



# PEOPLE AND UN

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## CHINA AND INDIA ARE COOPERATION PARTNERS, NOT RIVALS: XI JINPING



**“Cooperative pas de deux”**

***THE DRAGON AND THE ELEPHANT***



**THE RIGHT CHOICE**



15th AUGUST 2025  
FLAG HOISTING BY IFUNA PRESIDENT Mr. JUSTICE SHAMBHU NATH SRIVASTAVA.



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**O**n 3rd October Speaking at the Valdai Discussion Club's in Sochi the largest resort city of Russia, President Vladimir Putin lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "balanced and wise leader" and underlined the "special" bond between Moscow and New Delhi, rooted in decades of trust and cooperation.

The relationship between India and Russia, one of the most enduring and time-tested partnerships in international diplomacy, has stood resilient against the tides of changing global politics. Rooted in mutual trust, strategic cooperation, and shared geopolitical interests, this relationship has evolved from Cold War camaraderie to a pragmatic partnership in the 21st century. India and the then Soviet Union established diplomatic relations in April 1947, even before India's formal independence. The Soviet Union emerged as India's most reliable ally, supporting it in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, providing critical defence technology, and assisting in industrial development through steel plants, power projects, and scientific collaboration. Over the decades, defence cooperation has remained the cornerstone of India-Russia relations. More than 60% of India's defence equipment is of Russian origin, including aircraft, submarines, tanks, and missile systems like the BrahMos—a joint Indo-Russian development.

In addition to defence, energy cooperation—especially in nuclear and oil sectors—has become a significant pillar. Russia's state-owned companies such as Rosneft and Gazprom have played a key role in meeting India's growing energy demands. India's investment in Russia's Sakhalin-1 oil project and the Vankorneft field marked the beginning of a mutually beneficial energy collaboration.

The outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 dramatically reshaped global energy dynamics. As Western nations imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow, Russia redirected its crude exports to Asian markets, especially India and China.

India, driven by its national interest and economic rationale, ramped up imports of discounted Russian crude oil. Before 2022, Russia's share in India's oil imports was below 2%; by 2024, it surged to nearly 35–40%, making Russia one of India's top oil suppliers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government clarified that India's decision to import Russian oil was guided by "purely economic calculations" rather than political alignment. As a developing nation with enormous energy needs, India's priority is to secure affordable energy for its 1.4 billion citizens. Buying discounted crude from Russia helps curb inflation, maintain economic growth, and protect domestic consumers from global oil price volatility.

India's approach to Russia amid the Ukraine crisis reflects its broader multi-alignment strategy—engaging with multiple global powers based on issue-specific interests. While strengthening strategic ties with the United States, Japan, and Europe through forums like the Quad, India continues to nurture its historic bond with Russia. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) which is seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road initiative. The IMEC started in June 2024 as the Indo Mediterranean initiative was started and is likely to boost India's economy but the project has been delayed due to the ongoing Gaza war and it is in the interest of India that the peace must prevail in the Israel, Gaza strip and Palestine and India has welcomed the decision taken by United States to bring peace in the region and India fully supported initiative of POTUS Mr. Donald Trump.

India-Russia relations have journeyed through decades of global transformation from the ideological divisions of the Cold War to the pragmatic realignments of today's multipolar world. The recent surge in oil trade underscores the economic pragmatism that defines India's foreign policy.

While the global order evolves, the essence of India-Russia relations remain the same mutual respect, strategic trust, and pursuit of national interest. The import of Russian oil is not a political statement but a practical choice, emblematic of India's commitment to safeguarding its energy security and sovereignty in decision-making.

— Pran Mohan Parvatiyar  
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**Putin said India's decision to continue importing Russian Oil was driven by "purely economic calculations" and not political motives.**

# IFUNA And UFUNA Observed World Population Day – 2025



**SARVODAYA LEADER LALIT BEHERA, WHO PARTICIPATED AS ONE OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, STRONGLY EXPRESSED THAT CONSCIOUS POPULATION CONTROL IS THE BEST PRODUCTIVE LIFE. POPULATION STABILITY IS AN ASSET AND POPULATION STABILITY IS ESSENTIAL TO BUILD A HEALTHY AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY. AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WERE FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE BHIKARI CHARAN ROUT WHO TOLD THAT FINLAND BEING A SMALL COUNTRY WITH VERY SMALL POPULATION IS THE NUMBER ONE HAPPIEST COUNTRY OF THE WORLD.**

**M**r. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General of IFUNA and Vice Chairman of World Federation of United Nations Associations inaugurated “World Population Day – 2025” celebration virtually on 11th July organized by Utkal Federation of United Nations Associations (UFUNA) in Odisha. The meeting was presided over by Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik, National Vice President of IFUNA and State President of UFUNA. Former Union Minister Bhajaman Behera, said that 2025 should be the year of all-round development for all and expressed his strong opinion that population awareness is security. Durga Madhav Prusty who participated as one of the distinguished chief guests, in his speech said that my population, my responsibility. Population awareness is security and security is life, he strongly expressed that the progress of society is possible only with the development of all the population. Sarvodaya leader Lalit Behera, who participated as one of the keynote speakers, strongly expressed that conscious population control is the best productive life. Population stability is an asset and population stability is essential to build a healthy and progressive society. Among the distinguished guests were former District Judge Bhikari Charan Rout who told that

Finland being a small country with very small population is the number one happiest country in the world. Among other distinguished Guests UFUNA Secretary Kavi Bahadur Pattasahani, educationist Golak Bihari Behera, educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, social worker Saroj Satapathy, women's leader Smitarani Samal, Romena Begum, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Rout in their speeches, they said that today, to stop population growth and bring about population stability, there is a need for complete development of all types of infrastructure required in government and government hospitals. For this, the government should take up many awareness programs. In many cases, people's ignorance is the reason for the increase in the population of their families. Today, on the occasion of World Population Day, it is the right day to be aware of our responsibility to build a healthy and peaceful life through awareness. President Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik said that the program was first approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. According to the population growth rate, on July 11, 1987, the world population was estimated to be five billion. Based on this data, it was decided to celebrate July 11 as World





**AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF THE EVENT, ENVIRONMENTALIST UPENDRA KUMAR RAUT, EDUCATIONIST DR. DEBI PRASAD MISHRA, SOCIAL WORKER SAROJ SATAPATHY, ENG AVINASH DAS, DR. SAMEER KUMAR SAHU, BASANT BISWAL PARTICIPATED IN THE MAIN DISCUSSION AND SAID THAT THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S WORLD POPULATION DAY IS "EMPOWERING YOUTH: TO BUILD THE FAMILIES THEY WANT IN A FAIR AND HOPEFUL WORLD".**

Population Day in the public interest. The purpose of celebrating Population Day is to work towards solving the problems related to population growth all over the world and to create public awareness about gender equality, family planning, maternal health and human rights, etc. Despite general awareness, the population is increasing at the rate of one billion every 14 months. As of February 6, 2016, the world population has reached 7.4 billion. Therefore, if timely steps are not taken to curb population growth, it will be seen as an obstacle in the implementation of various development plans. Its primary goal is to create awareness at the global level regarding the problems related to population growth. On this day, this day is celebrated at various places at the national, district and block levels by organizing camps, public awareness fairs, etc. based on a specific slogan. He informed that the World Health Organization is continuously continuing its programs for the welfare of the society. In the said meeting, the newly appointed UNESCO State Coordinator and Secretary General of UFUNA, Dipayan Pattnaik, delivered the welcome speech and introduced the guests and said in his speech that UFUNA is one of the various programs of the United Nations to prevent rapid population growth and promote awareness for population stability, and also continues its awareness programs for everyone in the world. Among others, the distinguished guests and speakers discussed in detail the ill effects of population

growth and the UN's multifaceted programs to control it. They also discussed the need for population stability by making themselves and others aware of it. If everyone followed ideal population policies and rules and lived a healthy life, it would be a blessing to themselves, their families, and above all, to society and the country.

