



# PEOPLE AND UN

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## A HAND SHAKE AFTER 16 MONTHS

PM Modi and US President Trump exchanged a warm handshake at the G7 Summit in Evian, France, on June 16

## ASSAM UNA

# World Environment Day IFUNA observed in collaboration with Several Academic Institutions in Assam



Students And Faculty Planting Trees

Dr. Ashwani Sharma Secretary General Assam UNA is seen Sitting in Right

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Barpatragohain, former Dean of Guwahati University and Advocate General of Assam was the chief guest at **DON BOSCO SCHOOL** function

Dr. Dimpy Mahanta, professor of Cotton University was a guest of honour .

Rev. Fr. (Dr) Alex Mathew, the Principal of the esteemed school welcomed the distinguished Guests, invitees, officials of UNA-Assam, faculties and students on the occasion.

A meeting was organized at the conference Hall of **TIHU COLLEGE** on the occasion. The meeting was presided over by Principal, Dr. Suresh Bharali.

Similarly, meetings were also organised by IFUNA to observe the World Environment Day in collaboration with **LTK COLLEGE**, Lakhimpur and **JDSG COLLEGE**, Bokakhat in Assam.

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Secretary General, IFUNA

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THE THEN PRIME MINISTER, THE LATE PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU,  
ATTENDED THE WEDDING OF THE THEN SECRETARY-GENERAL OF IFUNA,  
THE LATE SHRI S.D. PANDEY.

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**JARA HAT KE  
-BY SANAT JAIN**



**I**n the backdrop of USA -IRAN loggerheads and RUSSIA - UKRAINE war, India is quietly rewiring its strategy, undeterred against all the odds and hassles.

Currently Shri S Jaishankar is in Gulf countries meetings head of states of Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

The trip will advance India-Gulf relations, review regional developments, launch India's UN Security Council 2028-29 campaign, and support India-EU Trade and Technology Council talks and will strengthen bilateral ties.

Shri Jaishankar's Gulf travel takes place amid changing politics in the region, linking the timing to "fast-evolving political dynamics" in the Middle East.

After finishing engagements in the Gulf, S Jaishankar is also scheduled to travel to New York and will launch official campaign for India's UN Security Council tenure for 2028-29.

Prime Minister Modi is in Indonesia ahead of visiting Australia and New Zealand "to further strengthen India's Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision as well as our outlook towards a free and open Indo-Pacific"

Supplying BrahMos and Astra missiles to Indonesia, boosting maritime security, and strengthening critical mineral supply chains

emerged as the key outcomes of talks between Mr. Modi and President Prabowo Subianto, besides the bilateral partnership in upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific.

On cooperation in critical minerals, Indonesia dominates the sector, commanding roughly 21% of world's nickel reserves and ranking among the top global producers of copper, bauxite and tin. On trade and investments, there are "strong synergies between developmental visions of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and Emas (Golden) Indonesia 2045"

Indonesia has emerged as India's second largest trading partner in ASEAN region with bilateral trade of US\$ 24.78 billion in 2025-26. Over 130 Indian companies are invested in different sectors in Indonesia.

On his onward visit to Australia P.M. Modi said on X, "My visit will strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and I shall, in my discussions with PM (Anthony) Albanese, take forward our relations in areas of defense and security, trade and investments, education and mobility, and people-to-people ties." On his New Zealand tour he said on X, "I shall discuss with PM (Christopher) Luxon how to further enhance economic, trade and commercial engagements. India and New Zealand have committed themselves to strengthening bilateral trade and commercial ties with the signing of the FTA."

India's recent diplomatic engagements underscore a clear and confident foreign policy that prioritizes strategic partnerships, economic cooperation, and regional stability despite an increasingly volatile global environment. While major powers remain entangled in conflicts and geopolitical rivalries, India is steadily expanding its global outreach through constructive dialogue, stronger trade relations, defence cooperation, and multilateral engagement. The simultaneous focus on the Gulf, the Indo-Pacific, ASEAN, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Nations reflects a balanced and forward-looking vision that serves both national interests and global peace. This proactive diplomacy not only reinforces India's emergence as a responsible global power but also demonstrates that engagement, cooperation, and strategic autonomy remain the cornerstones of its foreign policy. Such a pragmatic and positive approach deserves appreciation and broad support.

— **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**  
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**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI WITH INDONESIA PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO AFTER ARRIVING IN JAKARTA**

**WITH THE UN THEME-2026**

***"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."***

**IFUNA AND UFUNA**

**CELEBRATED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**



Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) celebrated World Environment Day - 2026 on 5th June 2026 at 9:00 A.M. at the local Hotel Devakanya Conference Hall. On this occasion, Shree Suresh Srivastava, IFUNA Secretary General and Vice Chairman of World Federation of United Nations Associations inaugurated the function through virtual mode.

The meeting was presided over by IFUNA National Vice President and UFUNA State President Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik. Former Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera attended as the chief guest. In his speech, Behera strongly believed that a healthy environment is the father of a healthy body and a healthy mind. Environment is wealth and a good environment for the people is essential for building a healthy and progressive society.

The keynote speaker Dr. Pramod Kumar Mahapatra, former editor of 'Daily Samaj' and popular science writer in his speech emphasized on my environment, my responsibility. Environmental awareness is safety and safety is saving life. Therefore, the progress of society is possible only

by improving the surrounding environment of everyone.

The other distinguished speaker was Dr. Tushar Kanti Nayak from America, the guest of honour was Bhikari Charan Rout, former CBI judge, Prakash Patnaik, former principal of Shailabala Women's College, Cuttack, poet Bahadur Pattasahani, Secretary of UFUNA, social worker Saroj Kumar Shatapathy, renowned dentist of Dhenkanal, Dr. Tapas Kumar Mahapatra, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Rout, Congress leader Binay Sahu, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Senior Educationist UFUNA Media In-charge for wide Publicity in print, electronic and social media.

Secretary General of UFUNA Dr. Dipayan Pattnaik in his speech, said that UFUNA has been continuously promoting and spreading world environment awareness among the various programs of the United Nations Organization and has continued the world environment awareness program for everyone in the world. He also read out a long Odia article, two English and two Odia sonnets for World Environment Day-2026 and managed the program very well.

Advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik, in his presiden-

**THE MEETING WAS  
PRESIDED OVER BY IFUNA  
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
AND UFUNA STATE PRESIDENT  
ADVOCATE  
MANORANJAN PATTNAIK.  
FORMER MINISTER SHASHI  
BHUSHAN BEHERA  
ATTENDED AS THE CHIEF  
GUEST. IN HIS SPEECH,  
BEHERA STRONGLY  
BELIEVED THAT A  
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT  
IS THE FATHER OF A  
HEALTHY BODY AND A  
HEALTHY MIND.**



## Distinguished Guests

tial speech, said that this day is celebrated in about 143 countries of the world. World Environment Day has been celebrated since 1972. It was decided to celebrate this day in a meeting held by the United Nations on June 5, 1972 to celebrate World Environment Day. The main theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Inspired by Nature. For the Climate. For our Future."

Other distinguished speakers in their speeches said that today people need to take all the necessary measures to protect the environment. The government should take up many awareness programs for the complete development of all types of infrastructure and creation of a healthy environment. Excessive use of plastic is one of the major causes of environmental pollution and it be stopped.

Among others, prominent guests and esteemed speakers at the poetry recitation festival were Dr. Bansidhar Sahu, Dr. Muralidhar Nayak, poet Golok Bihari Behera, poet Sadat Khan and Linku Pati from Hindol, Upma Samal, Dr. Pramod Kumar Nayak, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Seema Mishra from Jajpur, poet Sambit Das from Cuttack, former professor Dr. Mansi Kar, Baijyanthi Patnaik, Manoja Manjari Dash, Jali Sahu, Dr. Anupama Mishra, Kanhu Charan Barik and Prashant Tripathy among others recited selected poems in Odia and English mostly related to World Environment Day. Somendu Satapathy, Er. Abinash Das, Tarun Kumar Biswal, Jitamitra Satapathy, Rabinarayan Sethi, Lakshmidhar Shatpathi, Sujata Pattanaik, Barsha Pattanaik, Soumya Ranjan Pattanaik, Rudra Prasad Sharan, Bipin Bihari Behera, Deba Prasad Mishra, Tarun Kumar Biswal, Yudhisthir Sahu, Dilip Kumar Sahu, Er. Lalit Mohan Behera and all the

hundreds of associate members and members of UFUNA and IFUNA also actively participated and made their remarks on the topic of world environment day and with their support the program was successfully implemented.

A large number of respected people from not only Dhenkanal district but also from the whole Odisha state contributed to this meeting and actively participated in the discussion.

At the beginning of the meeting, poet Linku Pati recited Mangala Charan Gana and Shanti Patha at the end of the program.

Poet Bahadur Pattasahani, General Secretary of UFUNA, delivered the welcome key note address and introduced the guests and other dignitaries on the dais and off the dais. He strongly stated in his speech that the environment is an asset and the development of society and the nation is possible through the responsible and selfless work of everyone to build a healthy and progressive society. On this occasion, the distinguished guests on the dais distinguished dentist of the Dhenkanal, Dr. Tapas Kumar Mahapatra, Dr. Muralidhar Nayak, Dr. Bansidhar Sahu and poet Golok Bihari Behera were felicitated with bouquets, Uttariya, Upadhukan and citations of meritorious achievements in their specific field with special contribution towards environment.

