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GS Paper II – International Relations

India's UNSC Bid (2028–29)

Key Highlights

- **Election: June 2027 for the 2028–29 non-permanent term of the UN Security Council (UNSC).**
- **India's candidature: Announced by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.**
- **Main challenge: Tajikistan is also contesting for the Asia-Pacific seat.**
- **Required votes: At least a two-thirds majority of UNGA members present and voting; the article estimates 129 votes in a 193-member Assembly.**
- **India's previous memberships: Eight terms—1950–51, 1967–68, 1972–73, 1977–78, 1984–85, 1991–92, 2011–12 and 2021–22.**
- **India's objective: Promote counter-terrorism, UNSC reforms and greater representation for developing countries.**

Why Is the Election Challenging for India?

1. **Competition from Tajikistan**: Tajikistan is seeking its first UNSC membership.

2. **Global South's expectations:** Smaller countries want fairer representation in global institutions.

3. **Regional support**: Tajikistan has support from Central Asian countries and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

4. **Foreign policy considerations**: India's relations with Israel and major powers may influence some countries' voting decisions.

5. **Previous electoral setbacks**: India lost contested elections in 1975 and 1996.

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Way Forward

- **Strengthen diplomatic engagement with Global South countries.**
- **Advocate reforms that improve the representation of developing nations.**
- **Highlight India's contributions to UN peacekeeping and international development.**
- **Maintain strategic autonomy and build consensus on counter-terrorism.**
- **Balance immediate electoral ambitions with long-term diplomatic relationships.**

Prelims Question

Q. Consider the following statements about the United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

1. The UNSC has 15 members, including five permanent members.

2. The UN General Assembly elects non-permanent members for two-year terms.

3. All decisions of the UN General Assembly require a two-thirds majority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Article 18 of the UN Charter requires a two-thirds majority for important questions, while other questions generally require a simple majority of members present and voting.

Mains Question

Q. India's quest for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council reflects the need for reforms in global governance. Discuss the challenges and suggest a way forward. (150 words)

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