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Q7(c)

Explain the factors which justify India's claim for a permanent seat at the UN security council

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · PSIR GS 2 · 15 marks · India and the UN System

India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.

Core demand of the question

- Explain the factors which justify India's claim for a permanent seat at the UN security council
- Write at 15-mark length

Revision summary

A permanent seat is claimed as overdue Council reform.

India cites size, democracy, economy, and peacekeeping contribution.

G4 diplomacy presents the claim as a package, not a vanity seat.

Nuclear responsibility and Indian Ocean weight are security arguments.

P5 inertia, especially China's, is the political obstacle.

Introduction

India seeks a permanent UN Security Council seat as part of reformed multilateralism. The claim is that 1945 power no longer matches 21st-century contribution and legitimacy.

Body

Contribution factors

- **Population and democracy:** a large, constitutionally democratic State whose inclusion would widen the Council's representative base beyond the 1945 victors.
- **Economy and peacekeeping:** a major economy and one of the UN's largest historical troop contributors, which [Article 23](#) already lists as a criterion for elected seats.
- **Diplomacy:** NAM founder, G20 member, and a regular elected member of the Council with a record of drafting and mediation attempts.

Security and order factors

- Nuclear-weapon capability outside the NPT, plus a no-first-use-style public doctrine, is used to argue that India is a responsible stakeholder, not a spoiler.
- Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean geography make Indian consent useful for any Council claim to speak for Asian peace.
- G4 coordination with Japan, Germany, and Brazil frames the claim as Council reform, not a solo demand.

Justice of the map

- Africa and Latin America lack a permanent seat. India's claim is often paired with wider expansion so that the veto club is less a 1945 museum.
- The P5 veto, which Waltz would call polarity written into the Charter, is exactly what India says must be updated.

Obstacles that do not cancel the justification

- China, and sometimes others, can stall text. Pakistan campaigns against India. These are power facts. They do not erase the representative case.

Flow diagram

Population democracy economy -> Claim to permanent seat
Peacekeeping G20 -> Claim to permanent seat
G4 reform reform -> Claim to permanent seat
1945 veto map -.blocks. -> Claim to permanent seat

Conclusion

India's claim rests on population, democracy, economy, peacekeeping, and Asian security weight, plus the datedness of the 1945 P5. Justification is contribution plus representativeness. The veto politics of the present Council is the barrier, not the absence of a case.

Facts & figures

Article 23 UN Charter

Elected Council members should be chosen with regard to contribution to peace and to equitable geography.

G4

Brazil, Germany, India, Japan grouping for permanent seats in a reformed Council.

UN peacekeeping

India has been among the largest cumulative troop contributors, a practical legitimacy claim.

P5

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the 1945 permanent map India wants expanded.