



# PEOPLE AND UN

JANUARY 2026 ■ Rs 25/-

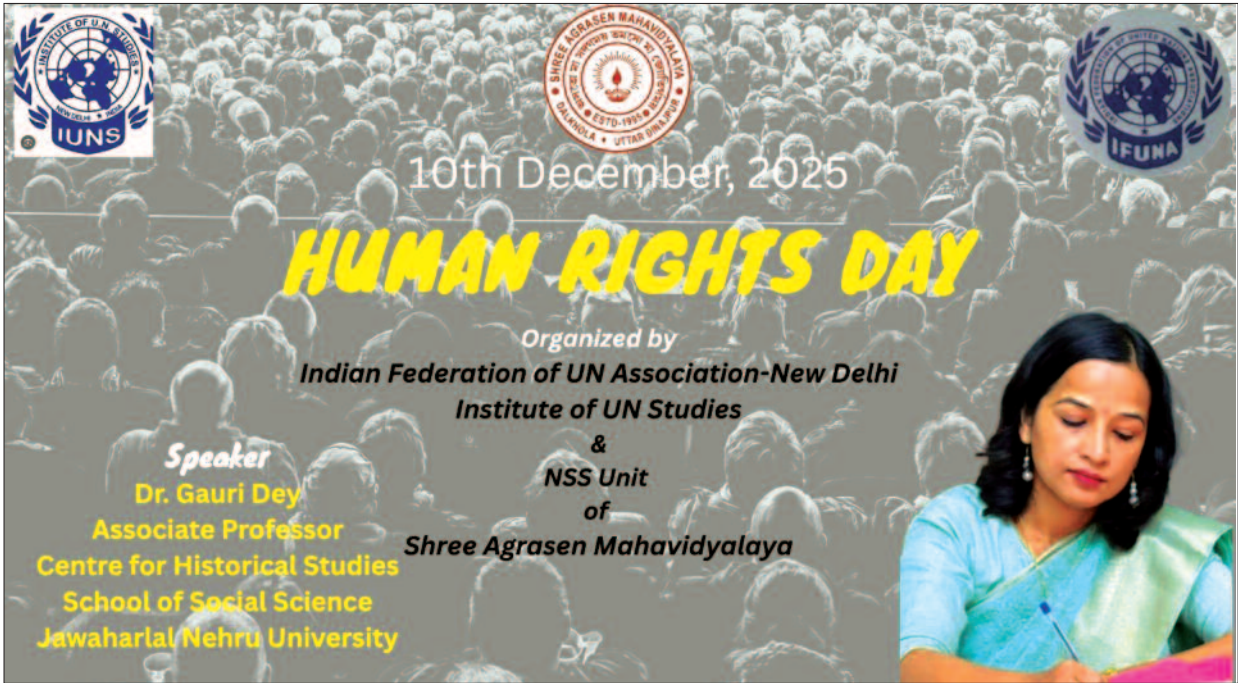
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## FRIENDSHIP and DIPLOMACY



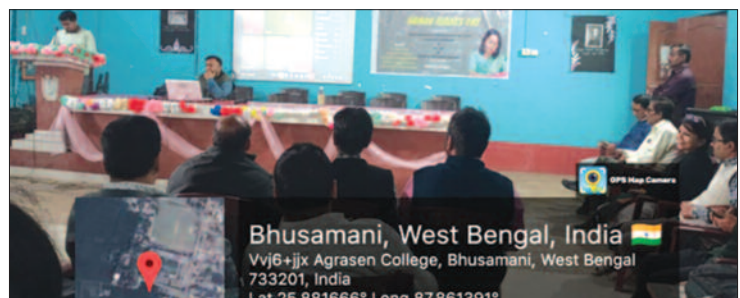
**AWAITING  
PEACE-PROGRESS-PROSPERITY**

# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



## "Observation of Human Rights Day" IFUNA with Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya in Dinajpur, West Bengal

**O**n 10 December 2025 NSS Unit of Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya in collaboration with Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, New Delhi & Institute of UN Studies observed Human Rights Day to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The programme aimed to create awareness among students about equality, justice, and human dignity. The programme included an inaugural address by the Principal followed by a lecture by Dr. Gauri De, Associate Professor in History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on the relevance of human rights in contemporary society. Students actively participated in discussions and awareness activities. The programme successfully sensitized students to their rights and responsibilities and contributed to value-based education. Outcome: Enhanced awareness on human rights and civic responsibility among students. Improved awareness on women's rights and gender justice, increased social awareness and commitment towards human rights among NSS volunteers.



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Secretary General, IFUNA

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ART CRITIC

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IFUNA delegation visited then Soviet Union now Russia

Standing: Left to Right

P. S. Paul, Mr. Grigory Kovizanko, Secretary General, Soviet Union Mrs. Kapoor, Kanwar Lal Gupta, Member of Parliament (BJP) Director, Institute of Oriental Studies Soviet Union, Santosh Chatterji, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court, Suresh Srivastava, then Additional Secretary General, IFUNA and Mrs Gayatri.

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## SELFIES AND SMILES: SOUTH KOREA 'NEW PHASE' IN TIES WITH CHINA



Lee Jae Myung took a selfie with Xi Jinping Using a Xiaomi phone that the Chinese President Had Gifted him

**W**hile U S President Trump was busy in coercing some of his neighboring Latin American countries after capturing Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores; President Xi Jinping of China was entertaining his adverse neighbor South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung by propelling ties towards deeper, more substantive development.

It was the first visit by a South Korean leader since 2019 after Lee's predecessor, ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol, who was very critical of China.

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung wrapped up his four-day state visit to China culminating in attendance at Korea-China Venture and Startup Summit and a visit to the historic site of Provisional Government of Republic of Korea in China's economic center of Shanghai.

Speaking to media, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that during the visit, President Xi Jinping and President Lee Jae-myung had in-depth exchanges of views on the bilateral relations, international and regional situation and charted the course for deepening the China-ROK (Republic of Korea) strategic cooperative partnership. The two sides reached important common understandings on respecting each other's core interests and major concerns, fostering greater synergy between development strategies, strengthening policy coordination, and enhancing coordination on international and multilateral affairs. China stands ready to work with the ROK to deliver on the important common understandings between the two presidents, enhance communication and coordination, deepen cooperation in various fields, expand common interests, and achieve more tangible outcomes for the benefit of the two peoples, said Mao.

President Lee has also stated that the visit was "a crucial opportunity" for the "full-scale restoration of South Korea-China relations".

President Lee's visit to China is being seen more than a routine diplomatic engagement. It is a strategic attempt to recalibrate the bilateral relationship after several years of accumulated uncertainty and misunderstanding. In a period of heightened geopolitical tensions and rapid systemic changes, the aim is not only to repair ties, on a mere predictable and sustainable footing. It is for to manage differences while expanding space for practical cooperation.

***Let this positive political dynamic of diplomacy should be resolved by United Nations as a New Year message of 2026 to inspire all adversaries in the interest of Peace-Prosperity -Progress of their respective nations.***

**— Pran Mohan Parvatiyar  
[pmparvatiyar@gmail.com](mailto:pmparvatiyar@gmail.com)**

# IFUNA and UFUNA Celebrated United Nations Day - 2025 In Odisha



**THE MEETING WAS PRESIDED OVER BY ADVOCATE MANORANJAN PATNAIK, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF IFUNA AND STATE PRESIDENT OF UFUNA. CHIEF GUEST FORMER UNION MINISTER BHAJAMANBEHERA, T SAID THAT 2025 SHOULD BE THE YEAR OF ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AND GAVE A STRONG EXPRESSION THAT UN AWARENESS IS SECURITY FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.**

United Nations Day - 2025 was celebrated by Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and UTKAL Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) at the Hotel Devakanna Conference Hall. On this occasion, the meeting was inaugurated by Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General of IFUNA and Vice Chairman of World Federation of United Nations Associations through virtual medium.

The meeting was presided over by Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik, National Vice President of IFUNA and State President of UFUNA. Chief Guest Former Union Minister Bhajaman Behera, said that 2025 should be the year of all-round development for all and gave a strong expression that UN awareness is security for the whole world.

The other distinguished guest, Advocate Lalitendu Mishra, Advocate of Odisha High Court in his speech expressed that the main goal of the United Nations is to establish peace and harmony in the world. The keynote speaker, Former Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera expressed that the United Nations is essential

for building a healthy and peaceful progressive world.

The United Nations works to remove conflicts between countries and establish unity among them. Former District Judge Bhikari Charan Rout, the guest of honor expressed his opinion that the United Nations plays a leading role in providing aid to countries affected by floods, cyclones and droughts.

Joining as one of the distinguished speakers Meera Beura a lecturer from Cuttack said that the World Health Organization undertakes major programs in serving the public in the field of health protection. UFUNA Secretary and eminent poet Bahadur Pattasahani gave the welcome speech, introduced the guests and gave useful information about the program.

Educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, social activist Saroj Satapathy, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut in his speech appreciated the role of United Nations in protecting human rights. Secretary General UFUNA, Advocate Dipayan Pattnaik said that United Nations Day is observed every year on October 24th worldwide. Its aim is to make the general public



**THE UNITED NATIONS WAS ADOPTED AT THIS CONFERENCE. THE MAIN AIM OF THIS DAY IS TO CREATE AWARENESS IN THE PUBLIC MIND .AS FAR AS THE UNITED NATIONS IS CONCERNED, THERE ARE SOME SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO IT.**

aware of its achievements. He gave detailed information about the historical background of the United Nations, its goals, objectives and organizational principles. According to a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly, it was decided that every year October 24 will be celebrated as the United Nations Day. In 1971, according to another resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution No. 2782), it was decided that the United Nations Day would be observed by all the member countries of the United Nations and it would be a public holiday. Towards the end of the Second World War, the first step towards the creation of the United Nations was taken at the conference that began on April 25, 1945.

The United Nations was adopted at this conference. The main aim of this day is to create awareness in the public mind .As far as the United Nations is concerned, there are some special organizations outside the United Nations that contribute to it.

They are the World Health Organization(WHO),the Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO),the International Labor Organization(ILO), the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The UNO has done many important works in the fields of rights, health, refugee relief, flood, storm and disease prevention.

The day is celebrated by organizing camps, public awareness fairs etc. on the basis of specific slogans at different places in the state, national level, district level and block level and informed that the United Nations is also continuing its programs for the welfare of society. Many among others Environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut, Dr. Pramod Kumar Naik, Educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Social Worker Saroj Satpathy and Er.Abinash Das participated in the key discussions among the guests and distinguished speakers.

Poet Bahadur Pattasahani, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Dr. Mansikar ,poet Dr. Anupama Mishra, PoetMamata Mishra, poet Maitreyee Shubhada, poet Nandi KeshariNath recited poems on this occasion. Dr. Pramod Kumar Naik, Prem-anand Satapathy, Tarun Kumar Biswal, Environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut, Naturopathic Doctor Pitabas Sahu, Bipin Bihari Behera, Deb Prasad Mishra among others were present in the meeting.

Yudhisthir Sahu, Er. Lalit Mohan Behera and all the hundreds of associate members of UFUNA also joined and gave their opinions. With the help of all the hundred associate members of UFUNA, the successful implementation of the program was possible. In this meeting a large number of dignitaries from all corners of Odisha actively participated in the discussion. Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, senior citizen,literate,social worker, freelance journalist, life member of UNESCO and Media Convenor of UFUNA coordinated the whole program and recited two English and one odia poem about United Nations.Eminent Educationist Dr. Sameer Kumar Sahu gave the vote of thanks.