Among the distinguished guests of the event, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut, educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, social worker Saroj Satapathy, Eng Avinash Das, Dr. Sameer Kumar Sahu, Basant Biswal participated in the main discussion and said that the theme of this year's World Population Day is "Empowering Youth: To Build the Families They Want in a Fair and Hopeful World". Awareness of both prevention of rapid population growth and population stability is the key to building a better world and its best all-round development. That is why it is said that people who are aware of the ill effects of population growth and its control make the face of the family, society, state, country and nation brighter. Therefore, it is rightly said that rapid population growth is a danger and an appropriate required population is an asset. In this regard, poets Bahadur Pattasahani, Golak Bihari Nayak, Dr. Debi expressed their strong opinion in the poetry reading festival, poet Sukanti Sahu, Dr. Anupama Mishra, advocate Nirmala Mohapatra, poet Kadambari Mahakud, Dr. Mansi Kar, Dr. Kavita Mohanty, Mamata Mishra, Maitreyi Subhada,



advocate Nivedita Rath, Sukanti Sahu, Dr. Pramod Parida, leading poets recited selected poems. Among others, the meeting was attended by Premanand Shatapathy, Tarun Kumar Viswal, educationist Vishwanath Mohapatra, Laxmidhar Shatapathy, Dr. Anupama Mishra, Sujata Patnaik, Yashra Patnaik, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut, Professor Dr. Pramod Nayak, Dr. Sameer Kumar Sahu, natural medicine expert Pitavas Sahu, Bipin Bihari Behera, Deba Prasad Mishra, Tarun Kumar Viswal, Yudhisthir Sahu, Dilip Kumar Sahu, Abani Patra, Lalit Mohan Behera and others members of IFUNA and UFUNA, all the hundreds of associate members and members also participated and made their remarks. Senior educationist, UNESCO Life Member and UPUNA Media In-charge Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra recited two English and one Odia sonnets for World Population Day - 2025 and conducted the program well with the help of all the hundreds of associate members and members of UFUNA, the program was successfully implemented. A large number of esteemed persons from every corner of Dhenkanal district made special contributions in this meeting and actively participated in the discussion. Finally, Professor Dr. Pramod Kumar Nayak recited an Odia poem on population and thanked everyone.

Advocate Vinod Patnaik, Life Member of UNESCO, Vice President of UFUNA and State President of UFUNA, Poet Bahadur Pattasahani, State Coordinator of UNESCO, Odisha, Dr. Debi



Prasad Mishra, Senior Educationist, Senior Citizen, Literary Man, Social Worker, Freelance Journalist, Life Member of UNESCO and Media In-charge of UFUNA also deliberated in the meeting.





# IFUNA Organised International Literacy Day in Assam



Along with the rest of the world, the Indian Federation of UN Associations - New Delhi and the Institute of UN Studies - New Delhi observed the International literacy day in collaboration with the Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya (West Guwahati College), Guwahati, Assam on 8th September, 2025 at the esteemed College. The meeting was presided over by Dr Manisa Bhattacharya, Principal of the Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya. In her presidential speech, Dr Bhattacharya has stressed on the quality education for the students and urged the students community to devote their time and energy for the development of the society and the Country. Dr. Niranjana Sharma, an eminent academician, in his speech emphasis on the literacy amongst the people in rural areas along with the urban areas. Dr. Sharma further said that the country will develop and prosperity if the people are literate. Earlier, Dr. Aswini Sarma - Secretary General of United Nations Association - Assam and Secretary of IFUNA read out the message of United Nations secretary General Mr. Antaninio Guetterus on the occasion. Mrs. Marami Goswami - Academic officer of United Nations Association - Assam also spoke on the occasion. The meeting was attended by large numbers of faculties and students of the esteemed College and Citizens of the ar .....



Award to Faculty Member



# IFUNA AND UFUNA Observed International Literacy Day-2025



**UFUNA SECRETARY GENERAL DR. DIPAYAN PATNAIK SAID THAT THE LITERACY DAY IS AIMED AT INCREASING THE LITERACY RATE IN THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. THE GUEST OF HONOUR, PROFESSOR MIRA BEURA SAID THAT THE MORE LITERATE A COUNTRY IS, THE MORE DEVELOPED IT IS. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF BANGLADESH IS TAKING STEPS TO INCREASE THE LITERACY RATE AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL THIS YEAR AS A PROMISE.**

**I**nternational Literacy Day observed by Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) at I Hotel Devakanya Conference Hall on 8th September 2025. On this occasion, IFUNA Secretary General and Vice Chairman of World Federation of United Nations Associations Suresh Srivastava inaugurated the meeting through virtual medium. IFUNA National Vice President and UFUNA State President Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik presided over the meeting. Former Minister Nrusingha Sahu, who attended as the chief guest said that September 8th is the International Literacy Day which is observed by the United Nations as Literacy Day. Literacy Day is celebrated to remove the darkness of illiteracy from the world. The progress of the country is impossible without literacy. Joining as one of the chief guests, former Minister Naveen Chandra Narayan Das said in his speech that the theme of Literacy

Day 2025 is "Promoting literacy in the digital age of the world".

UFUNA Secretary General Dr. Dipayan Patnaik said that the Literacy Day is aimed at increasing the literacy rate in the country and the world. The guest of honour, Professor Mira Beura said that the more literate a country is, the more developed it is. The Ministry of Education of Bangladesh is taking steps to increase the literacy rate at the primary school level this year as a promise. The guest of honour, former District Judge Bhikari Charan Rout said that if a woman becomes literate, an entire family will be educated. Literacy does not mean just signing, its larger purpose is to be informed about various government schemes in one's mother tongue and to raise one's voice against corruption. In California, a budget of \$25 million has been allocated for the eradication of illiteracy. The speakers said that to increase the literacy rate in Odisha, it is necessary to set a target of one literate



**The Distinguished Audience**

**MANY EMINENT PERSONS WERE PRESENT IN THIS MEETING. AMONG THEM WERE PREMANAND SATAPATHY, EDUCATIONIST VISHWANATH MOHAPATRA, LAXMIDHAR SATAPATHY, DR. SAMEER KUMAR SAHU, NATURAL MEDICINE SPECIALIST VISHARAD PITAVAS SAHU, BIPIN BIHARI BEHERA, SHYAM SUNDAR SAHU, DEB PRASAD MISHRA, DILIP KUMAR SAHU, GOKUL CHANDRA PANDA, BINAY PATRA, VICHITRANAND MOHANTY AND ALL THE HUNDREDS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF UFUNA ALSO PARTICIPATED AND GAVE THEIR COMMENTS.**

person to make ten illiterate people literate.

The speakers urged the India government and state governments to allocate more budget to increase the literacy rate. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Samarendra Dash, a cancer centre specialist at Apollo Hospital in Bhubaneswar was felicitated by IFUNA and UFUNA for his distinguished service by presenting a bouquet, a shawl and a citation this meeting, environmentalist Upendra Raut, socialist leader Saroj Satapathy, senior educationist, senior citizen, literary figure, social worker, honorary journalist, UNESCO life member and UFUNA media in-charge Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, educationist Dr. Samir Kumar Sahu, Basant Biswal, Gokul Panda, Tarun Biswal, Er. Avinash Das, Yudhishthira Sahu participated in the main discussion. In this regard, senior educationist, senior citizen, Literary scholar, social worker, honorary correspondent, life member of

UNESCO and media in-charge of UFUNA Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, retired professor Dr. Mansi Kar, Maitreyi Subhada, Nazrul Islam, Loknath Mohapatra, Dr. Anupama Mishra, prominent poets recited selected poems.