Wthe Secretary General of UFUNA, Dr. Dipayan Pattanaik, discussed in detail the multilateral programs of the United Nations and expressed his strong opinion that if everyone were aware of the importance of environmental protection and followed the principles and rules of environmental protection, it would be a blessing to themselves, their families and above all to the society and the country..

**POET BAHADUR PATTASAHANI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF UFUNA, DELIVERED THE WELCOME KEY NOTE ADDRESS AND INTRODUCED THE GUESTS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES ON THE DAIS AND OFF THE DAIS. HE STRONGLY STATED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS AN ASSET AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY AND THE NATION IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE RESPONSIBLE AND SELFLESS WORK OF EVERYONE TO BUILD A HEALTHY AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY.**

# A Deal a Century Later: Echoes of Versailles in the U.S.–IRAN MoU



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

*Wars are easier to begin than to finish, easier to measure in weapons than in consequences, and easier to discuss in theory than to endure in reality.*

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in France, formally ending the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers after World War I. The treaty emerged from the Paris Peace Conference, where the victorious Allied leaders—primarily the United States, Britain, France, and Italy—met to determine the postwar settlement. Germany, having been defeated, was not allowed to participate in drafting the treaty and was presented with terms that it had little power to change.

In Germany, however, the treaty was widely perceived as unfair and humiliating. Many Germans resented the war guilt provision, territorial losses, and economic burdens imposed by reparations. These grievances contributed to political instability during the Weimar Republic and fueled nationalist sentiment.

During the 1920s and 1930s, extremist groups, including Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party, exploited public anger toward the treaty to gain support.

By coincidence MoU between USA and Iran is signed in June 2026 after a century and that too at Versailles, France. For decades, tensions between the United States and Iran have stood as one of the most consequential rivalries in modern geopolitics. Unlike sudden conflicts, this friction has evolved over generations, shaped by mistrust, competing ambitions, sanctions, and fundamentally different visions of security in the Middle East. While both nations have avoided a direct large-scale war, the possibility has never disappeared.

The roots of hostility stretch back decades. Washington emphasizes nuclear concerns, maritime security, and protection of allies. Tehran frames the relationship through sovereignty, foreign intervention, and independence. Distrust has become institutionalized, with each generation inheriting grievances. Wars are rarely sparked by a single event; they emerge from accumulated disputes and mutual suspicion.

For the U.S., key military objectives, economic costs, domestic politics, and allied pressure could drive negotiation. For Iran, regime stability, economic sustainability, and diplomatic opportunities would shape decisions. Both sides would need settlements that preserve legitimacy at home.

Ending combat is easier than securing peace. Reconstruction would require rebuilding infrastructure, restoring confidence, and stabilizing institutions. Poorly managed transitions could breed new tensions. Success would depend on planning, resources, and sustained diplomacy.

The enduring lesson is simple: wars are easier to



## US-IRAN Memorandum of Understanding

**Point 1:** The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran and their allies in the current war, by signing this MOU, declare the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or any military operation against each other, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. The final deal will confirm the permanent termination of the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon and other provisions of this paragraph.

**Point 2:** The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran undertake to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs.

**Point 3:** The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran commit to negotiating and achieving the final deal in maximum 60 days, extendable with mutual consent.

**Point 4:** Immediately upon the signing of this MOU, the United States of America will begin the removal of its naval blockade and any disturbances or impediments against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it will fully end the naval blockade within 30 days. During this period, the traffic of vessels will be in proportion to the numbers of pre-war traffic being restored by the Islamic Republic of Iran. United States of America further undertakes to remove its forces from the proximity of the Islamic Republic of Iran within 30 days after the final deal.

**Point 5:** Upon the signing of this MOU, the Islamic Republic

**IRAN, US PRESIDENT'S SIGN DEAL TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE, REOPENS STRAIT OF HORMUZ**



**TRUMP SIGNED THE MoU WITH IRAN AT THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES [**

of Iran will make arrangements using its best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels with no charge for 60 days, only from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and vice versa. The traffic of commercial vessels will immediately start, and considering the need for removing the tactical and military obstacles and de-mining by the Islamic Republic of Iran will be instated within 30 days. The Islamic Republic of Iran will conduct dialog with the Sultanate of Oman to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz, in discussion with other Persian Gulf littoral states in line with the applicable international law and the sovereign rights of coastal states of the Strait of Hormuz.

**THE QUESTION OFTEN RAISED IS WHETHER THE WORLD IS WITNESSING A SIMILAR PATTERN OF HISTORY UNFOLDING ONCE AGAIN. ALTHOUGH THE TWO AGREEMENTS EMERGED FROM VERY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COMPARISON IS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT HIGHLIGHTS RECURRING THEMES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: THE TREATMENT OF RIVALS, THE USE OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE, THE PURSUIT OF SECURITY,**

begin than to finish, easier to measure in weapons than in consequences, and easier to discuss in theory than to endure in reality. For both the U.S. and Iran, the greatest challenge would not be achieving victory but ensuring that the pursuit of security does not create a future less secure than the past.

The question often raised is whether the world is witnessing a similar pattern of history unfolding once again. Although the two agreements emerged from very different circumstances, the comparison is valuable because it highlights recurring themes in international politics: the treatment of rivals, the use of economic pressure, the pursuit of security,

and the challenge of creating lasting peace. By examining the Treaty of Versailles and comparing it with the recent Trump-Iran diplomatic framework, we can better understand whether history is truly repeating itself or merely offering familiar lessons.

Those who believe history is repeating itself point to familiar patterns: a powerful coalition attempting to influence a rival state's behavior, the use of economic pressure, and concerns about future security. From this viewpoint, the world appears to be confronting many of the same challenges that emerged after World War I.

The Treaty of Versailles remains one of the most studied diplomatic agreements in modern history

**Point 6:** The United States of America undertakes with regional partners to develop a definitive, mutually agreed plan with at least \$300 billion (£225 billion) for the reconstruction and economic development of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The mechanism for the implementation of this plan will be finalised as part of a final deal within 60 days. All required licenses, waivers and permissions needed for the relevant financial transactions will be granted by the United States of America.

**Point 7:** The United States of America undertakes to terminate all types of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the United Nations Security Council resolutions, i.e. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors resolutions and all unilateral U.S. sanctions, primary and secondary, in an agreed upon schedule. As part of the final deal, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America acknowledge the critical importance of the sanctions termination issue above mentioned, and express their intentions to immediately address these issues in the negotiations in order to achieve mutual agreement on them.

**Point 8:** The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms that it shall not procure or develop nuclear weapons. The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran have agreed to resolve the disposition of stockpiled enriched material, pursuant to a mechanism that will be mutually agreed upon in accordance with the schedule mentioned in paragraph seven, with the minimum methodology to be down. Blending on site under the supervision of the IAEA. The two parties also agreed to discuss the issue of enrichment and other mutually agreed matters related to the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear needs, based on a satisfactory framework being agreed upon in the final deal. The final deal will confirm the provisions of this paragraph. The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledge the critical importance of the nuclear issues above mentioned, and expressed their intention to immediately address these issues in the negotiations in order to achieve mutual agreement on them.

**Point 9:** Pending the final deal, the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran agree to maintain the status quo. The

Islamic Republic of Iran will maintain the current status quo of its nuclear program, and the United States of America will not impose any new sanctions and will not deploy additional forces in the region.

**Point 10:** The United States of America undertakes that immediately upon the signing of this MOU and until the termination of sanctions, the U.S. Department of Treasury will issue waivers for the export of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products and derivatives and all associated services including banking, transactions, insurances, transportation, etc.

**Point 11:** The United States of America undertakes to make fully available for use the frozen or restricted funds and assets of the Islamic Republic of Iran upon the implementation of the MOU, the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran will mutually agree on the procedures related to the release of these funds. During the negotiations. Such funds, whether retain the original account or transfer, shall be made fully usable for payment to any ultimate beneficiary designed by the central bank. Ultimate beneficiary designated by the central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States of America undertakes to issue all necessary licenses and authorisations accordingly.

**Point 12:** The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed that an executive mechanism will be established to monitor the successful implementation of this MOU and the future compliance of the final deal.

**Point 13:** After signing the MOU and subject to the beginning of the implementation of paragraphs one, four, five, ten and 11 of this MOU and the continuing implementation of these measures. The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran will start negotiations regarding the final deal exclusively.

**Point 14:** The final deal will be endorsed by a binding United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution.

because of its lasting consequences. Intended to secure peace after World War I, it instead became associated with economic hardship, political resentment, and the conditions that contributed to another global conflict.

The recent Trump-Iran agreement exists in a very different context. Rather than ending a world war, it seeks to manage regional tensions and establish a framework for future diplomacy. Nevertheless, comparisons between the two highlight important questions about how nations resolve conflicts, balance power, and pursue security.

History is not repeating itself in a literal sense. The circumstances surrounding Germany in 1919 and Iran

in the 2020s are too different for a direct comparison. Yet the broader lessons of Versailles remain relevant. Durable peace requires fairness, economic stability, mutual respect, and mechanisms that encourage cooperation rather than resentment.

Whether the Trump-Iran agreement ultimately succeeds will depend not on symbolic comparisons with the past but on the willingness of both sides to address underlying disputes and maintain constructive engagement. If policymakers learn from the successes and failures of earlier agreements, they may avoid repeating the mistakes that turned the promise of peace after World War I into one of history's greatest tragedies.