# IFUNA and UFUNA celebrated Human Rights Day - 2025



Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) celebrated Human Rights Day - 2025 on 10.12.2025 at Hotel Deva Kanaya Conference Hall, Dhenkanal. On this occasion, IFUNA Secretary General and World Federation of United Nations Associations, Vice Chairman Suresh Srivastava inaugurated the meeting through virtual medium. IFUNA National Vice President and UFUNA State President Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik presided over the meeting.

At the outset social activist Saroj Satapathy read out the message on Human Rights Day received from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The chief guest Former Union Minister Bhajaman Behera, said that 2025 should be the year of all-round development for all and expressed his strong opinion that the awareness of human rights of the United Nations is the only security for all concerned.

The other distinguished chief guest was former Chief Secretary Bijay Kumar Pattnaik, while other distinguished guests were Biswajit Suryavanshi, working at the Human Rights Council and Advocate of the Odisha High Court, former District Judge Bhikari Charan Raut, social worker Saroj Satapathy, and General Secretary of UFUNA Dipayan Pattnaik. In their own words, they strongly expressed that if I cannot give my neighbour his human rights, then I do not have the right to ask for any rights for myself. There is a need to use, implement and protect human rights in daily life. Rights and duties are complement of each other. Former Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera, the keynote speaker, spoke about building a healthy, peaceful and progressive world. He strongly expressed that compliance of the United Nations Human Rights Act is essential.

All the speakers strongly expressed that the main objective of the United Nations is to protect human rights in the world and establish peace and harmony. On this occasion, educationist

Tara Prasanna Satapathy was honoured and felicitated by the distinguished guests for his outstanding dedicated service in the field of education and social service. He was presented a bouquet of flowers, a trophy and a certificate. Secretary of UFUNA, poet Bahadur Pattasahani, delivered the welcome speech, introduced the guests and provided timely information about the program. Educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, social worker Saroj Satapathy and environmentalist Upendra Kumar Rout, in their speeches, praised the role of the United Nations in protecting human rights.

Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik, IFUNA National Vice President and UFUNA State President in his presidential address said that World Human Rights Day is celebrated every year on December 10th all over the world. It aims to make the purposes and achievements of the United Nations known to the public. Human rights describe specific standards of conduct and are consistently protected as natural and legal rights in civil and international law. They are generally inalienable.

Fundamental rights are "the rights which every person possesses automatically by virtue of his or her very nature as a human being" and which are "inherent to all human beings", regardless of their age, nationality, place of birth, language, religion, birth or other status. They are universally recognized and are equal for all. The day is usually marked by high-level political conferences, cultural events and exhibitions on human rights. In addition, the United Nations Human Rights Prize and the Nobel Peace Prize are traditionally awarded on December 10. Many governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of human rights, as well as many citizens, organize special events to celebrate this day.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a historic document and was adopted by a majority vote of the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, at its third session, in accordance with resolution 217. Of the 58

**FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE "THE RIGHTS WHICH EVERY PERSON POSSESSES AUTOMATICALLY BY VIRTUE OF HIS OR HER VERY NATURE AS A HUMAN BEING" AND WHICH ARE "INHERENT TO ALL HUMAN BEINGS", REGARDLESS OF THEIR AGE, NATIONALITY, PLACE OF BIRTH, LANGUAGE, RELIGION, BIRTH OR OTHER STATUS.**



services, including the health of himself and of his family. Further protection has been given to physical disability and illness, particularly maternal and child care. Articles 28-30:

This right The rights, in which the exercise of which rights is unacceptable and cannot be exercised against the individual. These articles describe the duties of the individual towards society and the specific standards of conduct of rights against the purposes of the United Nations and are regularly protected as natural and legal rights of citizens and international law.

They are generally inalienable, fundamental rights "which every person has automatically by virtue of being a human being" and which are "inherent to all human beings", regardless of their age, birth, country, residence, language, religion, nationality or other status. They are universally accepted and are equal for all. The United Nations Human

Rights Council and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are involved in many organizations. With the help of these organizations, the United Nations has done a lot of important work around the world in various fields, especially in human rights, health, refugee resettlement, floods, storms and disease prevention.

On this day In the country, at the national, district and block levels, this day is celebrated by organizing camps, public awareness fairs, etc. on the basis of a specific slogan and the United Nations has also continued its programs for the welfare of the society, he informed. Among others, the guests and distinguished speakers of the meeting were Dr. Pramod Kumar Nayak, educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, social worker Saroj Satapathy, educationist Tara Prasanna Satapathy, Er. Abinash Das, who participated in the main discussion and delivered speeches.

On this occasion, prominent poets such as poet Bahadur Pattasahani, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, professor Dr. Mansi Kar, Dr. Anupama Mishra, Nandi Keshari Nath, Loknath Mohapatra, Linku Pati, Pushpanjali Jena recited selected poems on human rights in the poetry reading festival. Among others, in this meeting Premanand Satapathy, Tarun Kumar Biswal, Natural Medicine Expert Pitabas Sahu, Bipin Bihari Behera, Deb Prasad Mishra, Yudhisthira Sahu, Er. Lalit Mohan Behera and all the hundreds of associate members and members of UFUNA also actively participated and made their comments. The successful implementation of the program was possible with the help of all the hundreds of associate members and members of UFUNA.

A large number of respected people from every corner of Dhenkanal district made special contributions to this meeting and actively participated in the discussion. Finally, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, a senior educationist, senior citizen, literary figure, social worker, freelance correspondent, life member of UNESCO and media in-charge of UFUNA, coordinated the entire program and recited two English and one Odia poems on human rights. Secretary of the Senior Citizens Forum Baikuntha Behera proposed the vote of thanks.

members of the UN, 48 voted in Favour, 8 remained absent and 2 abstained from voting. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the 183rd session of the UN General Assembly in Paris in 1948. The Declaration recognized individual rights in its 30 articles, which, although not legally binding at the time, were later codified in international treaties, economic instruments, regional human rights treaties, national constitutions, and other laws. It was the first step in the creation of an international bill of human rights, and was completed in 1966 and entered into force in 1976 after a majority of countries ratified it.

Some legal scholars believe that it has been applied consistently by many countries for over 50 years, making it a binding part of international law. However, the United States Supreme Court has held that the Declaration is not automatically applicable to international law. Courts in other countries have also held that the Declaration is not part of domestic law.

The second draft of the Universal Declaration was presented by Rene Cassin. Cassin also worked on the first draft, prepared by John Peter Humphrey. Its preamble and initial general principles were influenced by the Napoleonic Code. He compared it to the portico of a Greek temple, with a foundation, steps, four columns and a pediment. He established the Declaration by proposing the following thirty articles: historical and social reasons and their necessity.

Articles 1-2: Glory, **Articles 1-2:** Introduced the basic concepts of dignity, liberty and equality. Articles 3-5: Established individual rights such as the right to life and the prohibition of slavery and torture. Articles 6-11: Basic human rights and specific remedies for violations. Articles 12-17 affirmed the fundamental rights of the individual in groups.

**Articles 18-21:** Constitutional independence and spiritual, civil and political freedom, including freedom of thought, opinion, religion and conscience, speech and peaceful assembly. Articles 22-27: The right to health care, including economic, social and cultural rights. Article 25: Everyone has the right to food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social

**THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION WAS PREPARED BY RENE CASSIN. CASSIN ALSO WORKED ON THE FIRST DRAFT, PREPARED BY JOHN PETER HUMPHREY. ITS PREAMBLE AND INITIAL GENERAL PRINCIPLES WERE INFLUENCED BY THE NAPOLEONIC CODE. HE COMPARED IT TO THE PORTICO OF A GREEK TEMPLE, WITH A FOUNDATION, STEPS, FOUR COLUMNS AND A PEDIMENT. HE ESTABLISHED THE DECLARATION BY PROPOSING THE FOLLOWING THIRTY ARTICLES: HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL REASONS AND THEIR NECESSITY.**



# United Nations Day was Observed in Assam



To promote the knowledge and awareness about the establishment of the United Nations and its aim & objectives amongst the people in the remote region of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Federation of UN Associations - New Delhi (IFUNA) observed the United Nations Day at the Lakhimpur town- 425 Kms from the Capital city of Assam , Guwahati - bordering the state of Arunachal Pradesh along with the rest of the world in collaboration with L.T.K. College , Lakhimpur in Assam on 24th October,2025..

**The meeting was commenced with the lightning of the earthen lump.**

Mr. Pranabjit Kakoty , the District Commissioner of the remote Lakhimpur District of Assam stressed the needs of the United Nations after the World War II. Mr. Kakoty briefed the audience about the origin of United Nations and the contributions of India as one of the founding member of UN. He said that the UN CHARTER was signed on 26 June, 1945 at San Francisco Conference and India signed the UN charter by SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR .

Dr. Nitul Gogoi, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Retd) (Assam Police), who had attended a UN conference at UN hqrs in New York in 2023 elaborately narrated the roles of United Nations for promoting peace and security in the World.

Dr. Prasanta Dutta, Principal of Moran Junior College, briefed about the UN - ENERGYNOW SDG7 attended by him at UN hqrs in New York on 24 - 25 September,2025

and narrated about the role of UN for promoting peace in the world

Dr. Pranab Jyoti Lahkar - Principal of Dibrugarh Polytechnic expressed his satisfaction for organizing the UN day in a very remote areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to promote awareness about the United Nations activities and functioning by IFUNA .

Dr. Bubul Chandra Saikia - Principal of L.T.K College, in his addresses said that the UN was established on 24th October, 1945 at San Francisco conference with a noble aim to promote Peace and International Understanding amongst the nations of the World.

Dr. Sonali Duarah - Principal of the B.Ed College of Lakhimpur, said that 51 countries were the original members at the signing of the UN CHARTER, signed on 26 June, 1945 and 193 are now the Member Countries of the UN.

Earlier, Dr. Aswini Sarma - Secretary General of UNA-ASSAM read out the message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antannio Guetterrus on the occassion of UN day

The meeting was attended by six nos of principals and students, faculties of colleges in Lakhimpur and bordering of Arunachal Pradesh, large nos of faculties, students of the six colleges, invitees and guests.

The meeting was moderated by Dr. Debajit Dutta - a Sr. faculty of L.T. K College, Lakhimpur and a senior member of UNA- Assam

The observation of UN day was telecast in the Television and was widely covered in the Newspapers of Assam.

## India & Ethiopia Sign Three MoUs During PM Modi's visit to Addis Ababa



After Jordan King, Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-Winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed personally received PM Modi at Addis Ababa Airport on 16th December, Drove Him to his hotel, and made an unscheduled stop at the science museum and friendship park.

**ETHIOPIA AND INDIA HAVE SIGNED THREE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS, DATA CENTER ESTABLISHMENT AT THE EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA AND COOPERATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING.**

It seems Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rare ride with Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, followed by the Russian President's recent visit to India, and has set off a new trend of car diplomacy. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Ethiopian PM's special gestures show remarkable respect for Modi.

Earlier this month, a similar display of car diplomacy was seen during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, when the two leaders travelled together by car. The moment echoed an earlier instance three months ago in Tianjin, China, when PM Modi rode in Putin's car.

"Celebrating age-old India-Ethiopia ties! Prime Minister @narendramodi arrives in Addis Ababa on his maiden bilateral visit to Ethiopia. In a special gesture, PM

@AbiyAhmedAli came to personally receive him at the airport. Prime Minister was accorded a warm and colourful welcome." "Ethiopia is a key partner for India in the Global South and a fellow BRICS Member."

These gestures were highlighted as symbols of significant respect, as reported by news agency PTI, and represent a trend of personal diplomacy that has recently been seen in PM Modi's international engagements.

Ethiopia and India have signed three memoranda of understanding. Both countries have decided to enhance cooperation in administrative assistance in customs matters, data center establishment at the embassy of Ethiopia and cooperation in UN peacekeeping.

These MoUs were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali.

