

UNSC - United Nations Security Council

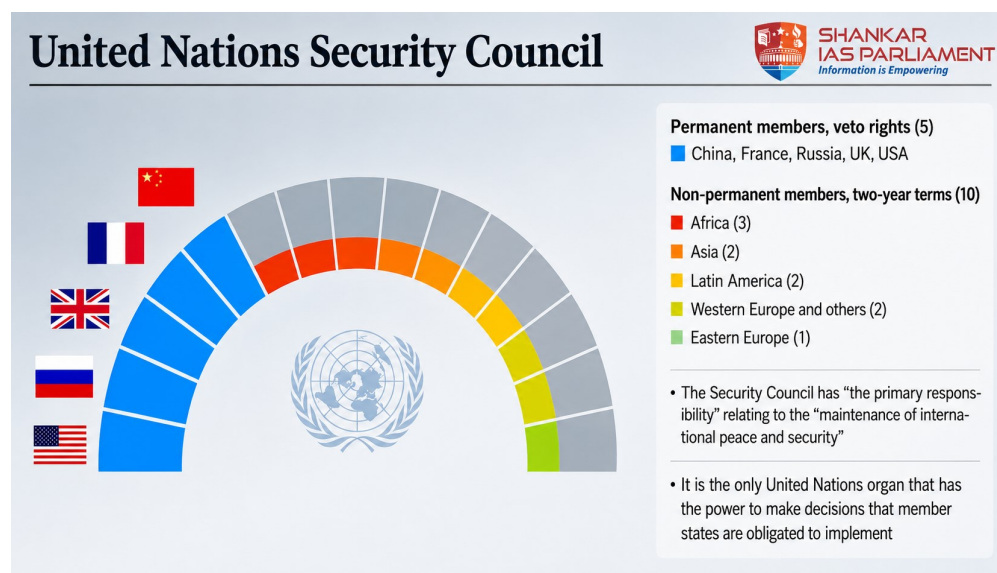
Mains: GS II - International organisations

Why in News?

India has recently launched its campaign for a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2028-29. The election is scheduled for June 2027.

What is UNSC?

- **UNSC** - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is **one of the six main organs of the United Nations** established under the UN Charter.
- **Mandate** - The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **Composition** - The United Nations is divided into five regional groups: Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe & Western Europe and Others (WEOG).
- The WEOG grouping includes countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Israel.



- **Structure & members** - The structure of the UNSC also reflects the historical legacy of the Second World War and the Cold War.
- **Permanent members** - The United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China constitute the P5.
- **Non-permanent members** - The ten other members are non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms.
- The distribution of the ten elected seats is based on regional representation. Africa

gets three seats, Eastern Europe gets one, while Asia and Latin America receive two seats each.

- WEOG also receives two seats.
- Five elected members retire every year, allowing for a regular rotation among the non-permanent members.

Why a permanent seat in UNSC matters?

- **Veto Power** - Any of the five permanent members can block any substantive resolution single-handedly, even if the rest of the world agrees.
- **Binding Decisions** - The UNSC can issue legally binding mandates on all UN member states, such as imposing economic sanctions or authorizing military force.
- **Institutional Permanence** - Unlike elected two-year non-permanent members, permanent members maintain uninterrupted influence and strategic presence.

A permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) matters because it grants exclusive veto power, permanent global decision-making authority, and the ability to shape international laws, peacekeeping missions, and global security responses.

Why India is demanding a permanent seat in UNSC?

- **Global Representation** - India represents roughly 1.4 billion people about 18% of the human population, who currently lack permanent representation on the council.
- **Voice of the Global South** - India champions the developing world, using platforms like the **L.69 Group** to advocate for marginalized nations.
- **Peacekeeping Contributions** - India has served on the UNSC eight times as a non-permanent member and remains one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping missions globally.
- **Economic and Strategic Weight** - India is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and possesses nuclear capabilities, positioning it as a responsible pillar of regional and international stability.

What are the key obstacles to India's effort?

- **Veto Power and Charter Reform** - Expanding permanent seats requires **amending the UN Charter**, which demands a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly and approval from all current permanent members (P5).
- **Geopolitical Resistance** - China opposes India's inclusion, and regional competitor groups like the "**Coffee Club**" (or Uniting for Consensus) actively block competitive permanent expansion.
- **Alliances** - While the U.S., France, the UK, and Russia express support for India's bid, turning diplomatic backing into structural reform remains an uphill battle.

What is the recent issue?

- **Competition for Non-permanent seat** - India faces competition from Tajikistan for

the single seat allocated to Asia.

- From an outsider's perspective, India's candidature may appear straightforward, considering its global standing, G20 membership and long engagement with the United Nations.
- However, recent UN elections demonstrate that diplomatic contests can produce unexpected outcomes.
- Therefore, India's campaign requires sustained and carefully planned diplomatic outreach across the international community.
- If elected, this would be India's ninth term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.
- The contest is significant not only for India's immediate diplomatic interests but also for its larger aspiration for permanent membership of the Security Council.

What lies ahead?

- India's campaign for the 2028-29 UNSC term is therefore more than a contest against Tajikistan for a single Asian seat.
- It is an opportunity to demonstrate India's diplomatic reach, strengthen its engagement with countries across the Global South and reinforce its larger claim for permanent membership of the Security Council.
- Recent UN elections show that outcomes cannot be taken for granted.
- The experiences of Germany, the Philippines and Kyrgyzstan demonstrate the importance of group solidarity, political positions, bilateral relationships and the support of smaller states.
- India's successful experience in 2010 also shows that sustained diplomatic engagement can produce a strong electoral mandate.
- With the election scheduled for June 2027, the early launch of India's campaign provides an opportunity for extensive diplomatic outreach.
- A robust and sustained campaign, building on India's global standing while remaining attentive to the concerns and preferences of UN member states, will be essential for securing the required support.

Reference

[The Indian Express| India & UNSC](#)