



UNGA Resolution on Russia-Ukraine

For Prelims: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), UN Security Council (UNSC), International Court of Justice, Nature of UN resolutions.

For Mains: Russia's war over Ukraine, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests.

Why in News?

Recently, **India has abstained** at the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The resolution **called Russia to unconditionally withdraw its troops**.

- The General Assembly session was convened after a similar resolution had failed to pass the [U.N. Security Council \(UNSC\) when Russia exercised its veto](#).

// How much of Ukraine does Russia control?



What are the Key Points of the resolution?

- The resolution, **co-sponsored by 96 countries**, needed **two thirds of those present and voting to support it, for it to pass**.
- It condemns the 24th February 2022 **'special military operation'** by Russia over Ukraine.
- It says **no territories acquired through force will be recognised and calls for Russia to "immediately, completely and unconditionally" withdraw from Ukraine**.

What is India's Stand and Concerns?

- India's **Permanent Representative to the UN, T. S. Tirumurti**, said that the **"safe and uninterrupted passage"** of Indian nationals, especially students, was India's **"foremost priority"**.
 - India also called for an **"immediate ceasefire"** and **humanitarian access to conflict areas**.
 - India hoped that the **second round of talks between Russia and Ukraine** would yield positive results.
- Russia's actions have left India in an uncomfortable position as it attempts to **balance its interests with both Russia and the Western Countries**.
- Given its experiences in its **own neighbourhood, with China and Pakistan**, India is also wary of the **implications of not condemning one country** unilaterally attempting to change the borders it shares with another.
- India urges that all Member States demonstrate their commitment to the principles **of the UN Charter, to international law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity** of all states.
- **A number of countries in India's neighbourhood supported the resolution** — Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives, for instance. Afghanistan, currently run by a militant organisation (the Taliban), and Myanmar, currently ruled by a junta (military), also voted in favour of it.
 - **Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, like India**, abstained. **China also** abstained.

Are UN resolutions binding?

- **Resolutions and decisions** are formal expressions of the opinion or will of UN organs.
- The nature of the resolution determines if it is considered binding on States.
- **Articles 10 and 14 of the UN Charter** refer to General Assembly resolutions as **"recommendations"**.
 - The **recommendatory nature of General Assembly** resolutions has repeatedly been stressed by the [International Court of Justice](#).
 - However, some General Assembly resolutions dealing with matters internal to the United Nations, such as budgetary decisions or instructions to lower-ranking organs, are clearly binding.
- In general, resolutions adopted by the **Security Council acting under Chapter VII** of the Charter, are considered binding, in accordance with **Article 25 of the Charter**.
 - However, they are subject to veto exercised by **permanent members of UNSC**.

[Source: TH](#)