# Jordan King- Modi, Pitch \$5 Billion Trade Target, West Asia Corridor



**Crown Prince of Jordan 'Al Hussain Bin Abdullah' Drive P.M. Modi to Jordan Museum in Special Gesture**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday December 16 laid out an ambitious roadmap to deepen economic engagement, calling for a doubling of bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years and pitching Jordan as a pivotal bridge for Indian business into West Asia and beyond. Addressing the India-Jordan Business Forum in Amman, the two leaders urged industry on both sides to move decisively from potential to performance, with King Abdullah underlining that Jordan's network of Free Trade Agreements, when combined with India's economic scale, could anchor a new economic corridor linking South Asia with West Asia and global markets.

The forum, attended by Crown Prince Hussein and Jordan's Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, brought together top business leaders across infrastructure, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, defence, manufacturing and logistics, signalling a push to translate political convergence into commercial outcomes.

Modi described India-Jordan ties as a "vibrant contemporary partnership" rooted in deep civilizational links, and credited King Abdullah's leadership for positioning Jordan as a connector of regions and markets. Projecting India's growth trajectory, the PM said the world's fastest-growing major economy - on course to become the third largest globally - offered "immense and reliable

opportunities" for Jordanian investors.

Inviting Jordanian companies to partner India, Modi highlighted the pull of India's 1.4 billion-strong consumer market, its expanding manufacturing base and what he termed a stable, transparent and predictable policy environment. India and Jordan, he said, could emerge as trusted supply-chain partners at a time of global realignment.

Pointing to India's sustained growth of over 8 per cent, the PM attributed the momentum to productivity-driven governance and innovation-led policies and identified priority areas for collaboration ranging from digital public infrastructure, IT and fintech to health-tech and agri-tech. He called on start-ups from both countries to jointly tap these sectors.

Modi also spotlighted synergies between India's strengths in pharmaceuticals and medical devices and Jordan's strategic geography, suggesting the kingdom could evolve into a reliable hub for West Asia and Africa. Opportunities were also flagged in agriculture, cold chains, food parks, fertilisers, infrastructure, automobiles, green mobility and heritage tourism.

On sustainability, the PM proposed closer cooperation in renewable energy, green finance, desalination and water recycling, aligning India's green transition with Jordan's resource priorities.

# INDIA SIGNS FTA WITH OMAN, Receives zero duty access on 99% of its exports Trade Pact: Operational Within 3 Months



**PM Modi, Sultan of Oman witness signing and exchange of India Oman CEPA**

**India exported \$4.06 billion worth of merchandise to Oman in 2024-25, which made up 0.93% of India's total exports that year. It imported \$6.5 billion worth of goods from Oman, comprising 0.91% of India's total imports in 24-25.**

discussed that this agreement, we will try to operationalise within three months," Mr. Goyal told reporters

When asked about the areas where Indian businesses can invest in Oman, the minister said sectors like steel, energy, education, and healthcare hold huge potential.

"Those which require natural resources will be the ones (where Indian firms would like to invest). A large steel investment is coming up for producing green steel," he said, adding that there is a lot of interest in Oman to collaborate with India because they have large land banks.

One can explore investment in the energy sector, where energy can be converted into green hydrogen or green ammonia and exported to the rest of the world, which will provide Indians an opportunity for exports and create jobs for Indian people, he pointed out.

"There is a huge amount of potential for processing of large volumes of marble...huge amounts of investment interests in education, healthcare...some people are also looking at battery manufacturing in Oman," Goyal said.

Oman's businesses, too, are very excited about collaborating with Indian businesses, the minister said.

"Already, we have received interest from an Omani dairy to have a joint venture with Amul," he said, adding that he has invited Omani firms and the Sovereign Wealth Fund to invest in India.

India and Oman will endeavour to implement the India-Oman free trade agreement, signed on December 18, within the next three months, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Oman has offered zero-duty access on over 98 of its tariff lines or product categories, covering 99.38 per cent of India's exports to the Gulf country.

All major labour-intensive sectors, including gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and automobiles, will attract nil duty.

These goods, at present, attract import duties in the range of 5-100 per cent in Oman.

On the other hand, India is offering duty concessions on 77.79 per cent of its total tariff lines (12,556), which covers 94.81 per cent of India's imports from Oman by value.

The Oman-US trade deal was finalised in 2006, but was implemented in January 2009. "The Oman minister and I have



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Was Conferred With The 'Order Of Oman' Award For His Exceptional Contribution To India-Oman Ties And His Visionary Leadership - On Thursday 18th December By The Sultan Of Oman**

**'A Symbol of Affection'**

# India - Russia relationship in historical perspective



PM Modi personally greeted President Putin at Delhi Airport and travelled with him in the same car—a rare protocol move. Showcasing India-Russia Friendship. This first-of-its-kind gesture highlights close bilateral ties and sets a new precedent in summit diplomacy.



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

Russia President Mr. Vladimir Putin visited India on 4th December 2025, earlier he came to India in December 2000, December 2012, December 2014, October 2018 when India and Russia signed a Key Defence Deal including S-400 Air Defence System with India and in December 2021. His visit on 4th December 2025 was very important in view of on-going war between. The Kremlin and Kyiv and recent Operation Sindoor by India against Pakistan. The visit is historical in spite of full support to Kyiv by European Union and USA. India playing the role of remaining on the side of the 'No-War' between Russia and Ukraine.

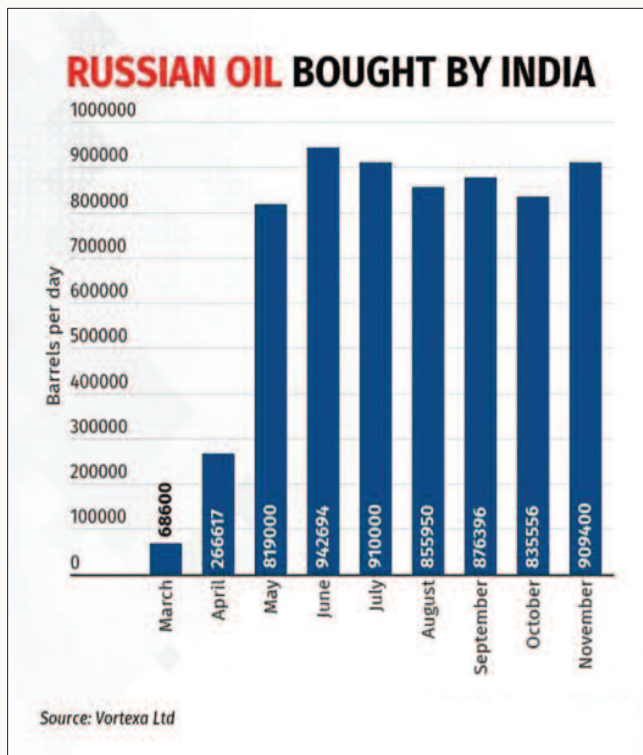
**During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin**

**many important and significant agreements were signed such as: -**

Reciprocal Exchange of Logistic Support (RELOS) Agreement to Establish procedures for mutual access for military formations, warships, and aircraft on each other's territory. Provides frameworks for refuelling, maintenance, supplies, joint exercises, disaster relief, and humanitarian missions. Enhances strategic defence cooperation and makes military collaboration more operationally effective. A major defence and military logistics pact between India and Russia were formally ratified and signed. Expanded Trade and Economic Cooperation Program (to 2030), Migration &

## Russia was India's top oil supplier in November for the second consecutive month

ACCORDING to industry estimates, India is estimated to have saved over Rs 35,000 crore by importing cheap Russian crude since February. "In the last financial year, Russia accounted for only 2 percent of the overall crude oil import basket for India. Whereas, in the first half of FY23, of the total oil imports of 20 million tonnes, 16 percent was from Russia, which is roughly around 3.2 million tonnes,".



**TO SEE INDIA AND RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE WE HAVE TO EXAMINE INDIA'S RELATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION AND USA AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA. MR. DONALD TRUMP HAS VERY RECENTLY GRANTED AID OF MORE THAN 600 BILLION DOLLARS TO PAKISTAN TO STRENGTHEN ITS AILING FLEET OF F-21 SQUADRON.**

Labour Mobility Agreement, Agreements in Healthcare, Research & Education, Maritime, Shipping & Logistics Cooperation Protocols and Cultural & Educational Exchange Agreements.

To see India and Russia relationship in Historical perspective we have to examine India's relation with European Union and USA and more importantly with Pakistan and China. Mr. Donald Trump has very recently granted aid of more than 600 billion Dollars to Pakistan to strengthen its ailing fleet of F-21 Squadron. The alliance between Pakistan and the United State is one of most complex and evolving relationships in modern international politics stretching across more than seven decades which includes close cooperation, deep mistrust, strategic necessity and deep and geopolitical necessity. India in this scenario had to maintain balance between its relationship with the USA and then Soviet Union now

known as Russia.

India in view of its realistic non-alignment policy as propounded by Pd. Jawahar Lal Nehru which continued during the change of government in India such as Governments of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mr. Morarji Desai, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. H.D. Dev Gowda, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. Manmohan Singh and now Mr. Narendra Modi. From Nehru's pragmatic engagement to Modi's strategic balancing India's leaders preserved a strategic balance with Russia with support at international level including UNO from the then Soviet Union and now Russia on one hand is maintaining a strategic balance between USA, European Union and China without joining any block.

India's relationship with Russia is one of the most durable outside grate power pairings of the post war era and post-cold war era. In

1971 a critical turning point came with the signing of The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. This treaty marked a significant milestone with the then Soviet Union providing crucial political and military support to India in the war against Pakistan. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the year 1991 India - Russia relationship continued with Russia inheriting the Soviet Union's strategic role in India's Foreign Policy despite Russia's economic challenges during the 1990s India and Russia maintained their defence and strategic ties reaffirmed through the 1993 treaty of friendship and cooperation and further institutionalize in the year 2000 declaration strategic partnership under President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

One of the most notable achievements of this period was the joint development of the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile which became a symbol of enduring defence cooperation between India and Russia. The partnership continues to strengthen even as India sought to diversify its global alliances. India and Russia worked to expand their economic ties during this period focusing particularly on energy cooperation.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's foreign policy has shifted from traditional non-alignment to an approach described as "multi-alignment" and "issue-based alignment". This policy of Mr. Narendra Modi has recently come into a litmus test when Terrorists from Pakistan gun-downed Indians by first identifying that they are Hindus and then killing them in cold blood. This act sponsored by Pakistan put fuel to the fire from Pulwama attack a suicide bombing which killed dozens of Indian para military personals sponsored by Pakistan based militant group Jaish-E-Mohammad and in response India carried out Air Strike on Balakot in Pakistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province targeting Pakistan's Terrorist Training Camps. In response to Pehalgam cold blooded murder of innocent Hindus India carried out an Operation Sindoor and destroyed many Terrorist camps, Military installations and several airports.

In this conflict the role of the United States was one to play the role of mediator; this itself shows that India's foreign policy of multi-alignment and issue based alignment

was successful as Washington shows its priority to prevent conflict for de-escalation and avoidance of further military action. The European Union while not a traditional actor in South Asia has increasingly engaged in diplomatic efforts related to India Pakistan tensions for restraint and renewed dialogue between two countries. This itself shows that the European Union, an ally of the USA which has traditionally restrained India and Pakistan to de-escalate war without taking any side. Though, Pakistan since its inception is in alignment with the USA by signing a treaty of mutual defence and assistance agreement in 1954 which marked the beginning of a security partnership and positioned Pakistan as a key American Partner in South Asia. Pakistan also became a member of South-east Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO). A Military alliance of SEATO in spite of the fact that Pakistan was not geographically in South East Asia, its inclusion reflected the strategic value Washington saw in building a coalition. In 1955 Pakistan joined the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) which further integrated Pakistan into the American led Security network. This development represents the formal and structured face of Pakistan becoming an ally of the United States. In view of historical relationships between USA and Pakistan there has never been any overt measure of support by USA to Pakistan in many conflicts between India and Pakistan except one incident of sending by Mr. Nixon then President of the USA its 13th Fleet of ships towards India in the 1971 conflict in East Pakistan now Bangladesh.

