

United Nations General Assembly Vote on Gaza war

Why in news?

India abstained in a UN General Assembly (UNGA) vote on a resolution that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

What is the issue?

- Recently Hamas, a Palestinian militant group launched a surprise attack on Israel killing more than 1,400 people.
- This has led to the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza.

To know more about the Israel Hamas conflict, click [here](#)

What is the UNGA voting about?

- **UNGA resolution** - The UNGA, met in a resumed 10th Emergency Special Session and voted on the draft resolution titled "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations".
- It was submitted by **Jordan** and co-sponsored by more than 40 nations including Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia and South Africa.
- The resolution was adopted with 120 nations voting in its favour, 14 against it and 45 abstaining (**India also abstained**).
- India defended its decision to abstain in UNGA vote saying that the resolution did not include "explicit condemnation" of the terror attacks in Israel.
- **Earlier amendment** - The resolution did not make any mention of the militant group "**Hamas**" and the term "**hostage**", with the US expressing outrage at the omission.
- Earlier, an amendment was proposed by Canada and co-sponsored by the US to insert a paragraph in the resolution to unequivocally reject and condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel and calls for their immediate and unconditional release.
- India voted in favour of the amendment but the draft amendment could not be adopted, having failed to obtain a two-third majority of members present and voting.

Unlike resolutions of the UN Security Council (UNSC), resolutions of the UNGA are **not legally binding**.

What India's stand on the issue?

- Calling terrorism "a malignancy", India condemned violence, especially the attacks by Hamas, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages.

- It balanced out its support with a statement on the plight of the people in Gaza and by not mentioning Hamas by name.
- India has also delivered humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.
- It expressed concern at the security situation and urged all parties —Israel, Iran, as well as groups like [Hezbollah](#) to exercise restraint and utmost responsibility.
- New Delhi also underlined its support for a negotiated “***two-state solution***” leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side-by-side in peace with Israel.
- It underlined the primacy of diplomacy and dialogue calling on parties to de-escalate and create conditions for an early resumption of direct peace negotiations.

What lies ahead?

- India’s position is in tune with its stand in the other ongoing conflict, the [Russia-Ukraine war](#).
- India will need to mobilise its diplomatic skills and goodwill with the main actors to negotiate the coming weeks and months.

Quick facts

UNGA Emergency Special Session

- An UNGA emergency special session happens when the *UNSC is deadlocked* i.e. when one of the five permanent Council members (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States) uses their veto power to quash a related draft resolution.
- UN Member States can request the Assembly President to convene such a session to make appropriate recommendations for collective measures, including calling for ceasefires, the use of armed force, etc.
- If adopted by a two-thirds majority, the ***non-binding*** General Assembly resolution provides guidance for nations.

References

1. [Indian Express | New Delhi walks diplomatic tightrope again](#)
2. [Indian Express | The UNGA vote on Gaza war](#)
3. [UN | UNGA Emergency Special Session](#)