Many eminent persons were present in this meeting. Among them were Premanand Satapathy, educationist Vishwanath Mohapatra, Laxmidhar Satapathy, Dr. Sameer Kumar Sahu, natural medicine specialist Visharad Pitavas Sahu, Bipin Bihari Behera, Shyam Sundar Sahu, Deb Prasad Mishra, Dilip Kumar Sahu, Gokul Chandra Panda, Binay Patra, Vichitrnanand Mohanty and all the hundreds of associate members of UFUNA also participated and gave their comments. Secretary Poet Bahadur Pattsahani delivered the welcome speech and introduced the guests, while finally, Utkal Sarvodaya Mandal Editor Er. Lalit Mohan Behera thanked everyone and then the president concluded the meeting.



# IFUNA WITH UFUNA OBSERVED 'INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY' - 2025



**I**nternational Peace Day-2025' has been celebrated at the local hotel Devakanya Conference Hall by Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) on 21st September 2025. The function was inaugurated by Mr. Suresh Srivastava, the Secretary General of IFUNA and Vice Chairman of World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) through Video Conferencing. The meeting was presided over by National Vice President of IFUNA and State President of UFUNA Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik. Former judge Bhikari Charan Rout joined as chief guest and said that 2025 should be the year of holistic development for all and gave a strong statement that world peace awareness is the only security.

Environmental Upendra Rout participated as one of the distinguished chief guests, in his speech said that everyone should take a vow that establishment of peace in the world is my responsibility. Samajwadi leader Saroj Satpathy participated as one of the keynote speakers and strongly expressed that world peace is the only wealth and solitude is necessary for building a healthy and progressive society. Basant Kumar Biswal one of the honoured guests, Secretary Bahadur Pattasahani, Senior Educationist, Lifetime Member of UNESCO and Media Incharge of UFUNA Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Social worker Saroj Satpathy Military worker Bipin Bihari Behera, Lakshmidhar Satpathy, Tarun Kumar Biswal, Surya Narayan Pattnaik, Premanand Satpathy, Senior social worker

Binay Kumar Sahu, worker leader Gokul Chandra Panda, Dr. Manasi Kar, Dr. Anupama Mishra, Sarvodaya Leader Er. Lalit Mohan Behera said in their own speech that if peace prevails among the countries at the international level through peaceful coexistence, development of the nations is possible.

President Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik said that the world peace is being disrupted due to the intensified war in the world for the leadership and encouragement of the imperialist nation America, socialist nation Russia. War-free world is the first step of world peace establishment. Senior social worker Binay Kumar Sahu gave welcome speech and introduced guests. Among others, the guests of the stage and respected speakers discussed in detail regarding the multifaceted program of the United Nations for World Peace, the current year's theme of World Peace Day has given a strong call as "Act now for a peaceful world". Poet Bahadur Pattasahani, Golak Bihari Nayak, Dr. Manasi Kar, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, poet Sukanti Sahu, Dr. Anupama Mishra, Dr. Kabita Mohanty, Mamata Mishra, Maitreyi Subhada, Dr. Pramod Parida, Deba Prasad Mishra are the poets who recited self-written poems in the poetry recitation festival organized on this occasion. In this meeting, a large number of dignitaries from every corner of Dhenkanal district participated actively in the discussion and finally Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra gave the vote of thanks to all present by reciting two English and one Odia sonnet for International Peace Day'.



## INDIA'S BALANCING ACT IN CONFLICTING WORLD INTEREST



**SURESH SRIVASTAVA**  
Secretary General, IFUNA  
Vice Chair: World Federation  
of United Nations  
Associations

Recently, Pizza index was going high in Pentagon ( whenever continues orders of Pizza is given from Pentagon then it is considered to be an index of something big going to happen in the world politics) and conflict on penal tariff imposed by US should have alerted India as India was taken off-guard in Bangladesh but we could not visualize that after Sri Lanka, Bangladesh there could possibly be a turmoil in Nepal. The immediate spark of the Government of Nepal banning social media and this ban struck a raw nerve among youths specially college students who use these platforms not just for socializing but for expression, activism and staying connected. Though, there are many underlying causes such as corruption, nepotism, lack of jobs, political instability and weak governance. Lucky better sense prevailed in the leadership of Generation-Z and people of Nepal

and they have agreed for Mrs.SushilaKirki to head as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal. She is known as a crusader against corruption and because of this she is known to have sent even serving ministers to Jail and was on the threshold of being impeached by parliament but because of strong resistance from the country the move was dropped. A retired Judge of Supreme Court who did her master degree in Banaras Hindu University and known to be more friendly with India unlike what happened in Bangladesh where the present incumbent Mohammad Yunus who has been assigned power of Bangladesh under strange nomenclature of Chief Advisor who had forgotten the great sacrifices Indian Soldiers did to make free Bangladesh.

India, now the world's 5th largest economy and a rising power in the world, started its journey in the arena of international politics by choosing to remain non-aligned. Infact then Prime Minister Pd. JawaharLal Nehru was the Pioneer of the non-alignment movement who wanted to stay away from the rivalry of two big powers, the U.S. and USSR who were responsible for starting the cold war in the world. India had already seen two bloody world wars and the horror that was brought by the killing of millions of people. However, with the swiftly changing political scenario throughout the world Indian foreign policy went through tremendous changes.

Since 2014 Prime Minister ShriNarendraModi foreign policy has marked a shift from India's traditional non-alignment to a more proactive pragmatic and multi-vector approach, converting the core idea of non-alignment to multi-alignment forging deep ties with Israel, USA, European Nations, Arab World and Africa. Brick was one of the greatest political strategies by India to bring Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Arab Emirates under one banner, QUAD - United States, Japan, India, and Australia was another master Stroke of strategic multi-alignment by India and SCO includes countries China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus. The year 2014 showed what was to come in terms of



XI JINPING with MODI in Ahmedabad in 2014





**L To R : Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, At The Venue of The Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCO) Summit, In Tianjin in 2025**

foreign policy for India under the new leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited various countries in his first year of power itself.

He also hosted Chinese Premier Hon'ble Xi Jinping in Ahmedabad this year. Shri Narendra Modi reached out to multiple poles of power to further strengthen India's role in the global order. It was important for the Prime Minister to start on such a strong note and repair some relationships with other countries. Relationships with the U.S. grew stronger in the initial years of Shri Narendra Modi's leadership. He also battled for further strengthening ties with Russia giving mixed signals to Washington. Back home, he also sought to give more prominence to the neighbourhood by attending SAARC summits. However, Pakistan's constant misadventure nullified India's efforts vis a vis SAARC. However, boycotting SAARC gave a lifeline to BIMSTEC. BIMSTEC like SAARC is a regional organization that consists of South Asian Countries. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand. Though only three summits of BIMSTEC have taken place since 2014, but it's

prominence has massively increased as a regional multilateral forum for India.

The Strategy of multi alignment is most visible in India's handling of conflicts involving Israel-Palestine (Gaza), Russia-Ukraine, U.S-China and India's own trade frictions with the U.S at the same time challenges in Bangladesh and Nepal highlight short-coming in India's neighbourhood policies and due to lack of proper defence strategy with the neighbouring countries created strategic crises in Bangladesh and Nepal and in this regard our RAW must learn a lesson from deep state a body of people, typically influential members of government agencies or the military, believed to be involved in the secret manipulation or control of government policy. But certainly, RAW should not be allowed to become as powerful as the deep state of the USA where there are even allegations of deep state assassinating its own President.

