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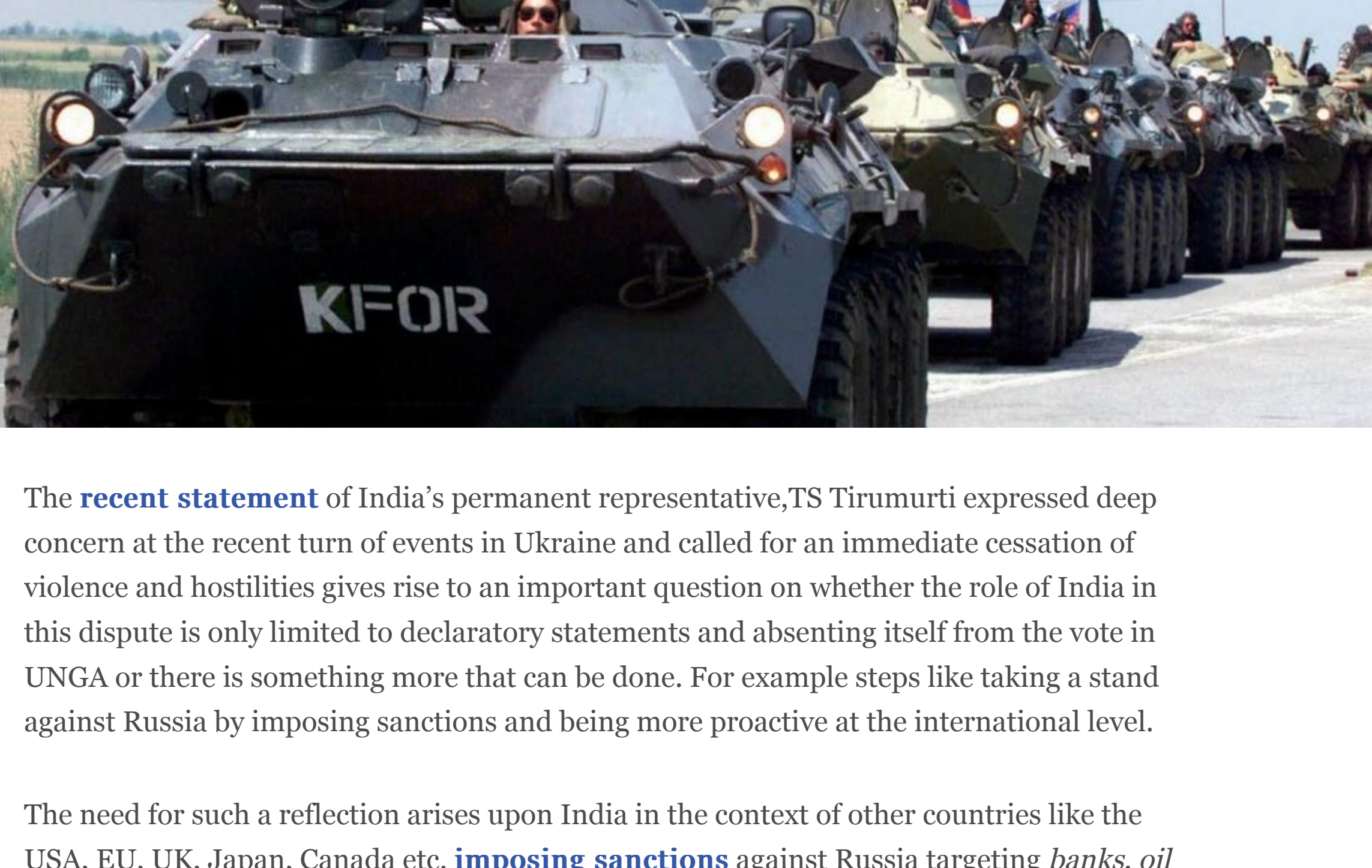
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Explained: What Are India's Options Amid Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine



