**Quadrilateral queasiness: On India’s stance in Russia-Ukraine crisis**

India cannot be forced to **pick a side** in the conflict, but Russia could test its **resolve**

At a **snap virtual** meeting of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** or Quad, comprising India, the U.S., Australia and Japan, leaders discussed the crisis of Russia’s **invasion** of Ukraine along with more traditional topics of interest for the Dialogue, including territorial and **maritime** security across the **Indo-Pacific**. In the joint statement, issued after the summit, the four nations reaffirmed their **commitment** to a free and open Indo-Pacific, “in which the **sovereignty** and territorial integrity of all states is respected and countries are free from military, economic, and political coercion”. The latest Quad meeting was **in part** likely motivated by the **concern** of the U.S., Australia, and Japan that **India**, in not **explicitly condemning** Russian President Vladimir Putin’s decision to launch a **ground offensive** across the Russia-Ukraine border and to **bomb** Ukrainian infrastructure, **might** not be on the **same page** as the other Quad members vis-à-vis this conflict. They have not only condemned Russia’s **aggression** but have also **slapped Kremlin elites** and organisations linked to them with **crippling sanctions**. India, **contrarily**, has **abstained** from three UN **resolutions** condemning Russia. There is also a **considerable difference** on the Russia-Ukraine issue in terms of the individual **readouts** of the Quad members. While the U.S., Australia and Japan directly **called out** Russia’s attempt to **unilaterally** force changes to the **status quo** in Ukraine and **vowed** not to **let** such action occur anywhere in the Indo-Pacific, India’s readout only referenced Ukraine **in passing**, in the **context** of establishing a new **humanitarian assistance** and disaster relief **mechanism** for this cause.

Russia’s action has obviously posed complex questions for India’s **strategic calculus**, even as New Delhi continues to be guided by the 21st century variant of its **non-alignment paradigm**, and by its need to remain close to Moscow, a major defence supplier. **South Block** is already well versed at **playing hardball** with the **mandarins** at the U.S. State Department over getting a **CAATSA waiver** for India’s purchase of $5.43 billion worth of the Russian Triumf missile defence system. While **the discussions** on the Ukraine crisis will continue at the Quad and across other **plurilateral** platforms where India and the U.S. work together for the greater good of the rules-based international order, the idea that **NATO** countries or even Russia can force **sovereign** nations with a proud history of non-alignment to pick a side in a complex geopolitical conflict is quite **passé** and **eminently unviable** in today’s interdependent global **arena**. The Quad, for example, cannot **afford** to **alienate** India, a critical partner in the global-strategic plan to **balance** the rise of China as a potential Asian **hegemon**. Yet, India may find its resolve and patience with Russia tested **should** Russian occupying forces **begin** committing war crimes and human rights violations in **contravention** of the Geneva **Convention**, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable global **treaties**. [**Practice Exercise**]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- Occupying (adjective) – Invading, capturing, seizing कब्जा करने वाली
1. **Queasiness** (noun) – restlessness, uneasiness बेचैनी

2. **Stance** (noun) – View, standpoint, stand, position, perspective, opinion रूढ़ता

3. **Pick a side** (phrase) – to support one person or cause and not the other.

4. **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, steadfastness, tenacity, firmness रूढ़ता

5. **Snap** (adjective) – Sudden, instant, quick, spontaneous आकस्मिक

6. **Virtual** (adjective) – Online

7. **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** (noun) – The Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely -- United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan. One of the primary objectives of the Quad is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

8. **Invasion** (noun) – Attack, assault, incursion, foray, annexation, conquest, subjugation आक्रमण

9. **Maritime** (adjective) – Marine, naval, sea समुद्री

10. **Indo-Pacific** (noun) – Relating to the Indian Ocean and the adjacent parts of the Pacific.

