



India's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

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India's first stint as the President of the UNSC since it became a non-permanent member of the Council for the 2021-22 term was most eventful. Under India's Presidency, the UNSC held discussions on important global issues and passed resolutions relating to UN peacekeeping operations and the situations in Mali, the Middle East, Somalia and Afghanistan. The landmark Presidential statement on maritime safety and security as a key component of the maintenance of international peace and security was a major highlight. India will next take over the mantle of UNSC President in December 2022. This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) reflects on India's month-long stewardship of the UNSC as President, covering diverse opinions from various experts.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India's diplomatic win on Afghanistan <i>By Lakshmi Puri</i> The Indian Express September 11, 2021</p>	<p>India has a history of memorable "August presidencies" of the United Nations Security Council. During its 2011 presidency, events in Libya posed a diplomatic challenge. Exactly 10 years later, in this staycation month a geopolitical earthquake, and the resulting tectonic shifts in Afghanistan challenged the presidency. India passed the test with flying colours. Maintaining calm, India focused on safeguarding and advancing its national interest and the global public goods of counterterrorism, peace and security.</p>
<p>An Indian August at the UNSC <i>By TP Sreenivasan</i> The Shillong Times September 10, 2021</p>	<p>August was India's moment in the journey of the UN to rid the world of the scourges of war, terrorism and insecurity of the oceans and it was for those who were part of the labours of August 2021 to cherish the moment and feel proud.</p>
<p>India's Approach to the Afghan Crisis as President of UN Security Council <i>By Vikash Chandra</i> IDSA September 09, 2021</p>	<p>In its capacity as president of the UNSC, India organised a consultation, issued two press statements and introduced a resolution to tackle the Afghanistan crisis. The consultation meeting called on 16 August was attended by 15 Council members, the Secretary-General António Guterres, and a representative of Afghanistan.</p>

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<p>India’s presidency of the UNSC fortified our role in world affairs <i>By T.S. Tirumurti</i> Livemint September 08, 2021</p>	<p>India has just concluded its presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August. It was a remarkable month. What was supposed to be a calm August turned out to be one of the busiest and probably most productive. We managed to achieve almost all of what we set out for, and also successfully handled the expected and unexpected challenges that came our way.</p>
<p>India made its UNSC presidency count <i>By Gurjit Singh</i> The Tribune September 02, 2021</p>	<p>During the two years in the UNSC, the presidency gives an opportunity for focusing on critical issues beyond the regular work of the Security Council. Such special efforts draw attention to India’s role and interests. India has grasped the opportunity well and brought public visibility to issues of importance.</p>
<p>France Lauds India's Presidency At UNSC, Says It 'helped Steering Response' In Afghanistan <i>By Riya Baibhawi</i> Republic World September 01, 2021</p>	<p>France lauded efforts taken by India during its month-long presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which ended on August 31. Showering accolades on the PM Modi-led administration, French ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain said that India’s leadership in the council has contributed significantly and helped steer the council's response to the crisis in Afghanistan and the South China Sea.</p>
<p>India ends month-long UNSC presidency: A look at key achievements <i>By Amit Chaturvedi</i> Hindustan Times September 01, 2021</p>	<p>India's month-long presidency of the powerful United Nations Security Council (UNSC) ended on August 31 with substantive outcomes on key global issues. India is currently a non-permanent member (for a two-year term) of the 15-nation UNSC. Several UN member states tweeted to express gratitude to India for its leadership of the Council during the month of August.</p>
<p>India at the UNSC: Will the Country be Able to Leave its Footprints? <i>By Jyoti Singh</i> Opinio Juris August 27, 2021</p>	<p>As a country, India, has always been a strong proponent of international law and the same was shown in its advocacy for acceptance of UNCLOS, the concept of SAGAR and its vision of the Indo-Pacific region in its presidential lecture. Warm reception of India’s encouragement for international law is a great start for the country in its tenure at the UNSC.</p>
<p>India’s focus on enhancing maritime security as the UNSC president: Leadership envisioning a global roadmap <i>By Debasis Bhattacharya</i> Observer Research Foundation August 26, 2021</p>	<p>In this context, it is argued that India’s leadership as the President of UNSC in configuring a comprehensive approach for maritime security - at this critical juncture when ocean domains face increasing security concerns and threats - is appropriate and timely. It revitalises the issue in the international community while demonstrating the urgency to effectively address the emerging maritime challenges with a spirit of reformed multilateral cooperation, and heightened transparency in governance.</p>

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<p>India delivers diplomatically at the UNSC amidst U.S.-China strategic rivalry <i>By Ashok Sharma</i> CNBC TV18 August 24, 2021</p>	<p>The battle for mastery in the Indo-Pacific continues. The latest battleground is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) virtual meeting on August 9th, which marked one of the highest levels of participation. The meeting is significant because India emerged as a stabiliser in the tussle over the resolution that sparked the heated debate between the U.S. and Chinese representatives over the issue of maritime security.</p>
<p>Lessons in new ways to lead <i>By Harsh V. Pant</i> Observer Research Foundation August 18, 2021</p>	<p>India has moved away from the idealism of the past in its engagement with the global multilateral order. New Delhi has become more pragmatic in seeking outcomes in its favour, as is reflected in the way it has taken up key issues as its priority during its UNSC presidency.</p>

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