

Russia-Ukraine War: India's Position And Operation Ganga

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Abstract

Operation Ganga was the evacuation process initiated by the Indian government to rescue Indian residents during Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has been one of the most successful rescue operations in Indian history. Initially India refused to accept the invasion of Ukraine by taking a neutral stance. The fact that this operation was done quietly speaks eloquently about the cooperation put in by the Indian government to enable a quick and safe evacuation of Indian residents from Ukraine. Also, India's neutral stance and safety issues raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ukrainian President was instrumental. There were around 20,000 Indian citizens in Ukraine with somewhat more than 18,000 of them being Scholars. They were successfully evacuated by the evacuation designed both Civil Aviation and Indian Air Force. Here, this paper attempts to highlight India's position on Russian invasion of Ukraine and the evacuation operation process of Indian students.

Keywords: Operation Ganga, Ukraine War, Globemaster, Evacuation

Introduction

Operation Ganga was an evacuation operation to evacuate Indian people who had crossed into neighbouring nations during Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. It was a collaborative effort between the Indian government and the armed forces to secure the safe repatriation of all Indian citizens. After travelling via land border transit points in Ukraine, Indian citizens from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova were transported back to India for repatriation (Gupta, 2022). Operation Ganga is the name given to the endeavour that was created by the government of India to bring back Indian citizens who were stuck in Ukraine. As a result of this, India has already been successful in getting back over a thousand of its people who were living in that country.

The settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of the bilateral Shimla accord between India and Pakistan is something that Ukraine is in favor of. Reforms to the United Nations' organizational structure has Ukraine's backing as well. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia inherited India's tight ties with the Indian government, which led to the development of a unique partnership between the two countries (Lunev & Shavlay, 2018). Both Russia and India refer to this relationship as a unique and privileged strategic cooperation in their respective diplomatic jargon. India has been Russia's long-standing partner in the field of nuclear energy, and Russia acknowledges India as a nation that has superior

nuclear technology as well as an excellent record of nuclear non-proliferation. The development of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), which stands for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, is a notable illustration of the continued collaboration in this sector. At the international level as well, Ukraine and India have been working together in a constructive manner. The settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of the bilateral Shimla accord between India and Pakistan is something that Ukraine is in favor of. Reforms to the United Nations' organizational structure have Ukraine's backing as well (Basis, 2022). Therefore, in order to maintain good relations with both countries, India supports Ukraine without getting involved in the fight between the two countries, Russia and Ukraine. This is the main reason the country conducted Operation Ganga to help those students who were staying in Ukraine.

Russia and Ukraine War breakout :

During the nights of February 23rd & 24th, 2022, Russia began an offensive operation of its troops in Ukraine. The United Nations has determined that this assault constitutes a breach of both Ukraine's territorial integrity and its sovereign rights. It goes against the fundamental tenets of the organization. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has resulted in seismic effects, including a refugee crisis that is advancing quickly, sanctions against a major economy that has never been seen before, and a reorganization of global ties, including a

revitalization of NATO. As soon as Russia invaded Ukraine, it became abundantly evident that this would have catastrophic repercussions for hunger around the globe.

Ban on Russia :

The assets of Russia's central bank have been blocked to prevent the country from using its 630 billion dollars' worth of foreign currency reserves. This resulted in a reduction in the value of the ruble of 22 percent, which increased the cost of imported products. This respectively increased the inflation rate in Russia by 14 percent. Since then, the ruble has strengthened, mostly as a result of actions taken by Moscow to support the currency's value. Inflation has surpassed 17%. The United States has made it more difficult for Russia to repay its foreign debts by prohibiting Russia from making debt payments using the \$600 million.

After restrictions it will take longer for payments to be sent to Russia in exchange for energy exports. This is because Russian banks have been expelled from the international financial messaging system swiftly. The United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada have all placed a freeze on President Putin's and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's assets. The United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom have each placed an embargo on the export of dual-use commodities which are defined as having both a civilian and a military use such as car components. In addition, the United Kingdom has decided to impose sanctions on the Wagner Group of Russia, which is a private military company that is widely believed to operate as an independent unit of the Russian military.