11. **Reaffirm** (verb) – reassert, give an assurance, assure someone, repeat, say again पुनः पुष्टि करना

12. **Commitment** (noun) – Promise, pledge, vow, assurance, obligation, guarantee प्रतिबद्धता

13. **Sovereignty** (noun) – Independence, autonomy, self-government, freedom संप्रभुता

14. **Territorial** (adjective) – Relating to a particular territory प्रदेशिक

15. **Integrity** (noun) – unity, unification, wholeness, coherence, cohesion अखंडता

16. **State** (noun) – government, regime, establishment (of a country)

17. **Coercion** (noun) – Pressure, compulsion, force, intimidation, bullying, oppression जोर-जब्दस्ती

18. **In part** (phrase) – to some extent though not entirely. कुछ हद तक

19. **Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry, apprehension, fear, alarm, distress, unease, disquiet चिंता

20. **Explicitly** (adverb) – Openly, clearly, overtly, plainly, unambiguously स्पष्ट रूप से

21. **Condemn** (verb) – Censure, denounce, criticize, attack, revile, slam निंदा करना
22. **Ground offensive** (noun) – A military action launched by land, using ground troops.

23. **Bomb** (verb) – Bombard, shell, blast, barrage, blitz, explode, attack बम बरसाना

24. **On the same page** (phrase) – (of two or more people) in agreement/ of one mind सहमति में

25. **Vis-à-vis** (preposition) – Regarding, concerning, in relation to, with regard to के संबंध में

26. **Aggression** (noun) – Attack, assault, invasion आक्रमण

27. **Slap** (verb) – impose, levy, put on, add थोपना

28. **Kremlin** (noun) – a citadel within a Russian town.

29. **Elite** (noun) – a group or class of people seen as having the most power and influence in a society, especially on account of their wealth or privilege. संभांत्य व्यक्ति

30. **Crippling** (adjective) – causing serious injuries or harm गंभीर

31. **Sanction** (noun) – Restriction, penalty, ban, punishment, injunction प्रतिबंध

32. **Contrarily** (adverb) – Disobediently, rebelliously, stubbornly, perversely प्रतिकूलता से

33. **Abstain** (from) (verb) – Not take side, decline to vote, sit on the fence, stay neutral; Desist, refrain, withdraw. मतदान करने से मना करना; परहेज़ करना

34. **Resolution** (noun) – Decree, declaration, decision, motion प्रस्ताव

35. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial, significant, large, extensive काफी

36. **Difference** (noun) – Dissimilarity, disparity, distinction, contrast असमानता

37. **Readout** (noun) – an official statement summarizing the points discussed during a meeting or phone call between diplomats or political figures.

38. **Call out** (phrasal verb) – Criticize someone about something

39. **Unilaterally** (adverb) – Individually, singly, solo, alone, one-sidedly एकतरफा

40. **Status quo** (phrase) – Current situation, existing state of affair, present circumstance यथास्थिति

41. **Vow** (verb) – Swear, promise, guarantee, declare, assert, pledge प्रतिज्ञा करना

42. **Let** (verb) – Allow, permit, authorize होने देना

43. **In passing** (phrase) – briefly and casually. संक्षिप्त में
44. **Context** (noun) – circumstances, conditions, surroundings, factors संदर्भ

45. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – Charitable, benevolent, philanthropic, altruistic मानवीय

46. **Assistance** (noun) – Help, aid, support, backing, succor, assist सहायता

47. **Mechanism** (noun) – Method, system, procedure, way. तत्त्व

48. **Pose** (verb) – Present, cause, create, establish खोलना

49. **Strategic** (adjective) – relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage. सामरिक

50. **Calculus** (noun) – Calculation, estimation गणना

51. **Non-alignment** (noun) – lack of alliance or affiliation with other nations or groups, especially politically.

52. **Paradigm** (noun) – Model, pattern, standard

53. **Non-alignment policy** (noun) – Non-alignment is a policy adopted by India and other countries of not joining either of the two power blocs (USA and USSR) and having their own foreign policy without the interference of superpowers.

54. **South block** (noun) – The South Block houses the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs

55. **Well versed** (adjective) – very knowledgeable अच्छी तरह से निपुण

56. **Play hardball** (phrase) – Act aggressively and ruthlessly आक्रामक तरीके से कार्य करना

57. **Mandarin** (noun) – Bureaucrat, official, manager दफ्तरी

58. **CAATSA** (noun) – CAATSA is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia. It includes sanctions against countries that engage in significant transactions with Russia’s defense and intelligence sectors.