**THE RECENT TRUMP-IRAN AGREEMENT EXISTS IN A VERY DIFFERENT CONTEXT. RATHER THAN ENDING A WORLD WAR, IT SEEKS TO MANAGE REGIONAL TENSIONS AND ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE DIPLOMACY. NEVERTHELESS, COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE TWO HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW NATIONS RESOLVE CONFLICTS, BALANCE POWER, AND PURSUE SECURITY.**

*'A completely new political reality in Nepal'*

# India, Nepal to resolve border dispute 'bilaterally',

*--Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal*

**India and Nepal agree to further deepen and broaden bilateral relationship**



Foreign Minister of Nepal Shree Shisir Khanal hosted a press meet at Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi on June 7

**"WE WANT TO SOLVE OUR DISPUTES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC PROCESSES. WE JUST WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN ACCESS SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT MIGHT BE IN LIBRARIES OR MUSEUMS IN THE U.K. OUR POSITION WAS NOT THAT WE WERE ASKING FOR MEDIATION," SAID MR. KHANAL,**

Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said in New Delhi, on June 7, 2026 that Kathmandu is focused on establishing Nepali claim on the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura trijunction and not "asking for mediation" from third parties. Addressing a press conference at the Embassy of Nepal, during his visit to New Delhi, Mr. Khanal said the new government of Prime Minister Balendra Shah is not in favour of tying Nepal-India relations down to "old baggage" and said he represents a "completely new political reality in Nepal" that is determined to deliver "uncompromising good governance".

"We want to solve our disputes through diplomatic processes. We just want to see if we can access some of the documents that might be in libraries or museums in the U.K. Our position was not that we were asking for mediation," said Mr. Khanal, elaborating on Prime Minister Balendra

Shah's remarks in the parliament when he had said that Nepal is in contact with the U.K. and China on the Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh dispute with India. "The problems that existed when British India left the region still persist, so we believe Britain also has a role to play in this matter," Prime Minister Shah had said in the parliament that had stirred debates online and attracted a rebuttal from the Ministry of External Affairs that reiterated that India and Nepal have established bilateral mechanism for discussing the border dispute and that there is no scope for third party intervention in this case.

After a gap of a few years, the border issue between the two sides started simmering when India, on April 30, 2026, announced the Kailash-Manasarovar yatra for 2026 that was scheduled to be conducted in 20 batches with 50 pilgrims in each batch. The Ministry of External Affairs announced that the pilgrimage would be conducted "in coordination with the Government of the People's Republic of China" through the Lipulekh pass that is claimed by Nepal and the Nathu La pass of Sikkim. This announcement attracted a protest from Nepal that communicated its objection to both India and China.

Responding to questions, Mr. Khanal said, "We have expressed our position through an official diplomatic note to both India and China. We have clearly said to both countries that the land (Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura) belongs to us. That's been our historical claim".

While dealing with the border dispute, Mr. Khanal argued that as the new generation of rulers who came to power after defeating the well-established

former dominant political players like the Nepali Congress and the Maoist parties (CPN-UML, CPN - Maoist-Centre), the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) refuses to "look at India through the distorted, hyper-sensitive lens of twentieth-century geopolitics."

"Instead, the Rastriya Swatantra Party wants to shift the entire vocabulary of Nepal-India relations away from geopolitical friction and square it firmly on Development Diplomacy," said Mr. Khanal, who had held a formal meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday (June 6, 2026) evening. During the meeting, he mentioned that the two sides officially announced the operationalization of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) cross border payment transactions under the MoU between NCHL (Nepal Clearing House Limited) and NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) that will enable digital and financial connectivity between the two sides. Mr. Khanal said that his visit has restarted the track of high-level visits from the two sides and that more high-level visits will take place from the Nepali side soon. He said Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle is expected to visit Delhi "very soon". Responding to a question, he said Prime Minister Shah is focused on the "domestic front" as he is keen to show "early results" because of a "strong mandate" that the RSP has received in the May election and refused to give a "timeline" for Prime Minister Shah's visit to India.

Referring to the uprising and the current political discourse that has upturned the erstwhile established political parties, Mr. Khanal said, he represents "a completely new political reality in Nepal". Our rise is driven by an extraordinary and historic mandate from our citizens, centered on uncompromising good governance, strict meritocracy, and direct accountability. Because we are a new generation of leadership, we possess a unique asset: we are absolutely unencumbered by the past," said Mr. Khanal.

He also referred to the report of the Eminent Persons Group, a group set up more than a decade ago to give guidelines for how to deal with the issues between the two sides, saying that the final report languishing in a cupboard in Kathmandu were meant for the Prime Ministers of both countries and that the two leaders will have to take a call on whether to make the report public. "The EPG was commissioned by the agreement of two Prime Ministers, and the report can only be submitted to two Prime Ministers. So I have no authority to make that public, accept, or do anything," said Mr. Khanal.

## External affairs minister S. Jaishankar held talks with Nepal foreign minister Shisir Khanal



**External affairs minister S. Jaishankar in a meeting with Nepal foreign minister Shisir Khanal in New Delhi on June 6, 2026.**

**T**he Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi has stated in a press release that India and Nepal agreed to further deepen and broaden their bilateral relationship during talks between Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shisir Khanal, and the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar.

"Both sides agreed to further deepen and broaden the bilateral relationship through development partnerships, enhanced connectivity, and strong partnership on priority areas of mutual benefit," read the press release.

The press release noted that the two Ministers made joint announcements regarding the operationalisation of P2P cross-border payment transactions under the MoU between NCHL and NPCI, signed in June 2023, and the handover of 72 health sector and 12 cultural sector post-earthquake reconstruction projects in Nepal, built with India's development assistance.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between Kathmandu University School of Engineering's Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence and Digital India Bhashini Division for co-creating the National Digital Infrastructure for "Voice First" Language Translation Platform.

The two Ministers held wide-ranging and productive discussions on the full spectrum of Nepal-India bilateral relations during the meeting.

"The discussions encompassed areas of trade and economic cooperation, cross-border connectivity, energy partnership, water resources management, and the promotion of people-to-people ties, including through sports," noted the Embassy.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the enduring partnership between the two neighboring countries.

The two Ministers also reviewed progress on ongoing bilateral projects and cooperation initiatives and exchanged views on ways to accelerate their implementation.

They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern, including cooperation within multilateral forums.

Khanal also met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at his office in New Delhi on Saturday. Both of them discussed various matters related to further strengthening Nepal-India bilateral relations.

## India Reiterated Its Support For A Stable, Peaceful And Prosperous Myanmar



Prime Minister Modi Greets President U Min Aung Hlaing Of Myanmar In Delhi

At the commencement of the visit, the President visited Bodhi Gaya on 30 May 2026, where he offered prayers at Mahabodhi Temple, Mahabodhi Meditation Centre and Sujata Temple. These visits to deeply revered sites underscored the enduring spiritual and Buddhist ties, as well as the people-to-people links, between the two countries.

President Haing was accompanied by the Union Ministers for President's Office, Foreign Affairs, Finance & Revenue, Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation, and Industry & MSME Business Development, and Governor of the Central Bank of

## THE OUTCOME OF VISIT

### An analysis

□ The choice of India over China for President Min Aung Hlaing's first official foreign visit highlighted the strategic significance of India-Myanmar ties and reflected the success of India's pragmatic approach towards engaging Myanmar amidst evolving regional geopolitical dynamics.

□ India reiterated its support for a stable, peaceful and prosperous Myanmar and emphasized the need for inclusive political reconciliation and development-led engagement.

□ Both sides reviewed cooperation in regional and multilateral forums, including BIMSTEC, ASEAN-related mechanisms and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework.

□ Connectivity Cooperation: Both sides reviewed progress on the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and agreed to accelerate their implementation to enhance regional connectivity and economic integration.



□ Trade and Economic Cooperation: The leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, energy and border trade, with particular emphasis on promoting economic linkages between India's Northeast and Myanmar.

□ Security and Defence Cooperation: Myanmar assured India that its territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's security interests and reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate in addressing insurgency, terrorism and other cross-border security challenges.

□ Development Partnership and Capacity Building: India reiterated its support for Myanmar through development projects, border area development initiatives, Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), capacity-building programmes and training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) framework.

□ Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction: India reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Myanmar's post-earthquake recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, building upon assistance already extended under Operation Brahma.

Myanmar. A business delegation from diverse sectors including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, energy, banking, construction, IT, communications, trading and logistics, as well as members of the Myanmar-India Friendship Association, were also part of the Myanmar delegation.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Myanmar held talks on 1 June 2026, during which they reviewed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and charted the way forward for the relationship. The Prime Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting dignitary. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu received the President of Myanmar on the same day. Earlier, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval separately called on the President of Myanmar.

The President delivered a keynote speech at the India-Myanmar Business Conclave, jointly organised

by the UMFCII and CII, in New Delhi on 31 May 2026, where business heads from both sides discussed avenues for further strengthening and expanding bilateral trade and commercial opportunities. The President also toured the NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance (NETRA) complex in Greater Noida to observe advanced R&D work, including in clean energy innovation, energy efficiency, renewable energy integration and grid resilience.

Both sides agreed to facilitate and enhance bilateral trade including through the Rupee-Kyat settlement mechanism, and appreciated the steady growth in the volume of transactions recorded since its operationalisation in May 2024. Both sides also expressed support for closer trade and investment cooperation in the areas of mutual interest such as agro-processing, petroleum, energy, mining sectors, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations.



**On May 30, Saturday:** Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing began his five-day visit to India with prayers at the Bodhi Gaya's sacred Mahabodhi temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site and Buddhist pilgrimage centre in Bihar's Gayaji district.

❑ **Cultural and Civilizational Cooperation:** Both countries emphasized their shared Buddhist heritage and agreed to further strengthen cultural exchanges, religious tourism and people-to-people ties.

