

Zelensky Calls For Russia To Lose Its Veto Power At UN Security Council

Why In The News?

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr **Zelensky Confronted Russia** Directly At The **UN Security Council**, Denouncing The Kremlin's Invasion Of His Country As "Criminal" And Urging That Moscow Be **Stripped Of Its UN Veto Power**.
- Clad In His Trademark Military Fatigues, Volodymyr Zelensky For **The First Time Since The February 2022 Invasion** Sat In The Same Room As A Russian Official, Who Responded By Scrolling Through His Smartphone With A Look Of Conspicuous Disinterest.



What Do We Know?

- President Zelensky Called On The **United Nations To Strip Russia Of Its Security Council Veto Power**, Describing It As A Vital Reform That Would Simultaneously Promote Greater Representation At The UN For The Developing World Where Support For Ukraine Has Been Lukewarm.
- President Zelensky Repeated The Ukrainian Stance That The **Veto Power Belonged To The Former Soviet Union** One Of The Victors Of World War II After Which The United Nations Was Created And **Not To President Vladimir Putin's Russia**.

How Russia Responded?

- Tensions Erupted Even Before Volodymyr Zelensky Spoke, With The Russian Side Questioning The Decision By Current Security Council President Albania, Represented By **Prime Minister Edi Rama**, To Allow The Ukrainian To Go First.
- Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, Repeatedly Asking To Speak, Told Rama That Letting Zelensky, A Former Comedian, Appear First Risked **"Undermining The Authority Of The Security Council"** And Turning It Into **"A One-man Stand-up Show."**
- Edi Rama Responded Calmly But With Growing Annoyance, Telling The Russian Envoy, **"There Is A Solution Here You Stop The War, And President Zelensky Will Not Take The Floor."** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Spoke Before President Zelensky And Also Strongly Criticized Russia.



Can The 'VETO' Be Stripped Off?

- Taking Away Russia's Veto Power Would Be Exceedingly Difficult.
- There Is, However, Precedent: The **UN General Assembly In 1971 Stripped Taiwan Of The Veto Power** It Held As The Representative Of China, Handing It Instead To The Communist Government Of The Mainland.