Not taking sides: On India and the Ukraine conflict

India might have to engage more deeply with the Ukrainian war as the conflict deepens.

With a convincing majority of 141 of 193 countries, the UN General Assembly voted on Wednesday for a resolution that deplored in the “strongest terms” Russia’s attack on Ukraine and demanded an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops. The resolution, which was discussed in a rare special emergency session and under the rubric of the “Uniting for Peace” resolution invoked after decades, came as a result of an aborted resolution at the UN Security Council, which Russia, as a permanent member, had vetoed. While the UNGA resolution carries little teeth, it does represent a common stand taken by the international public commons, with 96 countries signing up as co-sponsors of the resolution. Russia rejected the outcome as a political vote that came of severe “pressure” from the U.S. and European countries that were the drivers of the resolution, but it seemed clear that it was isolated on the global stage. Belarus, Eritrea, North Korea and Syria voted against the motion, and 35, including India, abstained. While the resolution also decried the Russian decision to recognise Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states, representatives of member states made it clear that it was the relentless bombing of Ukrainian cities that they could not turn a blind eye to.

India’s abstention, not a surprise, disappointed many western countries that have been lobbying for a shift in the Indian position. In the past week, India has abstained from three votes (including two procedural ones) at the UNSC where it is an elected member, one at the UN Human Rights Council, and another at the IAEA on resolutions critical of Russia. In an explanation of vote (EOV), India’s UN representative said that India is calling for dialogue, while officials say that India’s abstention has given it room to play a role in diplomacy with Russia and Ukraine. In a sign of some discomfort with Russian actions, the EOV also dropped the earlier references to the “legitimate security interests”, and included language on respecting the “territorial sovereignty” of members. India has also sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine although its vote of abstention indicates the Modi government still has many reasons not to vote against Russia, a strategic and defence partner that has stood by India. As the conflict continues, and the global community expresses its disapproval, however, India’s desire to remain an “abstentionist” power is being called into question. The Government has also said that it needs to remain on good terms with both sides as its primary focus remains the safe exit of Indians from the conflict zone. While evacuating Indians is an important priority, it cannot be India’s only focus in this crisis, given its aspirations for global leadership and the oft quoted motto of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”. It may become necessary for India to engage more deeply with the conflict in Europe, which is now a global concern.

Practice Exercise

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘Red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
Vocabulary

1. **Take sides** (phrase) – support, give one's support to, take the part of, side with पक्ष लेना
2. **Engage** (verb) – involve, engross, participate संयुक्त होना
3. **Deeply** (adverb) – intensely, strongly, profoundly, acutely गंभीरतापूर्वक
4. **Deepen** (verb) – Intensify, extend, accumulate, increase और भी गंभीर हो जाना
5. **Convincing** (adjective) – decisive, conclusive, impressive, resounding जोरदार
6. **Resolution** (noun) – Declaration, motion, ruling प्रस्ताव
7. **Deplore** (verb) – Censure, condemn, criticize, abhor, deprecate निदान करना
8. **Terms** (noun) – Language, expression लिखां/ भाषा
9. **Withdrawal** (noun) – Departure, leaving, abandonment, retreat पीछे हटना
10. **Troop** (noun) – Soldiers सेना
11. **Session** (noun) – Meeting, sitting, assembly, conference, gathering अधिवेशन
12. **Rubric** (noun) – Title, heading, introduction, preface शीर्ष
13. **Invoke** (verb) – Appeal, pray, summon, beg, beseech, implore; cite, refer to, adduce आह्वान करना
14. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten year. दशक
15. **As a result of** (phrase) – Because of, due to, on account of, thanks to, owing to के बजह से, नतीजतन
16. **Aborted** (adjective) – Cancelled, terminated, ended, abandoned, halted. निरस्त किया गया
17. **Veto** (verb) – Reject, bar, turn down, refuse, disallow, proscribe, disapprove अस्वीकार करना
18. **Teeth** (noun) – Influence, power, effectiveness प्रभाव
19. **Stand** (noun) – Position, viewpoint, standpoint, stance रूख
20. **Commons** (noun) – The common people
21. **Sign up** (phrasal verb) – Join, Enroll, enlist, become a member जुड़ना
22. **Sponsor** (noun) – Backer, guarantor, patron, promoter, champion समर्थक
23. **Driver** (noun) – Important factors
24. **Seem** (verb) – Appear, look प्रतीत होना
25. **Isolate** (verb) – Separate, Segregate, detach, insulate, sequester, cut off अलग कर देना