India & Russia share a long history characterized by mutual respect & co-operation. Their partnership is deep rooted in strategic interests. Trade relations have also seen growth with initiatives to increase bilateral trade & investment. However, the global shift in alliances, particularly in the wake of Russia's action in Ukraine & India's need to maintain a balance in its foreign policy. To sum up, the India-Russia relationship remains strong & continues to be driven by mutual interests & pragmatism. Despite the changing geopolitical landscape, both nations are likely to cement their collaboration in various sectors while balancing the complexities of global politics.

**INDIA & RUSSIA SHARE A LONG HISTORY CHARACTERIZED BY MUTUAL RESPECT & CO-OPERATION. THEIR PARTNERSHIP IS DEEP ROOTED IN STRATEGIC INTERESTS. TRADE RELATIONS HAVE ALSO SEEN GROWTH WITH INITIATIVES TO INCREASE BILATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT. HOWEVER, THE GLOBAL SHIFT IN ALLIANCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE WAKE OF RUSSIA'S ACTION IN UKRAINE & INDIA'S NEED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. TO SUM UP, THE INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP REMAINS STRONG & CONTINUES TO BE DRIVEN BY MUTUAL INTERESTS & PRAGMATISM. DESPITE THE CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE, BOTH NATIONS ARE LIKELY TO CEMENT THEIR COLLABORATION IN VARIOUS SECTORS WHILE BALANCING THE COMPLEXITIES OF GLOBAL POLITICS.**



## TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “Gendered Disinformation and Online Violence: Rethinking Human Rights in Digital Spaces” 16-17th December, 2025

**A** Virtual and Physical Seminar Organised by: Department of Sociology, Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya in collaboration with: Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, New Delhi & Institute of UN Studies

A Two Days National Seminar on “Gendered Disinformation and Online Violence: Rethinking Human Rights in Digital Spaces” was organised by Department of Sociology, Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya to address emerging challenges to human rights in the digital era. The seminar aimed to critically examine how digital platforms contribute to gender-based disinformation, cyber violence, and the violation of human rights.

### Objectives of the Seminar

- To understand the nature and impact of gendered disinformation in digital spaces
- To analyse online violence as a human rights issue
- To promote academic discourse on digital rights, gender justice, and policy responses
- To create awareness among students and researchers on ethical digital citizenship

The inaugural session began with a welcome address by (11:50-11:55) Address by Principal, Dr. Jayeeta Basu, SAM, Introductory address by Smt. Jayita Chattopadhyay, convener, Seminar Organizing Committee, welcome address by Justice Sambhu Nath Srivastava, President of IFUNA, introductory Speech by Sri Suresh Srivastava - Secretary General of IFUNA & Vice - Chairman of World Federation of UN Association - New York, Sri Sitaram Sharma - Chairman of IFUNA - New Delhi, Dr. Aswini Sharma, Secretary General of UNA, ASSAM & Secretary of IFUNA, and Dr. Paulomi Bhawal, Deputy Coordinator, UNESCO, North Bengal Unit, followed by the inaugural address by our Keynote Speaker Dr. Kartik Chandra Sutradhar, Associate Professor, Department of History, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, his topic was “Ethnicity, Caste, Gender and Politics: A Study on Human Rights.”. The keynote lecture focused on the intersection of gender, technology, and human rights, highlighting cyber harassment, misinformation, and digital surveillance.

### The resource persons were:

Prof. Ajaliu Niumai, Professor of Sociology & For-



mer Head, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad .Title: “Topic::Digital Patriarchy and Violence: Reflections on Online Abuse, Disinformation, and Human Rights”Dr. Aparna Bandyopadhyaya, Associate Professor, Department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University

Prof. Sanjay Kumar Roy (Retd.), Department of Sociology, University of North Bengal Topic: “Reproduction of Gender Ideals in Media”. Prof. Bhup Singh Gaur, Principal, SMRJ Govt college Siwani ,Haryana. & Vice President TG-03 Human Rights and Global Justice, International Sociological Association Topic: “Mapping the Role of Caste, Class, Sexuality and Identity in Digital Vulnerability” Prof. (Dr.) Parmod Kumar Mehra, Professor and Head, Department of English, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi Topic: “Media Vulnerability in the Digital Age: Theoretical Perspectives and Indian Social Realities”

Technical sessions featured paper presentations by scholars from various institutions across the country. Themes included online misogyny, digital media

ethics, legal frameworks, and feminist perspectives on cyber violence. The sessions were interactive and generated meaningful academic discussions.

### Participation :

The seminar witnessed active participation from faculty members, researchers, students, and delegates from different institutions across India. The event facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue and academic networking.

### Outcomes of the Seminar :

- Enhanced understanding of gendered disinformation and online violence
- Greater awareness of digital rights and human rights frameworks
- Encouragement of research and policy-oriented discussions on digital safety and gender justice

### Conclusion :

The Two Days National Seminar successfully provided a platform for critical engagement with contemporary issues of gender, technology, and human rights. The deliberations emphasized the need for inclusive digital spaces, stronger legal mechanisms, and ethical responsibility in the digital age.



# WITH SOLIDARITY : TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A BETTER AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD



**SITARAM SHARMA:**  
Chairman IFUNA

**W**orld Solidarity Day, officially known as International Human Solidarity Day, is observed every year on 20 December. Established by the United Nations, this day serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to support one another and work collectively to address global challenges. It highlights the importance of unity in a world that is increasingly interconnected yet often divided by inequality, conflict, and social injustice.

The concept of solidarity is rooted in the idea that humanity is stronger when it stands together. It is a universal value that transcends borders, cultures, and religions. On World Solidarity Day, nations and communities reaffirm their commitment to cooperation and mutual support- especially for those who are vulnerable or marginalized. The day also reinforces the central role of solidarity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing that global goals like poverty reduction, gender equality, climate action, and peace can only be achieved through collaborative efforts.

The United Nations declared this day to emphasize the importance of unity in addressing global challenges. Today, the world faces many serious issues: poverty, hunger, climate change, conflict, inequality, and social discrimination. These problems may seem overwhelming, but they all have one thing in common. They require cooperation between people, communities, and nations. No single person or country can solve them alone. But when we join hands, we become powerful enough to bring meaningful change.

World Solidarity Day encourages us to recognize that we are part of a global family. When we help someone in need, when we stand up for justice, when we support equality, or when we protect our environment, we are practicing solidarity. It is not always about big actions-even small gestures of kindness and compassion can create a ripple effect that inspires many others.

Solidarity teaches us empathy-the ability to feel with others. It teaches us responsibility-the duty to make our society more inclusive and fair.



It teaches us resilience-the strength to support each other in difficult times. And most importantly, it teaches us hope-the belief that together we can create a better, more peaceful world.

As students and young citizens, we have an important role to play. We are the future leaders, decision-makers, and problem-solvers of tomorrow. The values we practice today will shape the world we inherit. So let us be more understanding of each other's struggles. Let us respect diversity instead of fearing it. Let us speak out against injustice instead of staying silent. Let us be ready to help, even when our help seems small.

On this World Solidarity Day, let us make a promise-to start building unity in our own surroundings. In our classrooms, let us include those who feel left out. In our communities, let us participate in activities that promote harmony. Let us raise our voices for equality, fairness, and peace.

Remember, solidarity is not just a one-day event. It is a lifelong commitment. It is a way of thinking, a way of living, and a way of connecting with the world. By choosing solidarity, we choose compassion over selfishness, understanding over judgment and cooperation over division.

As I conclude, I would like to remind all of us that a united humanity is a powerful force. When we stand together-when we share, support, and care-we can overcome any obstacle. Let us carry this spirit forward, not only today but every day, and contribute to building a world where everyone can live with dignity, peace, and hope

– **Sitaram Sharma:** is also Founder President of The Tagore Institute of Peace Studies (TIPS)- Kolkata

**SOLIDARITY TEACHES US EMPATHY-THE ABILITY TO FEEL WITH OTHERS. IT TEACHES US RESPONSIBILITY-THE DUTY TO MAKE OUR SOCIETY MORE INCLUSIVE AND FAIR. IT TEACHES US RESILIENCE-THE STRENGTH TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN DIFFICULT TIMES.**

## Changing World Scenario with Mr. Donald Trump, President of United States of America

■ SURESH SRIVASTAVA

*Vice Chair: World*

*Federation of United Nations Associations*

The new trend setup by President, Donald Trump of chauvinism reflexed the changing scenario in world politics. The bellicose patriotism, reflex in both economic policy and foreign policy of USA. The President Trump has imposed international emergency economic powers act Tariffs on trading partners including China, Canada, Mexico, EU and India to impose tariffs on autos, Heavy trucks, steel, aluminium, semi-conductors, pharmaceuticals and cooper among others.

The recent tariff policy of President Trump reflex an economic nationalism combined with strategic trade management in the global economy. At the core of recent US tariff policy is the belief that unfettered free trade has in some sectors harmed American interest and decades of globalization contributed to the drastic deduction in manufacturing of United States resulting in job losses and excessive dependence on foreign suppliers. Recent US Tariff policy is in alignment with government investment policy aimed at revitalizing domestic manufacturing and making imported goods more expensive.

President Trump has not only tried to revitalize its economy but also started the process of changing immigration policy. Though, it hurts India as we have a large number of persons of India origin working in many important sectors and the flow of technology is both ways through India and through America. The present immigration policy of the United States reflects a complex situation between boarder security, humanitarian responsibility, economic demand and political debates. US the country of immigrants had always debated on immigration issues in American public life. US immigration policy today consists of overlapping measures aimed a managing legal immigration, deporting illegal migration and enforcing boarder control. Immigration policy is often linked to broader debates over national identity and culture change.

President Trump has not only changed the scenario with regard to Tariff and immigration but also in the arena of international politics. It was unheard of that the European and US are taking divergent view in the matter of dealing with Russia then Soviet Union. This reflex in the recent war of Russia and Ukraine. Though, more than three years have passed into the war with



**THE US PRESIDENT DOES NOT SEE VLADIMIR PUTIN AS AN ADVERSARY, ACCORDING TO LEADING FRENCH PAPER -LE MONDE**

**President Donald Trump greets Russian President Vladimir Putin on the tarmac after they arrived at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, August 15, 2025.**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS NOT ONLY CHANGED THE SCENARIO WITH REGARD TO TARIFF AND IMMIGRATION BUT ALSO IN THE ARENA OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. IT WAS UNHEARD OF THAT THE EUROPEAN AND US ARE TAKING DIVERGENT VIEW IN THE MATTER OF DEALING WITH RUSSIA THEN SOVIET UNION. THIS REFLEX IN THE RECENT WAR OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE.**

Russia and Ukraine and peace still appears remote. No war ends with a decisive victory but it has to be seen on what terms and with long term prospects it ends. The Russia and Ukraine war started in February 2022 has emerged as one of the most serious international conflicts since the end of the cold war. This war interestingly has reshaped global geo-politics, disrupted global supply chain and intensified tension between major powers. President Trump position on the Russia - Ukraine war reflects a broader realist and transactional world view that departs significantly from the dominant western narrative of struggle between democracy and dictatorship. President Trump approaches it as a geo-political dispute rooted in security issues, diplomatic failures and misaligned strategic interest. His main emphasises is on negotiations power politics and cost of war over prolonged military confrontation.