United Nation Organisation support to Ukraine:

On February 25th, the Secretary-General of the United Nations selected Amin Award of Sudan to serve as the United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine. This appointment was made by the position of Assistant Secretary-General. The investigation into potential war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law was launched on February 28 by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. On Wednesday the 2nd of March, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously approved a resolution condemning "aggression" undertaken by Russia against Ukraine. In the assembly it has been concluded that 141 votes were in favor, 5 were against the presented resolution while 35 people were absent in assembly. The

United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution on March 4th called for the "swift and verifiable" departure of Russian forces and armed organizations supported by Russia from the entire territory of Ukraine. The resolution was endorsed by the UN to support Ukraine in its war against Russia. As a direct response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the United Nations Human Rights Council made the decision on March 5th to swiftly form an impartial international commission investigation.

United Kingdom Support to Ukraine:

A significant training operation for Ukrainian military has been proposed by the Prime Minister who has volunteered to initiate the operation. This operation has the capacity to train up to 10,000 soldiers every 120 days. The United Kingdom has announced that it would provide multiple-launch rocket systems to Ukraine as a means of assisting that country's defense against Russian aggression. The cutting-edge M270 armament system, which has a range of up to 80 kilometers and can hit targets from that distance, will provide a major capability boost for the Ukrainian armed forces. The cruel treatment of children in Ukraine has prompted the United Kingdom to declare a fresh round of sanctions on that country. Russian Children's Rights Commissioner after UK support participated in the forced transfer and adoption of Ukrainian children.

United States of America support to Ukraine:

On April 24, the Department of Defense informed the Congress of its decision to devote more than \$713 million in Foreign Military Financing money for Ukraine. This assistance will assist NATO allies in backfilling capabilities that they have provided to Ukraine from their own stocks in order to maintain and improve NATO deterrence. The notification of more than 322 million dollars of these monies for Ukraine would significantly boost that country's potential to defend itself against Russia's continuing conflict. Under the Ukraine Security Aid Initiative, the Department of Defense has contributed a total of \$950 million to Ukraine in the form of security assistance so far in FY2022. The Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative of the Department of Defense allocated \$275 million to Ukraine for the fiscal year 2021. The United States Department of Defense allocated \$115 million in Foreign Military Financing and \$3 million in International Military Education and Training in 2021. Prior to Russia's renewed invasion, FMF

assisted Ukraine's procurement of a broad variety of capabilities including counter-mortar radars, secure radios, vehicles, electronic and others.

India's Relationship with Russia and Ukraine:

India's relationship has been positive towards both the countries however Russia has been one of the biggest supporters of India in providing suppliers and improving their security. The battle that broke out between Russia and Ukraine on February 24, 2022 caused damage to the economy of India and had repercussions and effects in a variety of various domains and spheres of life. At a meeting of the United Nations (UN), India chose not to participate in the vote. Throughout the United Nations gathering, India has maintained a position of neutrality. Since the beginning of this fight, forty days have passed. Moving on, let's talk about a few important aspects of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and how it has affected India and the Indian economy.

As soon as the battle began, the Sensex dropped 2700 points owing to panic selling and fear among investors. This resulted in Rs. 7.5 lakh crores being wiped off the market value of the stock market (BusinessToday, 2022). The value of stocks on the Russian stock market plummeted by fifty percent, which in turn had a substantial effect on the value of stocks throughout all Asia. The battle was also responsible for a spike in the price of gold and crude oil both of which were very close to reaching their all-time highs to be covered in greater detail below. Prices of gasoline and diesel have already reached an all-time high due to the continuous violence. The cost of gasoline and diesel had a significant impact on the costs of a wide variety of goods sold in India. When the prices of gasoline and diesel are raised, the expenses of transportation and logistics will also rise, which will ultimately result in an increase in the prices of both local and foreign goods. Further increases in the price of oil are also anticipated. Because of this, India will be negatively impacted as India obtains around 80 percent of its oil requirements via imports. Because India imports \$ 205 billion worth of hydrocarbons and minerals from Russia, as well as \$ 832 million worth of precious stones and \$ 609 million worth of fertilisers, a rise in the pricing of such goods, might contribute to significant inflation in India. Regarding India's attitude towards the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, President Ram Nath Kovind said India's stance on the Ukraine situation has remained unchanged. The existing global

order is built on international law, the United Nations Charter, and a respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations. It is notable that India has not joined the chorus of states denouncing Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has kept mute throughout the United Nations forums that have taken up the issue (HindustanTimes, 2022). For a long time, India has been pressing for a diplomatic solution and open lines of communication to this impasse. On Saturday, Indian President Ram Nath Kovind highlighted his country's profound concern over the growing humanitarian situation in Ukraine while addressing a group of young students at New Delhi's prestigious Institute of International Relations.

