War and Talks: Russia-Ukraine Conflict

The Russia-Ukraine war has entered a new phase, marked by intensified military attacks and direct negotiations. On Sunday (June 1, 2025), on the eve of the second round of talks, Ukraine carried out its most daring drone attack deep inside Russia, targeting military airfields.

According to Ukrainian intelligence officials, the drones, which were transported by trucks into Russia and launched remotely, resulted in "the destruction" of dozens of strategic bombers.

While these claims haven't been independently verified,

Russia's Ministry of Defence confirmed that five of its airfields came under attack.





Ukraine's Drone Strategy



Deep Strike Capability

Drones transported by trucks into Russia and launched remotely, hitting targets near Norwegian border and in Siberia



Strategic Targets

Military airfields
hosting strategic
bombers were primary
objectives, with aircraft
reportedly "caught fire"



Tactical Significance

Attack serves as morale booster for Ukrainian troops while creating a tactical setback for Russian forces





Russian Counteroffensive



Missile and Drone Barrage

Russia launched an avalanche of drones and missiles across Ukraine, straining the country's air defences



Training Base Strike

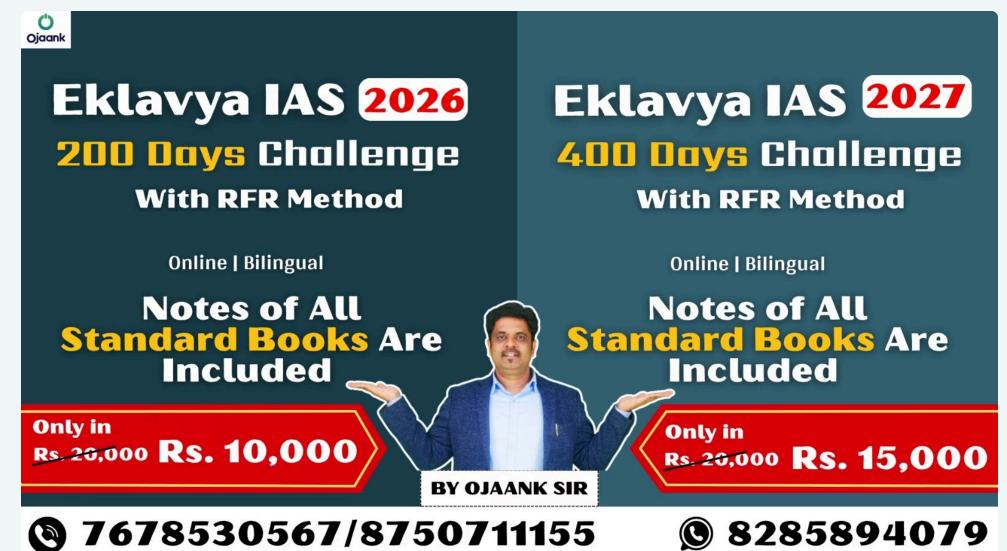
A missile strike at a military training base killed at least 12 Ukrainian soldiers



Territorial Gains

Russia's spring offensive gaining momentum with advances in the Sumy region and recapture of Kursk territory





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Peace Negotiations Begin

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First Round

Initial talks established framework for negotiations amid ongoing hostilities



Second Round in Istanbul

Hour-long meeting resulted in prisoner exchange deal agreement



Third Round Scheduled

Next talks planned for later in June to build on initial progress



War Fatigue Setting In

Ukrainian Challenges

No major territorial victories since Kherson offensive of late 2022

Loss of nearly 5,000 sq. km territory over the past year

Weakened air defences and acute manpower crisis

Uncertainty about continued U.S. support under President Trump

Russian Difficulties

Increasingly unable to prevent Ukrainian drone attacks

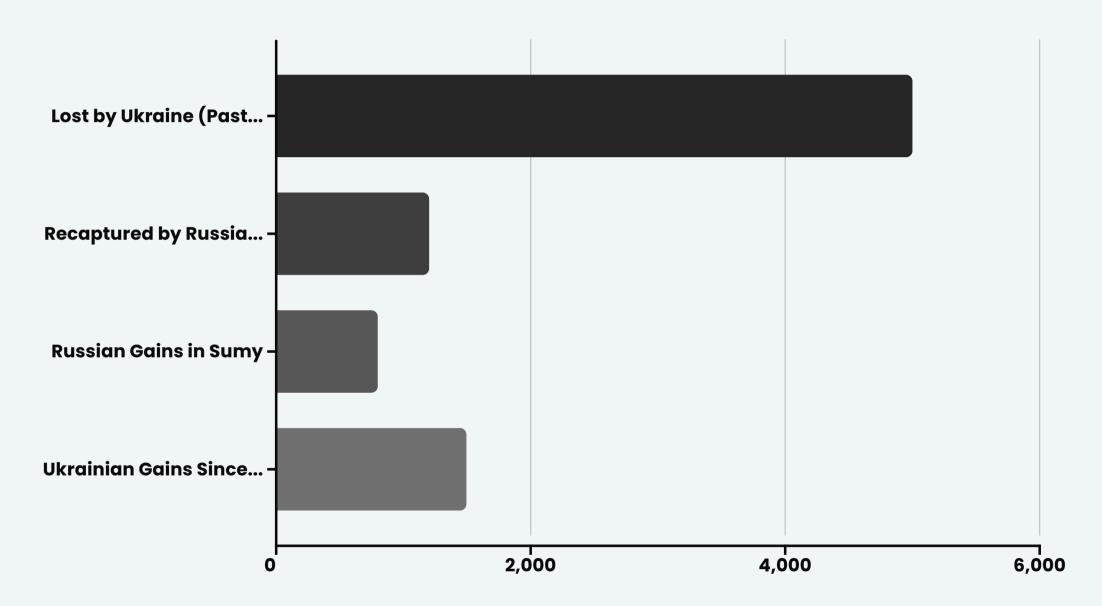
Energy infrastructure repeatedly targeted

Black Sea fleet suffering ongoing strikes

Strategic bomber airfields now vulnerable to attack



Territorial Changes









Security Concerns on Both Sides

Ukrainian Security
Needs

Credible guarantees against future attacks

Durable Ceasefire
Ultimate goal of peace
negotiations



Russian Grievances

Long-standing historical concerns requiring address

U.S. Mediation Role

Crucial position in narrowing differences



Path Forward to Peace



President Trump's efforts to broker peace have yielded little progress so far, but continued diplomatic engagement remains essential. The toll on both sides will only deepen if the war continues to drag on. A durable solution must address Russia's long-standing grievances while providing Ukraine with credible security guarantees against future aggression.



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