26. **Motion** (noun) – Proposal, resolution, request प्रस्ताव

27. **Abstain** (verb) – Sit on the fence, not take sides, decline to vote, stay neutral परहेज़ करना

28. **Decry** (verb) – Criticize, complain, belittle, disparage, deprecate, denounce निदा करना

29. **Recognise** (verb) – Accept, acknowledge, admit, concede मानना

30. **Make clear** (phrase) – Elucidate, spell out, clarify, explain, shed light on स्पष्ट करना

31. **Relentless** (adjective) – Persistent, unyielding, unremitting, Inexorable, insistent निरंतर

32. **Turn a blind eye to** (phrase) – Overlook, ignore, take no notice of, disregard अनदेखा करना

33. **Abstention** (noun) – Non participation, abstaining, No vote, refraining, hold back निष्ठान करना

34. **Lobby for (someone or something)** (phrasal verb) – To try to influence someone, especially an elected official or group of elected officials, on behalf or in favor of someone or something.

35. **Shift** (noun) – Change, move, swing, modification, alteration परिवर्तन

36. **Procedural** (adjective) – Technical, routine प्रक्रियात्मक

37. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, claim for, cry out for मांग करना

38. **Dialogue** (noun) – Discourse, interchange, discussion, negotiation, exchange of ideas. बातचीत

39. **Room** (noun) – Scope, opportunity, possibility, leeway, chance गुणाइक

40. **Play a role** (phrase) – Be a factor, be part of the cause, play a part भूमिका निभाना

41. **Diplomacy** (noun) – Mediation, negotiation, peacekeeping मध्यस्थता

42. **Discomfort** (noun) – Uneasiness, distress, anxiety, worry, disquiet, discomposure असहजता

43. **Drop** (verb) – exclude, discard, throw out, leave out अलग करना, अमान्य करना

44. **Reference** (noun) – Allusion, mention, suggestion, citation संदर्भ

45. **Legitimate** (adjective) – Reasonable, acceptable, justifiable, logical, valid, sensible उचित

46. **Interests** (noun) – concerns हित
47. **Language** (noun) – speech, writing, communication, verbal expression

48. **Territorial** (adjective) – Of or relating to the geographic area under a given jurisdiction राज्यपालिका


50. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – Benevolent, Altruistic, charitable, caring मानवीय

51. **Aid** (noun) – Assistance, help, Support, Relief मदद

52. **Strategic** (adjective) – Important or essential in relation to a plan of action

53. **Stand by** (phrasal verb) – Support, stick by, side with, uphold, back-up, defend सहायता करना, साथ देना

54. **Disapproval** (noun) – Condemnation, displeasure, dissatisfaction, censure असमर्थता

55. **Abstentionist** (adjective) – Relating to a person who refuse to take part in voting.

56. **Call into question** (phrase) – to raise a question or doubt about सवाल उठाना

57. **On good terms** (phrase) – to have a good, friendly, etc. relationship with someone

58. **Evacuate** (verb) – remove (someone) from a place of danger to a safer place खाली करना

59. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, bearing in mind, take into consideration ध्यान में रखते हुए

60. **Aspiration** (noun) – Ambition, goal, objective, aim, target, desire महत्वाकांक्षा

61. **Oft** (adverb) – Often, Frequently, repeatedly अक्सर

62. **Quoted** (adjective) – Cited, mentioned उद्धृत

63. **Motto** (noun) – Slogan, saying, Dictum, Axiom, adage आदर्श-वाक्य, सिद्धांत

