

INDIA ABSTAINS FROM RESOLUTION ON SRI LANKA

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Ahead of the vote, both the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), which sought the exact opposite outcomes on the resolution, had expressed hopes of obtaining India's support.

On Tuesday, both sides appeared sympathetic to India's abstention that effectively amounts to support for neither party. However, in an indication that Sri Lanka had construed abstentions as support, Mr. Gunawardena in a tweet thanked the 14 countries, including India, Japan and Nepal, that abstained from voting.

'Solid support'

He also extending a "warm thank you" for the "solid support" shown by the 11 countries, including China, Pakistan, Russia and Bangladesh, that voted against the resolution, and in support of the Sri Lankan government.

On the other hand, welcoming the Council's adoption of the resolution, the TNA said India must have decided to abstain after "careful consideration" of various factors.

"We are, however, greatly encouraged by India's statement ahead of the vote," TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran said, pointing to India's reference to "two fundamental considerations" — of supporting the Tamils for equality, justice, dignity and peace, and ensuring the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka resolution was the first to be voted on using the extraordinary e-voting procedures established for the UNHRC 46th Session, which has been held virtually.

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