Abhinav Mehrotra
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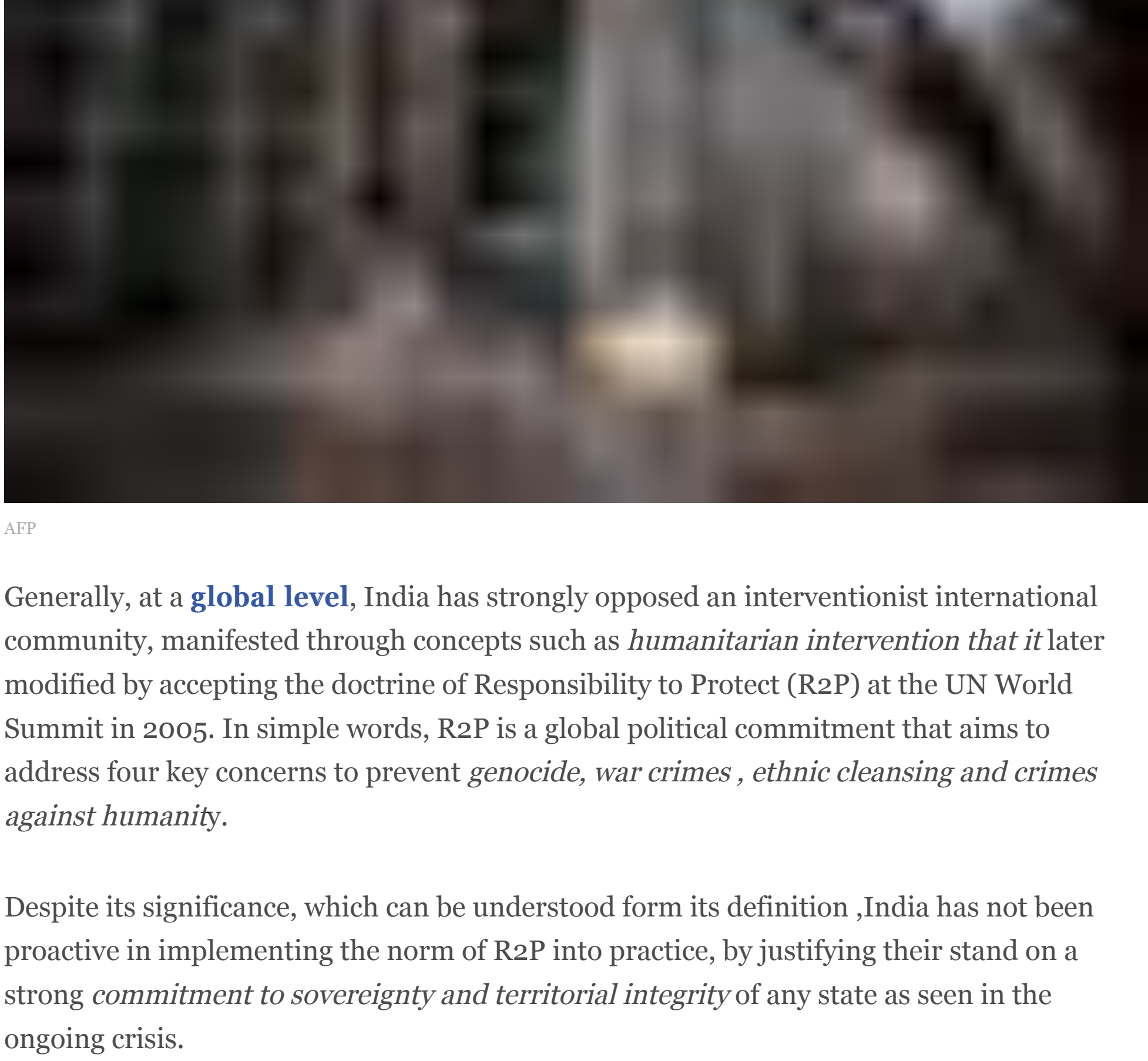
The **recent statement** of India's permanent representative, TS Tirumurti expressed deep concern at the recent turn of events in Ukraine and called for an immediate cessation of violence and hostilities gives rise to an important question on whether the role of India in this dispute is only limited to declaratory statements and absenting itself from the vote in UNGA or there is something more that can be done. For example steps like taking a stand against Russia by imposing sanctions and being more proactive at the international level.

The need for such a reflection arises upon India in the context of other countries like the USA, EU, UK, Japan, Canada etc. **imposing sanctions** against Russia targeting *banks, oil refineries, and military exports* as well as on Russia's *financial, energy and transport sectors*.

This is accompanied with cutting Russia off from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) international payment system.



