

# India as the Non-Permanent Member of the UNSC: The Road Ahead

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## Opinion Article

Registering a comfortable victory, India got elected as a non-permanent member of the 15-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC) from the Asia-Pacific category for 2021-22 term. India secured 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. This victory surely assumes significance as it comes at a time when the United Nations is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and the world is slowly recovering from the global pandemic of COVID-19. The victory with 184 votes presents the overwhelming support the country receives and is a testimonial for India's inspiring leadership in the current juncture when the world is fighting with Covid and aroused border tensions between India and China. India has been a non-member at United Nations Security Council seven times since 1950, this is the eight stint of India at the UNSC. India has been lobbying for a permanent membership at the UN Security Council and has long been pushing for the reforms at United Nations Security Council. This victory came at the right time in place as the country emerged as the most powerful economy with largest labour force and the youngest population below 35 years of age and most importantly when the country has become the one of the most important drivers for the global economic growth. India has been one of the strongest democracies in the world. The country has been following the principles of non-aligned movement since its independence and has been a peace seeking nation and the biggest contributor to the United Nations peace keeping mission and finally it's a Nuclear Power, yet it has been eluded from a permanent membership. India's term as a non-permanent member would be for two years where there will be an opportunity to convey to the member states of the United Nations our priorities

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as well as to listen to their own views and concerns. Now- what does India as a UNSC-non- permanent member can mean for us? The opportunities are plenty on the global platform: India now will have a greater say in the global Geo-Politics. It can tailor the United Nations Organization decisions according to the interest of our country (India). A membership in the prestigious UNSC would add respect in the global platform and India's global position would strengthen. Also, it cements India's position as a security provider in the region. India now can also part take in the creation of mechanism to address the global security threats.

Now, the country would be able to influence and provide a legitimate road for the functioning of international institutions and can start, turn the roads of the current crisis to turn beneficial to become a permanent member.

There are many old and new challenges continue to haunt the organization both internally and externally for the UN Security Council and the reforms of the United Nations Security Council should be the main agenda. As stated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India in its vision document, Multilateralism has been decimated in recent times and must be strengthened, therefore India's overall objective during this tenure in the UN Security Council will be the achievement of N.O.R.M.S: a New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System. As terrorism continues to be the key problem of India along with the world at large, it will aim to work for an effective response mechanism and a comprehensive approach to international peace and security. The road is not smooth, it may face many challenges from the well-entrenched members of the UNSC. But India needs to make

a balanced yet firm approach to tackle the current situation. The other most important issues for India to tackle and raise its voice on the international platform would be India's lead on Climate Change issues and its initiatives like International Solar Alliance and leadership in World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization. The foreign policy initiatives of our country and the external bilateral outreach will enable to help achieve the objectives for the global welfare and fair and transparent distribution of global goods and commons. Here the policy initiative laid down by the honourable PM Shri Modi with 5Ss encapsulates it best which include Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), and Shanti (Peace), to create conditions for universal; Samriddhi (Prosperity) to achieve these objectives. There are plenty of hot spots and challenges that will require innovative approaches in order for the UN to redeem its relevance and India, as one of its founding member and current non-member of United National Security Council will be able to achieve. However, India's presence in the Security Council will ensure that the voice of the largest democracy in the world with strong multilateral credentials will be heard in an important organ of the United Nations. India has always had a global voice and this will give India a greater opportunity to participate actively and shape the COVID-19 and post-COVID scenario. At last, the Global South has its development and security aspirations and India will help articulate these aspirations in the Council across a gamut of issues.

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