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Russia Claims Capture of New Eastern Ukraine Villages: Defense Ministry

By AFP

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A destroyed tank near Avdiivka **Dmitry Yagodkin/TASS**

Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday claimed the capture of two new villages in eastern Ukraine as its troops advance rapidly.

Russia has been making swift advances in the eastern Donetsk region for weeks, taking dozens of towns and villages.

The ministry said its forces in the Donetsk region had "liberated" the large village of Kurakhivka close to the industrial town of Kurakhove, which Russia is also aiming to capture.

It also claimed the small village of Pershotravneve in the Kharkiv region close to the eastern Luhansk region.

The Russian army took 478 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory in October, a record since the first weeks of the conflict in March 2022, according to an AFP analysis of data from the

American Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

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