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DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS



19th July

Explained

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Decoded

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Playlist Link:



What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

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Cloud seeding

Delhi to conduct cloud seeding trials in September to combat air pollution: Environment Minister

The trials, earlier planned for early July, were postponed after inputs from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), IIT-Kanpur, and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, indicated that weather conditions in July were not conducive for effective seeding

Published - July 18, 2025 04:29 pm IST - New Delhi

PTI



Backdrop: Delhi to conduct cloud seeding trials in September to combat air pollution: Environment Minister.

Relevance: GS3/ Pollution

The trials, earlier planned for early July, were postponed after inputs from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), IIT-Kanpur, and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, indicated that weather conditions in July were not conducive for effective seeding.

New Window: Chosen to align with the **retreating monsoon** for better cloud conditions.

Budget & Leadership

- **Project Cost:** ₹3.21 crore allocated by the **Delhi Government**.
- **Lead Agency:** Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT-Kanpur.

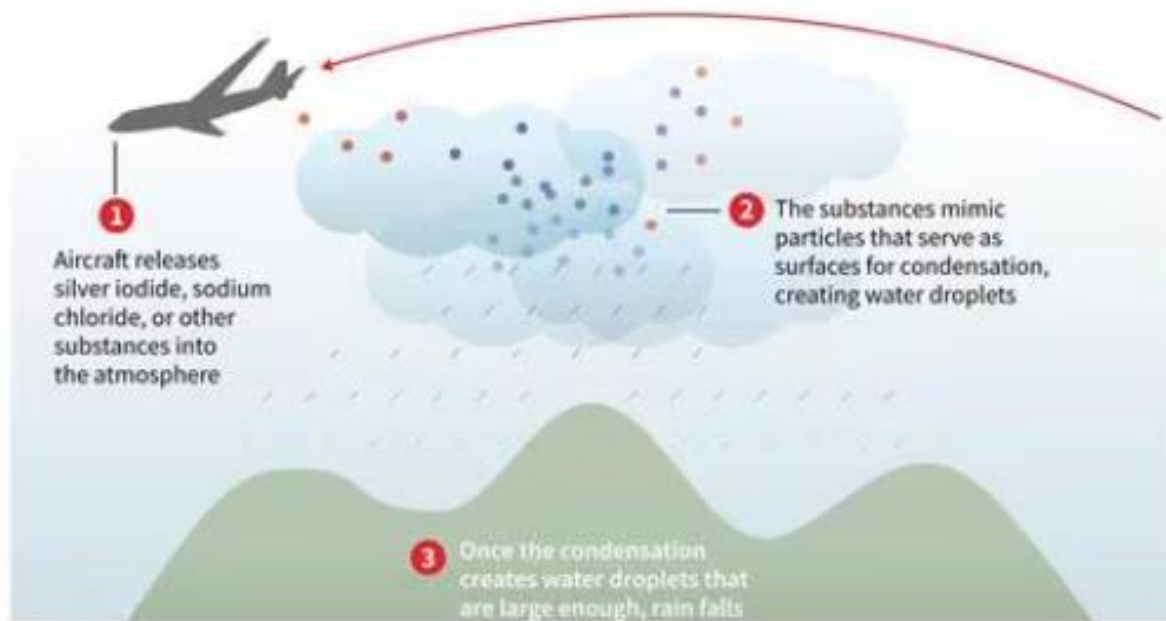
Scientific Significance

- **Institutions Involved:** IIT-Kanpur, IITM Pune, IMD.
- **Expected Outcome:** If successful, it could become a **new scientific tool** for tackling **Delhi's post-monsoon air pollution**.

About Cloud Seeding

- **Definition:** Cloud seeding is a **weather modification technique** that involves introducing specific substances into clouds to **induce artificial precipitation**.
- **Working Principle:** These substances act as **condensation or ice nuclei**, helping **water droplets or ice crystals to form and grow**, eventually leading to rainfall.
- **History:** First demonstrated in **1946** by **Vincent J. Schaefer**, an American chemist and meteorologist.
- **Methods of Delivery:** Seeding can be done using **aircraft, rockets, cannons, or ground-based generators**.
- **Common Seeding Agents:**
 - **Silver iodide** and **dry ice (solid CO₂)** – effective in **supercooled clouds** (below freezing).
 - **Calcium chloride** – used for **warmer clouds** (above freezing).

