

## India to UNSC: A Diplomatic Victory

### Why in news?

[India's election](#) to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member is a significant diplomatic victory for the country.

### What is the UNSC?

- The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council.
- It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the UNSC, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- It has **15 members**, and each Member has **one vote**.
- Out of the 15 members, 5 are permanent and 10 are non-permanent members with 2-year tenure.
- Only the UNSC has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.
- It dispatches military operations, imposes sanctions, mandates arms inspections, deploys election monitors, etc.

### Why is this election seen as a victory?

- India has long been pushing for reforms at global institutions.
- The victory was not unexpected as India was the only contestant for the Asia Pacific seat.
- In the UN General Assembly, the election would be done by secret ballot where India needed two-thirds of the votes for victory.
- India secured the seat with 184 votes in the 193-strong UNGA.

### What are the other countries that were elected?

- Mexico, Norway and Ireland were also elected as non-permanent members.
- Mexico won the Latin American seat uncontested.
- But, Norway and Ireland emerged victorious from a three-way contest for the Western Europe and Others Group seat.
- Neither Kenya nor Djibouti, which were contesting the seat from Africa, won a two-thirds majority. They will face another vote.

### How did India seek support?

- India sought the support of member countries by highlighting its commitment to **multilateralism and reforms**.
- Ahead of the vote, India had launched a campaign brochure which,
  1. Highlighted India's demand for transparency in mandates for UN peacekeeping missions and push for the India-led Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism,
  2. Called for joint efforts for UN reform and expansion of the UNSC

### **What would be India's objective?**

- New orientation for a reformed multilateral system (NORMS) would be India's overall objective during its tenure that will begin next year.
- NORMS was laid out by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- Achieving this would depend on how India will conduct diplomacy in the global body, build alliances and raise issues that go beyond the interests of the big five.

### **What is the impact of the pandemic on the geopolitics?**

- India has long been of the view that the structure of the UNSC does not reflect the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- It has got increasing support from member countries for its push for reforms.
- But the five permanent members of the UNSC have resisted it.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has already shaken up the global order and sharpened the rivalry between the U.S. and China.
- It has also opened up fresh debates on strengthening multilateralism and multilateral institutions.
- In this context, the challenges before India are many.

### **What should India do?**

- The UNSC is one of the most important multilateral decision-making bodies where the contours of global geopolitics are often drawn.
- India should avoid the temptation of taking sides at a time when the UNSC is getting more and more polarised.
- India should adopt value-based positions that are not transactional.
- India should aspire for the leadership of the non-permanent members of the Council and be the voice of the weaker nations.

**Source: The Hindu**



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