In recent months there has been signs of easing tensions between India and China. India is balancing relations with other powers and wants to avoid being overly burdened by conflicts at its border with China, similarly China is facing many other strategic challenges such as Taiwan, South

**HE ALSO HOSTED CHINESE PREMIER HON'BLE XI JINPING IN AHMEDABAD THIS YEAR. SHRI NARENDRA MODI REACHED OUT TO MULTIPLE POLES OF POWER TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN INDIA'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL ORDER. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO START ON SUCH A STRONG NOTE AND REPAIR SOME RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S. GREW STRONGER IN THE INITIAL YEARS OF SHRINARENDRAMODI'S LEADERSHIP.**



With Canda Prime Minister Mark Joseph Carney At G7 -2025 In Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada



US President Donald Trump (left) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) at the Namaste Trump rally in Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, India, February 24, 2020.

China Sea, Economic pressures and historically strain relations with Japan (though, there is a thaw at present). Its seems that due to Tariff hostility with China and India by U.S, China probably does not want its border with India to be another front of instability. Over the past years both sides have invested heavily in border

infrastructure. This buildup increases the risk of skirmishes on the border and there is recognition by both the countries that un-checked buildup can lead to dangerous standoff. Both nations face economic cost from sustained hostility, disruption in trade, investment, supply chains and regional stabilities.

Repeated meetings at different levels such as meeting of Hon'ble Mr. Jaishankar Subrahmanyam with the China Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi and Military Commanders are helping to restore communication channels and transparency

India under Shri Narendra Modi has modernized and pragmatically implemented Shivshankar Menon's doctrine of strategic autonomy through multi-alignment. The approach has allowed India to engage simultaneously with Israel, the U.S., Russia, China, and the Gulf protecting its energy, defence, and tech interests while avoiding rigid alliances.

However, India's strategic blind spots in its immediate neighbourhood - particularly Nepal and Bangladesh -- reveal that balancing on the global stage is not sufficient if local political developments are neglected. Going forward, India's challenge will be to maintain its global balancing act while rebuilding trust and influence among its closest neighbours.



# India's Opportunity And Challenges: The Quad As an Asian Nato



**SITARAM SHARMA**  
Chairman, IFUNA

The contours of global relations have changed beyond recognition since India joined the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, a strategic partnership between India, the United States, Japan and Australia (QUAD), formally in 2007. Things have turned southwards particularly following the border clashes with China and, more recently, due to India's deteriorating relations with the United States of America.

The Quad underwent significant transformations in recent years to become a central pillar of India's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific. It evolved into a strategic partnership focused on ensuring regional security and stability, particularly in response to China's growing influence. It serves as a counterpoint to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has been instrumental in expanding Beijing's influence through the financing of infra-

structure projects across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As the Quad continues to expand its scope, developments at the 2024 Quad Summit and India's well-negotiated disengagement with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) illustrate how New Delhi must adeptly balance its national interests.

## **New Delhi's Role in the Quad**

These developments demonstrate how the Quad has evolved beyond a loose coalition of like-minded democracies to become a platform for tangible regional projects. This shift is crucial for India, as it enables New Delhi to contribute to regional security without explicitly engaging in direct military confrontations with China. While the Quad has become a valuable platform for India, its strategic calculus is complicated by its relationship with China.



**THE EXPANDED CHARACTER OF THE MANOEUVRES HAS INSTIGATED CONCERN OVER THE QUAD'S POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN ANTI-CHINESE COALITION LIKENED TO AN ASIAN NATO. ALTHOUGH BOTH FRAMEWORKS WERE OSTENSIBLY CREATED TO COUNTER COLLECTIVE NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS FROM THE USSR (RUSSIA) OR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THEIR FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES RENDER A DIRECT COMPARISON BETWEEN THE QUAD AND NATO INAPPROPRIATE.**

India and China have a protracted history of border disputes, which culminated in a lethal confrontation in the Galwan Valley in 2020. However, recent disengagement efforts along the LAC indicate a potential de-escalation, though the relationship remains fraught with tension. This disengagement is significant as it influences India's engagement with the Quad and its positioning vis-à-vis China.

For India, maintaining a peaceful border with China is critical, as overt conflict could strain its military resources and weaken its position in the Quad. This is particularly relevant given that India is the sole Quad member with a direct land border with China, rendering it uniquely vulnerable to military escalations. The recent disengagement allows India to focus on strengthening its maritime security in the Indo-Pacific through the Quad and Small Islands, rather than being drawn into a prolonged military standoff on its northern border. However, this disengagement does not imply that India can afford to relax its vigilance. China's ongoing investments in India's neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka, through the BRI continue to encircle India strategically.

#### **Quad as an Asian NATO**

The expanded character of the manoeuvres has instigated concern over the Quad's potential to become an anti-Chinese coalition likened to an Asian NATO. Although both frameworks were ostensibly created to counter collective national security threats from the USSR (Russia) or the People's Republic of China, their fundamental dif-

ferences render a direct comparison between the QUAD and NATO inappropriate.

Thus, India's involvement in the Quad remains crucial to counterbalance China's influence in the region. By focusing on non-traditional security issues, such as infrastructure, digital connectivity and capacity building, India can engage with the Quad in a manner that does not provoke overt military conflict with China but safeguards its strategic interests nevertheless.

One of the challenges India faces in the Quad is the differing strategic priorities of its partners. While the USA, Japan and Australia are primarily focused on the Western Pacific and countering Chinese influence in areas like the South China Sea, India's primary focus remains the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Hence, first and foremost, India seeks to secure the IOR from dragon's influence in the Asian backyard while maintaining a limited hedge in the Pacific.

India's strategic autonomy has been a fundamental principle of its foreign policy and its involvement in the Quad must be analysed through this perspective. India has historically exercised caution regarding close alignment with any single military alliance and the Quad is no exception. While the grouping does not constitute a formal military alliance, increased military cooperation within the Quad — such as the Malabar naval exercises — represents an emerging trend. Experts believe that India must recalculate its military moves as positioning the Quad too closely with Indo-Pacific strategies may inadvertently provoke China into escalating tensions in the eastern IOR. It could lead to a strategic shift, potentially opening a new front in maritime rivalry that India would prefer to avoid.

India has enhanced its defence ties with all Quad members through bilateral agreements. It maintains a cautious approach regarding the escalation of tensions with China. The recent disengagement at the LAC enables India to concentrate on developing military interoperability in the maritime domain, rather than becoming involved in land and maritime conflicts. This strategic decision allows India to contribute to the Quad's security objectives without overcommitting to direct military confrontations, which could potentially compromise its economic and diplomatic interests in the region.

#### **Modi doctrine and the Indo-Pacific**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is breathing new life into the concept of Indo-Pacific security.





It is focused on the vigorous pursuit of political influence through regional maritime powers. Heightened security cooperation with Japan, Australia and the United States is the prime indicator of the new doctrine. Shinzo Abe, the former Japanese Prime Minister was the first to underscore the rising significance and linkages between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. During his visit to India, Prime Minister Abe had commented that the rising confluence of the two seas would draw together Asia's two wealthiest democracies. Modi's evolving doctrine in the Indo-Pacific is also being largely encouraged by the regional institutions seeking a greater role for New Delhi. In the east, the rhetoric has been that India has so far failed to play its role as a security partner in the region.

#### India's Careful Navigation

India's participation in the Quad presents both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, the Quad offers India a platform to counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific, particularly through initiatives in infrastructure, technology, and maritime security. On the other hand, India's unique geographic and strategic position—border-

ing China—necessitates careful navigation of its relationship with Beijing to avoid military escalation. The recent disengagement on the LAC affords India the opportunity to focus on the Quad's broader strategic objectives without the distraction of border tensions.