Cloud seeding - artificial rainmaking



Methods:

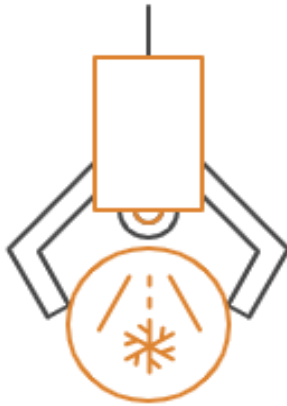
- **Static Seeding** – Introduces ice nuclei into cold clouds.
- **Dynamic Seeding** – Enhances vertical air currents.
- **Hygroscopic Seeding** – Uses salts to attract moisture in warm clouds.

Cloud Seeding Applications



Drought Areas

Inducing rain in areas experiencing drought.



Snowfall Enhancement

Enhancing snowfall in catchment areas for water resources.



Weather Modification

Reducing smog, fog dissipation, and preventing hailstorms.

Cloud Seeding Challenges

Moisture-laden clouds

Moisture-laden clouds are a prerequisite for cloud seeding.

Risk of flooding

There is a risk of flooding if cloud seeding is done in excess.

Environmental concerns

Potential chemical contamination and disrupted local climate patterns are environmental concerns.



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Which of the following chemicals are commonly used in cloud seeding to induce artificial rainfall?

1. Silver iodide
2. Calcium chloride
3. Potassium nitrate
4. Dry ice (solid carbon dioxide)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only**
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Commemorative coin marking the millennium of Rajendra Chola's victory

PM Modi to release commemorative coin of Rajendra Chola, Ilaiyaraaja to perform at Gangaikonda Cholapuram on July 27

Marking 1000 years of King Rajendra Chola's conquest of the Gangetic plains, an exhibition will also be held at the Brihadisvara temple premises between July 23 and 27.

Updated - July 18, 2025 05:13 pm IST - CHENNAI

B. KOLAPPAN



Backdrop: PM Modi to release commemorative coin of Rajendra Chola.

Relevance: GS1- Art and Culture

About the news:

- Chola Gangam Lake, now lies in ruins near the Brihadisvara Temple in Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit on July 27 to release a commemorative coin marking the **1,000 years** of Rajendra Chola's victory.
- A **concert by Ilaiyaraaja** and **historical exhibition** planned at the **Brihadisvara Temple** (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- The visit is expected to bring **national attention** to the lake's neglect and historical value.

Historical Importance of Chola Gangam Lake

- **Constructed by Rajendra Chola I** after his victorious expedition to the Gangetic plains.
- Created as a symbolic “**liquid pillar of victory**” (*Ganga-jalamayam Jayastambham*), using Ganga water.
- Locally known as **Ponneri**, located near the **Brihadisvara Temple** at Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu.

- Originally spanned **16 miles**, now reduced to about **17 km**.
- It served as an **irrigation source** (1,564 acres), **drinking water supply**, and flood management tool for the Chola capital.

Engineering Marvels of the Cholas

- The tank was part of the **northern Cauvery system** linking multiple water bodies.
- Featured an **elliptical bund** made of **laterite stones**—designed to resist hydraulic pressure, still intact after 1,000 years.
- **Traditional systems** like *kudimaramathu* (community-led upkeep) and *Eri-ayam* (maintenance tax) ensured regular upkeep.

Ecological and Agricultural Significance

- Tank was a stop-over site for **migratory birds** heading to **Kodiakkarai Sanctuary**.
- Supported **groundwater recharge**—now the water level has dropped to **650 feet** due to neglect.
- Restoration of 12 connected lakes could **irrigate drought-hit regions** and **serve Chennai's water needs year-round**.

