



UNSC - INTERNATIONAL

Q. India has been the most elected member of the UNSC outside the P5. It's high time to give India - a permanent membership in UNSC. Critically analyse (15 marks, 250 words)

News: *Assets of those named by UNSC for terror funding to be frozen within 24 hours, government tells agencies*

What's in the news?

- Financial sanctions against entities named by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for their links to terrorism and terror financing should be imposed "without delay" and within 24 hours under the UAPA and a law against use of weapons of mass destruction, the government has directed regulatory and probe agencies.

Need for UN Reforms:

1. Equitable World Order: There is a need for a more equitable world in order to uphold the principles of democracy at the global level.

2. Inclusivity: Developing countries like the African countries, need to be made stakeholders in the multilateral institutions and involved in the decision-making process.

3. Mitigation of New Threats: With rising protectionism, increased incidents of terrorism and the threat of climate change, the multilateral system must become more resilient and responsive.

4. Membership of UNSC:

- Since its inception, the UNSC has been enlarged only once.
- Even after that, P-5 has remained fixed, which is problematic as the membership of the UN has grown almost four times since its formation.

5. Veto Power: It has been the exclusive domain of P-5 members, which has been questioned by a lot of members. Many countries have put question marks on the existence of veto, which is contrary to democratic principles.

6. Methods of Working: For example, before a document is adopted, each document must be translated into six languages, which mostly leads to discussions on the accuracy of these languages. This process has many times delayed the adoption of texts in the UN.

India's Claims to get a Permanent Membership of UNSC:

1. Membership: India is not only a member of G77, but also partially in the G7 and G20.

2. Interests of developing countries: India shares warm strategic, economic, political and cultural relations with most of the G7 countries, but also voices for the interests of developing countries.

3. Global benefits:



- By actively working toward attaining climate goals herself, without waiting for all others to join, India has shown leadership capacities for the global benefits.
- Even the concept of make in India is suffixed with “make for the world”.
- India’s pool of skill and talent is a proven global asset.
- India is not only an ancient & civilisation nation, but also a democracy which operates under the rule of law with free markets and has maintained a peace-loving nation’s reputation, with very limited geography of conflicts.

4. Role in international affairs: The recent global supply chain disruption, pandemic, climate change, renewable energy and now the incipient food issue, the security situation in some parts of the world- all desire & require India to play a larger role in international affairs and cooperation.

5. Equitable world order: There is a need for a more equitable world order to uphold the principles of democracy at the global level.

6. Pressure from G4 member: India has been seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council as a member of the G4 which is an organisation composed of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India, all who are currently seeking permanent representation.

7. Supporters: The Russian Federation, United States, United Kingdom and France support India and the other G4 countries gaining permanent seats.

8. Justified Demand: India makes a number of claims to justify its demand.

- India has the **world's second largest population** and is the world's largest liberal democracy.
- It is also the **world's fifth largest economy** and third largest in terms of purchasing power parity as of 2020 making it an **emerging economic power**.
- India is the **largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions** with 7,860 personnel deployed with ten UN Peacekeeping Missions as of 2014 after Bangladesh and Pakistan, all three nations being in South Asia.
- India has contributed more than 180,000 troops, the largest number from any country, participated in more than 43 missions and 156 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions.
- Among the **founding members of the U.N.**
- Always upheld its principles and credentials while some other countries consider the organisation as merely a talk shop.
- An **independent foreign policy** which is very often not in sync with that of the five permanent members of UNSC (P5). Ex.: At first, India opposed authorising the use of force in Libya and then abstained from voting on the matter.

How important is UNSC Permanent Membership to India?

- By inclusion into UNSC as a permanent member India will be able to **tackle China more comprehensively**.
- India will be able to work better for its interests.



- India's presence as a permanent member will be an acknowledgment of its rise as a **global power**, ready to play a key role in the council's objectives of international peace and security.
- India will be able to enjoy the 'prestige' associated with the permanent membership of the council.
- It will help India to get involved more on the international platform and will help its **diplomatic missions**.

Challenges for India's Bid:

- 1. Lack of Political Will:** Although there is a general agreement towards change in the system, different countries have different perceptions of the requirement for change.
- 2. Coffee Club:** It is an informal group comprising 40-odd member states, mostly middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats, has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the United Nations Security Council over the past six years.
- 3. Chinese Opposition:** China being a permanent member blocks the growth of India becoming a Permanent Member.
- 4. Growth Trajectory of India:** India's socio-economic growth could become a question in making it a permanent member.

WAY FORWARD:

- There is a **need to maintain a rules-based, multilateral system to face today's many ongoing crises**.
- There is a need to generate more focused attention and serve as a call for action in situations where global responses have been insufficient, and poorly coordinated.
- India has continuously supported the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) of Africa and Small Island nations in their developmental efforts, which has led to the development of India's image as a benevolent and friendly country. This could be used as leverage for India's demand for a reformed UNSC.
- India has been the most elected member of the UNSC outside the P5. This position can be leveraged to show India's eagerness and maturity to be recognised as a responsible global power.
- India needs to build upon its strengths through a **diplomatic outreach to the major nations** with whom it has friendly relations.

Thus, India's entry as a permanent member is important not only for India but also for the whole world for **better distribution of powers**.