64. **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (noun) – Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a Sanskrit phrase found in Hindu texts such as the Maha Upanishad, which means “the world is one family”

65. **Concern** (noun) – issue, interest, Affair, matter, point. मामला

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the highlighted words [Editorial Page]

1. With a **convincing** majority of 141 of 193 countries, the UN General Assembly voted on Wednesday for a resolution
   A. Synthesis
   B. Decisive
   C. Convivial
   D. Enervate

2. The UN General Assembly voted on Wednesday for a resolution that **deplored** in the “strongest terms”
   A. Ethereal
   B. Malinger
   C. Censure
   D. Myriad

3. While the UNGA resolution carries little **teeth**, it does represent a common stand taken by the international public commons
   A. Influence
   B. Placate
   C. Rancor
   D. Usurp

Direction (Q4 – Q5): Select the antonym of the highlight word referred in the sentence.

4. The Modi government still has many reasons not to vote against Russia, a strategic and defence partner that has **stood by** India.
   A. Aptitude
   B. Abandon
   C. Poignant
   D. Saccharine

5. Belarus, Eritrea, North Korea and Syria voted against the motion, and 35, including India, **abstained**.
   A. Qualitative
   B. Indulge
   C. Succumb
   D. Foment

Direction (Q6 – Q10): Spot the grammatical error in the given sentence [Answer]

6. Them were very (A)/ disciplined and quiet (B)/ when the new teacher (C)/ entered the classroom. (D)/ No Error. (E)

7. The door was (A)/ open but no one (B)/ were there at (C)/ home last night. (D)/ No Error. (E)

8. All those whom (A)/ were at the concert (B)/ could not stop (C)/ praising her performance. (D)/ No Error. (E)
9. Anemia occurs due (A)/ to the deficiency of (B)/ hemoglobin in (C)/ a person’s blood. (D)/ No Error. (E)

10. Please write your (A)/ name and address (B)/ on the bag before (C)/ you misplace it again. (D)/ No Error. (E)

**Cloze test based on Editorial: Lines and roles**

Much of the conflict arises due to the Constitution itself. It fixes no time-frame for the Governors to act, and contains, in Article 163, an unusual power to choose what is in their ________11________ and what is not, with the courts being barred from inquiring into whether any advice and, if so, what advice was given. The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations recommended no change in this scheme, but it is time it is revisited. While as the ‘lynchpin’ of the constitutional ________12________, Governors indeed have a duty to defend the Constitution and encourage or caution the elected regime, the ________13________ that Governors are not obliged to heed Cabinet advice persists in some areas. At a time when regional political forces are actively seeking to be heard by the Centre, it may be time that the provisions relating to the Governor’s role are amended. Identifying areas of discretion, fixing a time-frame for them to act, and making it ________14________ that they are obliged to go by Cabinet advice on dealing with Bills can be considered.

11. A. Discretion 
   B. Carefulness 
   C. Responsibility 
   D. Foresight

12. A. Device 
   B. Equipment 
   C. Apparatus 
   D. Kit

13. A. Brand 
   B. Stamp 
   C. Impression 
   D. Dent

14. A. Explicit 
   B. Vague 
   C. Candid 
   D. Frank

15. **Para Jumble based on Editorial: Lines and roles**

   P. Signs of a confrontation between Raj Bhavan and the elected government in a State are not infrequent in the country.
   Q. The onus often appears to be on the Chief Ministers to avert a constitutional crisis, as evidenced by Pinarayi Vijayan trying to buy peace with a miffed Governor,
   R. However, the problems may have to do with the way they understand their own powers.
   S. One way of seeing these developments is to attribute them to the appointment of those who have been politically active in the recent past as Governors and the partisan role they play as agents of the Centre.
   T. Arif Mohammed Khan, rather than pursue a confrontational course, over several issues in recent times.