Temple / Monument	Location	Built During the Rule of
Nataraja Temple	Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu	Parantaka I
Nageswaraswamy Temple	Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu	Aditya Chola (9th century)
Rajarajeswara Temple	Tanjore, Tamil Nadu	Raja Raja Chola I (1010 AD)
Valisvara Temple	Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	Raja Raja Chola I (early 10th century)
Gangaikondacholapuram Temple	Gangaikondacholapuram, TN	Rajendra I
Kampaheswarar Temple	Thanjavur District, TN	Kulothunga Chola II
Airavatesvara Temple	Darasuram, Tamil Nadu	Rajaraja Chola II (12th century)

Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044 CE)

- **Lineage & Reign:**

- **Son of Rajaraja Chola I**; under his rule, the Chola Empire reached its peak.

- **Historical Sources:**

- His conquests are detailed in the ***Tiruvallangadu copper plates*** and ***Tirumalai rock inscriptions***.

- **Military Expansion:**

- Defeated the **Western Chalukyas**, extending Chola rule up to the **Tungabhadra River**.
- Invaded **Madurai**, prompting the Pandyas to flee to **Sri Lanka**, which he later invaded.

- **Northern Campaign:**

- Defeated **Mahipala of the Pala dynasty**, led a successful expedition up to the **Godavari** and **Ganges**.
- Assumed the title “**Gangaikonda**” (conqueror of the Ganges) and built **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** to commemorate the victory.

- **Naval & Maritime Power:**

- Launched a naval expedition against the **Sri Vijaya kingdom** (southern Sumatra).
- Conquered **Kadaram** (modern Kedah, Malaysia) and expanded maritime trade with Southeast Asia.

- **Prestigious Titles:**

- Adopted titles like **Mudikonda Cholan** (crowned Chola), **Kadaramkondan**, and **Pandita Cholan** (scholarly Chola).



PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION



Q2. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?(2025)

- (a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- (c) Rajendra I (Chola)**
- (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q3. With reference to Rajendra Chola I, consider the following statements:

1. Rajendra Chola adopted the title “Gangaikonda” after his successful expedition to the Gangetic plains.
2. His naval campaigns extended Chola influence to Southeast Asia, including Sri Vijaya and Kadaram.
3. Gangaikonda Cholapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built as a temple to commemorate his father Rajaraja Chola I.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only**
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

32nd SIMBEX



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Morning News





Home / National / Indian Navy to participate in 32nd SIMBEX in Singapore

Site Admin | July 18, 2025 11:56 AM



Indian Navy To Participate In 32nd SIMBEX In Singapore



The Indian Navy will take part in the 32nd edition of SIMBEX, the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (previously known as Exercise Lion King), later this month in Singapore. This long-running annual exercise is held between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.

India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, called it one of the longest uninterrupted maritime drills for India. He said the exercise supports India's Vision SAGAR and Act East policy, focused on regional cooperation and maritime security. Ambule stressed the need for joint efforts in maritime safety, especially with rising threats like piracy and non-state actors. He said cooperation at sea is key to ensuring free and safe trade routes. He added that the recent complex HARD and SAR operations that the Indian Navy has actively steered and very successfully concluded in the Arabian Sea have been internationally appreciated.

Backdrop: Indian Navy to participate in 32nd SIMBEX in Singapore
Relevance: GS 2/International Relations

The Indian Navy will participate in the **32nd edition of SIMBEX** in **Singapore** later this month. This long-standing **bilateral maritime exercise**, formerly known as **Exercise Lion King**, is one of India's **oldest uninterrupted naval drills**, held annually with the **Republic of Singapore Navy**.

Indian warships **INS Delhi, Satpura, Kiltan, and Shakti** (all indigenously built) arrived in Singapore for the exercise.

Significance

- SIMBEX is aligned with India's **Vision SAGAR** and **Act East Policy**, focusing on **regional maritime security and cooperation**.
- Addresses threats such as **piracy** and **non-state actors**, promoting joint maritime safety and security of trade routes.
- **ASEAN Links**: Reflects strong **India-ASEAN ties**, building on the **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise 2023**, co-hosted by Singapore.