As the Quad continues to evolve, India is likely to assume a more prominent role in shaping its agenda. However, India's engagement will remain pragmatic, ensuring that it can secure its national interests while maintaining its strategic autonomy in an increasingly multipolar world. In this hedging act, India stands to derive significant benefits from its active participation in the Quad, provided it can continue to navigate the complexities of its relationship with China and the differing priorities of its Quad partners. The future of India's role in the Indo-Pacific will depend on its ability to leverage the Quad's growing influence while safeguarding its own strategic and economic imperatives.

**Mr. Sitaram Sharma** is also the Founder President of the Tagore Institute of Peace Studies (TIPS) a Think Tank & Research Centre based in Kolkata.

**INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE QUAD PRESENTS BOTH OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES. ON ONE HAND, THE QUAD OFFERS INDIA A PLATFORM TO COUNTER-BALANCE CHINA'S INFLUENCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC, PARTICULARLY THROUGH INITIATIVES IN INFRA-STRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MARITIME SECURITY.**



## CHINA / DIPLOMACY

# China and India are cooperation partners, Not rivals: Xi JINPING



**AS LONG AS THE TWO COUNTRIES STICK TO THIS OVERARCHING DIRECTION, CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS CAN SUSTAIN STEADY AND LONG-TERM GROWTH, XI SAID WHEN THE TWO LEADERS MET IN THE PORT CITY OF TIANJIN AHEAD OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO) SUMMIT 2025.**

Chinese President Xi Jinping during the recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Tianjin has said that China and India are cooperation partners, not rivals, and that the two countries are each other's development opportunities rather than threats.

As long as the two countries stick to this overarching direction, China-India relations can sustain steady and long-term growth, Xi said when the two leaders met in the port city of Tianjin ahead of

the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025.

Xi said China and India should become neighbors on good terms and partners helping each other succeed. A "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant" should be the right choice for the two countries.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic relations, Xi said the two countries need to view and handle





bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective.

He called on the two countries to strengthen strategic communication to deepen mutual trust, expand exchanges and win-win cooperation, heed each other's concerns to seek harmonious coexistence, and enhance multilateral collaboration to safeguard common interests.

The two Asian neighbors should work together to ensure peace and tranquility in their border regions, and should not let the border issue define the overall China-India relations, Xi said.

After seven years Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1. This has marked a shift in China-India relations from a period of diplomatic chill toward a slow but steady cycle of recovery. India's active participation in the SCO Tianjin Summit reflects its repositioning of the multilateral cooperation framework. In recent months, a series of developments - from soldiers along the Himalayan border exchanging sweets to the resumption of Indian pilgrims' route to South-west China's Xizang Autonomous Region to the announcement that direct flights between the two countries could resume as early as possible - all signal that the two major countries are strengthening interaction on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

The current recovery phase of China-India relations is primarily driven by shared strategic needs. Since the Galwan Valley incident, both sides have consumed considerable resources in managing border tensions. Increasingly, both countries recognize that allocating limited resources to economic development and more pressing strategic priorities - rather than endless border disputes - is the more rational choice. This month, the two sides reached 10 points of consensus on the boundary question, and the foreign ministers' meeting achieved 10 outcomes, maintaining communication through diplomatic and military channels and avoiding unnecessary friction. Particularly, in the context of sluggish global economic recovery, both countries need a stable surrounding environment to promote domestic reforms and economic growth. In 2024, bilateral trade reached \$138.478 billion, up 1.7 percent year-on-year. Bilateral decisions to resume direct flights, streamline visa procedures, resume border trade, and other measures indicate that economic and trade cooperation is about to enter the normal trajectory.



The warming of China-India relations is also closely related to profound changes in the global geopolitical landscape. Since the beginning of 2025, international turbulence has intensified: the protracted stalemate in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, mounting crises in the Middle East, and major shifts in US domestic politics and foreign policy have all had far-reaching impacts on the global order. US foreign policy has shifted from "supporting allies" to "transactional diplomacy," and in some cases even adopted a posture of extracting benefits at the expense of allies and partners, which has directly worsened US-India relations. In his Independence Day address, the Indian prime minister said that "Modi will stand like a wall against any policy that threatens their interests. India will never compromise when it comes to protecting the interests of our farmers." According to Indian officials, India is also advancing a trade diversification strategy with at least 40 countries. This strategic autonomy resonates with the independent foreign policy advocated by China, and together they constitute the endogenous driving force for the improvement of relations between the two countries.

Western media are keen to hype the "warming up" of China-India relations and simplistically attribute it to US tariffs on India, speculating about a so-called "anti-US alliance." Such narratives seriously misread the independence of foreign policies of both China and India. A CNN commentary pointed out part of the truth: "India's recalibration of ties with China is a textbook application of its policy of strategic autonomy, which prioritizes national interests over rigid bloc allegiance." What makes some American media outlets uneasy about the prospect of "the dragon and the elephant dancing

**THE CURRENT RECOVERY PHASE OF CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS IS PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY SHARED STRATEGIC NEEDS. SINCE THE GALWAN VALLEY INCIDENT, BOTH SIDES HAVE CONSUMED CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES IN MANAGING BORDER TENSIONS. INCREASINGLY, BOTH COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THAT ALLOCATING LIMITED RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MORE PRESSING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - RATHER THAN ENDLESS BORDER DISPUTES - IS THE MORE RATIONAL CHOICE.**



# India-China Relations Take Center Stage at SCO Summit 2025

*Signs of normalization in India-China bilateral relations in 2025*

**T**he Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Tianjin on the sidelines of the 2025 SCO summit - their first interaction since October 2024 at the BRICS summit held in Kazan, Russia.

The meeting signaled a potential reset in bilateral ties, offering important diplomatic optics at a time of heightened global trade uncertainty.

#### **Key developments include:**

■ **Diplomatic reset:** Modi and Xi acknowledged steady progress since their last meeting at the BRICS summit in October 2024, emphasizing partnership over rivalry.

■ **Connectivity:** Both sides agreed to resume direct passenger flights, which have been suspended since COVID-19, though no timeline has been set. Travelers currently transit via Hong Kong or Singapore.

■ **People-to-people links:** India has restarted tourist visa issuance for Chinese citizens, while the Kailash Mansarovar

Yatra resumed earlier in 2025.

■ **Border stability:** Progress on disengagement has reduced tensions, helping restore peace in sensitive areas.

■ **Global South role:** Xi framed India and China as central actors in shaping regional stability and advancing development.

■ **Economic cooperation:** Potential Chinese investment in India's electric vehicle industry and greater access for Chinese firms in the Indian market were highlighted.

■ **Trade resumption:** Both countries agreed to reopen border trade, with China assuring cooperation on critical supplies, such as rare earths, fertilizers, and tunneling equipment.

■ **Geopolitical context and regional cooperation:** The engagement comes as India's trade relations with the US face headwinds from tariff measures, raising questions about shifting geopolitical alignments.

Further, India reaffirmed support for regional connectivity

**IN THE CURRENT ERA OF FREQUENT GLOBAL CHALLENGES, CLOSER CHINA-INDIA TIES ARE NOT ONLY A RATIONAL CHOICE BUT ALSO A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. LOOKING BACK AT HISTORY, INDIA WAS AMONG THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

together" is essentially a residue of Cold War mentality. When Washington criticizes India for buying Russian oil, the implication is that it wants India to "pick a side" - the same logic behind drawing India into Quad, the so-called quadrilateral partnership among the US, Japan, Australia and India. The goal is nothing more than to turn India into a pawn in Washington's so-called "Indo-Pacific Strategy" to contain China. Facts have shown that such small political cliques do not align with New Delhi's pursuit of full strategic autonomy.

