



# India Assumes UNSC Presidency

## Why in News

Recently, India assumed the presidency of the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) for the month of August 2021.

- This will be the **country's first presidency during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member** of the Security Council.
- India began its [two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January 2021](#).
  - This is India's **eighth term** on the UNSC.

## Key Points

### ▪ India's UNSC Presidency:

- India will **decide the UN body's agenda for the month** and coordinate important meetings on a range of issues.
- It is going to **organise key events** in three major areas of **maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism**.
  - The Security Council will also have on its agenda several important meetings including **Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East**.
  - The Security Council will also be adopting important resolutions on **Somalia, Mali, & United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**.
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi will be the **first Indian PM** to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.
  - The last time an Indian PM was engaged in this effort was the then PM **PV Narasimha Rao in 1992** when he attended a UNSC meeting.

### ▪ Support from France & Russia:

- **France** has stated that it is dedicated to **collaborating with India over strategic problems** such as maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.
- **Russia** welcomed the country gaining the UNSC presidency saying it is very **impressed by India's agenda**, which embraces **critical global concerns**.

### ▪ Challenges for India 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.**

- **Balancing USA and Russia and Unstable West Asia:**

- With the situation **deteriorating between the [US and Russia](#) and increasing tensions between [US and Iran](#)**, it will be a **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**

- **About:**

- The **UNs Charter established six main organs of the UN, including the UNSC. Article 23** of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UNSC.

- The other 5 organs of the UN are—the **General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.**

- The UNSC has been given **primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security** and may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- While other organs of the UN 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.

- **Headquarter:**

- The council is headquartered at **NewYork.**

- **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.
- The council's **presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.**

- **Voting and Discussions at UNSC:**

- **Each member of the Security Council has one vote.** Decisions of the Security Council on matters are made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

- A **"No" vote from one of the five permanent members blocks the passage of the resolution.**

- **Any member of the UN** which is not a member of the Security Council **may participate, without vote, in the discussion** of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that member are specially affected.

- **India as a Permanent Member:**

- 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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