India-Singapore Military Exercises

- **SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise)**
 - **Type:** Naval
 - **Frequency:** Annual
 - **Objective:** Enhance interoperability, maritime cooperation, and coordination in naval operations
 - **Latest Edition:** 32nd SIMBEX in 2025 (Singapore)
- **Bold Kurukshetra**
 - **Type:** Army (Joint Army Training)
 - **Started:** 2005
 - **Frequency:** Biennial
 - **Objective:** Enhance cooperation in land warfare and joint operational skills.
 - **Participants:** Indian Army and Singapore Army
 - **Latest Edition:** 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station, India.

- **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME)**

- **Type:** Multilateral (India and ASEAN, co-hosted by Singapore)
- **Started:** 2023
- **Objective:** Strengthen India-ASEAN naval ties and promote maritime security and cooperation.
- **Significance:** Complements India's Act East Policy and Singapore's strategic naval role in ASEAN.



PRACTICE QUESTION



Q4. With reference to the India–Singapore defence cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. SIMBEX is a bilateral Army exercise between India and Singapore.
2. Bold Kurukshetra is an annual joint Air Force exercise between India and Singapore.
3. India's participation in SIMBEX aligns with its Vision SAGAR.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only**

New Lichen species



Ministry of Science & Technology



New Lichen species reveals ancient symbiosis in the Western Ghats

Posted On: 18 JUL 2025 5:31PM by PIB Delhi

A team of Indian scientists has uncovered a previously unknown species of lichen, *Allographa effusosoredica*, from the richly biodiverse Western Ghats, carrying within it a tale of symbiosis, evolution and resilience.

Lichens are not just one organism but two (sometimes more) living in intimate symbiosis: a fungus that offers structure and protection, and a photobiont (usually a green alga or cyanobacterium) that captures sunlight and makes food. Despite their humble appearance, lichens play critical roles in ecosystems, building soil, feeding insects and serving as nature's bioindicators.

The study by MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, combined classical taxonomy with modern molecular tools, setting new molecular benchmarks for the genus in the region.

The newly identified species, a crustose lichen with striking effuse soredia and comparably rare chemical traits, (harbouring chemical called norstictic acid, considered rare in comparison to other morphologically similar species within the genus *Allographa*) was studied in detail using morphological, chemical and advanced molecular techniques. This integrative approach also unveiled its algal partner, a *Trentepohlia* species, adding to the sparse but growing understanding of photobiont diversity in tropical lichens.

Backdrop: Discovery of new Lichen species in the Western Ghats.

Relevance: GS 3/Environment

Scientists from the **MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune** (an autonomous body under the DST), have identified a new lichen species, ***Allographa effusosoredica***, in the Western Ghats, highlighting a remarkable story of **sympiosis, evolution, and ecological resilience**.

The study combined classical taxonomy with modern molecular tools, setting new molecular benchmarks for the genus in the region.

Significance of Discovery

- ***Allographa effusosoredica*** is the **53rd *Allographa* species** recorded in India and the **22nd from the Western Ghats**.
- It is the **first Indian *Allographa* species supported by molecular data**, marking a significant advancement in Indian lichenology.

Lichens

Lichens are **composite organisms** formed through a **symbiotic partnership** between a **fungus (mycobiont)** and an **alga or cyanobacterium (photobiont)**.

- The **fungus** forms the **structure (thallus)** and absorbs minerals.
- The **alga/cyanobacterium** performs **photosynthesis**, providing nutrients.

•Fungal Partner:

- Belongs to the **Kingdom Fungi**, distinct from plants.
- Lacks chlorophyll, relies on external sources for nutrients.
- Plays a vital role in **decomposition** and **nutrient exchange** with plants and lichens.

•Algal Partner:

- Belongs to the **Kingdom Protista** (e.g., green algae).
- **Cyanobacteria** (blue-green algae) are from **Kingdom Monera** and can **fix nitrogen**.
- Both perform **photosynthesis** and can exist independently or in lichen partnerships.

Symbiotic relationship

Close biological interaction between two different species, where at least one benefits

Mutualism: Both species benefit.

Commensalism: One benefits, other is neither harmed nor helped.

