

Role of Diplomacy in Ukraine Crisis

Why in news?

Russian Foreign Minister's comment, after receiving a written response from Washington to Moscow's security demands, that Russia doesn't want wars raises hopes of a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis.

To know more about Russia-Ukraine Border Conflict, click [here](#)

What is the scope for diplomacy in resolving Ukraine crisis?

- A flurry of diplomatic activities were aimed at de-escalating the situation.
- The U.S.'s written response to Russia, could set the stage for further diplomatic talks in the coming weeks.
- French President Emmanuel Macron has held talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.
- France and Germany are reportedly trying to revive the stalled **Minsk process** that sought to find a peaceful solution to Ukraine's internal conflict between Kiev and the Russia-backed separatists.

What did Russia gain from the crisis?

- There is a strong case for de-escalation as Mr. Putin has already achieved many things, without a shot being fired.
- He has got the Western leadership to talk to him over the contested issue of NATO's expansion, which Russia has long been complaining about.
- Practically nobody is threatening to punish Russia for the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea and Moscow's continued support for separatists inside Ukraine.
- The U.S. has said it is open to discuss some of Russia's security concerns, including missile deployments in Eastern Europe and military exercises in sensitive regions.

Russia military build-up near border



What concerns are still lingering?

- Mr. Putin has said the U.S. response does not address Russia's core security concerns.
- Russia, which has mobilised thousands of troops on its border with Ukraine, in Belarus in Ukraine's north and in Transnistria (in its south-west, has a clear military advantage.
- Fears of a military conflict are still there.

What lies ahead?

- Russia should accept the U.S. proposals, de-escalate the crisis around Ukraine and opt for more dialogue on critical issues, including NATO's eastward expansion.
- Russia might be in a position to overrun Ukraine militarily, but what comes next in Europe's largest country is as unpredictable as it can get.
- The post-9/11 military adventures of the U.S. are a lesson that great powers could clinch swift victories against weaker countries but could fail miserably in sustaining those victories.
- Russia should not walk into the same mistake and thereby push Europe back into the darker days of the Cold War.

Reference

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/risky-bets/article38351275.ece>



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