In the current era of frequent global challenges, closer China-India ties are not only a rational choice but also a shared responsibility. Looking back at history, India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic rela-

tions with the People's Republic of China. More than 70 years ago, China, India and other countries jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which remain a basic norm of international relations. Today, as the "twin engines" of Asia's economic growth, key representatives of the Global South, and members of the SCO, BRICS, and the G20, China and India share a mission to push the international order toward greater democracy and fairness. Their interactions and cooperation within existing mechanisms are aimed at achieving mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, which is a natural phenomenon in the process of building a multipolar world, and a legitimate aspiration of emerging powers seeking a stronger voice.





projects, notably the Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). It also spotlighted opportunities in startups, innovation, youth initiatives, and cultural exchange as levers for deeper regional cooperation.

In August 2025, India and China held high-level talks in New Delhi, signaling a step toward easing tensions since 2019. During Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit (August 18-19, 2025), both sides agreed to resume direct passenger flights, reopen border trade, encourage investment flows, and establish three new border-related mechanisms.

The planned revival of direct air services – once carrying over 800,000 passengers annually before the pandemic struck – is expected to boost tourism, trade, and cargo flows while reducing reliance on indirect routes. These moves reflect a pragmatic recalibration of ties, even as broader geopolitical headwinds persist.

Notes for business stakeholders

**1. Watch policy and regulatory updates:** Border mechanisms, trade rules, and visa regulations may evolve quickly; staying informed ensures smoother operations and timely market entry.

**2. Monitor air and trade connectivity:** With direct passenger flights and border trade routes set to reopen, companies in logistics, tourism, and trade-dependent sectors should explore new routes to reduce transit costs and time.

**3. Evaluate investment opportunities:** China has indicated potential for investment flows, especially in sectors like electric vehicles, infrastructure, and technology. Indian firms should identify strategic partnerships or joint ventures in sectors approved by both governments.

**4. Supply chain diversification:** Improved border trade



**The 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Tianjin brought India and China back into the diplomatic spotlight, marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to China in seven years.**

**Amid escalating US tariff disputes, the engagement signaled a strategic bid by both nations to recalibrate ties while navigating a shifting global trade order.**

and cooperation on critical supplies (rare earths, fertilizers, tunneling equipment).

**5. Leverage cultural and people-to-people initiatives:** Programs in innovation, startups, and youth engagement may open avenues for knowledge exchange, R&D collaboration, and talent acquisition.

**6. Stay geopolitically agile:** While bilateral ties are improving, broader global trade tensions, particularly with the US, require businesses to maintain flexible sourcing, risk assessment, and contingency planning.

Modi's visit to China provided a rare window of opportunity for improving China-India relations. Observers note that the two major countries are now making efforts to manage their ties as "partners rather than rivals." While challenges remain in bilateral relations, both sides' willingness for pragmatic cooperation introduces a positive variable into global strategic balance. On the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India, it is hoped that Beijing and New Delhi will earnestly implement the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries, write a new chapter of "the dragon and the elephant dancing together" with a more open and inclusive mindset, and make due contributions as major countries to world peace, stability and prosperity.

India remains one of the key players in global markets. Whether it is manufacturing, services or the prospects of the value chain, India brings growth and macroeconomic momentum. Green technologies and industrial machinery for the transitioning economy, such as India, hold promise for Chinese market players. Moreover, there are several sectors and product lines for which India has potential in the Chinese market. Accessibility and fair practices for joint engagement would be a key role if both economies wish to build combined resilience in the global market. Electronics, automobiles, automation and transmissions are areas where China has experience, as well as a proven record of adaptability, serving both developed and emerging economies.

**INDIA REMAINS ONE OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN GLOBAL MARKETS. WHETHER IT IS MANUFACTURING, SERVICES OR THE PROSPECTS OF THE VALUE CHAIN, INDIA BRINGS GROWTH AND MACROECONOMIC MOMENTUM. GREEN TECHNOLOGIES AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR THE TRANSITIONING ECONOMY, SUCH AS INDIA, HOLD PROMISE FOR CHINESE MARKET PLAYERS.**



## *"Somebody Is Not Very Happy With You"* **Fiji PM to PM Modi on US Tariff Row**

**Rabuka shared details of his conversation with PM Modi during an interaction with the audience after delivering a lecture on 'Ocean of Peace' at the Sapru House here, hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).**



**PM Modi walks alongside his Fiji counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka before their meeting in New Delhi, Monday.**

**RABUKA SHARED DETAILS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH PM MODI DURING AN INTERACTION WITH THE AUDIENCE AFTER DELIVERING A LECTURE ON 'OCEAN OF PEACE' AT THE SAPRU HOUSE, DELHI, HOSTED BY THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA).**

**A**gainst the backdrop of the US imposing 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka said, he conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that somebody is "not very happy with you".

"But then you are big enough to weather those discomforts," Rabuka told PM Modi during their recent meeting.

Rabuka shared details of his conversation with PM Modi during an interaction with the audience after delivering a lecture on 'Ocean of Peace' at the Sapru House, Delhi, hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

The prime minister of the South Pacific nation arrived in Delhi on Sunday on a three-day trip to shore up Fiji's ties with India in a range of areas such as maritime security, trade, health, digital technology and capacity building.

India and Fiji firmed up an action plan to boost defence ties and agreed to jointly work for a peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific as PM Modi and Rabuka held talks to expand the overall bilateral cooperation.

After the ICWA lecture, a member of the audience asked him about his bilateral dialogues with leaders of various countries and what they conveyed to him about the vision of 'Ocean of Peace'.





Leaders of India and Fiji witness the exchange of MoUs (Image: MEA)

"I have not had any personal interaction with the President of the United States. I have asked for a bilateral meeting with the President of Russia. I have had bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the UK...," Rabuka said.

"Prime Minister Modi echoed our sentiments and the concept, when we spoke yesterday," he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping in our discussion earlier this year and also last year has taken it up, he said.

"A lot of people, big leaders of big nations have... and that's why I brought this concept of the 'family', and the youngest or the smallest member of the family not comfortable, and everybody sits up and listen," Rabuka said.

Because, whatever is "happening out there, is impacting us", the Fijian leader said.

"Now, what is happening out there is impacting your relationship with the United States. The recent announcements of tariffs and some things that are coming towards Prime Minister Modi's direction... I told him the other day, somebody is not very happy with you, but then you are big enough to weather those discomforts," he said, without elaborating.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of

Russian crude oil.

Prime Minister Rabuka is on his first visit to India in his current capacity.

PM Modi and Rabuka held "comprehensive and forward-looking discussions" on the full spectrum of bilateral matters, and regional and global issues of mutual interest, according to a joint statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