   A. PQTSR 
   B. RPQTS 
   C. SPQTR 
   D. PQRTS
Answer
14. A  15. A

Explanation
6. (A) ‘Them’ के बदले ‘They’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘Them’ का प्रयोग Object के रूप में होता है जबकि ‘They’ का प्रयोग Subject के रूप में, और Part (A) में Verb ‘were’ के लिए Subject चाहिए और Subject का काम ‘They’ करेगा।

7. (C) ‘were’ के बदले ‘was’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि No one, Everyone, Someone, Anyone, Nobody, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nothing, Everything, Something, Anything का प्रयोग यदि वाक्य के Subject के रूप में हो तो Verb हमेशा Singular होता है।

8. (A) ‘whom’ के बदले ‘who’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘whom’ का प्रयोग Object के रूप में होता है जबकि ‘who’ का Subject के रूप में, और Part (B) में प्रयुक्त Verb ‘were’ के लिए Subject का काम ‘who’ करेगा, न कि ‘whom’.

9. (E) No error.
10. (E) No error.

11. Discretion (noun) - Option, choice, preference विकल्प
12. Apparatus (noun) - system, method, mechanism, organization, machine, machinery तंत्र
13. Impression (noun) - Feeling, Idea, notion, thought, sense छाप
14. Explicit (adjective) - Clear, obvious, overt, unambiguous स्पष्ट

15. Signs of a confrontation between Raj Bhavan and the elected government in a State are not infrequent in the country. The onus often appears to be on the Chief Ministers to avert a constitutional crisis, as evidenced by Pinarayi Vijayan trying to buy peace with a miffed Governor, Arif Mohammed Khan, rather than pursue a confrontational course, over several issues in recent times. One way of seeing these developments is to attribute them to the appointment of those who have been politically active in the recent past as Governors and the partisan role they play as agents of the Centre. However, the problems may have to do with the way they understand their own powers.
Explanation in English

6. (A) 'Them' will be used instead of 'They' because 'Them' is used as Object while 'They' is used as Subject, and in Part (A) as Verb 'were' The subject is needed and 'they' will do the work of the subject.

7. (C) 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because No one, Everyone, Someone, Anyone, Nobody, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody ,Nothing, Everything, Something, Anything is used as Subject of a sentence If yes, then Verb is always Singular.

8. (A) 'who' will be used instead of 'whom' because 'whom' is used as Object while 'who' is used as Subject, and in Part (B) the Verb 'were' is used For the subject, 'who' will do the work, not 'whom'.

9. (E) No error.

10. (E) No error.

Explanation of other important words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.NO</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Synthesis</td>
<td>noun The combining of parts to form whole संश्लेषण</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Convivial</td>
<td>adjective Fond of Partying; Festive खुशनुमा; उत्सव का</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Enervate</td>
<td>verb To reduce the strength or energy or, especially to do so gradually बलहीन बनाना, कमजोर करना,</td>
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<td>Q2</td>
<td>Ethereal</td>
<td>adjective Heavenly; as light and insubstantial as a gas or ether आकाशीय, स्वर्गीय, ईंधन का</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Malinger</td>
<td>verb To pretend to be sick to avoid doing work रोग का बहाना करना</td>
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<td>Myriad</td>
<td>noun A huge number असंख्य</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>Placate</td>
<td>verb To pacify; to appease; to soothe शांत करने के लिए</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rancor</td>
<td>noun Bitter; long lasting ill will or resentment मनमुटाव, द्वेष</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Usurp</td>
<td>verb To seize wrongfully हड़पना</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>Aptitude</td>
<td>noun Capacity for learning; natural ability योग्यता, कौशल</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Poignant</td>
<td>adjective Painfully emotional; extremely moving; sharp or astute सामाजिक</td>
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Website: www.englishmadhyam.in, Phone number: 7722987077
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saccharine</th>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>Sweet; excessively or disgustingly sweet</th>
<th>चीनी का, मीठा</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Having to do with the quality or qualities of something (As opposed to the quantity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Succumb</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To yield or submit; to die</td>
<td>मर जाना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foment</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To stir up; to instigate</td>
<td>भड़काना,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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