Efforts to resolve the conflict have involved multiple international actors, among whom President Donald Trump through his political influence and diplomatic positioning-and the European Union (EU) through institutional diplomacy, economic power, and security coordination.

President Trump strongly advocates immediate cease-fire as the first step towards resolving conflicts.



**US President Donald Trump (centre) poses on August 18 in Washington, DC with European leaders from left, European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Finland's President Alexander Stubb, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte at the White House,**



**During a much-anticipated summit with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other European leaders, President Trump doubled down on calls for a peace deal with Russia.**

He has tried to bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table; he used US leverage over Ukraine for a possible cease-fire. President Trump has tried his best to highlight his belief that in this war diplomacy has been under-utilized. President Trump believes that maintaining an open channel with Russia reduces the risk of escalation and nuclear confrontation. Though, President Trump supports Ukraine's rights to exist as a sovereign state and acknowledges the suffering of the Ukrainian people, at the same time President Trump is sceptical of NATO expansions particularly Ukraine's aspirations for membership of NATO and he is of the considered opinion, that NATO enlargement has forced

**IN SPITE OF MANY TANTRUMS BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HISTORY WILL JUDGE HIM AS PEACEMAKER AND A PRESIDENT WHO STANDS APART FROM OTHER SOVEREIGN LEADERS OF THE WORLD.**

Russians to think about their security and expansion would destabilize Europe. This kind of thinking by any other President of the US was unthinkable as Europe, UK and USA were always on the same page in any intentional issue or conflict. Thus, President Donald Trump stands out with other politicians.

A central element of President Trump's position is his opposition to prolonged military escalation in favour of diplomacy and political strategy. He has repeatedly criticized the continuation of large-scale arms transfers to Ukraine without a parallel diplomatic strategy. From President Trump's perspective - Military aid should serve diplomacy, not replace it, endless war benefits arms industries more than civilians, prolonged fighting increases the risk of a wider NATO-Russia confrontation, which portrays the war as a proxy conflict that risks spiralling beyond control if not urgently addressed through negotiations. President Trump strongly advocates for an immediate ceasefire as the first step toward resolving the conflict. He argues that humanitarian considerations—loss of life, displacement, and infrastructure destruction should override political rigidity. He has repeatedly claimed that both Russia and Ukraine could be brought to the negotiating table quickly, U.S. leverage over Ukraine and engagement with Russia could facilitate talks, Direct leadership-level negotiations are more effective than bureaucratic diplomacy, Though critics question the feasibility of rapid peace, President Trump's emphasis highlights his belief that diplomacy has been underutilized. President Trump rejects the idea that diplomatic engagement equates to endorsement of aggression.

His argument is based on three key assumptions: conflicts end through dialogue, not silence, Isolation hardens positions rather than changing behaviour, Personal diplomacy can break deadlocks; President Trump believes that maintaining open channels with Russia reduces the risk of miscalculation, escalation, and nuclear confrontation. This position has drawn sharp criticism but aligns with realist traditions in international relations.

The efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine war reveal two contrasting but interconnected approaches. President Donald Trump emphasizes rapid negotiation, compromise, and direct engagement, seeking to end the war through pragmatic deal-making. The European Union, by contrast, focuses on defending international norms, applying economic pressure, and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty.

In spite of many tantrums by President Donald Trump history will judge him as peacemaker and a President who stands apart from other sovereign leaders of the world.

## India has every right to Defend its People when it Comes to 'Bad Neighbors'

**E**xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday strongly stated that India has every right to defend itself against a "bad neighbour" that continues to sponsor terrorism. Speaking at an event at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, he made it clear that India will take whatever action is necessary to protect its people and national security, and will not accept advice or pressure from outside on how to deal with terrorism.

Without naming Pakistan directly, Jaishankar referred to India's western neighbour and said that New Delhi faces a unique and difficult situation because terrorism is being used deliberately and persistently as a state policy. He underlined that India's response to such threats will be decided only by India.

"But when it comes to bad neighbours who persist with terrorism, India has every right to defend its people and will do whatever is necessary. You cannot request us to share our water with you and also spread terrorism in our country," Jaishankar said.

He further stressed that no other country has the authority to dictate how India should protect itself. Emphasising India's sovereign right to self-defence, he said, "How we exercise that right is up to us. Nobody can tell us what we should or should not do. We will do whatever we have to do to defend ourselves."

The External Affairs Minister explained that while many countries in the world have difficult neighbours, India's case is far more serious because of the long-term and intentional use of terrorism across the border. He said this kind of behaviour leaves India with no option but to act firmly to safeguard its citizens.

"If a country decides that it will deliberately, persistently and unrepentantly continue with terrorism, we have a right to defend our people against terrorism. We will exercise that right," he said.

Jaishankar also linked the issue of cross-border terrorism with broader bilateral responsibilities, especially long-standing agreements between the two countries. Referring to water-sharing arrangements, he pointed out that such agreements are based on the idea of good neighbourly relations and mutual trust, which are completely undermined by continuous acts of terrorism.

"Many years ago, we agreed to a water-sharing



**External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**

*The Union minister said it is important to communicate with other countries to avoid a situation where India's intentions are misread.*

arrangement, but if you have decades of terrorism, there is no good neighborliness. If there is no good neighborliness, you don't get the benefits of that good neighborliness," he said.

He made it clear that it is unreasonable for a country to expect cooperation in one area while continuing hostile actions in another. Highlighting this contradiction, Jaishankar added, "You can't say, 'Please share water with me, but I will continue terrorism with you.' That's not reconcilable."

The minister's remarks come at a time when relations between India and Pakistan are already under severe strain. Tensions worsened further after a deadly terror attack in April 2025, when Pakistan-backed terrorists killed several tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack shocked the nation and led to widespread outrage.

Following the Pahalgam massacre, India announced a series of strong measures against Pakistan. One of the most significant steps was the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, a decades-old agreement governing water-sharing between the two countries. The move was seen as a clear signal from New Delhi that continued terrorism would have seri-

ous consequences for bilateral arrangements.

Jaishankar's statements at IIT Madras reflected India's firm position that national security and the safety of its people are non-negotiable. He reiterated that while India believes in cooperation and agreements, such understandings cannot exist in an environment where terrorism is actively supported.

By stressing India's right to defend itself and decide its own course of action, the External Affairs Minister sent a strong message that New Delhi will respond to terrorism on its own terms. His remarks underlined that benefits arising from cooperation, including water-sharing, depend on responsible behaviour and good neighbourly relations, which cannot coexist with sustained acts of terror.

The speech reinforced India's long-held stance that terrorism and dialogue cannot go together, and that any country backing terrorism must be prepared to face the consequences of its actions.

India has every right to defend its people when it comes to 'bad neighbours': EAM S Jaishankar The Union minister said it is important to communicate with other countries to avoid a situation where India's intentions are misread. External Affairs Minis-

ter S Jaishankar on Friday 2nd January said India has every right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours" and asserted that a neighbouring country cannot ask New Delhi to share water if it continues to spread terrorism...

At the same time, he said with "good neighbours", India invests, helps and shares, whether it was vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic, fuel and food support during the Ukraine conflict, or the \$4 billion assistance to Sri Lanka during its financial crisis.

Without naming Pakistan, Jaishankar said India has every right to defend its people when it comes to "bad neighbours".

"India's growth is a lifting tide for the region, and most of our neighbors recognise that if India grows, they grow with us. But when it comes to bad neighbors who persist with terrorism, India has every right to defend its people and will do whatever is necessary. You cannot request us to share our water with you and also spread terrorism in our country," he said while interacting with students at IIT Madras in Chennai.

The Union minister said it is important to communicate with other countries to avoid a situation where India's intentions are misread. "How to prevent people from misreading you are to communicate. If you communicate well, clearly and honestly, other countries and other people respect it and accept it. A lot of people across the world are proud of their culture, tradition and heritage. I see no reason why we should not be," he said.

He pointed out that there are "really very few" ancient civilisations that have survived to become major modern nation states and India is one of them.

"We have a sense of our past which very few countries have... It was our decision to opt for a democratic political model, which made the very idea of democracy as a universal political concept."

"Had we not gone that way, the democratic model, as we know it, would have been regional and narrow... Partnership with the West is also important, and that is how we shape the world," he added.

Jaishankar noted that he was in Bangladesh just two days ago to represent India at the funeral of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. "But more broadly, our approach to the neighborhood is guided by common sense. With good neighbors, India invests, helps and shares - whether it was vaccines during COVID, fuel and food support during the Ukraine conflict or the USD 4 billion assistance to Sri Lanka during its financial crisis," he said.

## "Unwavering Support to Bharat": An Open Letter to S Jaishankar from Pakistan Soil

Baloch asserted that the people of Balochistan view the escalating strategic alliance between Pakistan and China as profoundly dangerous, warning that Beijing, in collaboration with Islamabad, has advanced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to its final phases.



Mir Yar Baloch — Letter To India

From,  
Baloch Representative,  
Republic of Balochistan  
State.



The Honorable Dr. S. Jaishankar,  
Minister of External Affairs,  
Government of Bharat,  
South Block, Raisina Hill,  
New Delhi – 110011

January 1, 2026

Honorable Dr. Jaishankar Ji,

On behalf of the six crore patriotic citizens of the Republic of Balochistan, we extend our deepest and most sincere congratulations for the New Year 2026 to the one hundred and forty crore people of Bharat, both Houses of Parliament, the media, civil society, and all esteemed individuals. This auspicious occasion provides an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the profound historical, cultural, commercial, economic, diplomatic, defense, and multifaceted ties that have bound Bharat and Balochistan for centuries. These enduring relations are exemplified by sacred sites such as the Hinglaj Mata Temple (Nani Mandir), which stands as timeless symbols of our shared heritage and spiritual connections.

We commend the bold and resolute actions undertaken by the Modi Government in the previous year through Operation Sindoor, particularly targeting terrorism hubs facilitated by Pakistan and directed against the Pakistani military in response to Pahalgam terror attack. These measures demonstrate exemplary courage and a steadfast commitment to regional security and justice.

The people of Balochistan have endured Pakistan's state occupation, state-sponsored terrorism, and egregious human rights atrocities for the past seventy-nine years. The time has now arrived to eradicate this festering affliction at its roots, ensuring lasting peace and sovereignty for our nation.

On behalf of the people of Balochistan, we reaffirm our unwavering support to Bharat and its government in fostering friendship, trust, and mutual interests encompassing peace, prosperity, development, trade, defense, security, future energy challenges, and the mitigation of concealed threats.

It is need of the hour to embrace tangible, reciprocal cooperation. The threats confronting Bharat and Balochistan are genuine and imminent; therefore, our bilateral relations must be equally substantive and actionable.

The Republic of Balochistan views the escalating strategic alliance between Pakistan and China as profoundly dangerous. We warn that China, in collaboration with Pakistan, has advanced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to its final phases.

Should the capabilities of Balochistan's defense and freedom forces not be further bolstered and if they continue to be overlooked as per longstanding patterns it is conceivable that China could deploy its military forces in Balochistan within a few months. The presence of Chinese boots on Balochistani soil without the will of the 60 million Baloch people, would pose an unimaginable threat and challenge to the futures of both Bharat and Balochistan.

We look forward to strengthened collaboration between our two great nations. Sincerely,

Mir Yar Baloch,  
Baloch Representative  
The Republic of Balochistan

# INDIA-RUSSIA BUSINESS FORUM

## India-Russia trade to hit \$100 billion before 2030



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the India-Russia Business Forum in New Delhi on Friday 5th December 2025. Addressing the event, the Prime Minister Modi said the two countries are on track to meet their USD 100 billion trade target well before the original 2030 deadline.**

The forum, held at Bharat Mandapam, saw participation from industry leaders, policymakers and a large Russian delegation accompanying Putin.

