

UKRAINE LOOKS TO INDIA FOR HELP WITH POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

Falling apart: A boy playing in front of a destroyed house in the village of Andriivka in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday. AFP/SERGEI CHUZAVKOV

Ukraine has approached India to become one of the guarantors of post-war security of the country together with some other countries, diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* as Friday marks 100 days of the war in Ukraine. "We are also expecting that India will participate actively in post-war construction. We are also expecting more humanitarian aid, medicines, some technical and financial assistance," a diplomatic source said.

Till date, the total assistance from India both from government and private companies is approximately 230 tonnes. In addition, big volume was given by pharmaceutical companies which are headquartered in India but with offices in Ukraine and eastern Europe, the source said adding, "This is separate and worth about \$7-8 mn."

On the economic impact of the war on Ukraine, diplomatic sources said that in 2022, the GDP may drop by 30-50% and inflation can reach 20%. Monthly deficit caused by the war is nearly \$5 bn, the source said and the war has damaged or destroyed up to 30% of Ukraine's infrastructure at a cost of \$100 bn.

Ukraine has been demanding heavy and long range weapon systems from NATO, including Multi-Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS), tanks, armoured vehicles and fighter aircraft in addition to continued logistical support. Recently, the U.S. has said it will be supplying MRLS to Ukraine.

"The situation in Donbas remains the most problematic with entire towns destroyed. Ukraine's coast of the Black Sea and the Sea of the Azov remains blocked," Ukrainian sources said.

There is an unraveling global food crisis following the war due to the blocking of Ukrainian ports. Russia has recently proposed that it would establish humanitarian corridors in exchange for lifting sanctions.

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