Parasitism: One benefits, other harmed

Adaptability and Habitat

- Found in **extreme environments**—from **deserts to tundra**.
 - Example: **Reindeer moss** is a type of lichen.
- Lichens help **insulate the ground** and serve as **forage** for animals.
- Lichens can **completely dry out** and later **rehydrate**, reviving their metabolic activity.
- **Fragments** can break off while dry and grow into new lichens—an asexual reproduction strategy.

Lichens in India

- Found in Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Aravallis.
- Over **2,000 species** identified.
- **Lichen-rich areas** include **Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh**.

Important roles of Lichens

- **Soil Formation:** Lichens colonize bare rocks and slowly break them down by producing acids, aiding in **primary succession** and **soil creation**.
- **Bioindicators of Air Quality:** Highly sensitive to air pollutants (like sulfur dioxide), lichens are excellent **indicators of air pollution and environmental health**.
- **Nutrient Cycling:** They contribute to **nutrient cycling**, especially nitrogen fixation (by cyanobacterial lichens), enriching poor soils.
- **Source of Natural Compounds:** Produces unique **secondary metabolites**(like antibiotics, dyes, and perfumes).
- **Ecological Monitoring & Climate Research:** Lichen growth patterns and species distribution help track **climate change**, ecosystem shifts, and **ecological balance**.

Threats to Lichens

- **Air Pollution**
 - **Major threat** to lichen survival.
 - Highly sensitive to pollutants like **sulphur dioxide**, **nitrogen oxides**, and **heavy metals**.
 - Found in lower abundance or absent in **urban and industrial areas**.
- **Habitat Destruction**
 - **Deforestation**, **urbanization**, and **infrastructure development** destroy natural substrates (rocks, trees) on which lichens grow.
- **Climate Change**
 - Changes in **temperature**, **humidity**, and **precipitation** patterns affect their survival.
 - Some lichens are adapted to **specific microclimates** and cannot tolerate shifts.
- **Overharvesting**
 - In some regions, lichens are collected for **dyes**, **perfumes**, **traditional medicines**, and **decorative use**, leading to population decline.
- **Invasive Species**
 - Competition from invasive plants or **bark-damaging organisms** can reduce suitable surfaces for lichens to grow.



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding lichens:

1. Lichens are formed through a symbiotic association between a fungus and algae.
2. Norstictic acid, found in some lichens, plays a role in defense and adaptation to harsh environments.
3. Lichens are resistant to air pollution and hence thrive in heavily polluted urban areas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only**
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

UNSC Reform

Search

THE HINDU

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India calls for time-bound UNSC reforms, backs 'Pact for the Future' agreement

The Pact for the Future is a United Nations agreement adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, aiming to strengthen global cooperation and address current and future challenges

Published - July 18, 2025 06:18 pm IST - New York

PTI



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Backdrop: India calls for time-bound UNSC reforms, backs 'Pact for the Future' agreement

Relevance: GS2/International Relations

India has called for urgent and time-bound UN Security Council reforms while reiterating its strong commitment to the implementation and review of the “Pact for the Future” agreement to strengthen global cooperation.

Things to be Discussed

What is the “Pact for the Future”?

What is the UNSC?

Why is UNSC Reform Necessary?