## **Significance of Myanmar for India**

❑ **Gateway to Southeast Asia:** Myanmar serves as India's land bridge to ASEAN and occupies a central position in the implementation of the Act East Policy, facilitating India's engagement with Southeast Asia.

❑ **Strategic Importance for Northeast India:** Sharing a border of over 1,600 km with four Northeastern states, Myanmar is critical for enhancing regional connectivity and economic integration while addressing security challenges such as insurgency, cross-border terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and arms smuggling in India.

❑ **Balancing China's Influence:** Myanmar occupies a pivotal position in the India-China strategic competition and remains critical for preventing excessive Chinese influence in India's immediate neighbourhood and the Bay of Bengal region.

❑ **Maritime and Indo-Pacific Significance:** Myanmar's strategic coastline along the Bay of Bengal enhances its importance for India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, maritime security architecture and broader Indo-Pacific strategy.

❑ **Resource and Economic Security:** Myanmar possesses significant reserves of natural gas, rare earth elements and other critical minerals, making it an important partner for India's efforts to diversify energy and critical mineral supply chains.

## **India-Myanmar Bilateral Relations**

### **❑ Political Relations**

■ India and Myanmar share deep historical, cultural and civilizational ties and maintain regular high-level political engagement.

■ Myanmar is the only ASEAN country sharing a land boundary with India and occupies a central position in India's Neighbourhood

First Policy, Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision.

### **❑ Economic Relations**

■ India is among Myanmar's largest trading partners, with bilateral trade conducted under the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme.

■ India has a growing investment presence in Myanmar, particularly in the oil & gas, power and infrastructure sectors, with energy cooperation emerging as an important pillar of the bilateral economic partnership.

### **❑ Connectivity Relations**

■ Myanmar is India's only ASEAN neighbour connected through both land and maritime boundaries, making it a critical bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

■ The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway form the backbone of India's regional connectivity strategy.

### **❑ Defence and Security Cooperation**

■ India and Myanmar cooperate closely in addressing insurgency, cross-border terrorism, illegal migration, drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

■ Myanmar has supported Indian efforts against insurgent groups operating along the border, such as NSCN-IM and ULFA, which have historically maintained bases in Myanmar's border regions.

### **❑ Cultural and People-to-People Relations**

■ Buddhism serves as a major civilizational bridge between the two countries, fostering strong cultural and spiritual linkages.

■ Religious tourism, academic exchanges, scholarships and cultural cooperation continue to strengthen people-to-people contacts.

(Curtsy Agencies)



**With The Monks At Bodh Gaya**

In his interaction with the President, the Prime Minister stated that Myanmar lies at the confluence of India's Neighborhood First, Act East and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) policies. The discussions underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation, including trade and economic ties, defence and security, border management, development assistance and cultural exchanges. Both sides noted ongoing discussions on various bilateral Agreements and Memoranda of

Understanding and looked forward to their early conclusion.

The Prime Minister underlined that enhanced connectivity would foster mutually beneficial economic linkages and shared prosperity in the region. In this regard, both sides shared the importance of working closely towards the completion of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.

The Prime Minister conveyed that the Mekong Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students would be enhanced from 36 to 100 from 2026 onwards.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Both sides underscored the importance of preventing the misuse of sovereign territory for activities inimical to their security interests. The President reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests. The Prime Minister affirmed that India, as a steadfast and trusted partner of Myanmar, remained committed to deepening security cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister conveyed support for Myanmar-led efforts towards achieving peace, stability, national reconciliation and socio-economic development. He also offered continued assistance and cooperation, based on mutual respect and friendly relations between the two countries. The President appreciated India's constructive support and cooperation.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the meetings of the President with the Governor of Maharashtra and the Chief Minister, as well as his business engagements during his upcoming visit to Mumbai on 02 - 03 June 2026 would further strengthen existing bilateral cooperation and economic ties.

The official visit of President U Min Aung Hlaing reaffirmed the long-standing friendship and close partnership between Myanmar and India and the shared commitment of both countries to further strengthen cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Both sides agreed to continue close engagement at all levels.

President U Min Aung Hlaing expressed his sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the warm hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation during their stay in India. The President also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at mutually convenient dates.

# “Era driven by aspirations”

— *Prime Minister Narendra Modi*

Reaffirming the pivotal role of the global Indian community in shaping the nation's global footprint, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his key address to the Indian diaspora in Paris, hailed the expatriate community for brilliantly mirroring India's core values on foreign soil.



PM Modi in France's Capital City of Paris with the Indian Diaspora

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a massive gathering of the Indian diaspora in Paris, France. During his visit tied to international engagements like the G7 Summit and VivaTech, he praised the overseas community for mirroring India's core values, highlighting how the diaspora's diversity serves as the true strength of India-France relations.

In his speech in Paris, PM Narendra Modi said, "Paris is a city of lights, colours, ideas and innovation." He praised the Indian diaspora for adding to its vibrancy through India's rich cultural diversity.

Addressing members of the Indian community, Modi said people from every corner of India are represented in Paris, including Tamils, Punjabis, Gujaratis, Marathis and

Bengalis. He remarked that the diaspora has brought new colours to the city and serves as a reflection of India's unity in diversity.

Shifting focus to the monumental developmental strides taking place back home, the Prime Minister underscored that the nation's current trajectory is being scripted entirely by the collective resolve of its citizens.

Talking about the rapid developments in the country, PM Modi mentioned, "When historians look back 50 or 100 years from now and assess this period in India's journey, one fact will stand out: this era was driven by the aspirations of the people of India. This is a new age of Indian aspirations."

Highlighting this tectonic shift in the nation's capability

## DIPLOMACY—COLOR

### EMMANUEL MACRON WELCOMED NARENDRA MODI ON A BLUE CARPET AT THE G7 SUMMIT IN FRANCE.

The blue carpet is considered as a rare gesture in diplomacy.

## WAS A SPECIAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO PM MODI?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G7 Summit as a special invitee at the invitation of the grouping and was welcomed on a blue carpet by France President Emmanuel Macron.

There is no evidence to suggest that the blue carpet represented a protocol rank above the traditional red carpet.

Modi's presence reflects India's growing importance in global discussions on issues such as economic growth, energy security, technology and geopolitical stability.

While the blue carpet attracted attention and sparked speculation on social media, diplomatic experts note that its use should not automatically be interpreted as a departure from protocol or as a signal of elevated status.

Though not a member of the grouping, India has become a recurring invitee.

The blue carpet at the G7 therefore served another purpose: it created a visual identity distinct from traditional state ceremonies and aligned the summit with themes of international cooperation, collective leadership and multilateral dialogue.

And perhaps that is why this seemingly simple strip of blue fabric attracted such attention. In diplomacy, even colors can tell a sto-

ry.

When French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G7 Summit in vian-les-Bains on June 16, the customary choreography of diplomacy appeared to contain an intriguing deviation. Instead of the familiar crimson pathway associated with state ceremonies and official welcomes, observers noticed a blue carpet laid out for the Indian PM.

The visual immediately sparked curiosity among diplomatic watchers and social media commentators alike.

For decades, the red carpet has been synonymous with state honors, ceremonial protocol and distinguished receptions.

Yet here was a blue carpet at one of the world's most consequential gatherings of political leaders.

Was it a special honor? Did it signify a higher diplomatic status? Or was it merely an aesthetic choice by the hosts?

The answer lies in the fascinating world of diplomatic symbolism, where colours, gestures, seating arrangements, flags and even the length of handshakes can communicate subtle messages without a single word being spoken.

#### THE ORIGINS OF THE RED CARPET TRADITION



Pm Modi Receives Warm Welcome From Indian Diaspora In Nice (France)

and confidence, PM Modi mentioned, "What was once a dream is now a reality. What once seemed impossible has now become possible."

Deflecting praise from himself, the Prime Minister firmly credited the citizens of India for piloting this historic metamorphosis. He also credited Indians for this transformation, saying, "And what is the greatest force behind this transformation? Who has made all this possible? It is not because of Modi. It is because of the people of India. When everyone progresses together, the nation progresses together."

Amidst a fast-evolving global order, the Prime Minister noted that New Delhi's proactive role is being universally recognised. In his address, PM Narendra Modi said, "Today, the world is witnessing that India is not merely preparing



It is the color most closely associated with multilateralism, international cooperation and global governance. The flags and visual identities of institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union prominently feature blue, reflecting ideals of peace, stability, unity and collective action.

At large international summits, hosts increasingly favor blue-themed visual settings because the color projects calmness, consensus-building and cooperative engagement rather than hierarchy and grandeur.

In diplomatic psychology, blue is often viewed as the color of trust, reliability, dialogue and institutional legitimacy.

Diplomacy has always relied on symbolism and the language of colors are also a part of it.

Just as flags communicate sovereignty and national identity, colours can convey subtle political narratives.

## Red

- Authority and state power
- Ceremonial prestige
- Historical tradition
- Formal state honours

## Blue

- Multilateral cooperation
- Stability and trust
- International governance
- Peaceful engagement

## White

- Neutrality and peace
- Humanitarian values
- Reconciliation efforts

The growing prominence of blue in summit diplomacy reflects the contemporary international order, where collaborative frameworks increasingly shape global decision-making.

*(Curtsy Agencies)*

The phrase "red carpet treatment" has become deeply embedded in global political and cultural vocabulary. Its origins trace back more than two millennia.

Historical records suggest that one of the earliest references appears in the ancient Greek play Agamemnon, where a crimson pathway was rolled out for a victorious king. Over centuries, red became associated with royalty, prestige, authority and power.