PM Modi said the "greatest strength" of the India-Russia partnership lies in "mutual trust", which he described as the driving force behind the two countries' expanding cooperation across sectors. He noted that discussions between India and the Eurasian Economic Union on a Free Trade Agreement have already begun.

The forum, co-organised by the Roscongress Foundation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in New Delhi on December 4-5.

**Welcoming President Putin and Heads of businesses from Russia and India, Prime Minister Modi said :-**

I am extremely pleased - and I consider it a highly significant initiative on the part of President Putin - that he has come to India with such a large delegation to participate in this Russia-India Business Forum. I extend a warm welcome to all of you. It is a great

pleasure to be here today.

I wish to express my particular gratitude to my friend, President Putin, for his participation in this forum and for sharing his invaluable perspectives with us.

We have established predictable mechanisms for engagement with the business community. Negotiations have commenced on the creation of a free trade zone between India and the Eurasian Economic Union.

As has been noted today, we are collaborating as friends across a wide range of sectors. President Putin has just outlined the emerging opportunities in diverse fields. In a very short time, we can achieve highly ambitious goals, whether in business or in diplomacy. The foundation of any partnership, however, is mutual trust. The greatest strength in Russia-India relations lies precisely in this mutual trust. It is reciprocal, and it provides the impetus for our common endeavours. It inspires us, giving us wings to realise our shared aspirations.

Last year, President Putin and I set the goal of elevating

**WE HAVE  
ESTABLISHED  
PREDICTABLE  
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FOR ENGAGE-  
MENT WITH  
THE BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY.**

bilateral trade to US\$100 billion by 2030. Since yesterday, we have held thorough discussions with President Putin. Based on what I have observed, however, I believe there is no need to wait until 2030 - this objective can be attained much sooner. We are making steadfast progress, and I am confident we can achieve it well ahead of schedule. I am certain of this. Work to reduce both tariff and non-tariff barriers is ongoing.

But the true driving force, friends, resides with business, with corporate leaders, with your innovative spirit, with your energy, and your ambitions. This is what will define our shared future.

Friends, the pace and the scope of transformations in India over the past 11 years are staggering and unprecedented. Guided by the principles of reform, transformation, and personal initiative, India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy soon. Throughout the 11 years of reforms, we have progressed continuously. Our economy and prosperity are stronger than ever, and we are moving into the future with full confidence and with sufficient resources to achieve our goals.

We have adopted a number of measures, such as compliance reforms, to make doing business easier. New opportunities have opened up for the private sector, which created additional potential in this area.

We are opening new opportunities in the civilian nuclear sector.

What we are doing transcends administrative reforms; we are going through a reform of our way of thinking. Highly developed India is the only goal we have, and we stand united by this goal.

Friends, you held an undeniably useful and meaningful forum yesterday and today, and you had very productive discussions. I take comfort in knowing that all areas of cooperation between Russia and India were represented at this event.

I am deeply grateful to all of you for your proposals and efforts. I would like to present some of my ideas and considerations designed to expand our cooperation.

The first covers logistics and connectivity. During our today's talks, President Putin and I focused on ensuring the full potential of connectivity between our countries, whether through the North-South International Transport Corridor, the Northern Sea Route, or the Chennai-Vladivostok corridor. We are committed to advancing along all these tracks. We will achieve progress very soon and will cut transport time and lower prices and shipping costs. It will also open new markets for businesses.

The use of digital technologies can help us simplify customs procedures and regulations and create virtual trade corridors. This will speed up customs processing, reduce paperwork, and make the movement of goods more seamless.

The maritime sector is our second priority. Recently, Russia has expanded the list of dairy product exporters from India, for example, which has expanded the opportunities for exporters engaged in trade with India.

India is rich in seafood and a wide range of processed foods that enjoy high demand around the world. We can create joint ventures and promote technological cooperation to support maritime logistics, deep-sea fishing, and automation of fishing

## India-Russia Business Forum 2025: What deal were signed and What does it mean for future trade

The Russia-India Business Forum 2025 concluded with significant sectorial agreements in media, industry, technology, and pharmaceuticals, aiming to boost bilateral trade and investment.

Roscongress Foundation CEO Alexander Stuglev highlighted the forum as a prime opportunity for economic development, emphasizing collaboration in emerging sectors and strengthening SME participation.

The Russia-India Business Forum 2025, led by the Roscongress Foundation and held alongside President Vladimir Putin's state visit, concluded with a unified commitment to expand trade, investment, and sectorial collaboration across both countries. Over two days, the Forum convened senior officials, industry leaders, investors, and policy institutions for dialogues, B2B meetings, and multi-sector consultations aimed at shaping long-term bilateral growth.

Discussions across the Forum underscored the growing convergence in pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, machinery, food products, technical textiles, and marine equipment, while also identifying new joint-venture opportunities in medical technology, hospital infrastructure, cybersecurity, AI, digital innovation, and advanced manufacturing. Delegates emphasised the importance of strengthening SME participation, improving logistics and regulatory frameworks, and enabling stable cross-border trade mechanisms.

The Forum also explored cooperation in tourism, education, research, skilling, and cultural exchange through structured travel programmes, student and faculty mobility, collaborative research initiatives, and innovation-led academic partnerships. Connectivity enhancements - maritime, rail, and digital - were flagged as essential to building predictable and resilient supply chains.

Alexander Stuglev, CEO of the Roscongress Foundation, said in a statement, "The potential between our countries extends far beyond traditional sectors. We are entering a pragmatic, opportunity-rich phase where tourism, medical technology, advanced engineering, AI, education and joint ventures can accelerate growth on both sides. Our priority is to build transparent, efficient mechanisms that bring Indian and Russian businesses together and create long-term value. This includes supporting SMEs, encouraging joint ventures in high-growth sectors, and ensuring that trade and investment flows are stable, secure and future-ready. With these efforts, we can transform the India-Russia partnership into one of the world's most robust and opportunity-driven economic corridors."



### SYNOPSIS

Roscongress Foundation  
CEO Alexander Stuglev

harbours. Doing so will not only help meet demand in Russia but also create a new market for Indian-made products.

The third priority is the automotive sector. India is a global leader in the production of affordable and cost-effective electric vehicles and other modes of transportation. Russia is an important producer of advanced materials. Together, in partnership, we can ensure highly efficient production of electric vehicles, automotive components, and various other mobility technologies.

Achieving this will not only meet our own needs but also



## KEY TWO-DAY AGREEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Forum recorded several significant signings across media, industry, regional development, and technology:

- TASS and the Press Trust of India signed an agreement to deepen news exchange and media cooperation.
- Abrau-Durso and Indospirit Beverages Pvt. Ltd. formalised collaboration in alcoholic beverage production.
- Sberbank and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) advanced an agreement on scientific and industrial cooperation (pending confirmation).
- The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs initiated an expanded cooperation framework with Indian industry counterparts.
- BDR Pharmaceuticals, the Kaluga Region, and Pharmasyn-tez signed an Agreement of Intent for an API production facility in Kaluga, marking a major step in pharmaceutical collaboration.
- Omega Elevators and SCAD Tech signed a general cooperation agreement strengthening industrial ties.
- Delovaya Rossiya, the All-India Association of Industries, and the World Trade Center Mumbai signed a trilateral MoU to enhance SME-driven industry cooperation.
- Prasara Bharati and Gazprom-Media signed an MoU to advance media partnership.
- The NFDC and Gazprom-Media signed an MoU to widen collaboration in film, content exchange, and cultural initiatives.

The Forum's outcomes support the objectives discussed during President Putin's visit, including raising bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030, building resilient supply chains, advancing industrial cooperation, and supporting deeper engagement between financial institutions to enable smooth trade and investment flows.

The Roscongress Foundation will coordinate follow-up delegations, multi-region dialogues, thematic investment forums, and struc-

tured B2B sessions to convert Forum discussions into sustained partnerships and sector-level outcomes.

Participants at the Russia-India Business Forums in late 2025 included high-level government officials like PM Modi & President Putin, business leaders from major groups (Aditya Birla, IBM), industry bodies (FICCI, Russian Union of Industrialists), pharma/engineering firms (BDR Pharma, Pharmasyn-tez, Omega Elevators), and delegates from Indian states (Telangana) and educational institutions (KIIT- KISS), focusing on trade, tech, finance, and deeper economic ties.

### Key Figures & Organizations:

**Government Leaders:** PM Narendra Modi, President Vladimir Putin, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov, Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar.

**Indian Business:** Aditya Birla Group (Kumar Mangalam Birla), IBM (Arvind Krishna), FICCI, All-India Association of Industries, World Trade Center Mumbai, BDR Pharmaceuticals, KIIT-KISS.

**Russian Business/Government:** Russian Union of Industrialists & Entrepreneurs, Delovaya Rossiya, Roscongress Foundation, Sberbank, VTB, Gazprombank (operating in India), Kaluga Region, Pharmasyn-tez, SCAD Tech, Omega Elevators.

### Key Themes & Sectors:

**Trade Expansion:** Focus on pharmaceuticals, engineering, food, textiles, machinery, and chemicals.

**Investment & Finance:** Discussed payment system integration, financial infrastructure, and investment protection.

**Technology:** Joint ventures (API facility in Kaluga), tech transfer, and digital platforms.

**Education & Culture:** Collaborations in engineering education, student/faculty mobility, and showcasing Indian culture (AYUSH).

contribute to the development of the Global South, particularly the African continent.

The fourth priority is the pharmaceutical industry. India supplies high-quality medicines at affordable prices worldwide. This is precisely why India is often referred to as the "pharmacy of the world." Together, we can collaborate on the joint development of vaccines and cancer therapies and strengthen pharmaceutical supply chains. This will not only bolster our healthcare systems but also foster the growth of new industries.

The fifth priority is the textile industry. India possesses vast potential in the production of both natural and synthetic fabrics. Globally, we are recognised as leaders due to our advanced designs and manufacturing expertise. Russia is a key producer of polymer and synthetic materials. Together, we can establish a sustainable textile industry supply chain.

There are also further opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as fertilisers, cement production, and electronics.

Population mobility plays a crucial role in strengthening

**THE FOURTH PRIORITY IS THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. INDIA SUPPLIES HIGH-QUALITY MEDICINES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES WORLDWIDE.**

cooperation across all sectors. Today, India is emerging as the global capital of skilled human resources.

Our country has the potential to meet global demands across all fields, including technology, engineering, healthcare, construction, and logistics. Given Russia's demographic and economic priorities, this partnership could prove immensely beneficial for all participating nations. By providing opportunities for Indian citizens to learn the Russian language, we can cultivate a workforce that is proficient in Russian, thereby contributing to the prosperity of both our nations.

Friends, today, highly significant decisions have been agreed upon and adopted regarding tourist visas for citizens of both our countries. This will facilitate increased tourism flows between our nations, create new business opportunities, expand prospects for tour operators, and open up new employment opportunities.

Together, India and Russia stand side by side in this new journey of joint production and creation. Our role is not limited to enhancing bilateral trade. We aim to ensure the well-being of all



## Putin, Modi agree to expand and widen India-Russia trade, strengthen friendship

### MODI AND PUTIN HOLD SUMMIT TALKS, COUNTRIES SIGN MULTIPLE DEALS

- Moscow seeks more Indian goods to rebalance trade flows
- Both sides adopt an economic cooperation plan to 2030
- Modi highlights enduring trust and long-standing partnership
- Putin pledges uninterrupted fuel supplies, nuclear cooperation

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered India uninterrupted fuel supplies, eliciting a cautious response even as he and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to expand trade and defence ties between countries with decades-old ties.

Putin said Moscow was ready to continue ensuring "uninterrupted fuel supplies" to India, following up on comments on Thursday questioning U.S. pressure on India to curb oil purchases from Russia.

