

1. Pakistan's Key Roles in the UNSC: Should India Be Concerned?**What Roles Has Pakistan Secured?**

As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2025–26, Pakistan now holds:

- Chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee (TSC)
- Vice Chair of the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)
- Co-Chair in two informal UNSC working groups

How Did Pakistan Get These Positions?

- **Procedural Process:** These roles are usually assigned to elected non-permanent members. Permanent members (like the US or China) do not chair such committees to avoid conflicts of interest.
- **By Rotation:** Each non-permanent member is expected to lead at least one committee during their term.
- **Precedents Exist:** India chaired similar committees during its 2021–2022 UNSC term.

What Do These Committees Do?**1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee (TSC)**

- Monitors sanctions against over 130 Taliban-linked individuals.
- Oversees travel bans, asset freezes, and arms embargoes.
- Chair's Role: Procedural — sets agenda and facilitates discussion; cannot unilaterally list/delist individuals.

1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

- Created after 9/11 through Resolution 1373.
- Focuses on implementation, not enforcement — helps countries build anti-terror capacity.
- Pakistan's Vice Chairmanship reflects this technical and cooperative role.

Does Pakistan's Role Give It Power Over India?**Limited Direct Impact**

- The Chair has no unilateral authority — decisions require consensus among all 15 UNSC members.
- Pakistan's capacity to push anti-India measures is highly restricted.

Taliban Dynamics Have Changed

- Taliban now de facto rulers of Afghanistan; international relations have evolved.



- Even India now engages with Taliban officials, despite previously opposing waivers for them.
- Taliban-Pakistan ties have weakened, reducing Islamabad's leverage.

CTC's Scope Is Technical

- CTC does not sanction individuals or investigate attacks.
- Its work is advisory — not punitive — and focused on state capacity-building.

Pakistan's Past Use of Influence

- Pakistan has historically blocked Indian efforts, especially in the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee, often with China's support.
- Example: In 2022, China blocked India's attempt to list Abdul Rauf Azhar (JeM leader).

So, Should India Worry?

Committee Roles: Not a Major Concern

- These committee positions are largely administrative.
- No direct impact on India's diplomatic standing or security.

Rotational UNSC Presidency: A Bigger Concern

- Pakistan will hold the UNSC Presidency in July 2025.
- In 2013, it used this role to highlight Kashmir and shift attention from its own failings on terrorism.
- As President, Pakistan can:
 - Call meetings
 - Set discussion agendas
 - Convene informal consultations

Real Issue: Structural Gaps

- UNSC committees function on consensus — any one member can block decisions.
- The system often lacks debate and fails to hold states accountable, especially for state-sponsored terrorism.

Conclusion

Pakistan's new UNSC roles are symbolic and procedural, not strategic threats. However, its upcoming UNSC Presidency could be used for political messaging against India. India should monitor developments but need not overreact, as these positions do not grant Pakistan unilateral power.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

2. Why India Is Revising Its GDP Base Year and Why It Matters

What Is GDP and What Is a Base Year?

- GDP (Gross Domestic Product) measures the total value of goods and services produced in an economy.
- The base year is the reference year for comparing GDP growth across years. It helps calculate real growth by adjusting for inflation.

Government to revise #GDP base year to 2022-23 by February 2026: #MoSPI Secretary



- Currently, India's GDP base year is 2011–12. This will be revised to 2022–23, with the new data series released in February 2026.

What Other Indices Are Being Updated?

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) base year will also change to 2022–23.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year will be updated to 2023–24.

Has This Been Done Before?

Yes, this is not the first time. India has changed the GDP base year seven times before:

1. 1948–49 → 1960–61 (1967)
2. 1960–61 → 1970–71 (1978)
3. 1970–71 → 1980–81 (1988)
4. 1980–81 → 1993–94 (1999)
5. 1993–94 → 1999–2000 (2006)
6. 1999–2000 → 2004–05 (2010)
7. 2004–05 → 2011–12 (2015)

These updates also included changes in methodology, data sources, and coverage.

Why Are Base Year Revisions Important?

1. To reflect the changing economy: New sectors emerge (like digital services), and older ones become less relevant.
2. To improve accuracy: More recent data provides a better measure of real economic growth (excluding inflation).
3. To update methods: Improved tools and surveys offer better ways to estimate GDP.
4. To align with global standards and ensure data reliability for domestic and international use.

Why Was the Base Year Not Updated Earlier (in 2017–18)?

- The government had planned to shift the base year to 2017–18.
- However, two key datasets — Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) — showed uncomfortable findings:
 - Unemployment was at a 45-year high.
 - Poverty appeared to rise, reversing a long-term trend.
- The government rejected CES data, and the planned update was dropped.
- Additionally, demonetisation (2016) and GST implementation (2017) disrupted economic data, making 2017–18 an unsuitable base year.
- Later, COVID-19 further delayed revisions, as 2020–22 weren't "normal" years for comparison.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

3. Pickle Juice: Carlos Alcaraz's Cramps Fix in French Open Final

What Happened?



During the longest-ever French Open men's final (5 hours 29 minutes), Carlos Alcaraz sipped pickle juice to prevent cramps against Jannik Sinner.

What Is Pickle Juice?

- A briny liquid made of water, salt, and vinegar, typically used for pickling vegetables like gherkins.
- Contains acetic acid, sodium, and potassium — all useful for muscle

function.

- Now available commercially in bottles or sachets, sometimes with added dill oil or starch extracts.

Why Do Athletes Drink It?

- Used to quickly relieve cramps, especially during intense physical activity.
- The acetic acid triggers a neurological reflex via nerve receptors in the mouth, signaling muscles to relax.

How It Works: Expert Insight

- Anita Bean, sports nutritionist: Acetic acid activates a nerve response to stop cramps.
- Tejaswin Shankar: Pickle juice is a quick fix, like a "band-aid" for cramps — faster than traditional hydration or electrolytes.

Conclusion

Pickle juice is becoming a go-to solution for athletes worldwide. Its fast-acting relief from cramps, thanks to acetic acid, makes it especially useful during high-stakes, high-intensity competitions like the French Open or the Olympics.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Science & Technology

Source: The Hindu

'Join PrepMate IAS'

WhatsApp 'Name' and 'State' on 75979-00000 to receive daily current affairs in simple and concise language.