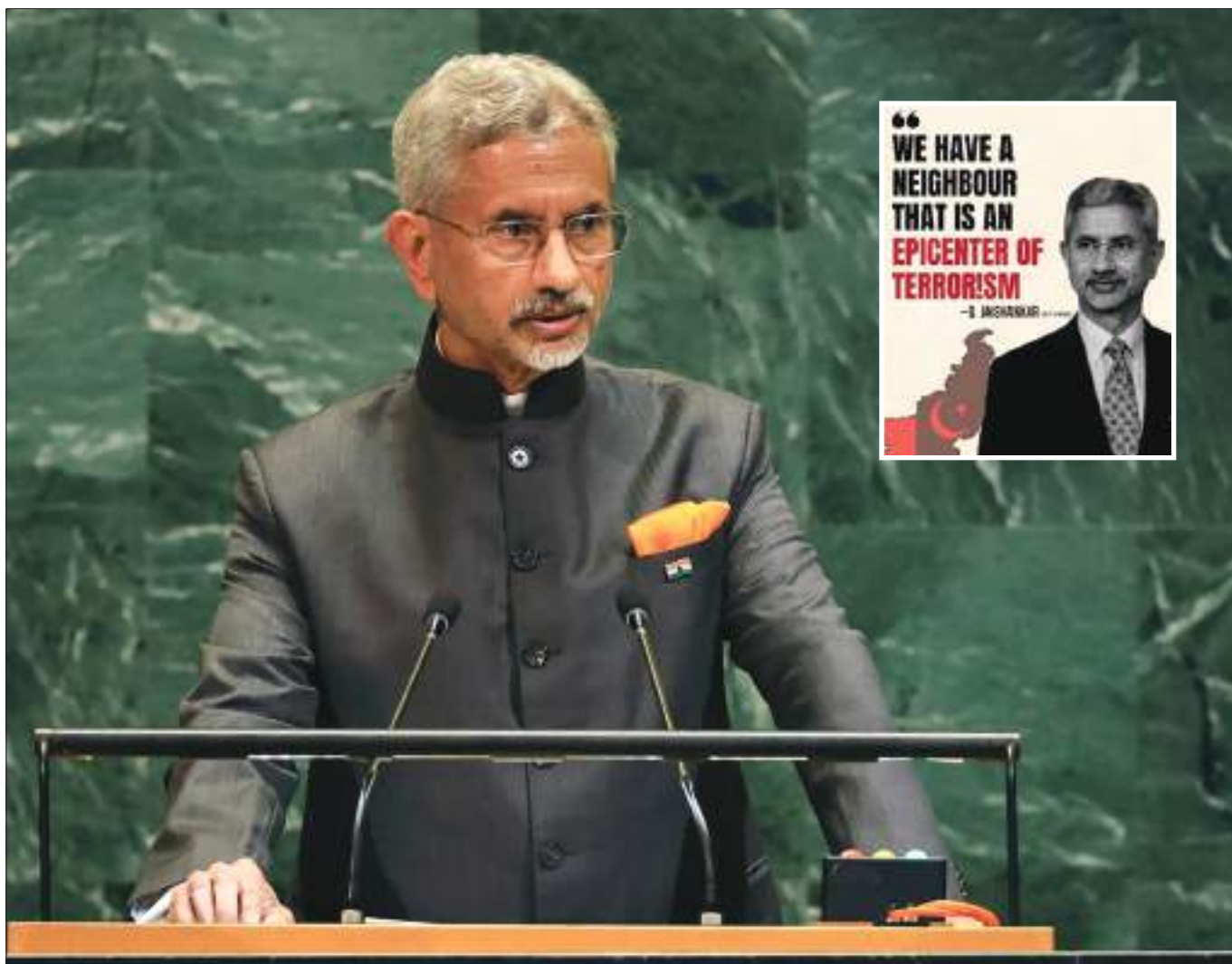
"Prime Minister Rabuka highlighted the concept of the 'Ocean of Peace' which emphasises building a peaceful, stable, secure, and sustainable future and well-being for our region. Prime Minister Modi commended Prime Minister Rabuka for his leadership in championing 'Ocean of Peace' in the Pacific Region," the statement said.

At the ICWA event, Rabuka said, "Our job is to take it to the world that we have declared this concept of 'Ocean of Peace' in the Pacific. It is up to the United Nations...to embrace it and take it up, for regional leaders to embrace it and take it up...in regional concepts and regional leaders' meetings, and, hopefully, we can spread peace." In his address, he emphasised on the multiple pillars of this vision.

"In this effort, India is an important partner... Fiji and India can work together to ensure that the vision of the Pacific as an 'Ocean of Peace', becomes a reality not only for our region, but as a contribution to global peace and stability," the Fijian PM said.

**"PRIME MINISTER RABUKA HIGHLIGHTED THE CONCEPT OF THE 'OCEAN OF PEACE' WHICH EMPHASISES BUILDING A PEACEFUL, STABLE, SECURE, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AND WELL-BEING FOR OUR REGION. PRIME MINISTER MODI COMMENDED PRIME MINISTER RABUKA FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN CHAMPIONING 'OCEAN OF PEACE' IN THE PACIFIC REGION," THE STATEMENT SAID.**

# S JAISHANKAR TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025 :



## SLAMS PAKISTAN AS EPICENTRE OF GLOBAL TERRORISM:-

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Pakistan at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling it the "epicentre of global terrorism" and accusing it of being behind decades of international terror attacks.

"India has confronted this challenge since its independence, having a neighbour that is an epi-

centre of global terrorism. For decades now, major international terrorist attacks are traced back to that one country. UN's designated lists of terrorists are replete with its nationals," Jaishankar told world leaders.

"The most recent example of cross-border barbarism was the murder of innocent tourists in Pahalgam in April this year. India exercised its right to defend its people against terrorism and brought its organisers and perpetrators to jus-





## RUSSIA REITERATES ITS SUPPORT FOR INDIA'S BID FOR A PERMANENT SEAT IN UNSC

**R**ussia has reiterated its support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). At the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov emphasised the need for reform in the UNSC to reflect the current global landscape.

He stated that Russia backs India's application for a permanent seat, along with Brazil, to enhance representation from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. With this, Russia became the only permanent member of the UNSC to support India for a permanent seat.

Lavrov emphasised that the current global balance is significantly different from when the UN was established 80 years ago, necessitating reforms to make the UNSC more effective and representative.

In his UNGA remarks, Lavrov also underlined the importance of forums like SCO and BRICS in shaping collective positions of the Global South. He said these groupings play a special role as mechanisms for coordinating



**Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly,**

the interests of the developing world. Calls for UNSC reform have been a key theme in this year's Assembly.

tice," he said.

"While asserting our rights, we must also firmly face up to threats. Countering terrorism is a particular priority because it synthesises bigotry, violence, intolerance and fear," he said.

"Because terrorism is a shared threat, it is essential that there is much deeper international cooperation. When nations openly declare terrorism a state policy, when terror hubs operate on an industrial scale, when terrorists are publicly glorified, then such actions must be unequivocally condemned. The financing of terrorism must be choked even as prominent terrorists are sanctioned. Relentless pressure must be applied on the entire terrorism ecosystem. Those who condone nations that sponsor terror will find that it comes back to bite them," he added

### **CALLS FOR DE-RISKING AMID TARIFF VOLATILITY:--**

Without naming the United States, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that "de-risking" has become a "growing compulsion" for countries facing "tariff volatility and uncertain market access."

Addressing the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, he criticised trade practices that distort

global rules and create over-dependence on limited markets.

"When it came to trade, non-market practices gamed rules and regimes. The resulting concentration exposed the world to leveraging. On top of that, we now see tariff volatility and uncertain market access as a result. De-risking is a growing compulsion, whether from limited sources of supply or over-dependence on a particular market," Jaishankar said.

### **CALLS FOR EXPANDED UNSC- SAYS INDIA READY FOR GREATER ROLE:-**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pressed for urgent reforms to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), asserting that both permanent and non-permanent memberships must be expanded to make the body more representative.

Speaking at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Jaishankar said India is prepared to shoulder greater responsibilities as part of a reformed Council.

"Both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council must be expanded. A reformed Council must be truly representative. India stands ready to assume greater responsibilities," Jaishankar told world leaders.

**"WHEN IT CAME TO TRADE, NON-MARKET PRACTICES GAMED RULES AND REGIMES. THE RESULTING CONCENTRATION EXPOSED THE WORLD TO LEVERAGING. ON TOP OF THAT, WE NOW SEE TARIFF VOLATILITY AND UNCERTAIN MARKET ACCESS AS A RESULT. DE-RISKING IS A GROWING COMPULSION, WHETHER FROM LIMITED SOURCES OF SUPPLY OR OVER-DEPENDENCE ON A PARTICULAR MARKET," JAISHANKAR SAID.**



## He Called Both Countries to “UPHOLD A Strategic Perspective”

*“TWO Major Ancient Civilizations And Large Developing Countries, The Relationship Between China And India Has Transcended Bilateral Scope And Bears Global And Strategic Significance”*

*--CHINESE Ambassador Xu Feihong*



The Chinese Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, has said that the meeting between PM Modi, and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Tianjin SCO summit brought a "new level of improvement" in ties. The meeting, on 31st August, was the 2nd bilateral meeting between the 2 leaders since the meeting on the sidelines of the Kazan BRICS summit last year.

