Q. United Nation's Security Council's response to the multiple stakeholder approach to enhance maritime security would be setting a paradigm for upholding multidimensional security. Explain (200 words)

→ Introduction

The United Nation Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with ensuring international peace and security.

Now, India's decision to convey an open debate of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on enhancing maritime security, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 August, reflects India's international evolution as a maritime nation. The Objective of the debate is to highlight the effective international maritime cooperation to respond holistically to natural and manmade threats to maritime security. With a coastline to over 7500 km, India has a natural interest in enhancing maritime security. India's security and Growth for all (SAGAR) policy, unveiled by PM Modi during a visit

to Mauritius in March 2015, proposes an integrated regional framework to meet such an objective in the Indian Ocean.

Sustaining international cooperation to enhance maritime security requires two supportive frameworks in the policy and operational areas. An effective legal ~~policies~~ policy framework must underpin a rule-of-law based approach to securing the maritime domain. The open debate will focus on the application of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the sea (UNCLOS), bringing to the fore new challenges to peace and security including from nonstate actors such as terrorists, pirates and criminal gangs engaged in drug trafficking.

India's credentials in presiding over this discussion are enhanced by the fact that in July 2014, it accepted an UNCLOS tribunal award on the maritime boundary arbitration b/w India and Bangladesh, contributing a new impulse to effective international economic cooperation among the littrol states of Bay of Bengal (BIMSTEC

Securing the sea lanes of communication (SLOCs) that traverse the oceans is of central importance to enhancing maritime security. India's initiative to establish an international Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard, serves the objective of generating Maritime Domain Awareness on safety and security issues.