In modern diplomacy, the red carpet evolved into a protocol instrument. Whether welcoming heads of state, monarchs, presidents or prime ministers, governments often use red carpets as a visible expression of respect and sovereign recognition.

The symbolism is straightforward: the guest is being accorded the highest ceremonial courtesy available under diplomatic protocol.

Contrary to popular assumptions, a blue carpet does not automatically signify a status superior to a red carpet.

Diplomatic protocol experts note that carpet colours often depend on the host nation's event design, venue aesthetics, institutional identity and symbolic messaging.

Blue occupies a unique place in international diplomacy.

for the future, it is actively shaping the future."

In an era defined by geopolitical recalibration, the Prime Minister pointed out that global partnerships have transcended mere transaction to a deeper framework of reliability. He also added, "There was a time when relationships between nations were defined primarily by trade. Today, along with trade, trust has become equally important. Every country wants reliable supply chains. Every country seeks stable partnerships. Every country is looking for partners it can depend on with confidence."

Turning to bilateral equations, the Prime Minister expressed immense optimism regarding the expanding horizon of New Delhi-Paris ties. Concluding his speech, PM Narendra Modi mentioned, "The scope of cooperation between our two countries will continue to expand. We

are making payments and financial transactions more seamless and strengthening people-to-people ties. In every sphere, we are bringing India and France closer together."

He said that he would once again like to say that the true strength of this relationship lies in all the Indians in France. Rallying the gathering to remain active stakeholders in the nation's growth story, the Prime Minister stated, "My fellow countrymen, as India moves rapidly towards becoming a developed and prosperous nation, I urge you to deepen your engagement with India. Your participation will add new strength to India's development journey and also give you an opportunity to serve the land of your ancestors. With these words, I thank all of you for your affection, enthusiasm, and unwavering support."

## G7 Summit: Modi and Trump Hold High-Profile Bilateral Meeting

*Donald Trump to visit India 'early next year', —  
US secretary of state Marco Rubio*



**TRUMP DESCRIBED MODI AS A "LONG-TIME FRIEND" AND PRAISED HIS CALM LEADERSHIP STYLE, WHILE MODI ACKNOWLEDGED AMERICAN EFFORTS IN GLOBAL PEACEMAKING.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held their first bilateral meeting in 16 months on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. The leaders discussed key global issues, India-US cooperation and regional security. Trump described Modi as a "long-time friend" and praised his calm leadership style, while Modi acknowledged American efforts in global peacemaking. The meeting comes at a significant moment for strategic ties between the two nations

The bilateral meeting, discussed ways to

strengthen the India-U.S. strategic partnership. The leaders reviewed cooperation in trade, defence, technology, energy security, and investment, while also exchanging views on regional and global developments. The meeting comes amid growing collaboration between the two countries in areas such as critical technologies, supply chains, and Indo-Pacific security. The engagement underscored the importance both nations attach to deepening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across economic and strategic sectors.



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers a hand to US President Donald Trump during a family photo at G7 (Reuters)**



**PM Modi and Donald Trump at the G7 Summit**

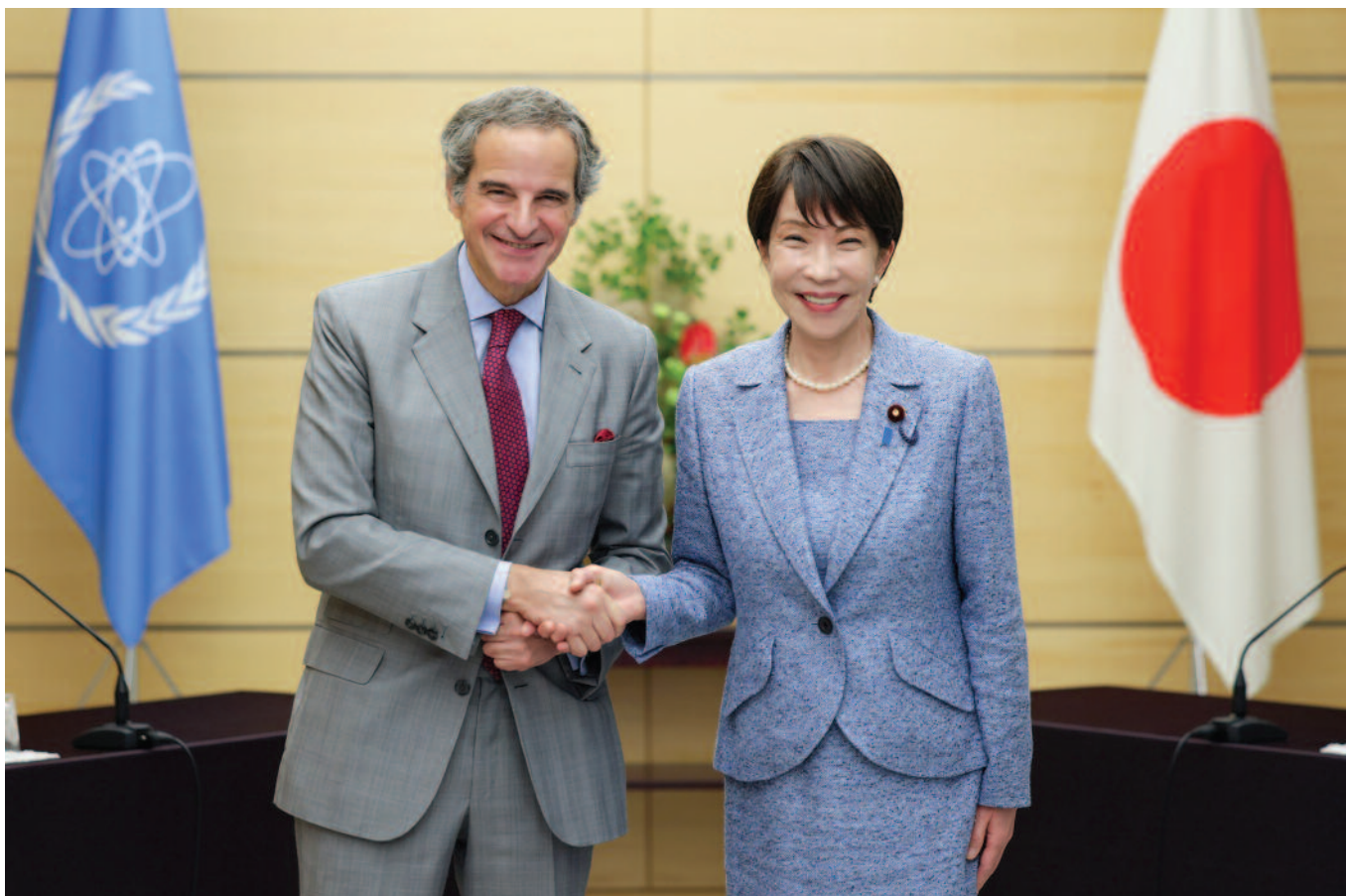
According to the summit agenda, discussions are expected to be held on global economic stability, energy security, artificial intelligence, the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and broader geopolitical developments.

President Trump highlighted the progress of US-India trade talks and praised Prime Minister Modi as a great friend, stating that India has a "great friend in the White House".

Later US secretary of state Marco Rubio said the Donald Trump administration is working towards an India visit by the US president "sometime early next year," describing New Delhi as one of Washington's closest partner

"We're hoping that's what we're working towards – sometime early next year to have the President come. I think it's very positive," Calling India a key strategic partner, Rubio highlighted the strong personal rapport between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. India is such a close partner and ally of the United States, and the relationship between the Prime Minister and the President couldn't be closer, which I think is really important in diplomacy," he said.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP HIGHLIGHTED THE PROGRESS OF US-INDIA TRADE TALKS AND PRAISED PRIME MINISTER MODI AS A GREAT FRIEND, STATING THAT INDIA HAS A "GREAT FRIEND IN THE WHITE HOUSE".**



IAEA chief Rafael Grossi with Japan's Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae in Tokyo recently

## 'Intentions Not Enough, Very Strong Nuclear Verification Needed In Iran After War,'

— Iaea Chief Rafael Grossi

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) HEAD RAFAEL GROSSI'S REMARKS COME AS THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN NEGOTIATE A BROADER AGREEMENT TO END THE WAR, WITH TEHRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM A KEY STICKING POINT.**

**V**ery strong" verification is needed in Iran following the Middle East conflict to ensure that it does not develop nuclear weapons, the U.N. atomic watchdog chief said on 26 June in Tokyo, Japan.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi's remarks come as the United States and Iran negotiate a broader agreement to end the war, with Tehran's nuclear program a key sticking point.

"I think the objective of this (recent U.S.-Iran preliminary) agreement is to ensure that there is no development of nuclear weapons in Iran. The government of Iran has declared quite clearly that this is not their intention," Grossi told reporters in Japan.

"But of course intentions are not enough. We have to have a very strong verification system in place... as soon as is practicable," the IAEA chief said.

Grossi said the watchdog had also "barely initiated" talks with Iran following its



**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi meets with the head of Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, Mohammad Eslami, in Tehran, Iran, April 17, 2025**

preliminary agreement with the United States about what to do with Tehran's uranium stockpile.

"Initial conversations have taken place... We expect this work to pick up soon," Grossi said.

Before the conflict, the IAEA estimated that Iran had 440 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 percent.

That is close to the 90 percent needed to make a bomb and well above the 3.67-percent limit set by a now-defunct 2015 agreement with Iran.