59. **Waiver** (noun) – Relinquishment, renunciation, abdication, abandonment छूट-पत्र

60. **Plurilateral** (adjective) – of relating to involving many different countries

61. **NATO** (noun) – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization or Atlantic Alliance (NATO) is an international political and military organization with the aim of guaranteeing the freedom and security of its members through political and military means

62. **Sovereign** (adjective) – Independent, autonomous, self-governing संप्रभु

63. **Passé** (adjective) – Out-of-date, old, aged, dated, old-fashioned अप्रचलित
64. **Eminently** (adverb) – Very, highly, extremely, exceedingly अत्यंत

65. **Unviable** (adjective) – Impracticable, useless, unrealistic, unfeasible, unpractical अब्यवहार्य

66. **Arena** (noun) – area, scene, sphere, realm, province, domain, sector, forum, territory, अखाड़ा

67. **Cannot afford something** (phrase) – not do something because it would cause serious problems

68. **Alienate** (verb) – Estrange, isolate, separate, make unfriendly, set against, keep apart from पृथक करना

69. **Balance** (verb) – Poise, stabilize, steady, maintain equilibrium, keep in place संतुलित करना

70. **Hegemon** (noun) – a supreme leader. आदिपत्य

71. **Contravention** (noun) – Breaking, Flouting, breach, infringement, disobeying, violation उल्लघन

72. **Convention** (noun) – Meeting, conference सम्मेलन

73. **Treaty** (noun) – Agreement, accord, contract, pact, truce, settlement संधि

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the highlighted words

1. South Block is already well versed at playing hardball with the *mandarins* at the U.S. State Department over getting a CAATSA waiver
   A. Plebeian
   B. Hierarchy
   C. Bureaucrat
   D. Amorphous

2. They have not only condemned Russia’s aggression but have also *slapped* Kremlin elites and organisations linked to them with crippling sanctions.
   A. Impose
   B. Salutary
   C. Sedition
   D. Coalesce

3. Delhi continues to be guided by the 21st century variant of its non-alignment *paradigm*, and by its need to remain close to Moscow, a major defence supplier.
   A. Empirical
   B. Model
   C. Mendacious
   D. Sedition

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

4. states is respected and countries are free from military, economic, and political *coercion*
   A. Stymie
   B. Persuasion
   C. Oblique
   D. Utopia

5. The idea is quite *passé* and eminently unviable in today’s interdependent global arena.
   A. Vapid
   B. Indolent
   C. Intransigent
   D. Fashionable

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

6. As our country is (A)/ experiencing a recession, banks (B)/ have became very cautious (C)/ about giving loans. (D)/ No Error. (E)

7. Chetan puts in a lot (A)/ of efforts to ensure (B)/ that the scheme was (C)/ launched in March (D)/ No Error. (E)

8. In the present guidelines, (A)/ the bank is required to obtain (B)/ a photograph from any person (C)/ who wishes to open an account. (D)/ No Error (E)

9. Seema’s new office is close (A)/ to her residence, so (B)/ she will not longer (C)/ have to travel by train. (D)/No Error.(E)
10. The majority of the population believes (A)/ that the stock market is recovered (B)/ and that is (C)/ right time to buy shares. (D)/ No Error. (E)

**Cloze test based on Editorial: Capital verdict**

That policies change with governments may appear acceptable in a democracy, but no court will allow a transformation so fundamental that rights and entitlements that _______11______ during an earlier regime are abandoned or frustrated. In 2014, the Amaravati region was chosen as the site of the capital of Andhra Pradesh, the _______12______ State left after the creation of Telangana, but work was stopped after the present YSRCP regime took over. Instead, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy _______13______ the idea of ‘decentralised’ development, by which he meant that the State will have Amaravati as the legislative capital, while Visakhapatnam will be the executive capital, and Kurnool the seat of the High Court. In a stern _______14______ to the ‘three capitals’ idea of the present regime, a Full Bench of the State’s High Court has ruled that it cannot abandon the project to develop Amaravati as the capital city after over 33,000 acres had been given up by farmers and ₹15,000 crore sunk in it over development expenditure.

11. A. Amassed  
   B. Added  
   C. Enlarged  
   D. Accrued

12. A. Residuary  
   B. Remnant  
   C. Remainder  
   D. Stub

13. A. Debatable  
   B. Mooted  
   C. Controversial  
   D. Unsettled

14. A. Discourage  
   B. Insult  
   C. Rebuff  
   D. Spurn

15. **Para Jumble based on Editorial: Capital verdict**

**P.** As well as negate speculative gains the erstwhile rulers may have allegedly made by choosing Amaravati.

**Q.** However, it was projected as a measure to decentralise governance and take the fruits of development to all parts of the State.

