Key Questions

• Why would it benefit India to make this a priority in its national strategic plan?
• What are India’s key arguments in favor of assuming a Permanent Seat at the UN?
• What are the key obstacles that challenge those arguments?
• Who are the primary actors who will determine whether or not India is able to join the Security Council?
• What types of spoilers exist that may prevent this from happening?
• What strategy should India pursue in its efforts to gain permanent membership?
• What is the most reasonable timetable to set in pursing this objective?

Main Arguments

Why should India be considered for a Security Council Seat?

1. It is the largest functioning democracy in the world and thus a potential model for the developing world.
2. It is the second most populated country in the world at 1.2 Billion+.
3. It is the seventh largest economy in the World in terms of nominal GDP, already exceeding the nominal GDP of one of the Permanent members of the Security Council (Russia). It is projected to exceed the nominal GDP of another Permanent member (France) by 2020.
4. It has the third largest military in the world and its military arsenal includes nuclear weapons.

Conclusion

What does India need to do to make its effort more likely to succeed?

1. Do an overall assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of India’s bid as outlined in the Main Argument. Strategize based on this.
2. Look at other factors that can also bolster India’s position, for example, bringing on active support from those countries with a large Indian population to support India. These would include:
   - Guyana
   - Suriname
   - Trinidad and Tobago
   - Belize
   - Canada
   - Seychelles
   - Fiji
   - Mauritius
   - Singapore
   - Myanmar
   - Sri Lanka
3. Mobilize the Indian diaspora in the United States to lobby the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are almost 4 million people of Indian heritage in the United States. Learn from the diasporas of other immigrant populations in the US.
4. Identify potential allies among other countries that, like India, are seeking to have a permanent seat at the Security Council. There can be more than one country that is added to the SC:
   - Germany
   - Japan
   - Brazil
   - Nigeria
   - Iran
   - South Africa
5. PATIENCE. Await the moment of ripeness.

References

The Hindu, "UN backs India's Bid for permanent UNSC Seat," August 18, 2015.
The Hindu, "Russia backs India's Bid for permanent UNSC Seat, August 12, 2015.
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