Iran suspended cooperation with the IAEA after Israel and the United States launched a previous wave of attacks in June 2025, and its inspectors have not seen the material since.

Under the terms of the preliminary agreement between Tehran and Washington, this stockpile is meant to be "downblended" under IAEA supervision.

Grossi said the "widespread impression" was that the stockpile remains where it was before June 2025 near Iran's Isfahan facility.

However, that facility was bombed and Iran said that it does not plan to allow the

IAEA to inspect sites that were attacked.

Grossi also said on Friday that an alternative to diluting could be shipping the enriched uranium out of Iran.

"The memorandum of understanding, as you may have noted, includes the possibility of downblending as one alternative," Grossi said.

"It could also be shipped out directly. It would perhaps be more complicated, but there are a few technical alternatives to deal with the material," he said.

Iran has consistently denied seeking to acquire an atomic bomb, while remaining adamant about its right to operate a full-scale civilian nuclear program.

Before the 12-day war in 2025, Iran as a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty -- unlike Israel, which is widely assumed to have atomic weapons -- allowed the IAEA to inspect its nuclear sites under its safeguards deal with the Vienna-based body.

Iran agreed a landmark nuclear deal with six big powers in 2015 limiting its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, but U.S. President Donald Trump walked away from the agreement during his first term.

**BEFORE THE 12-DAY WAR IN 2025, IRAN AS A SIGNATORY TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY -- UNLIKE ISRAEL, WHICH IS WIDELY ASSUMED TO HAVE ATOMIC WEAPONS -- ALLOWED THE IAEA TO INSPECT ITS NUCLEAR SITES UNDER ITS SAFEGUARDS DEAL WITH THE VIENNA-BASED BODY.**

## INDIA-JAPAN ANNUAL SUMMIT

### ADVANCING A PARTNERSHIP OF STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE AND TRUST FOR SHARED GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND RESILIENCE



**INDIA-JAPAN  
SUMMIT 2026**

On July 2, Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan, held a leaders' meeting with Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, during her visit to Delhi, India.

After the meeting, the two leaders announced outcome documents such as the "Japan-India Annual Summit Joint Statement," the "Japan-India Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation," and the "Japan-India Joint Statement on cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence (AI)."

The summit took place at a time when governments across the world are reassessing their priorities as supply chains continue to face disruptions. For both New Delhi and Tokyo, these developments have reinforced the importance of building resilient partnerships while expanding cooperation in emerging technologies and strategic industries. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart used the summit to announce several new initiatives.

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Ms. Sanae Takaichi paid an Official Visit to India from 1-3 July 2026 for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit. Prime Minister Takaichi was accompanied by a high-level delegation including senior officials, CEOs and industry leaders. This was Prime Minister Takaichi's first official visit to India.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed Prime Minister Takaichi's visit to India and stated that he would like to further develop bilateral relations together with Prime Minister Takaichi under the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership."

In response, Prime Minister Takaichi expressed her gratitude for India's welcome and stated that she would like to advance Japan-India relations to a new stage with Prime Minister Modi.

Both confirmed that the Updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," which Prime Minister Takaichi promotes, and "MAHASAGAR," which Prime Minister Modi promotes are aligned in their objective of fostering the Indo-Pacific as a prosperous sea enjoying freedom and prosperity and concurred to deepen their strategic cooperation toward achieving common goals.

The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, including various issues surrounding China, and responses to North Korea, such as nuclear and missile issues and the abduction issue. They also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and concurred to continue deepening our strategic cooperation to promote stability throughout the Middle East, including the assurance of free and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz in a lasting manner.

They concurred to further cooperate in the security field based on the "Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India" revised last year. They also stated that cooperation would be promoted, including deepening training in the Indian Ocean, promoting naval vessel maintenance cooperation and also defense equipment and technology cooperation based on "Make in India," welcoming the progress on the transfer of the Unified Complex Radio Antenna "UNICORN." To deepen such cooperation, the two leaders instructed relevant departments to hold discussions and the next Japan-India "2+2" within this year.

Both leaders welcomed the issuance of "Japan-India Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation" to translate into concrete actions between the public and private sectors, with the understanding that various challenges surrounding economic security in recent years is a priority for strategic cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders also concurred to launch a bilateral dialogue under "POWER ASIA" towards India's petroleum and oil reserve in the field of energy security. Prime Minister Takaichi stated that Japan would support India's participation in the International Energy Agency (IEA) while placing importance on India's role in stabilizing the international energy market going forward. Prime Minister Takaichi also mentioned India's goal of developing 1,000 biogas plants and the two leaders concurred to launch a new initiative between the two countries, the "Japan-India CBG (Cooperative Biogas for Growth Initiative) Initiative."

Regarding the economic sector, the two leaders welcomed the announcement of a joint statement on cooperation in the field of AI, including joint research and development of large language models (LLMs) and responses to frontier AI, and concurred on

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) HEAD RAFAEL GROSSI'S REMARKS COME AS THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN NEGOTIATE A BROAD-ER AGREEMENT TO END THE WAR, WITH TEHRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM A KEY STICKING POINT.**

promoting innovation collaboration, and expand the scope of cooperation through Japanese companies' expansion to India, including in such advanced technology fields, and the promotion of industry-government-academia collaboration. Regarding the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail, a flagship project between Japan and India, they concurred on continuing cooperation for the introduction of Japan's state-of-the-art E10 series Shinkansen. Furthermore, they welcomed the announcement of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Next Generation Mobility Partnership.

The leaders welcomed the deepening of the bilateral economic relationship, noting that investment commitments totaling 2 trillion yen have already been made since setting the 10 trillion yen private investment target for India last year, and that over 150 Japanese companies participated in Prime Minister Takaichi's visit to India, and that approximately 120 cooperation documents were announced at this time. Prime Minister Takaichi stated that improving the business environment is crucial for further private investment and trade promotion, and requested India's efforts in this regard led by Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders confirmed that they would explore ways the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) would remain consistent with Japan-India economic relations.

The two leaders concurred to promote concrete initiatives in people-to-people exchanges and inter-local government cooperation which serves as the foundation of aforementioned efforts, including the "LOTUS PROGRAM" which promotes top-level Japan-India joint research. They also concurred to deepen exchanges between the two countries, noting that next year (2027) will be a milestone year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

The leaders later participated in the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum alongside senior government officials and representatives from industry, where many of the summit's commercial announcements were formally unveiled.

## **MORE THAN 100 BUSINESS AGREEMENTS:**

One of the biggest announcements came from Japanese industry, which committed approximately \$12.5 billion (around ¥2 trillion) in investments into India while business leaders announced 129 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) at the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum.

Addressing the gathering in the presence of both prime ministers, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chairman and CEO Ishiguro Norihiko said, "Japan-India economic relations are now at an unprecedented high level. According to JETRO's survey, more than 80 per cent of the Japanese companies operating in India are planning to expand their local business going forward."

The new announcements build upon commitments already made under the India-Japan "Joint Vision for the Next Decade." Last year, Japan pledged to mobilise ¥10 trillion - equivalent to roughly \$68 billion - in private-sector investment into India over a ten-year period.

During this year's summit, Takaichi reiterated the objective of

## **Prime minister modi alongwith ms. Sanae takaichi prime minister of japan, addressed japan-india joint economic forum in delhi**



**O**n July 2, Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the "Japan-India Joint Economic Forum" hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) during her visit to Delhi, India, along with Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, as well as business representatives from both Japan and India, and officials from Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of India, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), among others.

1. Over 150 companies from Japan and over 80 companies from India participated in the forum. Panel discussions were held among business representatives of both countries on various topics, including energy and critical minerals; economic security, innovation, and human resources; the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and "Make in India for the World" as well as the "Japan-India Africa Cooperation Strategic Outlook"; and the development of North Eastern Region of India through regional connectivity.

2. Suzuki Motor Corporation held an opening ceremony for the Kharkhoda plant. This is expected to contribute to India's "Make in India" policy. In addition, 129 cooperation projects between private-sector entities of both countries which were concluded on the occasion of this visit were announced.

3. In summarizing the forum, Prime Minister Takaichi stated that, under the shared philosophy of "More Resilient and Prosperous Together"-a principle common to both the evolved FOIP and Prime Minister Modi's "MAHASAGAR" initiative-Japan and India will join forces through cooperation in the field of energy security and the launch of the "Japan-India CBG Initiative" to establish biogas plants across India, thereby paving the way for the future of the Indo-Pacific, and the international community.

4. In response, Prime Minister Modi welcomed investment from Japan and expressed his expectations for further strengthening bilateral relations through cooperation in the field of economy.



**Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan with Prime Minister Modi Viewing the Opening Ceremony of Suzuki Motor Corporation, kharkhoda plant.**



**Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan addressing the economic forum in New Delhi**

mobilising that investment while both governments also sought to expand bilateral trade beyond its present level.

Trade between the two countries reached approximately \$27.5 billion during FY2025-26, while Japanese investment into India amounted to \$3.2 billion between April and December 2025.

Around 1,400 Japanese companies currently operate in India, with nearly half of them engaged in manufacturing activities, illustrating the country's importance within Japan's broader Indo-Pacific economic strategy.

More than 150 representatives from Japanese companies travelled to India as part of the official delegation to participate in the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum.

Speaking at the forum, Modi announced a new initiative intended to improve engagement between Japanese investors and the Indian government.

"Today, I want to share with all of you that my office, that is, the PMO, will organise a dedicated Japan Business Week. In this, senior officers of the PMO will engage in discussions with you. They will discuss openly with you to understand your problems and to enhance the ease of doing business."