India's demand for Permanent Membership of the UNSC

Challenges in Reforming the UNSC

India's Efforts for UNSC Reform

Way Forward for UNSC Reform

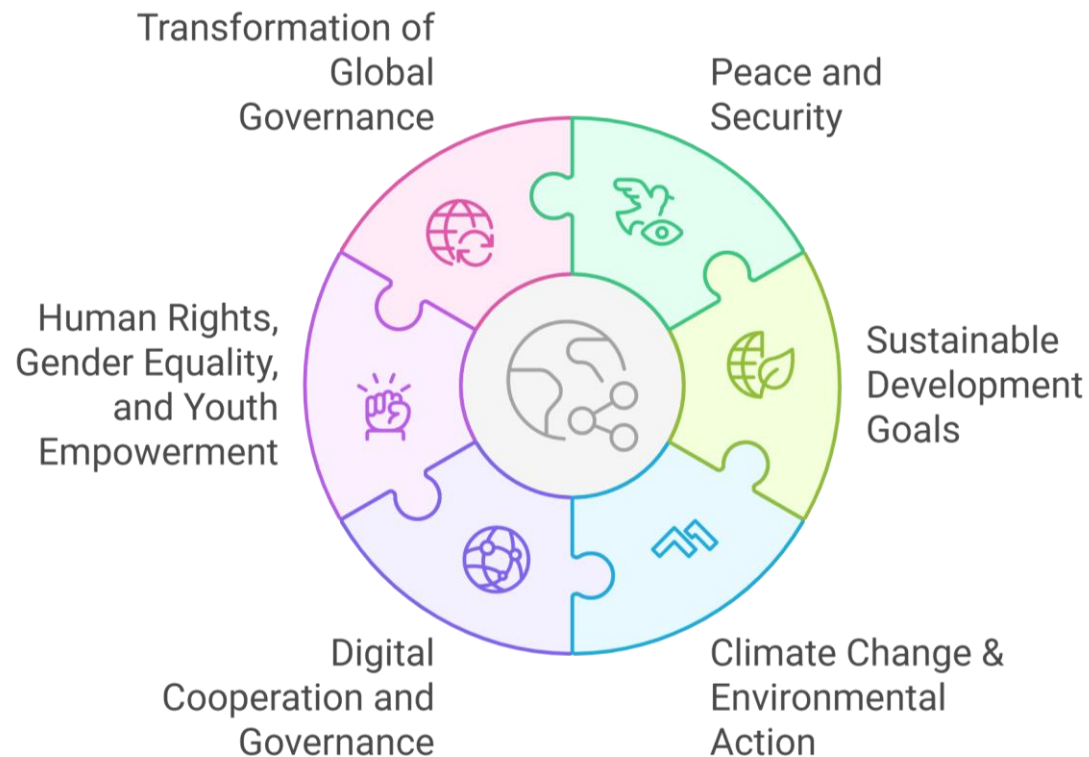
What can India do?

Conclusion

What is the “Pact for the Future”?

- **Adopted at:** UN “Summit of the Future”, **September 2024**.
- **Nature:** A non-binding yet significant *political declaration* among UN Member States.
- **Aim:** To strengthen multilateralism, improve global cooperation, and tackle present and emerging global challenges.

Key Focus Areas



What is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

The **UN Security Council** is one of the **six principal organs** of the **United Nations**, entrusted with the primary responsibility of **maintaining international peace and security**.

Present Composition:

- The Council comprises **15 members** in total:
 - **5 permanent members (P5)**: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - These nations possess **veto power**, enabling any one of them to block the adoption of substantive resolutions.
 - **10 non-permanent members**, elected by the UN General Assembly for **two-year terms**, based on regional representation.
 - Notably, **over 50 UN member states have never served** as members of the Security Council.

Why is UNSC Reform Necessary?

- **To make the UNSC more Inclusive and Representative**
 - The current structure does not reflect the **democratic values** of a multipolar world.
 - Expanding the Council is essential to building a **fairer and more equitable international governance system**.
- **Mismatch with Contemporary Geopolitical Realities**
 - The **current composition**, largely unchanged since **1945**, does not accommodate the rise of **new powers** like India, Brazil, South Africa, etc.
 - There is **inadequate representation** from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, regions home to the majority of the global population.
- **To Preserve UNSC's Credibility and Effectiveness**
 - The **Council's inability to act decisively** in situations involving P5 interests (e.g., the Ukraine war, the Israel-Gaza conflict) has **eroded global trust**.

- **Failure to Address Global Challenges**

- The UNSC has failed to take timely and unified actions on pressing global crises like the **COVID-19 pandemic, Climate-induced security threats, etc.**
- This questions the Council's **relevance in crisis management.**

- **Outdated Structure and Decision-Making Processes**

- The veto-wielding power of the P5 often **paralyses the Council.**
- The decision-making process is still rooted in the **post-WWII power structure**, which no longer reflects today's world dynamics.

- **Bureaucracy and Institutional Inefficiency**

- **Cumbersome procedures and bureaucratic delays** hinder swift global responses.
- Streamlining the UNSC's operational framework is essential for faster and more effective action.

