

Ukraine seeking long-lasting peace, end to Russian war this year: Foreign minister Sybiha

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha urged Russia to unconditionally accept a ceasefire proposal to end the ongoing war. He stressed Ukraine's desire for a "just, comprehensive, and long-lasting peace", highlighting the importance of global support. Sybiha also discussed strengthening Ukraine-India trade ties, noting the potential for growth despite the conflict.

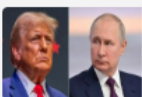
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Mumbai: Ukraine's foreign minister Andrii Sybiha said on Wednesday that the war-torn European nation seeks "long-lasting peace" and wishes the Russia-initiated war ends this year. Speaking at the World Trade Centre here, Sybiha also pressed for Moscow to "unconditionally" accept the ceasefire proposal, just as Kyiv has done.

The comments from Sybiha, concluding his two-day visit to India on Wednesday evening, come at a time when heightened efforts are being undertaken to establish peace. However, some reports suggested that Russian President Vladimir Putin was weighing a limited-period truce alone.

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The comments also come hours before a call between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy to establish peace. "...Ukraine wants peace. We want to end this war this year," Sybiha said, adding that support from India can speed up efforts to achieve peace. His country wants "just, comprehensive, long-lasting" peace, Sybiha said, asking everyone not to "manipulate" the message. The call between the two Presidents who last met in Washington "will be a huge step forward" on the way to peace.

The “unprovoked Russian aggression” which started in February 2022 is not only about Ukraine, but it is also an attack on the World Order based on the rule of law and on the principles of respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty, he said, adding that it is in global interest to stop it. “We accepted the proposal to establish ceasefire unconditionally, and we do really expect that the Russian side will also accept this proposal unconditionally,” he said.

‘Ukraine-India bilateral trade ties have a huge potential’

Meanwhile, the visiting minister also inaugurated Ukraine’s Consulate to establish a permanent presence in India’s financial capital and improve the trade relations. WTC’s chairman Vijay Kalantri said the India-Ukraine trade stood at USD 5.2 billion per year before the Russian attack in February 2022 and has declined to USD 2.6 billion now.

The Ukraine-India bilateral trade ties have a huge potential and the relations have been good historically, Sybiha said.

The Minister also announced that Mumbai has received the first consignment of Ukrainian apples despite the war and the problems in the Black Sea, and hoped that if the ceasefire is successful, the freedom to navigate the waters will help the trade relations between the two countries.

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Want long-lasting peace; support from India could speed up peace efforts: Ukraine Foreign Minister Sybiha

Speaking in Mumbai where Ukraine opened its new Consulate General, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said India's role in the peace process is very important



By Nachiket Kelkar

| Updated: March 19, 2025 18:48 IST



Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha | Amey Mansabdar

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the country wants long-lasting and comprehensive peace and an end to the war this year. He was speaking in Mumbai where Ukraine opened its new Consulate General.

"We want to end this war, this year. And having such friends, such support from such countries of global influence as India, we really could speed up these peace efforts," he said.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump had a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the Ukraine war ceasefire. Russia agreed to a mutual end to targeting energy infrastructure but declined to commit to a 30-day full ceasefire.

"If we proceed with ceasefire, and we accept this proposal unconditionally, and we do really also expect that the Russian side will accept this proposal also unconditionally," Sybiha said.

He stressed that the "unprovoked" Russian aggression was not just about Ukraine, but an attack on the world order and on the principle to respect territorial integrity and sovereignty. Therefore, he felt it was in the global interest to restore comprehensive and long-lasting peace.

Sybiha added that India's role in the peace process is very important, and Ukraine hopes to boost bilateral relations between the two countries. The opening of the country's consulate in Mumbai was a strong signal of how important India was globally, he added.

"It is a true recognition of your importance, and I am confident because any strengthening of diplomatic presence is a step forward for strengthening of bilateral relations," stated Sybiha.

If a ceasefire works out then the expectation would be returning back freedom of navigation to the Black Sea, he said.

"It means that we will strengthen our logistic chains, and these logistic corridors will be more secure, and that is important for our bilateral trade," opined Sybiha.

He also pointed to huge opportunities for businesses in rebuilding infrastructure in post-war Ukraine.

"According to the evaluations of the World Bank, Russians, by their missile terror, damaged our infrastructure approximately at the cost of \$600 billion. We will need the support of the world to rebuild, and it is also an opportunity for you to participate in this huge project," Sybiha said addressing a gathering at the World Trade Centre in the financial capital.