Asked about the future of energy trade between the two countries, India's foreign secretary said Indian energy companies take decisions based on "evolving market dynamics" and "commercial issues that they confront while sourcing their supplies", indicating the pressures of sanctions and prices.

Energy cooperation between the two countries continues within this framework, Vikram



**PM Modi gifts Bhagavad Gita to Russian president after hosting him for dinner**

Misri told a media briefing.

Describing India's enduring partnership with Russia as "a guiding star", Modi said: "Based on mutual respect and deep trust, these relations have always stood the test of time."

"...we have agreed on an economic cooperation programme for the period up to 2030. This will make our trade and investment more diversified, balanced, and sustainable," he told reporters, with Putin by his side.

Modi, who warmly embraced Putin on the airport tarmac when he arrived on Thursday, also reiterated India's support for a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine.

A joint statement issued following the summit said: "The leaders emphasized that in the current complex, tense, and uncertain geopolitical situation, Russian-Indian ties

remain resilient to external pressure."

A large business and government delegation had accompanied Putin. Among the deals signed, the two countries agreed to help Indians move to Russia for work, to set up a joint venture fertiliser plant in Russia, and boost cooperation in agriculture, healthcare and shipping.

They also agreed to reshape their defence ties to take account of New Delhi's push for self-reliance through joint research and development, as well as the production of advanced defence platforms. This would include joint production in India of spare parts, components, assemblies, and other products for servicing Russian weapons and military equipment.

In an interview with broadcaster India Today, Putin challenged U.S. pressure on India not to buy Russian fuel.

"If the U.S. has the right to buy our (nuclear) fuel, why shouldn't India have the same privilege?" he said, adding that he was ready to discuss the matter with Trump.

Earlier India has said Trump's tariffs are unjustified and unreasonable, noting continued U.S. trade with Moscow. The U.S. and European Union still import billions of dollars' worth of Russian energy and commodities, ranging from liquefied natural gas to enriched uranium, despite economic sanctions.

humanity, and to achieve this, we need long-term solutions to the existing global challenges. India is prepared to work shoulder to shoulder with Russia on this path.

I would like to say the following to all of you: produce in India, partner with India, and together, we can work for the benefit of the entire world. With these words, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to President Putin and to all of you.

#### Addressing the Forum President Putin said: -

I am delighted to welcome the participants of the Russia-India Business Forum plenary session. These days, New Delhi is hosting representatives from our economic ministries and departments, the heads of our largest companies, banks and regions, as well as members of parliament - that is, all those who are engaged in practical efforts to promote multifaceted Russian-Indian cooperation in imports and exports, finance and investments.

**I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THE FOLLOWING TO ALL OF YOU: PRODUCE IN INDIA, PARTNER WITH INDIA, AND TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.**

As I understand it, you have discussed a broad range of specific issues related to economic interaction between Russia and India during your numerous panel sessions and expert discussions. But the main achievement is that new business contacts have been established at the forum, talks have begun on future commercial deals, and forward-looking mutually beneficial projects have been launched.

I would like to draw your attention to what I consider to be of utmost importance. This forum was proposed and organised primarily to demonstrate the multifaceted possibilities of our cooperation.

I would like you to know that the Russian delegation has not come here to discuss only energy, place orders or sign oil and gas contracts. We want to develop our multifaceted relations with India in many spheres.



Mr. Prime Minister has pointed out many times during our private conversations that India has vast and growing opportunities in many spheres, but they are not being used as both sides would like them to be used. In fact, this is what this forum is about.

To tell the truth, this forum is devoted to the possibilities of the Indian economy and aims to inform our economic operators about these opportunities, so that we can open up our markets to mutual satisfaction and mutual development. All this has fundamental significance because strong and diversified ties between Russian and Indian businesses are among the most powerful pillars of the privileged strategic partnership between our countries.

Russia and India are indeed long-time, close trading partners. Trade continues to grow steadily, with the dynamics hitting record highs of up to 80 percent over the past three years. Last year, the volume of Russian-Indian trade reached US\$64 billion.

Clearly, the opportunities for expanding bilateral trade and investment are enormous. Both Russia and India boast large consumer markets and impressive economic, technological, and resource potential.

To reiterate, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is pursuing an entirely independent sovereign policy and is achieving very good results in the economy. The Indian economy is one of the world's fastest growing economies. The figures speak for themselves. Over ten years, India's GDP has almost doubled and has grown by 2.5 times in terms of purchasing power parity.

Sound economic policies and Prime Minister Modi's signature initiatives such as the Make in India programme, are strengthening India's technological sovereignty. The Indian manufacturing and light industries, its IT sector, and the pharmaceutical industry are among the world's leaders. Russia is carefully analyzing India's experience and uses it in implementing our national programmes for import substitution and localisation of production of high value-added products. The governments of both countries, along with the Prime Minister and me, are paying close attention to deepening Russia-India multifaceted economic ties. Following today's talks, we adopted a Programme for Expanding Russian-Indian Economic Cooperation. This comprehensive document is aimed at achieving the goal that Mr. Modi and I set to bring trade to US\$100 billion by 2030.

We will need business communities from both countries to do their best to expand and diversify trade and to form a balanced configuration of reciprocal trade.

Trade surplus in Russia's favors is quite large. Russian businesses and companies are willing to multiply imports of Indian goods and services. Friends, we welcome this, as it helps make our economy more resilient.

Your forum clearly showed that Indian entrepreneurs are genuinely interested in trading with Russia as well. They

**THE INDIAN MANUFACTURING AND LIGHT INDUSTRIES, ITS IT SECTOR, AND THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ARE AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADERS. RUSSIA IS CAREFULLY ANALYZING INDIA'S EXPERIENCE AND USES IT IN IMPLEMENTING OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR IMPORT SUBSTITUTION AND LOCALISATION OF PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS. THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, ALONG WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND ME, ARE PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEEPENING RUSSIA-INDIA MULTIFACETED ECONOMIC TIES. FOLLOWING TODAY'S TALKS, WE ADOPTED A PROGRAMME FOR EXPANDING RUSSIAN-INDIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THIS COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE GOAL THAT MR. MODI AND I SET TO BRING TRADE TO US\$100 BILLION BY 2030.**

have much to offer. The synergy is obvious. Therefore, it makes good economic sense to prioritise projects to increase Indian imports to Russia as part of the new export support programme recently adopted by Mr Modi's government.

For my part, I would like to reassure the business community that all constructive initiatives aimed at expanding mutual economic exchanges will continue to receive full support from Russian ministries and agencies.

The intergovernmental commission undoubtedly plays a key role in fostering an atmosphere of genuine free trade between our countries. It is important that we work together, in close coordination, to remove the remaining customs and administrative barriers that impede the reciprocal flow of goods, services, and capital.

A positive effect in this regard would likely stem from the prompt conclusion of a preferential trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union. Free trade cannot exist without a stable system of bilateral settlements and reliable payment and insurance mechanisms. The use of national currencies also provides tangible advantages, ensuring uninterrupted financial transactions regardless of external conditions.

Naturally, the development of transport and logistics infrastructure is of particular importance. Much is already being done: the project to establish the North-South Corridor from Russia and Belarus to the Indian Ocean coast is advancing, as is the modernisation of the Northern Sea Route infrastructure, including its use for delivering Indian goods to global markets.

However, cooperation between our two countries should not and cannot be limited to trade alone. We must extend our efforts to strengthen industrial cooperation, jointly create cutting-edge products, and develop technological alliances, especially in advanced, knowledge-intensive sectors such as digitalization, autonomous robotics, pharmaceuticals (including the synthesis of effective medicines), and the production of high-tech medical equipment.

We are ready for broad partnership with India in the field of artificial intelligence, where both our countries have their own advanced achievements. Russia is interested in taking part in the AI summit planned for February 2026 in India, as I have just mentioned to the Prime Minister. We will send a representative delegation to this event.

In conclusion, I would like to once again emphasise the continued strengthening of Russian-Indian trade and investment ties and the close cooperation between our business communities. All of this truly contributes to economic growth and development, improving the wellbeing of our citizens, and therefore fully corresponds to the fundamental interests of our countries and our peoples.

I wish the forum participants and organisers every success and all the best.

Thank you for your attention.

# From Kashmir to Caracas: A Timeline of UN Inaction

Recently, forces of the United States of America captured Mr. Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela who succeeded Hugo Chavez in April 2002. Chavez's Bolivarian revolution aimed to redistribute wealth, expend social programmes and reduce inequalities while portraying Washington as an external enemy interfering in Venezuela sovereignty. The ideological shift in Venezuela at the end of 20th Century marked a turning point in US - Venezuela relations as Hugo Chavez altered the country's domestic and foreign policy as his ideology was inspired by Simen Boliver, Marxism and Cuban revolutionary thoughts. The foreign policy of Nicolas Maduro was to establish close relationship with Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Iran, Russia and China which the US perceived as a challenge to influence in the western hemisphere and a threat to regional stability.

The question arises as whether the United States has violated any Charter of the United Nations or the failure of the United Nations has resulted in action taken by United States for this purpose let's examine the Charter of the United Nations and its preamble.



**SURESH SRIVASTAVA**  
Vice-Chair - WFUNA,  
Geneva

peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

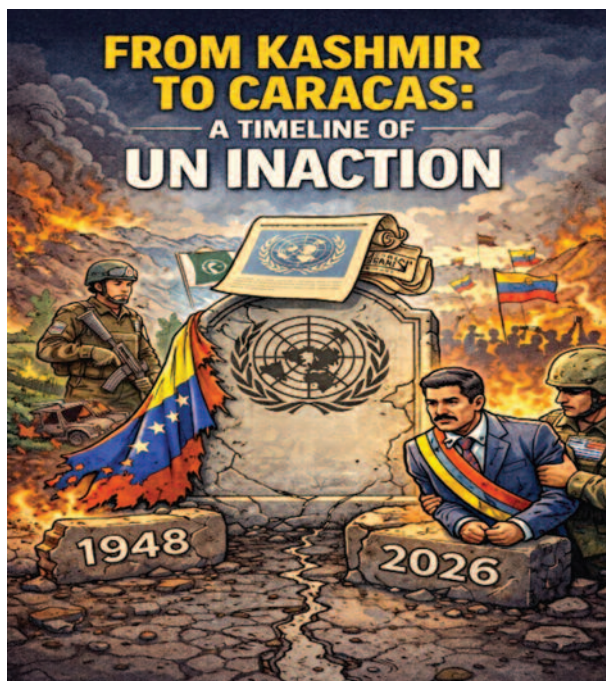
It is clear from the preamble of the United Nations that arm force shall not be used and members shall live to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours. If we see the history of the United Nations since its inception in 1945, it has failed miserably to solve any dispute among the countries neighbouring each other. The failure of the United Nations in resolving disputes between countries has been a recurring theme in international relations, particularly when conflicts involve powerful states and deeply polarized political interests. The dispute between the United States of America and Venezuela serves as a compelling example of how the UN, despite its foundational mandate to maintain international peace and security, has been unable to prevent escalation, restore dialogue, or achieve a durable political settlement.

One of the glaring example of the failure of the United Nations was in the year 1948 when Pakistan army supporting Mujaheddins invaded Kashmir and India though was winning the war an having full faith in the Charter of the United Nations approached United Nations against unprovoked war lashed against India and now this is 2026 the matter remains unsolved the aggressor still holding one third of the territory of India.

