



UN Resolution Condemning Russian Aggression

For Prelims: Location of Ukraine and Neighbourhood, United Nations Security Council, Russia, Ukraine, Veto Power, LAC, QUAD.

For Mains: Important International Institutions, Global Groupings, International Treaties & Agreements, India and its Neighbourhood, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests, India's Stand on the Resolution, Reasons for India's Stand and Way Forward.

Why in News?

Recently, the [United Nation Security Council](#) voted on the draft resolution by the US and Albania that sought to **condemn Russian aggression** and called for the **immediate cessation of violence** and withdrawal of Russian military from Ukraine.

// How much of Ukraine does Russia control?



What was the Resolution About?

- The Council's resolution **reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine** within its internationally recognised borders.
- The resolution **"deplores in the strongest terms Russia's aggression against Ukraine"** and decides that **Russia "shall immediately cease its use of force** against Ukraine and shall refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any UN member state".
 - The **original version was too strong, as it invoked UN Chapter VII**, which authorises the use of force against Russian troops in Ukraine.
- It also asked **Russia to "immediately and unconditionally reverse the [decision related to the status of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions](#) of Ukraine"**.
- The resolution **did not pass since the permanent member and President of the Security Council** for the month of February **Russia**, used its veto.
- The resolution received 11 votes in favour and three abstentions. **China and India both abstained.**

What is India's Stand on the Current Crisis?

- India is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine. India urged that **all efforts shall be made for the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities.**
- **Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes**, however daunting that may appear at this moment. It is a matter of regret that the path of diplomacy was given up.
- With this **India has managed to hold its balancing act** again, despite the considerable pressures from the West to vote against Russia, as well as pressures from Russia to support it.
 - Earlier in January 2022, **India abstained from a vote on whether to hold a discussion on the Ukraine situation**, and also indicated support for Russia's legitimate security interests.
- India has been in touch with all sides, **urging parties concerned to return to the negotiating table.**

What is India's Dilemma?

- India's strategic ambivalence at this big turning point in world geopolitics is born out of its **friendships and strategic partnerships on both sides.**
- **Russia is India's biggest and time tested supplier of defence weapons.** Despite its growing friendship with China, Russia has boosted India's defence capabilities with the **[S-400 air defence system](#).**
- India's Defence Minister visited Russia at the height of India's crisis with the **Chinese Army at the [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#) in June 2020.** And **Russia has stood behind India at the UNSC on all issues.**
- At the same time, **[India has a deep partnership with the United States](#),** which includes defence pacts, trade and investment, technology, and not least, a huge connection through the Indian diaspora and people to people contacts.
 - With thousands of students leaving Indian shores every year to study in American universities.
- The same with Europe. Additionally, **France as one of the P-5 (Permanent Five) is a vital friend of India in the UN Security Council. India needs all these friends** as it deals with China's moves at the LAC.

What is the Need of the Hour for India?

- Dealing first-hand with the consequences of **[Chinese expansionism](#) and adventurism** on its own borders, and a South Asian region suddenly **[vacated by America's military presence in Afghanistan](#).**
- **India needs both the US and Russia** to fend off a Chinese strategic and geo-economic threat in Asia.
- If the **India-Russia partnership is critical on land in Asia**, the **[QUAD](#)** - an alliance between America, Japan, Australia and India - is imperative when it comes to **countering Chinese**

maritime expansionism in the [Indian Ocean region](#).

- The imperative to **counter China remains a cornerstone of Indian foreign policy**, everything-including Delhi's position on Russian action in Ukraine- flows from that.
- Within India's foreign policy establishment, **there is ongoing debate on what India might gain or lose by its neutrality and the consequences of siding with the West.**
- There is also the thinking that the **West cannot afford to cut away from India at this point, as it needs India's markets**, and India's heft as a democracy as it seeks partners to contain China.
- But there is an **inbuilt tension in this realist position that speaks about rules violations** in one part of the world but does not call it out in another.
- Therefore, **India's position may have to be calibrated constantly** as the situation evolves especially if confronted by growing casualties in Ukraine.

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