India’s Priorities for UNSC Candidature (2028-29): AI and Maritime Security

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Why in News?

India has prioritised Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Maritime Security in its bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028–29 term.



- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, emphasised these priorities at the UNSC high-level open debate on Emerging Technologies and Maritime Security: Implications for Peace and Security, held on October 29, 2026.
- The debate was held under the Greek Presidency of the UNSC.

India’s Candidature for the United Nations Security Council (2028–29)

• India has formally announced its candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028–29 term.
• The elections for the non-permanent seat are scheduled to take place in June 2027.
• According to the report, India and Tajikistan will compete for the single seat allocated to the Asia-Pacific Group category.

Key Priorities Identified by India

- **Maritime Security**
  - Safeguarding the freedom of navigation and ensuring unimpeded lawful maritime commerce.
  - Ensuring the safety and security of all seafarers.
  - Protecting critical maritime infrastructure as well as global supply chains.
  - Strengthening international cooperation to effectively address maritime threats.
- **Significance –** Oceans facilitate economic connectivity and underpin global commerce.
- Maritime security is essential for:
  - International trade and economic connectivity.
  - Food and energy security.
  - Livelihoods of coastal communities.
  - International peace and prosperity.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies**
- India emphasized the transformative role of emerging technologies in enhancing maritime security.

Technology	Applications
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Analysis of maritime data and detection of suspicious activities
Autonomous Systems	Automated maritime surveillance and operations
Satellite-based Surveillance	Monitoring maritime movements and activities
Advanced Cyber Capabilities	Strengthening maritime infrastructure security

India's Initiatives for Maritime Security

- **Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)**
  - The centre is located near New Delhi.
  - The centre highlights the importance of international cooperation and information sharing for maritime security.
  - It enhances maritime domain awareness by facilitating information exchange and coordination.
- **SAGAR Initiative**
  - Full form: Security and Growth for All in the Region.
  - The initiative reflects India’s vision for inclusive maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
  - It emphasises regional security, cooperation, and sustainable development.

International Legal and Institutional Framework

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
  - It provides the international legal framework governing the use of oceans and their resources.
  - It establishes rules for maritime zones, navigation, and the rights and responsibilities of States.
- **UN Charter**
  - It provides the broader framework for maintaining international peace and security.
  - India emphasised that emerging technologies should be governed in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
  - It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
  - It is responsible for improving the safety and security of international shipping and preventing marine pollution from ships.
  - India called for strengthening the work of the IMO and other relevant institutions, rather than duplicating their mandates.
- **Role of UNSC**
  - Should focus on technological developments having demonstrable implications for international peace and security.
  - It should encourage:
    - Practical international cooperation.
    - Confidence-building measures.
    - Resilience of maritime infrastructure.

Reference

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