Speaking at the country's national day celebrations, Ambassador Feihong said, "We stand ready to work with the Indian side to follow the guidance of the important common understandings between our two leaders, and advance China-India relations on the track of sound and stable development".

Both sides are working to start direct flights that have been suspended since the COVID pandemic. Earlier this year, the Kailash Mansarovar yatra resumed as well, with the first batch of Indian pilgrims going to the holy mountain. More than 700 official pilgrims and nearly 20,000 private pilgrims have been to the Kailash pilgrimage this year.

The Ambassador called the 2 countries to "uphold a strategic perspective" and as two "major ancient civilizations and large developing countries, the relationship between China and India has transcended bilateral scope and bears global and strategic significance". He said, China-India economic and trade cooperation "continues to expand and has great potential".

From January to August this year, bilateral trade in goods grew 10.4% year on year to 102 billion USD. By September 22nd, the Chinese embassy and consulates in India had issued over 265,000 visas to Indian citizens. Ties between the 2 Asian major economies were on a downward trajectory after the 2020 Galwan clashes.

In what is a clear message to Washington, DC, the ambassador said, India and China should "firmly oppose" any "form of tariff and trade wars, jointly defend the common interests of the Global South, and build a community with a shared future for humanity." Trump has imposed tariffs on both India and China. During his UNGA address, Trump singled out both countries for being the "primary funders" of the war in Ukraine.

# From Boulders to Peels



**CHANDER P MAHAJAN**

Prof. (Er.) Chander P Mahajan is an art critic @ a freelance journalist. *The Environmentalists* stays in Shimla and Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh India.

**I** like sculpting stone; a hobbyist, not a sculptor, so to speak. Long ago, Javed, the artist, procured me a piece of stone from Rajasthan that stays unfinished in 'Ghari Studio'.

While in Scandinavia way back in 1983, I observed a rich geological landscape with various types of stone, including granite, limestone, and slate. These materials played a significant role in history and culture. Stone circles and other megalithic structures served ceremonial, religious, or astronomical purposes.

In China, Switzerland, as also in France, I was fascinated by their creations in artful stonework. In England, Germany, Brazil, wherever I had been, the stone getup remained in focus.

Pictographs have been placed onto the rock faces across much of the world.

Various cultures have used stones as a form of currency. Rai stones have been used in rare, important social transactions. Many are placed in front of meetinghouses, around village courts, or along pathways.

■ Stone is an important material for its sustainability and versatility. The commodity is recyclable and can be reused, reducing the need for new resources. Non-porous stone is easy to clean.

■ Natural stone with its variations in colour, pattern, and texture stimulates me and is imagination-provoking. It can be used in a variety of ways, including ornamental features. It is strong and decent in appearance.

Stone is a long-lasting material and is recyclable. It has long been recognised as a material of great durability and superior artistic quality, the foremost choice for buildings associated with status, power and religion.

■ There are huge variations within the rocks, caused by specific mineralogy and geological conditions that make the stones suitable for different purposes.

The earliest form of stone construction is the dry stone or dry stacking. These are free-standing structures that use irregularly shaped



Author sculpting stone  
Garhi Studio, Delhi

Aseem Raja angling at  
Kharamukh Bharmour

Author at Great Wall  
of China

Collections - Chander P Mahajan





Yvoire medieval village, France on Lake Geneva  
3 August, 2017 Collections - Chander P Mahajan

stones carefully selected and placed so that they fit closely together without slipping. Highly sturdy and easily repaired, they allow water to drain through them without causing damage to the stones. It is only the skill of the craftsman in choosing and

placing the stones.

■ Sandstone offers a range of colours and is relatively easy to work with. Slate is known for its fine grain, and that is what adorns 'Kirti Estate'. Mortar is hardly used in the joints, but some small pieces of stone





mixed with cement work as fillers to improve structural integrity, besides finishing and binding. Here, mud has been sparingly used as a binding agent, but only above the plinth level.

■ On the other hand, natural stones of Bakloh are dressed into blocks to construct 'ashlar masonry' with cement mortar. The strength is the quality and accurate dressing of the stones that are well-bonded in the walls. It is the skill and craftsmanship that is reflected in 'Kirti Cottage'.

It is necessary to keep the masonry work damp until the mortar has set and hardened after proper curing. Stones should also be wetted before being installed in a wall, as a dry stone absorbs moisture from the mortar, weakening it. The axial and central loading on the masonry sections may be balanced, possibly avoiding tensile stresses.

■ The origin of the Stone Age coincides with the discovery of the oldest known stone tools, which have been dated to some 3.3 million years ago.

■ The pyramids in Giza, burial chambers in the UK and temples in Malta were all built from stone over 4000 years ago and are still standing.

Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs and were symbols of their power and divine status. The largest granite 'boulders' in the pyramid, located above the "King's" chamber, weighed between 25-80 tons each.

The use of stone in construction has declined over the years, but it stands as a distinct material.

Traditional stone masonry is rarely used today, because stone is expensive to quarry, cut and transport, and the building process is labour and skill-intensive.

Instead, most modern stonework utilises a coating of stone, the veneer. Thin flat pieces glued against a wall of concrete blocks; I call them the 'peels'. That is 'stone cladding'.





## गीता में कर्म का महत्व



**SANAT JAIN,**  
Secretary General, Chhattisgarh  
United Nations Association, Raipur

पहले गीता और महाभारत का भेद समझ लेना आवश्यक है भागवत गीता भगवान श्रीकृष्ण ने महाभारत युद्ध के समय अर्जुन को उपदेश दिए थे उनका संकलन गीता में 700 श्लोक में हैं। जबकि महाभारत के रचयिता ऋषि वेद व्यास थे। गीता और महाभारत मिलकर ही श्रीमद् महाभारत कहलाती है। अर्जुन ने कुरुक्षेत्र के रण में अपने भाइयों कौरवों पर हमला करने से हिच करारहे थे कृष्ण ने अपने उपदेश के द्वारा कहा कि हे अर्जुन तुम अपने कर्म से पीछे मत हटो और युद्ध करो फल की चिंता मत करो। युद्ध करना तुम्हारा कर्तव्य है। इसके अतिरिक्त कृष्ण ने धर्म, सत्य आदि पर भी उपदेश दिए। जिस श्लोक का युद्ध क्षेत्र में कृष्ण ने अर्जुन को कहा था वह ये था

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भुर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि॥

कर्म करना तुम्हारा अधिकार है और इसका क्या फल मिलेगा इसकी चिंता नहीं करनी चाहिए। भारत के सभी धर्म कर्म के सिद्धांत को मानते हैं चाहे वह सनातन धर्म हो, जैन, बौद्ध या सिख धर्म हो कर्म से ही भाग्य का निर्माण होता है और कर्मों से ही मृत्यु के बाद उसी प्रकार की गति प्राप्त होती है।





# SWADESHI

**सदी की स्वर्णिम झलक**



**धोती खादी कमीज़ , साड़ी , कुर्ता पैजामा  
ये है असली भारतीयता**

HON'BLE SHRI CHANDRAPURAM PONNUSAMY RADHAKRISHNAN (LEFT) WITH HON'BLE  
PRESIDENT MRS. DROUPADI MURMU AND PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI  
AFTER TAKING OATH AS 15TH VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE RAJYA SABHA ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



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