

India - UNSC permanent seat

Why in news?

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- U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN has recently hinted of US's support for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

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What is UNSC reform?

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- The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations formed in 1945.

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- Despite drastic changes in geopolitics and international relations the Council has not been reformed yet.

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- The demands for reform of the UNSC is based on five key issues:

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1. categories of membership (permanent , non-permanent).

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2. the question of the veto held by the five permanent members.

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3. regional representation.

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4. the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods.

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5. the relationship between Security Council and General Assembly.

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- Notably, any reform of the Security Council would require the agreement of

at least two-thirds of UN member states.

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- Importantly, the agreement of all the permanent members of the UNSC enjoying the veto right is also required.

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What is the complication?

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- There is still lack of consensus among member States and regional groups on moving forward with the reforms.
- Veto power is one of the prime issues of contention.
- The countries aspiring for permanent membership are demanding the same veto power as that of the existing members.
- However the present permanent members reject this demand.
- Nevertheless, some countries like the US are supporting the expansion of membership, provided without the veto power.

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What lies before India?

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- It is to be noted that India had earlier conceded together with the others in G-4 that veto should not be an issue, at least for the present.
- But, the government sources have outrightly stressed on India's demand for equal veto rights as that of other permanent members.
- Thus India should instead take the lead offered by the U.S and explore the idea further with the U.S to take forward its aims.
- It opens up the possibility of permanent membership for India without veto.
- India should also focus on Russia and China, the two permanent members of the Security Council who do not want to see any changes.

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Quick Fact

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G-4

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- The G4 nations comprises Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.
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- These four countries support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.
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- The UN currently has five permanent members with veto power in the Security Council - China, France, Russia, UK and US.
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Source: The Hindu

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