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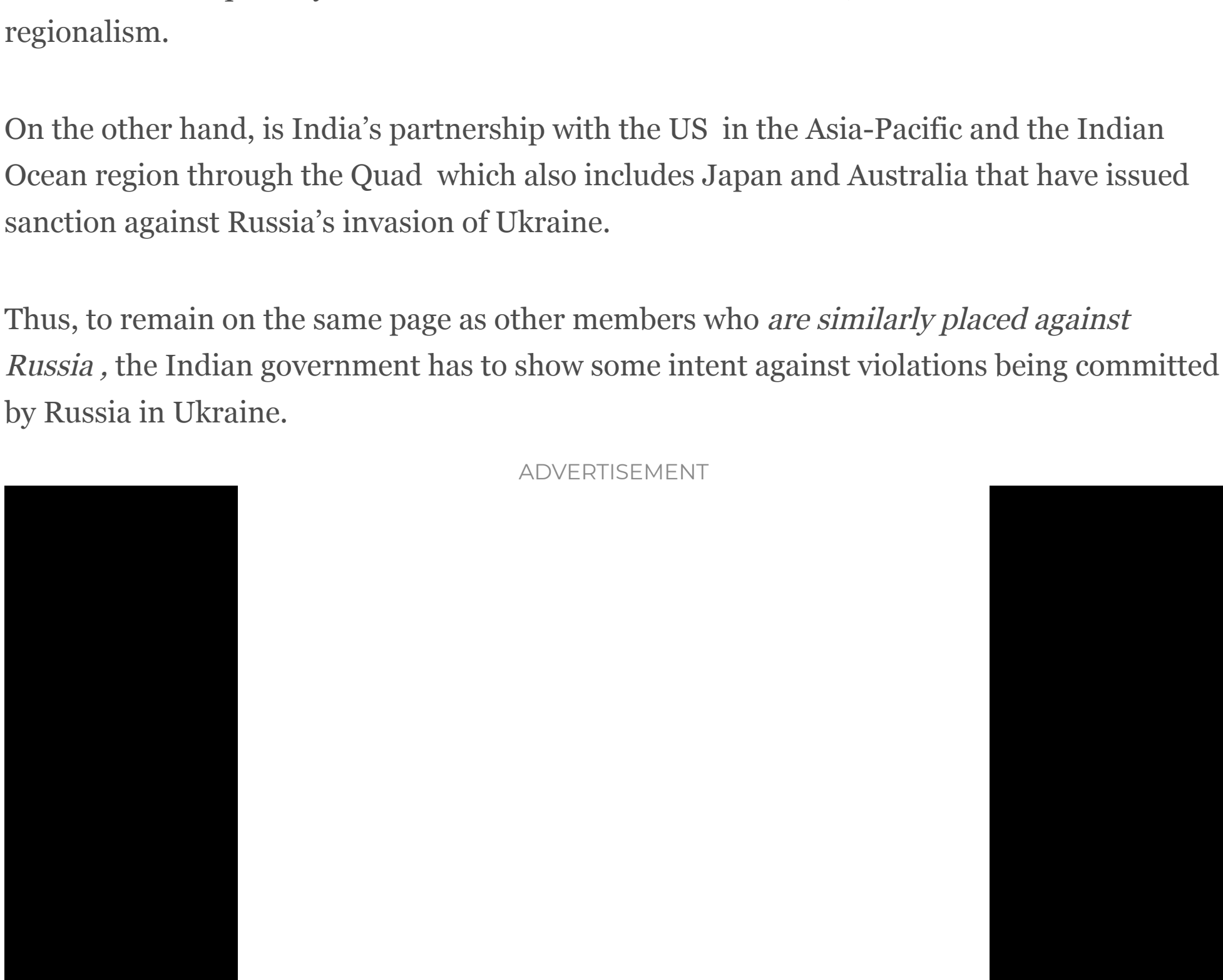
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Generally, at a **global level**, India has strongly opposed an interventionist international community, manifested through concepts such as *humanitarian intervention* that it later modified by accepting the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the UN World Summit in 2005. In simple words, R2P is a global political commitment that aims to address four key concerns to prevent *genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity*.

Despite its significance, which can be understood from its definition, India has not been proactive in implementing the norm of R2P into practice, by justifying their stand on a strong *commitment to sovereignty and territorial integrity* of any state as seen in the ongoing crisis.