Indian policy on the Ukraine conflict has been steady and consistent, he said. "India's stance on the Ukrainian issue has been solid and constant," said the Foreign Ministry. We've made it clear that the current global order is based on international law, the United States Charter, and the observance of nations' territorial integrity and sovereignty. The United States expressed significant concern about the growing humanitarian situation. We've made a call for a halt to all hostilities and a return to dialogue and diplomacy immediately. Humanitarian aid has also been provided to Ukraine, according to President Kovind. According to his remarks, Western countries are increasingly concerned over India's reluctance to criticize Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and its choice to abstain from the UN Security Council vote. At a Parliamentary hearing last month, External Affairs minister S. Jaishankar claimed that India had taken a "steadfast and consistent" stance on the war in Ukraine, calling for an end to the violence there immediately (Jagtiani & Wellek, 2022). According to Jaishankar, India has been pressing for an end to the hostilities as soon as possible. PM Narendra Modi made it clear to Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, on Friday that his country is willing to help with peace efforts in Ukraine. In addition, he urged for an early end to the bloodshed. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was in India as part of a Russian government delegation. Some critical military platforms and pieces of equipment may be delayed as a consequence of Ukraine's conflict with Russia. New Delhi has voiced its worry over this. As a result, a number of Western nations have expressed their concern that India has decided to purchase crude oil from Russia at a discounted price. US sanctions against Russia do not bar India from accepting Russia's offer of cheap crude oil, according to White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki. According to a statement from the Russian

Foreign Ministry, she emphasized that nations should decide where they want to stand "on Russia's actions and whether or not they want to do business with them. Over 2.5 million people are said to have fled Ukraine in order to escape being invaded by Russia in what the UN has dubbed the "fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II." On March 23, the UN Security Council voted on a Russian-drafted draft resolution on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. India chose not to cast a vote in the election.

Operation Ganga:

Operation Ganga is the name given to the endeavor that was started by the government of India to bring back Indian citizens who were stuck in Ukraine. As a result of this, India has already been successful in bringing back over a thousand of its people who were living in the country. India is taking steps to rescue its residents who are now stranded in the war-torn country of Ukraine. This comes as the Russian incursion into Ukraine has placed its main cities, including the capital city of Kyiv, under siege (CNBCTV18, 2022). In addition to this, it has established control centers that are staffed around the clock in order to facilitate the evacuation of Indians via the ports of entry located in Hungary (IndianExpress, 2022), Poland, Romania, and the Slovak Republic. Besides, a Twitter account called Operation Ganga Helpline has been devoted to the operation. On this handle, any and all information about the evacuation process as well as advice from embassies will be broadcasted in order to keep everyone up to speed.

The evacuation was designed by both Civil Aviation and Indian Air Force. In the first phase of this operation, government used civil aviation for the evacuation and later on Indian Air Force entered the Operation Ganga for increasing the efficiency of this evacuation. The C-17 Globemaster can transport 400 people and not only rescued trapped Indians but also assisted in the relief and rehabilitation of goods to Ukraine. Ukraine was suffering from a lack of food, oil, medical aid, as well as other necessities. About 29 of the 46 evacuation planes went to Bucharest, Romania, 10 to Budapest, Hungary, 6 to Rzeszow, Poland, and one to Kocsis, Slovakia. So, the Operation Ganga can be considered as a most successful evacuation in itself.

Conclusion Remarks:

After the above discussion, it can be easily concluded that all the key objectives have been met

during the data analysis process. Operation Ganga was initiated by the Government of India with the purpose of bringing back stranded residents and Indian students who were in Ukraine. In addition, the government sent four Union ministers, namely Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hardeep Singh Puri, General (Retired) Dr VK Singh, and Kiren Rijiju, in the capacity of "special envoys to supervise the evacuation operations. A no-fly zone has been proclaimed over Ukraine by the government because of the continuous tensions between Russia and Ukraine. This is being done for the sake of the safety and security of both countries. The history of India and Russia's relationship has fostered an environment of trust and collaboration that is advantageous to both parties. This is strategic cooperation that has prevailed over the course of time and has the backing of the people in both nations. At the international level as well, Ukraine and India have been working together in a constructive manner.

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