He said the initiative would enable senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office to directly engage with Japanese companies to understand operational challenges and explore measures to improve the investment environment.

Modi also used the occasion to highlight India's recent policy reforms aimed at making the country a more attractive investment destination.

"Recently, we did next-gen reforms in taxation, governance and ease of doing business. We are opening every sector to the private sector, and in many sectors, we are providing incentives, and I believe you too can benefit from them. For this very reason, for the last four years in a row, the survey of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation shows that India has been the Most Promising Destination for Japanese businesses."

He also noted that international trade continued to face multiple challenges because of weakening demand and disruptions to global supply chains, particularly amid the recent crisis in West Asia.

"Today the economic world is suffering from hindrances in the supply chain, uncertainty in trade and a fall in global demand. But as it is said, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' India is the world's fastest-growing major economy. India's GDP growth was 7.7 per cent in the last financial year. Besides, over the last 12 years, we have been transforming our economic DNA by pursuing the philosophy of Kaizen, i.e. continuous improvement in India."

Modi also pointed to the long-standing presence of Japanese companies in India and described the bilateral economic relationship as one that had consistently expanded across multiple industries over several decades.

"Several companies here have had ties with India for a long time now, some for more than 100 years. I extend my heartiest greetings to the new friends joining this forum for being a part of the India-Japan success story. India and Japan share special ties.

**"TODAY THE ECONOMIC WORLD IS SUFFERING FROM HINDRANCES IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN, UNCERTAINTY IN TRADE AND A FALL IN GLOBAL DEMAND. BUT AS IT IS SAID, 'WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING.' INDIA IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR ECONOMY. INDIA'S GDP GROWTH WAS 7.7 PER CENT IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR. BESIDES, OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMIC DNA BY PURSUING THE PHILOSOPHY OF KAIZEN, I.E. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN INDIA."**

There are several bright examples of the success of our economic partnership. We inaugurated Maruti Suzuki's Vehicle Manufacturing Facility at Kharkhoda in Haryana. Today, two-thirds of Suzuki's cars worldwide are made in India and are being exported to over 100 countries."

The inauguration of Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility by both leaders at Kharkhoda in Haryana became one of the symbolic moments of the visit.

Expanding on India's manufacturing capabilities, Modi said Japanese companies were increasingly using India not only as a production base for the domestic market but also as an export hub serving countries around the world.

Referring to Japanese motorcycle manufacturers, he added, "I have been told that PM Takaichi is fond of motorbikes. We are delighted that Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda bikes are exported across the globe from India. Similarly, air conditioners, power grid equipment, precision manufacturing or medical technology when Japan's expertise and investment combine with India's speed and scale, the entire world benefits."

The entire framework builds upon initiatives launched during Modi's visit to Tokyo last year.

## **SEMICONDUCTORS, RARE EARTH: CENTERPIECES OF THE SUMMIT:**

While investment announcements dominated the business forum, one of the summit's most consequential outcomes was the decision by India and Japan to institutionalise cooperation on economic security through a comprehensive Joint Roadmap for Economic Security.

With supply chains increasingly vulnerable, New Delhi and Tokyo agreed to deepen cooperation in sectors regarded as critical to future economic growth and technological competitiveness.

Rather than focusing solely on expanding trade, the roadmap aims to strengthen the foundations of industrial cooperation by reducing dependence on concentrated supply chains and encouraging joint development of strategic technologies.

Among its principal pillars is cooperation in semiconductors, where the two governments agreed to pursue co-investment in resilient chip supply chains while creating reciprocal material buffers designed to cushion sudden market disruptions.

Another important component centres on quantum computing and advanced materials. The framework envisages collaborative research clusters, closer scientific cooperation and shared intellectual property arrangements to accelerate innovation in next-generation technologies.

## **CRITICAL MINERALS ALSO FEATURED PROMINENTLY:**

India and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation on supply routes and processing infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities associated with single-source dependence in the rare-earths market.

The summit also reaffirmed cooperation in pharmaceuticals, clean energy and information and communications technology (ICT), sectors that both governments had previously identified as priorities during Modi's visit to Tokyo.

The latest agreements therefore build upon a series of initiatives already underway, including the India-Japan Private-Sector Dialogue on Economic Security between Japan's Keidanren and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as well as the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India's Ministry of Mines and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

Several industrial projects were also highlighted as examples of the expanding partnership. Fujifilm will collaborate on a semiconductor materials plant, Suzuki will participate in a major biogas initiative in India, while Japanese and Indian artificial intelligence startups are expected to establish application-development partnerships.

The discussions also acknowledged the importance of securing critical mineral supply chains. Draft details associated with the summit noted concerns over China's export restrictions on rare earth elements, with both countries agreeing to strengthen cooperation on securing essential resources and improving the resilience of energy supplies through joint stockpiling initiatives.

## AI, ROBOTICS AND NEXT-GEN TECH:

India and Japan issued a joint statement on AI cooperation aimed at expanding collaboration in research, innovation and industrial applications.

Building upon the earlier Japan-India AI Cooperation Initiative, the two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in areas including large language models (LLMs), startup support, capacity building, joint research and development, and the creation of what both governments described as a trustworthy AI ecosystem.

The draft joint statement stated that "promoting innovation, including AI, is extremely important in further expanding the foundation for cooperation."

Both governments are placing greater emphasis on industrial applications of artificial intelligence, combining Japanese strengths in precision engineering, robotics and automation with India's rapidly expanding software ecosystem.

The objective is to integrate Japanese hardware expertise with India's software capabilities, enabling both countries to strengthen their competitiveness in advanced manufacturing while creating new opportunities for startups and technology companies.

## DEFENCE COOPERATION ENTERS A NEW PHASE:

One of the most significant announcements was the agreement on what Modi described as the first-ever joint military hardware co-development project between India and Japan. The agreement is expected to combine Japan's advanced expertise in naval technologies, electronics and metallurgy with India's defence manufacturing capabilities under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

For Japan, the arrangement offers opportunities to diversify elements of its defence industrial base through cooperation with India, while India stands to gain access to advanced manufacturing expertise and defence technologies.

The summit also reviewed proposals involving stealth-enhancing radar antenna technology for Indian naval platforms,

alongside broader cooperation in maritime security. Recognizing the evolving regional security environment, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across the Indo-Pacific.

The joint discussions also welcomed Japan's revision of its defence-equipment transfer guidelines and confirmed that a Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministerial ("2+2") Meeting would be held before the end of the year.

Both sides reiterated support for the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, reflecting shared concerns over maintaining secure sea lanes of communication across the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific.

Before arriving in India, P.M.Takaichi had outlined Japan's strategic priorities by stating, "India, along with Japan, is one of Asia's leading democracies and shares responsibility to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region... I look forward to having thorough discussions with Prime Minister Modi on efforts to realise a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, including cooperation through the Quad framework."

The defence agenda unfolded against significant changes in Japan's own security posture.

Takaichi has increased Japan's defence expenditure to roughly two per cent of GDP, ended the country's longstanding restrictions on lethal weapons exports through policy changes introduced in April, and has advocated revising Article 9 [the famous "peace clause" that renounces war as a sovereign right] of Japan's Constitution before the end of the year.

## CLEAN ENERGY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDIA'S NORTHEAST:

The leaders announced an ambitious India-Japan Bio-Gas Initiative aimed at establishing 1,000 biogas and organic fertiliser plants across rural India. The initiative seeks to expand domestic clean-energy production while reducing dependence on imported chemical fertilisers and strengthening rural livelihoods.

The project also complements broader bilateral cooperation on clean energy and energy security, both of which featured prominently in the economic security framework unveiled during the summit.

Regional development also remained high on the agenda through the India-Japan Act East Forum. Japan remains the only foreign country with a dedicated institutional mechanism focused specifically on supporting development in India's strategically significant Northeast.

Infrastructure projects involving roads, bridges and urban water systems across northeastern states received continued support.

The leaders also reviewed progress on an existing initiative designed to provide skill development and employment opportunities in Japan for 5,000 young people from the Northeast over a five-year period.

For Japan, the region represents an important geographical bridge connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia and aligns closely with its broader Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy.

The discussions also explored strengthening industrial

**TAKAICHI HAS INCREASED JAPAN'S DEFENCE EXPENDITURE TO ROUGHLY TWO PER CENT OF GDP, ENDED THE COUNTRY'S LONGSTANDING RESTRICTIONS ON LETHAL WEAPONS EXPORTS THROUGH POLICY CHANGES INTRODUCED IN APRIL, AND HAS ADVOCATED REVISING ARTICLE 9 [THE FAMOUS "PEACE CLAUSE" THAT RENOUNCES WAR AS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT] OF JAPAN'S CONSTITUTION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.**

## AN ANALYSIS

**A**round two decades ago, relations between India and Japan warmed substantially under the influence of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who saw New Delhi as a natural partner in defending a rules-based order from the disruptive challenges of some their neighboring countries..

Asia's second- and third-largest economies are having another coming-together moment, with some neighboring countries still in the pull factor.

Economic and political links grew under Abe, but gradually - as typified by a stalled project for Japan's bullet-train technology to connect New Delhi with the city of Ahmedabad.

Where much of Abe's vision was abstract, current Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi aims to forge more concrete ties.

That means economic security in particular as she seeks to insulate Japan from pressure from neighbouring countries to expand export controls on Japanese companies.

During Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's first trip to India from July 1-3, she and Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the signing of more than 100 agreements between businesses, including pledges to cooperate on semiconductors and develop robust supply chains for energy and critical minerals.

Closer defense ties are planned as each tries to manage territorial disputes on their borders.