The United Nations has miserably failed to control terrorism as a state policy by its members. India has been a victim of terrorism from Pakistan who has all state policy of terrorism by announcing openly that they will give thousand cuts to bleed India. All efforts by India in the United Nations have brought no result. Facing this situation and after many terrorist acts done by the State actor of Pakistan in India killing many innocent man, women, children and

## The preamble: WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime have brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international





**Mr. Trygve Lie**  
*the first Secretary General of the United Nations, serving from 1946 until 1952*



**Mr. António Guterres**  
*-ninth Secretary General of the United Nations and is in office since 1 January 2017*



**Hon'ble Dr. S. Jaishankar**  
*Minister of External Affairs, India*

members of all faiths including Muslims. The last terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22nd April 2025 forced India to start 'Operation Sindoor' to destroy terrorist hideouts and terrorism supporting machinery.

If we see from this perspective the action of USA seems justified as from the year 2002 till this date the United States is at Loggerhead with the Venezuela Government without any intervention by the United Nations in spite of the fact that there is an allegation of large scale Narcotic transfer to USA from Venezuela apart from other reasons such as Historical grievances, Ideological opposition, Economic Interest, Geo Political Rivalry, Oil Wealth, Interdependence and rise of socialist government, openly hostile to the United States. Similarly, if we see from the point of view of the India and Pakistan conflict the Operation Sindoor was fully justified. The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Mr. Jai Shankar Subbaramaniyam has strongly conveyed to Pakistan that.

**"India cannot be expected to be a good to a bad neighbour country that supports terror."**

Answering questions from students after launching IIT-M Global Research Foundation, Jaishankar said, "You can also have bad neighbours. Unfortunately, we do. If you look to the one to the west, if a country decides that they will deliberately, persistently, and unrepentantly continue with terrorism, we have a right to defend our people against terrorism. We will exercise that right." He further said: "How we exercise that right is up to us. Nobody can tell us what we should or should not do. We will do whatever we have to do to defend ourselves."

Referring to cancelling the Indus Water Treaty, the

**ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS AFTER LAUNCHING IIT-M GLOBAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, JAISHANKAR SAID, "YOU CAN ALSO HAVE BAD NEIGHBOURS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO. IF YOU LOOK TO THE ONE TO THE WEST, IF A COUNTRY DECIDES THAT THEY WILL DELIBERATELY, PERSISTENTLY, AND UNREPENTANTLY CONTINUE WITH TERRORISM, WE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND OUR PEOPLE AGAINST TERRORISM. WE WILL EXERCISE THAT RIGHT." HE FURTHER SAID: "HOW WE EXERCISE THAT RIGHT IS UP TO US. NOBODY CAN TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DO. WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE HAVE TO DO TO DEFEND OURSELVES."**

external affairs minister said, "Many years ago, we agreed to a water-sharing arrangement. It was a gesture of good neighbourliness. If you have decades of terrorism, there is no good neighbourliness and you don't get the benefit of good neighbourliness. You can't say, 'Please share water with me, but I will continue terrorism.' That's wrong."

India hoped against the hope for more than seven decades from the United Nations a peaceful withdrawal of aggression by Pakistan it gave thousand bleeding cuts to India. One of the most fundamental reasons for the UN's failure in this case is the concentration of power within the Security Council. The permanent members with veto power, enjoy a privileged position that allows it to block or neutralize any resolution that directly challenges its foreign policy. India has repeatedly raised concerns at the United Nations regarding aggression and state sponsored terrorism. Yet these concerns have not translated into binding Security Council action. The veto power effectively shields Pakistan from institutional accountability, making the UN incapable of acting as an impartial arbitrator in the dispute. This structural imbalance undermines the principle of sovereign equality that lies at the heart of the UN Charter. The failure of the United Nations in this context also reflects a broader crisis of multilateralism. In recent decades powerful states have increasingly relied on unilateral measures, strategic alliances and regional mechanisms rather than multilateral institutions.

We sincerely hope that the dispute between the United States of America and Venezuela who were not always hostile, will be settled peacefully and the world may not be forced to write an obituary of the United Nations.

# Melodies on the Himachal Strings



Right: Author on Iktara amidst his folk instruments

Left: Manu Maharaaj with a street performer in Jaisalmer

Collections - Chander P Mahajan



Ruvanas and khanjris:

Courtesy Kirti Cottage,



**CHANDER P MAHAJAN**

Was a former student of  
Electrical Engineering at  
Regional Engineering College,  
Naseem Bagh, Srinagar,  
Kashmir (J&K).

**T**o my pleasant surprise, Manu gifted me an iktara, one stringed drone lute. We have fond memories of our brief sojourn in Jaisalmer in his boyhood. A street performer sang a folk song over a sort of 'rawanahatha', said to be an ancient bowed, stringed instrument, typical of Rajasthan.

Plucked, bowed, or struck to produce sound; Chordophones are the string instruments in musicology.

◆ I have been toying with my German guitar, a 14K Framus, for years. Of late, I have been practicing ukulele, a smaller version of the guitar, typically with four strings.

**Though never played, I have known that:**

The mandolin, a smaller, pear-shaped instrument with eight strings, is usually played with a pick.

Sitar-an Indian classical instrument played by plucking and striking strings with a plectrum.

The violin, in the string family, is perhaps the smallest and highest-pitched instrument.

The Indian santoor is more rectangular and can have more strings than its Persian counterpart, which generally has 72 strings. The instrument is generally made of walnut.

◆ A peep, out of curiosity, into the literature has brought forth so many different compositions.

Bandurria, for instance, the harp with 14 strings and 16 frets, is used in many Philippine folkloric songs.

Beganna, with a 10-string (like the ancient Greek kithara), is a large, heavy, rectangular instrument that is considered by the Christian Ethiopians to be a God-given instrument.



**The Guitar, the Ukulele and the Djembe  
Collections - Chander P Mahajan**

**I HAVE BEEN TOYING WITH MY GERMAN GUITAR, A 14K FRAMUS, FOR YEARS. OF LATE, I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING UKULELE, A SMALLER VERSION OF THE GUITAR, TYPICALLY WITH FOUR STRINGS.**

◆ Several traditional stringed instruments of Himachal Pradesh are the legends.

Ruvana (a small fretless lute) is quite prominent in the musical rejoicings.

The primary stringed instrument is associated with the Bharmour and Chamba region. Traditionally, Ruvana is made up of chir (locally called khumani) wood. The strings were earlier made up of goat's intestines, but now they are made up of nylon. It is a fascinating guitar-



Above: Chamba, Himachal folk instruments: at Kirti Cottage, Dalhousie. Below: Nagadas at a temple near the ITBP Lake, Shimla. Collections - Chander P Mahajan

like instrument.

The Ruvana is often played together with the Khanjari small percussion (dafli-like) instrument.

Made up of walnut wood, the circular frame of Khanjari is covered with plastic or skin, with metal discs around the edge.

Similar to a tambourine. To play it, you hit it or shake it with your hand.

The combo is often used to play melodies and accompany singing, especially in traditional music and storytelling by Gaddis.

Once, while in Khajjiar, I saw a musician surrounded by a few people performing in the open. He is Saran Dass from Bharmour; I had the privilege to meet him later. The musician now lives in Mangla and is well known for playing the Ruvana-khanjari combo. 'The duo, in conjunction, provides rhythmic accompaniment,' he says.

Culturally rich, an avid devotee of Lord Shiva, he sings with his heart and soul. 'His brother Roshan Lal, also plays an old Ruvana handcrafted from Chir wood', tells Gauri Shankar of Khajjiar.

Presently, people hardly want to listen to, understand and learn about folk music.

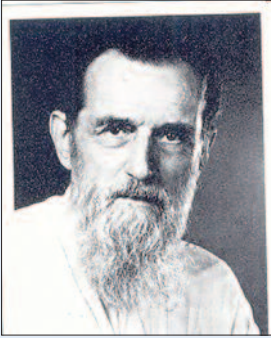
People are getting into Western music and discos, and other things. Mixing folk with different pieces of music has become a craze.

The Emulsion of the various tunes, tones and tenors comes out as a strange concoction. The amalgamation pops up as 'pop music', and that is the trend of the day.

# और हनुमान जी का शरीर लाल हो गया।



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



फादर कामिल बुल्के

**वि**भिन्न देशों में 300 से अधिक रामायण लिखी गई हैं जिसमें बेल्जियम के विद्वान फादर कामिल बुल्के का नाम उल्लेखनीय है जो भारत में बस गए उन्होंने विभिन्न देशों की 100 से अधिक रामायणों का गहराई से अध्ययन किया जिसका वर्णन उनकी पुस्तक रामकथा में वर्णन किया गया है। उन्हें भारत सरकार ने पद्म भूषण से और इलाहाबाद यूनिवर्सिटी ने उनके भगवान राम पर शोध पर पीएचडी से नवाजा है उनकी इंग्लिश हिंदी डिक्शनरी भी काफी लोकप्रिय है। भारत के

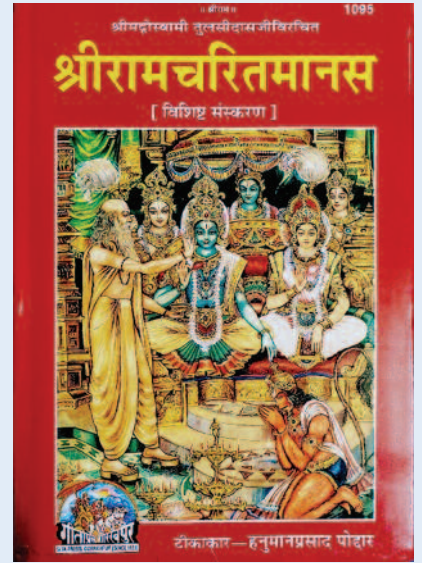
अतिरिक्त इंडोनेशिया, थाईलैंड, मेमनार, श्रीलंका आदि देशों में भी रामकथाओं का मंचन होता है कथानक में कुछ फेर बदल अवश्य होता है।

भारत में भी बाल्मीकि रामायण अत्यंत प्राचीन मानी जाती है ऋषि बाल्मीकि ने इसे ईसा पूर्व तीसरी या चौथी शताब्दी में रचा था। तुलसीदास जी की रामायण एवं बल्मीकि के कथानक में फर्क भी है। तुलसीदास जी ने रामचरित मानस को 2 वर्ष 26 दिन में सन 1576 में अवधी भाषा में रचा था।

यह रामायण पूरे भारत खासकर उत्तर भारत में सर्वाधिक प्रसिद्ध है। इसे घर घर पढ़ी जाती है प्रसिद्ध फिल्मकार रामानंद सागर ने रामायण पर सीरियल बनाकर दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित किया जो काफी लोकप्रिय हुआ।

तुलसीकृत रामचरित मानस के अतिरिक्त और भी रामायणों का प्रचलन है जिसमें बौद्ध रामायण भी है।

जैन संत विमल सूरी द्वारा रचा पयुम चरियू ग्रन्थ एवं एक और जैन संत रविसेनाचार्य ने पद्म पुराण ग्रन्थ जैनों में काफी लोकप्रिय है रामायण को तुलसीदास ने सात कांड में विभाजित किया है वे है बालकाण्ड, अयोध्या कांड, आरण्य कांड, किष्किंधा कांड, सुंदर कांड, लंका कांड और उत्तर कांड इसमें सुंदर कांड सबसे अधिक लोकप्रिय है जिसमें अनुमान जी समुद्र को छलांग लगाते हुए लंका में प्रवेश करते हैं लंका में अशोक वाटिका में मां सीता को भगवान राम की मुद्रिका देते हैं इस कांड में हनुमान जी के बल एवं शौर्य का वर्णन विस्तार से किया है। एक प्रसंग में मां सीता मांग में सिंदूर भरती है इसे देख कर हनुमान जी मां सीता से पूछते हैं कि इसे क्यों भारती हैं मां सीता ने कहा कि तुम्हारे राम जी को यह पसंद है इसे सुनकर हनुमान जी ने पूरी सिंदूर की दिव्य अपने शरीर पर उधेड़ ली और हनुमान जी का शरीर लाल हो गया।





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