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News: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- Recently, India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- Security Council of the United Nations **ensures international peace and security** recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter.
- Under the charter, **all Member States are obliged to comply with Council decisions**. Hence, the UNSC is the only **UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions** on member states.
- **Members: 5 Permanent members** (US, China, France, UK, Russia) with Veto power.
- **10 non- permanent members** elected on a regional basis for a term of **2 years**. **Each year 5 members retire** and election occurs for the vacant post. Retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.

- India has been elected as the non- permanent member in the election in 2020 June (unanimously won). The term of Indian membership along with Ireland, Mexico and Norway started in 1st January 2021.
- Presidency rotates monthly among its members.
- India is a member of G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) which support each other's bids for permanent seats on UNSC.
- However, each of their bids are being opposed by Uniting for Consensus (or simply Coffee Club) a group of around 50 states, who are opposing the resolution of increasing the permanent seats in UNSC. It is led by Italy. Other core members of Coffee club include South Korea, Canada, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, Argentina, Pakistan and Malta.
- These countries propose to increase non-permanent members from 10 to 20 while keeping the permanent membership to 5.
- The Secretary General of UNGA is appointed by the UNGA only based on the recommendation of the Security Council. It implies that essentially the P5 countries chose the Secretary. There is an informal understanding between the members that Secretary General should alternatively be from Western and Eastern Block.
- States can complain against another, if one is seen violating the norms under Biological Weapons Convention to the UNSC.