maintenance of peace and security**.
 - **2011-2012:** India was a **strong voice for developing world**, peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and Africa. First statement on Syria was during India's Presidency at the UNSC.
 - During the 2011-12 term, India chaired the **UNSC 1373 Committee concerning Counter-Terrorism, the 1566 Working Group concerning threat to international peace and security by terrorist acts, and Security Council 751/1907 Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea**.
 - Earlier in 1996, India took the initiative to pilot a draft **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** with the objective of providing a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism.
 - India worked closely with its partners in the UNSC to ensure the listing of **Pakistan-based terrorist Masood Azhar under the UNSC's 1267 Sanctions Committee** (May 2019) concerning al-Qaeda and ISIS and associated individuals and entities, which was pending since 2009.
- **Challenges at UNSC:**
 - **China Challenge:**
 - India is entering the UNSC at a time when Beijing is asserting itself at the global stage much more vigorously than ever. It heads at least six UN organisations and has challenged the global rules.
 - China's aggressive behaviour in the **Indo-Pacific** as well as the **India-China border** has been visible in all of 2020.
 - China has tried to raise the **issue of Kashmir** at the UNSC.
 - **Post Covid World Order:**

- As the global economy is in shambles with various countries facing **recession and health emergencies**. To handle all these situations need **careful strategy** to move the world out of this burdening challenge.
- **Balancing USA and Russia and Unstable West Asia:**
 - With the situation deteriorating between **USA and Russia** and increasing tensions between **USA and Iran**, it will be tough situation to handle for India. India needs to uphold rule based world order with due respect to human rights ensuring the national interest.

United Nation Security Council

- The United Nations Charter established **six main organs of the United Nations**, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Article 23 of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UNSC.
- The UNSC has been given primary responsibility for maintaining **international peace and security to the Security Council**, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council **has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter**.
- **Permanent and Non-Permanent Members:** The UNSC is composed of **15 members, 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent**.
 - **Five permanent members:** China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - **Ten non-permanent members: Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.**
 - 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**.
 - As stipulated in rule 144 of the rules of procedure, a **retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election**.
 - In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is **held by secret ballot and there are no nominations**. Under rule 83 of the rules of procedure, the non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.
 - 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.
- India has been advocating a permanent seat in UNSC.
- India has the following objective criteria, such as **population, territorial size, Gross Domestic Product, economic potential, civilisational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and ongoing contributions to UN activities** especially to **UN peacekeeping operations**.

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