However, in the specific case of the invasion of Ukraine, a country of 44 million people, the path of non-participation in the issue may be detrimental because this dispute also involves the NATO that represents the interests of the USA whose presence has been resisted by Russia for multiple reasons.

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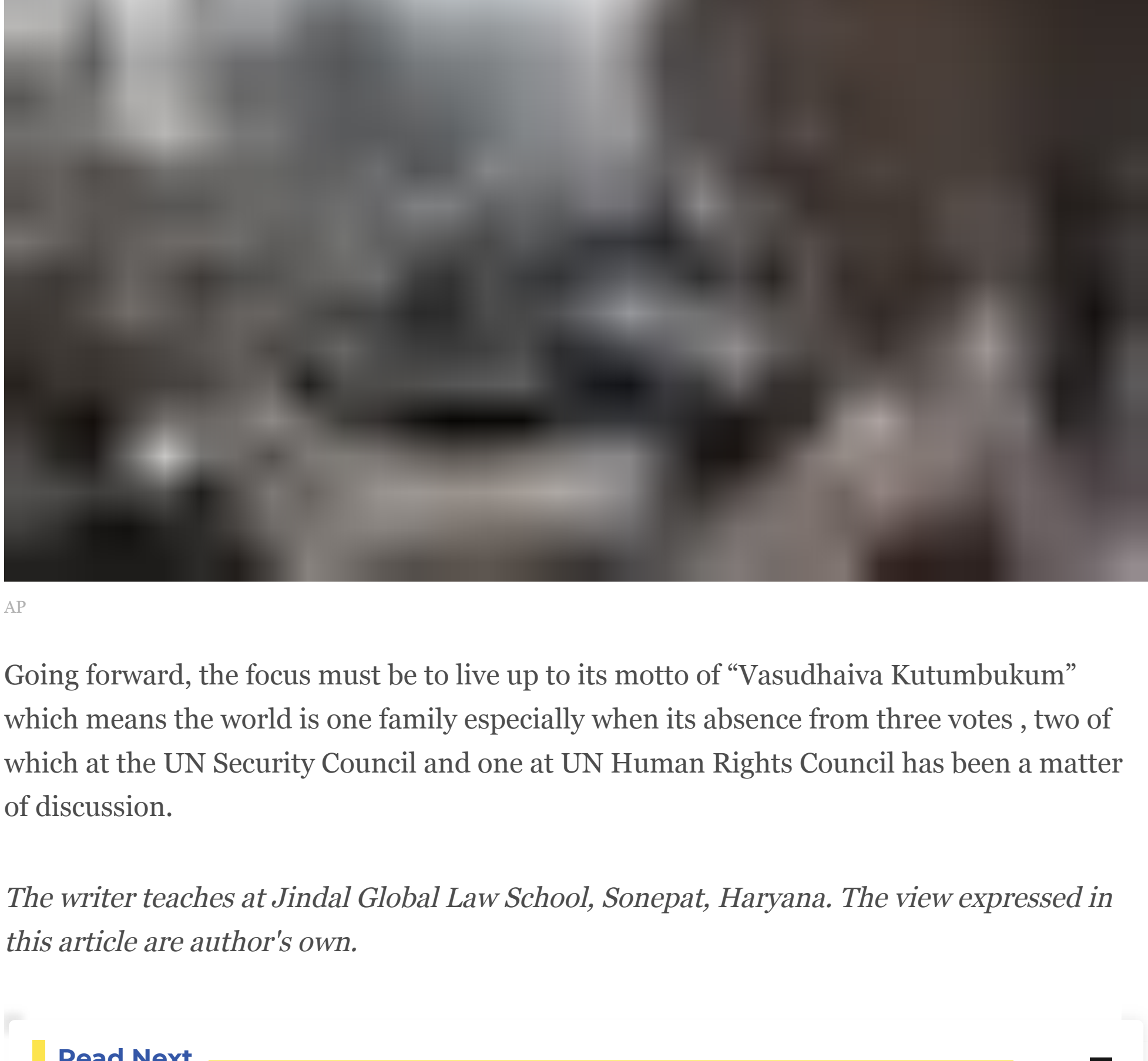
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In this light, balancing the relations with USA and Russia poses a challenge for India. At one end is Russia, which increasingly proposes alternative ideas of global order, *focused not on ideas of multipolarity* i.e. *democratization of the world order*, but new forms of regionalism.