**R.** In political terms, the decision to locate the three organs in different cities was possibly motivated by a wish to undo a key policy measure of the previous TDP regime,

**S.** The one that it enacted in 2020 for spreading the capital city and proposing ‘inclusive development’ of all regions.

**T.** After farmers approached the court, the government sought to render the matter infructuous by repealing its decentralisation law,

A. PQTSR 
B. RPQTS 
C. SPTQR 
D. PSRTQ
Answer


Explanation

6. (C) 'became' के बदले 'become' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'have/has/had' के साथ V3 का होता है और 'Become' का V2 रूप 'became' तथा V3 रूप 'become' होता है; अर्थात 'become' का V1 और V3 रूप समान होता है।

7. (C) 'was' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'scheme' के launch होने का काम 'March' में अर्थात future में होने वाला है, और future के किसी fixed programme के लिए Simple Present का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

   i. The PM visits Patna on Monday next.

8. (E) No error.

9. (C) 'Not longer' के बदले 'no longer' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘fewer, longer, sooner, less’ कुछ ऐसे Comparatives हैं जिनके पहले केवल 'No' का प्रयोग होता है, न कि 'Not' का।

10. (B) 'is recovered' के बदले 'is recovering' या 'will recover' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Part (A) में Verb 'believes' Present Tense में है।

11. Accrue (verb) - accumulate or receive (payments or benefits) over time प्राप्त

12. Residuary (adjective) - relating to or indicating a remainder शेष का

13. Moot (verb) - Propose, suggest, introduce, present, put forward प्रस्ताव करना

14. Rebuff (noun) - Rejection, refusal, snub, denial अस्वीकृति

15. In political terms, the decision to locate the three organs in different cities was possibly motivated by a wish to undo a key policy measure of the previous TDP regime, as well as negate speculative gains the erstwhile rulers may have allegedly made by choosing Amaravati. However, it was projected as a measure to decentralise governance and take the fruits of development to all parts of the State. After farmers approached the court, the government sought to render the matter infructuous by repealing its decentralisation law, the one that it enacted in 2020 for spreading the capital city and proposing 'inclusive development' of all regions.
Explanation in English

6. (C) 'become' will be used instead of 'became' because 'have/has/had' is accompanied by V³ and 'become' has V² form 'became' and V³ form 'become'; That is, V¹ and V³ form of 'become' is same.

7. (C) 'is' will be used instead of 'was' because the launch of 'scheme' is going to happen in 'March' i.e. in future, and Simple Present is used for any future fixed program; like-
   (i) The PM visits Patna on Monday next.

8. (E) No error.

9. (C) 'No longer' will be used instead of 'not longer' because 'fewer, longer, sooner, less' are some such comparatives before which only 'No' is used and not 'Not'.

10. (B) 'is recovering' or 'will recover' will be used instead of 'is recovered' because in Part (A) the Verb 'believes' is in Present Tense.
### Explanation of other important words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.NO</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plebeian</td>
<td>adjective Common; vulgar; low class; bourgeois</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hierarchy</td>
<td>noun An organization based on rank or degree; pecking order</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amorphous</td>
<td>adjective Shapeless; without a regular or stable shape; blob like</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Salutary</td>
<td>adjective Healthful; remedial; curative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sedition</td>
<td>noun Treason; the incitement of public disorder or rebellion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coalesce</td>
<td>verb To come together as one; to fuse; to unite</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>adjective Relying on experience or observation; not merely theoretical</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mendacious</td>
<td>adjective Lying; dishonest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sedition</td>
<td>noun Treason; the incitement of public disorder or rebellion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stymie</td>
<td>verb To thwart; to get in the way of; to hinder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oblique</td>
<td>adjective Indirect; at an angle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Utopia</td>
<td>noun an ideal society</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vapid</td>
<td>adjective Without liveliness; dull; spiritless</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indolent</td>
<td>adjective Lazy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intransient</td>
<td>adjective Uncompromising; stubborn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Website: www.englishmadhyam.in, Phone number: 7722987077