- **Inequitable Financial Contribution and Burden Sharing**

- The current formula for UN budget contributions is primarily based on **Gross National Income**, with a cap for major economies.
- **Emerging economies** seek a **reassessment of financial responsibilities** aligned with their increased global roles.
- Contributed significantly to debates on **global peace, decolonisation, development, and disarmament**.

- **Global Democratic Representation**

- **World's largest democracy**, representing **one-sixth of humanity**.
- Its inclusion would enhance the **democratic legitimacy** and **representativeness** of the UNSC.

- **Strong Economic and Military Credentials**

- **Fourth largest economy** in the world and a **fast-growing major power**.
- **Second-largest standing army** and a growing technological and space capability.
- It makes it a key stakeholder in global security.

- **Contributions to Global Peace and Security**
 - **Largest cumulative contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions—**over **200,000 troops deployed** across 49 missions since 1948.
 - Played a crucial role in **conflict resolution** in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, including support for **anti-apartheid movements** and **Palestinian rights**.

India's demand for Permanent Membership of the UNSC



- **Founding Member and Strong UN Legacy**
 - India is a **founding member of the UN** and has **served on the UNSC eight times** as a non-permanent member.
- **Voice for Developing and Underrepresented Countries**
 - India consistently supports the interests of **developing nations**, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. India champions a **balanced and equitable world order**.
- **Active International Engagement**
 - Signatory to multiple **global conventions** and actively participates in **multilateral forums** on climate change, sustainable development, anti-terrorism, etc
 - E.g., India is part of MTCR, Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group).
- **Geostrategic Importance in the Indo-Pacific**
 - With its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, India plays a **key role in maritime security** and acts as a **net security provider** in the Indo-Pacific.

Challenges in Reforming the UNSC



- **Complex Procedure for UN Charter Amendment**
 - Amending the UN Charter demands:
 - A **two-thirds majority** in the UN General Assembly (129 of 193 members), **and**
 - **Ratification by two-thirds of UNSC members, including all P-5 nations.**
 - This makes reform extremely difficult, especially when **any one P-5 member can veto** the change.
- **Resistance from the Permanent Members (P-5)**
 - The **P-5 countries (the US, UK, France, Russia, China)** are reluctant to dilute their privileged position.
 - Most are **opposed to sharing veto power** or altering the current balance of power within the Council.

- **Lack of Consensus Among Member States**

- **No agreement on the key aspects:**

- Size of expansion in both **permanent and non-permanent categories**
 - **Regional representation** (e.g., who should represent Asia, Africa, Latin America)
 - Whether new permanent members should have **veto powers**.

- **Opposition from Rival States and Groups**

- **India's bid** for permanent membership faces **opposition from several quarters:**

- **China** may oppose due to strained bilateral ties and desire to **block regional competitors**.
 - **Pakistan**, along with the **Uniting for Consensus (UFC)** group (includes Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Egypt) prefers greater non-permanent representation.
 - Some argue **Asia is already represented by China**, while Africa and Latin America have no permanent seats.

- **Disagreements on Veto Power**

- **Extension of veto power** to new permanent members is a **contentious issue**.
 - Many existing P-5 members oppose this.
 - Some reform proposals suggest **new permanent members without veto**, which is seen as creating a **second-tier status**.

- **Geopolitical Rivalries and Tensions**

- **Global conflicts** and power struggles (e.g., Russia vs. West over Ukraine, US-China rivalry) impact broader cooperation on reforms.

India's Efforts for UNSC Reform

- **Active Participation in Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN)**
 - India has **actively participated in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN)**—the official UN platform for discussions on UNSC reform.
 - India has consistently demanded **expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories**, and **enhanced representation for developing countries**, especially from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- **Leadership within the G4 Group**
 - India is a founding member of the **G4 grouping**, along with **Japan, Brazil, and Germany**.
 - These four nations support each other's candidatures for **permanent membership** and advocate for **comprehensive reforms** in the Council.
- **Engagement with the L.69 Group**
 - India is also part of the **L.69 Group**. This group seeks to enhance the **voice and representation of developing nations** in global decision-making, especially within the UNSC.