On the other hand, is India's partnership with the US in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region through the Quad which also includes Japan and Australia that have issued sanction against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Thus, to remain on the same page as other members who *are similarly placed against Russia*, the Indian government has to show some intent against violations being committed by Russia in Ukraine.

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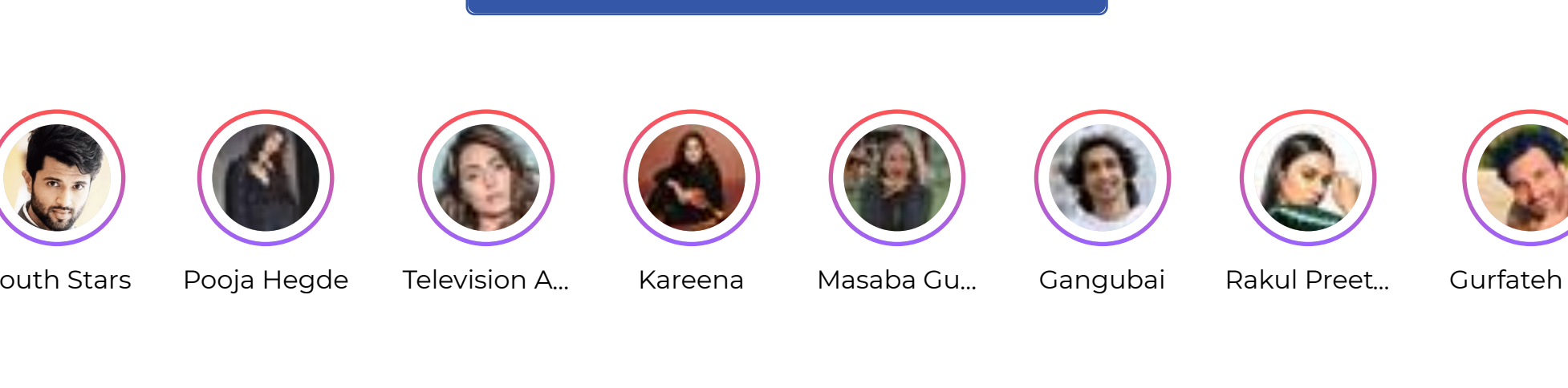
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Going forward, the focus must be to live up to its motto of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbukam" which means the world is one family and especially when its votes at three of which at the UN Security Council and one at UN Human Rights Council has been a matter of discussion.

The writer teaches at Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, Haryana. The view expressed in this article are author's own.

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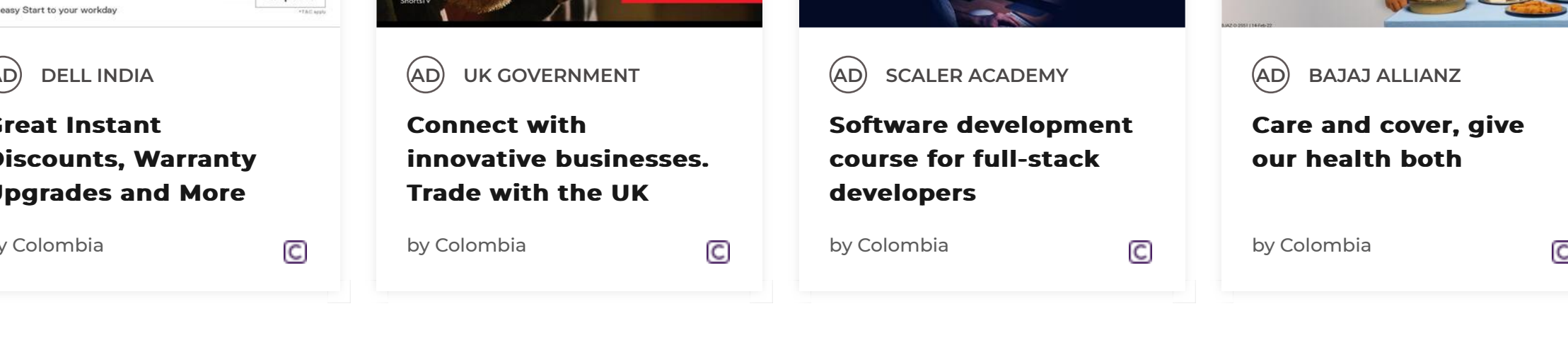


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