

India's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

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In news— India has assumed the presidency of UNSC along with G20 recently.

Roles and powers of the UNSC President nation-

- Some of the significant roles of the UNSC broadly include **maintaining international peace in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations**, and to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken.
- According to the UNSC handbook, the **Council President exercises a vast range of powers such as holding meetings of the Security Council, approving provisional agendas**, signing records of the meetings, besides other crucial decisions.
- On the first working day of the presidency, the Council president holds an informal breakfast to discuss the draft programme, which is attended by the permanent representatives of all Council members.
- **The programme of work (PoW) which in simpler terms, is a calendar of priorities which the President nation would work towards during its tenure is adopted soon after the breakfast.**
- **Each of its 15 member states assume its presidency for a duration of one month**, following the English alphabetical order.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)-

- It is **one of the six principal organs of the United Nations**, charged with ensuring international peace and

- security and approving any changes to the UN Charter.
- **Its powers include** establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action.
 - **All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council.**
 - The UNSC is the **only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.**
 - **It held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London.**
 - It has permanent residence at the UN **Headquarters in New York City.**
 - The Security Council **consists of fifteen members**, of which five are permanent: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
 - The remaining ten non-permanent members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years.
 - The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

How are the non-permanent members elected?

- Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.
- In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

India has served in the UNSC as a Non-permanent member seven times previously-

- In 1950-51: India, as President of UNSC, presided over the adoption of resolutions calling for cessation of

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