- **Advocacy through Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy**
 - India has consistently raised the issue of UNSC reform in **bilateral meetings, G20 summits, BRICS, NAM, and Commonwealth forums**.
 - It uses these platforms to garner support from **African Union, CARICOM, ASEAN, and Pacific Island countries**.

- **Consistent Position at UNGA and Global Summits**
 - During events like the **Summit of the Future 2024**, India endorsed the *Pact for the Future* while **emphasizing time-bound UNSC reforms**.

Way Forward for UNSC Reform



- **Expansion of Membership**
 - Increase the number of both **permanent and non-permanent seats** to reflect **current global demographics and power structures**.
 - Ensure greater representation from **Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean** to enhance the Council's **legitimacy and inclusivity**.
- **Reform of Veto Power**
 - Reassess the **scope and use of veto**; consider:
 - **Limiting** its use in cases involving mass atrocities or human rights violations.
 - **Phasing it out** gradually or introducing a **collective veto override** mechanism.
 - Consider proposals like **indicative voting** (as suggested by the Kofi Annan Plan), where informal voting occurs without veto, followed by a formal vote.

- **Institutional Transparency and Accountability**
 - Improve UNSC **working methods**, including:
 - Greater **coordination with other UN bodies**
 - Enhanced **consultation with non-members**
 - **Open debates**, reporting mechanisms, and inclusive decision-making processes
- **Text-Based Negotiations**
 - Transition the **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)** process into **formal text-based negotiations** to move beyond general statements and develop actionable proposals.
- **Intermediate and Innovative Reform Proposals**
 - Support **G4's proposal** for a new category of **longer-term non-permanent seats** as a transitional arrangement.
 - This could help build consensus and **test the impact** of structural changes before granting permanent status.

- **Representation Based on Contribution**
 - Reform representation based on **financial, military, and peacekeeping contributions**.
 - Countries like **Germany, Japan, and India**, being major contributors, should have a **larger say in global decision-making**.
- **Leverage UNGA Resolution 377A (Uniting for Peace):**
 - If the UNSC fails to act due to P5 deadlock, the **General Assembly can step in** and recommend collective action.
 - This offers a pathway to bypass veto-induced paralysis and **enhance democratic oversight**.

What can India do?

- **Strengthen Global Alliances and Coalitions**
 - **Continue leading the G4 group** to build momentum for reforms.
 - Deepen ties with **L.69 group** and **African, Caribbean, Latin American nations** to form a broad coalition in favor of expansion.
- **Enhance Engagement with P5 Countries**
 - Use strategic partnerships with **US, France, UK, Russia** to lobby for India's inclusion as a global partner.
- **Amplify Contributions to Global Governance**
 - Play a more active role in **peacekeeping, climate action, health diplomacy**, and **global security** issues.
 - Position itself as a **responsible global power** by contributing to solutions for crises (e.g., Ukraine, Gaza, Indo-Pacific security).
- **Push for Procedural Progress**
 - Press for **text-based negotiations** in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) framework.
 - Support **intermediate reforms** (e.g., longer-term non-permanent seats) as a transitional strategy.

- **Strengthen Domestic Credentials**

- Continue economic growth and governance reforms to showcase **political and economic stability**.
- Promote values of **democracy, secularism, multilateralism**, and **rule of law** to align with UN principles.

- **Align Foreign Policy with Global Expectations**

- Maintain a **balanced and principled foreign policy** that demonstrates global leadership.
- Act as a **net security provider in the Indo-Pacific** and **champion of multilateralism**.

Conclusion

The future of UNSC reform lies in **inclusive dialogue, pragmatic intermediate steps**, and **sustained diplomatic engagement**. While full-scale reform may take time, **incremental changes** can build momentum toward a **more representative, effective, and credible** Security Council.



PRACTICE QUESTION



- Q. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. (150 words) (2015)**
- Q. "India's quest for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council reflects both its global aspirations and its contributions to multilateralism." Critically examine India's case for permanent membership in the UNSC. Also, discuss the challenges it faces and the way forward. (250 words)**