Like Abe, her former mentor, Takaichi still sees India as integral



**Japan Prime Minister Ms. Sanae Takaichi with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi.**

to maintaining the status quo in the Asia-Pacific region. Unlike the US, Japan probably won't browbeat New Delhi over its military and energy ties to Russia, since Tokyo also partially relies on Russia for fuel. Takaichi even appears to be developing a similar personal rapport with Modi to Abe.

After speaking alongside the Indian premier yesterday, she said they'd promised "to work together as brother and sister."

**-- CURTSY AGENCY**

connectivity between the Bay of Bengal and the Northeast through improved logistics and value-chain integration.

### **HIGH-SPEED RAIL REMAINS A FLAGSHIP PROJECT:**

Infrastructure cooperation continued to feature prominently during the summit through the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor. Often regarded as the flagship symbol of India-Japan infrastructure cooperation, the project remains one of the largest bilateral initiatives undertaken by the two countries.

The first 508-kilometre section is currently targeted for completion in 2027. Approximately 81 per cent of the project's financing is being provided through a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan.

The project has an estimated cost of around \$17 billion, although delays and higher land-acquisition expenses have increased financial requirements.

The draft joint statement also expressed support for introducing JR East's next-generation E10-series Shinkansen technology in India, signaling interest in expanding collaboration on future high-speed rail projects.

### **PREPARING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER OF INDIA-JAPAN TIES:**

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that India and Japan had finalised an official calendar of activities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic

**INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATION CONTINUED TO FEATURE PROMINENTLY DURING THE SUMMIT THROUGH THE MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR.**

relations in 2027. The anniversary is expected to provide another opportunity to deepen political, economic, technological and cultural engagement between the two countries.

What began decades ago with infrastructure cooperation and development assistance has steadily evolved into a multifaceted partnership encompassing manufacturing, advanced technologies, clean energy, defence, maritime security, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, supply-chain resilience and regional connectivity.

The announcement of approximately \$12.5 billion in fresh investments, 129 MoUs demonstrated that businesses are expected to play a central role in translating government initiatives into long-term economic partnerships.

At the same time, the agreements on semiconductors, quantum computing, critical minerals, artificial intelligence and defence manufacturing indicate that India and Japan are broadening cooperation into sectors likely to shape the global economy over the coming decades.

With more than 70 dialogue mechanisms already operating between the two countries and preparations now underway for the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year, Takaichi's first official visit to India illustrated the direction in which the bilateral relationship is evolving.

# Mumtaz Mehal's Rohtas



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

**F**rom Dehri-on-Sone (Bihar), it takes me about an hour to reach the foot of the hill over which is Rohtas fort, situated at about 1500 ft. above sea level. At the end of the climb of umpteen limestone steps, probably meant for elephants, I reach a dilapidated gate with a Cupola after one and a half hours, on the boundary wall, which is one of the gates for entry to the fort. Here is Shaukat Ali Niazi in his traditional dress holding a tall bamboo batten with an olive head, to greet me. He lives in a village in the vicinity. From here, one has to walk about a mile before the remains of the fort can be seen. Shaukat guides & narrates the story of the fort in bits and ends.

The Hindu kings of Rohtas constructed a road through the jungle leading from the foothill to the plateau, did the fortifications on the jungle roads and the four gates on the four ghats. The main fortifications at the Raja Ghat and the Katauthiya Ghat can still be seen. In 1539 A.D., the fort Rohtas passed

out of the hands of the Hindu kings into those of Sher Shah Suri, who was desperate to gain a foothold for himself, having lost the fort at Chunar to Humayun. Sher Shah requested the ruler of Rohtas that he wanted to leave his children and treasure in the safety of the fort while he was away fighting in Bengal. The king agreed, and the first few palanquins had women and children.

But the latter ones contained fierce soldiers, who captured Rohtas by ruse and forced the Hindu King to flee. During Sher Shah's reign, 10000 armed men guarded the fort.

In 1985 A.D., Man Singh Akbar's Hindu General ruled Rohtas. As the Governor of Bengal & Bihar, he made Rohtas his headquarters in view of its inaccessibility & other natural defenses. He built a splendid palace for himself, renovated the rest of the fort, cleared up the ponds, and made gardens in the Persian style.





The 'Aina Mehal', the palace of the Chief wife of Man Singh, is in the middle of the palace. The most expansive structure within the palace is the Takhte Badshahi, where Man Singh himself resided. It is a four-storied building with a cupola on top. There is an assembly hall on the second floor and a gallery resting on strong, engraved stone pillars. The third floor has a tiny cupola, which opens into the women's quarters. From the fourth floor, one can get a bird's eye view of the surrounding area. Diwan-I-Khas, the hall is decorated with etchings of flowers & leaves. The main gate is known as the Hathiya Pol, named after the number of elephants. Outside the palace grounds are the buildings of Jami Maszid, Habsh Khan's Mausoleum, and the Makbara of Shufi Sultan. About half a Kilometer to the west of Man Singh's Palace

is a Ganesh Temple. Another structure is called 'hanging house', as the fall from here is a straight 1500 feet down with no obstacle in the way. The story is that this spot is the mouth of the cave where a muslim Faquir is buried. It is said that he was thrown from here into the valley three times. Despite being bound hand and foot, the faquir escaped unhurt each time. Ultimately, he was buried in the cave.

After the death of Man Singh, the fort came under the jurisdiction of the office of the emperor's Wazir. In 1621 A.D., the Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan) revolted against his father, Jahangir, and took refuge at Rohtas. Saiyyad Mubarak handed over the keys of Rohtas to the prince. Khurram once again came to Rohtas for safety to secure Harrem for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, having lost the battle of Kampat. Mumtaz gave birth to his son, Murad Baksh. During Aurangzeb's reign, the fort was used as a detention camp for those under trial and housing prisoners sentenced to life.

Believed to have been named after Rohita, the son of King Harish Chandra, who stayed here several years in exile, the fort is still in fairly good condition.

Many streams crossed the plateau, and the soil was productive, which is conducive to easy growth of crops, so that the inhabitants of the fort could hold out for months against an enemy besieging the fort. Constructed on a plateau over the top of a hill with steeply rising sides, surrounded by forest and wild animals, the fort could not be taken by force, but only by deceit and cunningness. With a walled area of about 42 sq. kms. It is one of the

biggest forts, Shokat tells.

Descending the slopes of Kaimur hills, Niazi points to the bamboo forests; with a sense of pride, he claims the 'Kaimur bamboo' to be the strongest of bamboos, balancing his 'batten of authority'. The sun was about to set. We parted by the roadside.



# राम लला की अयोध्या



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

नगरी हो अयोध्या सी  
रघुकुल सा घराना हो  
और चरण हो राघव के  
जहां मेरा ठिकाना हो।

यह एक लंबा भजन है जो अयोध्या तक  
सीमित नहीं है यह पूरे अवध और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश  
में गाया जाता है।

अयोध्या का इतिहास हजारों वर्ष से भी प्राचीन है।  
भारत में तीन वंश ज्यादा प्रसिद्ध हुए हैं। वे हैं  
इक्ष्वाकू, लिच्छवी एवं यदु वंश। इसी इक्ष्वाकू  
वंश में भगवान राम ने जन्म लिया और इनसे  
कई हजार वर्ष पूर्व जैन धर्म के प्रथम तीर्थंकर  
ऋषभ देव भी जन्मे जिन्हें वेदों में ब्रह्मा से  
जान जाता है। इन्हीं पुत्र भरत के नाम से देश  
का नाम भारत हुआ।

पवित्र सरयू नदी पर स्थित अयोध्या जिसे जैन  
और बौद्ध धर्म के ग्रंथों में साकेत नाम से भी  
जान जाता है।

अवध के नवाब शहादत अली खान ने सरयू नदी के उस पार 18 वीं शताब्दी में फैजाबाद को बसाया था जहां गरीब  
मुस्लिमों की बस्ती थी। वर्षों से चल रहे राम मंदिर  
बाबरी मस्जिद विवाद भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अभी  
हाल में निबटा दिया गया और दोनों पक्ष खुश हैं।  
गोस्वामी तुलसीदास ने अयोध्या कांड में अयोध्या  
नगर का बहुत ही चित्रण किया है। आज इस नगर  
में जन सहयोग से भव्य एवं विशाल राम मंदिर की प्राण प्रतिष्ठा प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के  
सानिध्य की गई जिसके दर्शन करने हेतु देश  
विदेश से लाखों भक्त गण आते हैं। देश के  
विभिन्न नगरों से रेल, वायु एवं सड़क मार्ग  
से यह नगर जुड़ा हुआ है। फैजाबाद जनपद का  
नाम बदलकर अयोध्या कर दिया गया है।

नोट ऊपर दिया पूरा भजन यूट्यूब पर सुन सकते हैं।



# INDIA-SEYCHELLES TIES

## ‘STEADY, STRONG AND LONG-LASTING’



P.M. Modi handed over Seychelles President Patrick Herminie 'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles' for Coast Guard, Reaffirming New Delhi's Commitment to Strengthening the Nation's Maritime Security Capabilities.

**“Seychelles and India have maintained close and mutually beneficial relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1976, with India remaining a committed development partner across sectors including infrastructure, defence, health, and maritime security,”: P.M.NARENDRA MODI**

**“India has been a steadfast friend to Seychelles, a sentiment warmly reciprocated by our people and our vibrant Indian diaspora,”**  
*: Seychelles President Patrick Herminie*

**P.M. Modi was in Seychelles to attend the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles as the Guest of Honour**



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