

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

24 SEPTEMBER 2022



## TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

# G4 countries highlight 'urgent need' for reform in UN Security Council

Germany, Brazil, Japan and India reiterate support for each other's bids to become permanent members of the UNSC, and for representation of African countries

Sriram Lakshman  
UNITED NATIONS

Reform of the United Nations has been a central theme of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United Nations this week, and on Thursday, he met with his counterparts from Germany, Brazil and Japan under The Group of Four (G4) banner following the BRICS meeting. The group is primarily focused on UN Security Council (UNSC) reform, and permanent membership for G4 members. On Thursday, they reiterated their commitment to pushing forward reform and expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of progress.

"Reiterated our joint commitment to work towards text based negotiations that leads to Reformed Multilateralism. Will continue our cooperation towards this goal," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting. India is currently a non-permanent member of the Council.



**Strong bonds:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with counterparts from Brazil, Germany and Japan during the G4 meeting on Friday. PTI

In addition to reiterating their support for each other's bids to become permanent members of the UNSC, the G4 also reiterated its support for African countries being represented in a permanent and non-permanent capacity. The G4 felt that the UN decision making bodies needed to be urgently reformed as global issues were increasingly complex and interconnected, a joint press

statement from the group said. The "inability" of the UNSC to "effectively" address these problems "vividly demonstrate[s] the urgent need" for UNSC reform, the statement said.

U.S. President Joe Biden emphasized its support for expanding permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council, during his UN-GA address on Wednesday. However, State Department spokesperson Ned

Price had said in 2021 that the U.S. supports expansion of body provided it "does not alter or expand the veto".

On Thursday, the G4 ministers expressed concern that the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly did not make "meaningful progress" in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN), which, according to the G4, was constrained by a lack of transparency.

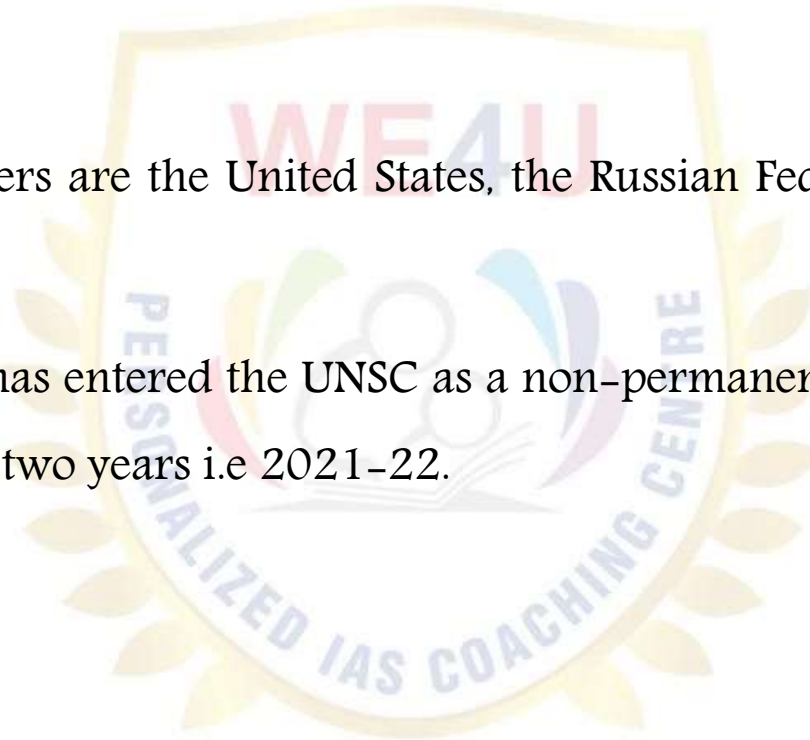
## UNSC

✓ The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

✓ Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security.

✓ The council is headquartered at New York.

- ✓The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- ✓The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
- ✓India, for the eighth time, has entered the UNSC as a non-permanent member last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22.



## TOPIC: STATE EXECUTIVE

# T.N. CM as Chancellor plan may face hurdle

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

Various Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of the State universities may hit a road-

block as they appear to be inconsistent with the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, Governor R.N. Ravi indicated on Friday.

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### UGC Act 1956

✓ The University Grants Commission is a statutory organization established by an Act of Parliament in 1956.

✓ **Aim and Role:** To provide funds to universities and coordinate, determine & maintain the ethics in institutions of higher education. The commission upholds the universities', government's, and community's interpretations.

## Currency pressure

RBI will have to ensure price stability and prevent further rupee weakening

The rupee is yet again facing renewed pressure, along with major peers, as the dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest jumbo 75 basis points interest rate increase and the U.S. central bank's unequivocal message that it remains squarely focused on taming inflation. The Indian currency weakened past the 81-mark against the dollar for the first time ever in Friday's intraday trade, before ending the week at a new record closing low. The rupee's slide was softened by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention to smoothen volatility; the cumulative impact of such interventions over the 12 months through September 16 have shrunk the RBI's war chest of foreign exchange reserves by almost \$94 billion to \$545.65 billion. The fact that the rupee is not alone in depreciating against the dollar can be of little comfort to Indian companies reliant on imports of raw materials or services for the smooth functioning of their businesses. They are struggling to contend with rising costs at a time when domestic demand is still to regain a durable post-pandemic footing. The higher import bill is also bound to add inflationary pressures to an economy already beset by persistently elevated inflation and further complicates monetary policymakers' efforts to rein in the price gains.

The rupee's more than 8% depreciation against the dollar so far in 2022, with almost all of the weakening having occurred in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, has also largely offset whatever gains that may accrue from the fact that the price of the Indian basket of crude oil has now retreated substantially and is close to its pre-war levels. Overseas portfolio investors too have once again turned net sellers of Indian stocks and debt in the last two sessions after having resumed their purchases of local assets in August and for most of this month. As a result, so far in 2022, FPIs have in total dumped \$20.6 billion of Indian equity and debt following three straight years of net investments. And the Fed's projection of further steep monetary tightening, of at least another 125 basis points, is only likely to lead to more outflows over the last quarter of this year. With the rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER), or trade-weighted average of its value, also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued, the RBI's rate setting panel will have a fine tightrope to walk next week as it battles to restore a semblance of price stability without choking growth and by ensuring the rupee does not weaken too sharply.

## Exchange Rate

- ✓ The price of one currency in terms of the other is known as the exchange rate.
- ✓ The Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) is the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER) adjusted by relative prices or costs and is captured in inflation differentials between the home economy and trading partners.
- ✓ Currency depreciation is a fall in the value of a currency in terms of its exchange rate versus other currencies.

## TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Quad signs agreement for disaster relief and assistance

Sriram Lakshman  
UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Ministers of the Quad group of countries - India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan - met on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday to sign a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership into effect.

- ✓ Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.

# Realtor produced before High Court in contempt case

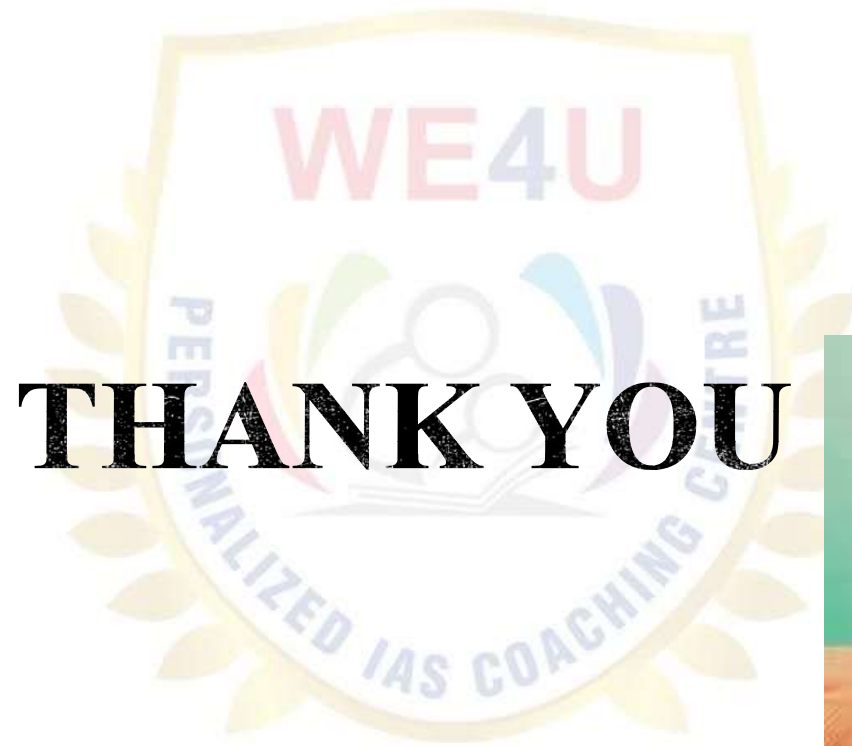
## TOPIC: JUDICIARY

### Contempt

- ✓ While the basic idea of a contempt law is to punish those who do not respect the orders of the courts, in the Indian context, contempt is also used to punish speech that lowers the dignity of the court and interferes with the administration of justice.

### Contempt of court can be of two kinds:

- ✓ Civil, that is the willful disobedience of a court order or judgment or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- ✓ Criminal, that is written or spoken words or any act that scandalises the court or lowers its authority or prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding or interferes/obstructs the administration of justice.



**THANK YOU**

