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Crossroads: Reflections from
the 25th SCO Summit in Tianjin

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Together: 2026 Declared Year of
Maritime Cooperation



Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi
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Publisher's Note

Shine India – Empower. Elevate. Excel.

As the world navigates shifting tides of diplomacy, this edition of Diplomat Today captures the pulse of a world in transformation — from Asia's evolving strategic architecture to Africa's surge in innovation and growth.

Our **cover story**, “*India and ASEAN Set Sail Together: 2026 Declared Year of Maritime Cooperation*,” highlights a defining **announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** that places maritime collaboration at the heart of India's Indo-Pacific strategy. As regional connectivity, trade, and blue economy initiatives take center stage, this declaration symbolizes a shared vision for stability and prosperity across the seas that bind Asia together.

In “*India–China Relations at a Crossroads: Reflections from the 25th SCO Summit in Tianjin*,” we analyze how cautious engagement and pragmatic diplomacy are reshaping ties between two Asian giants. The piece underscores that even amidst friction, dialogue remains indispensable in shaping the future of regional security.

From New Delhi's corridors of cautious diplomacy, “*Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi Visits India: A New Chapter of Cautious Engagement*” explores Afghanistan's tentative re-entry into regional diplomacy — and India's delicate balancing act in dealing with the Taliban-led government.

Turning to the Middle East, **Pratima Singh** reports on West Bank annexation pressures, offering insight into Prime Minister Netanyahu's growing political challenges and the global reactions shaped by Washington's evolving stance. Complementing this, our analytical piece “*USA's Dual Policy for India and China*” examines the complexities of Washington's trade and energy calculus amid the ongoing tariff tensions — a revealing look at how great-power politics ripple across Eurasia.

Beyond geopolitics, this issue also celebrates **Africa's developmental dynamism**. In our **Special Egypt Edition**, **Nessma Youssef** provides a deep dive into India–Egypt bilateral relations, exploring Egypt's drive to attract global investment and its growing role as a bridge between Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Adding to this theme, **Prof. P. K. Rajput and Prof. Moni Madaswamy** bring an inspiring feature, “*Africa – A Land of Opportunities for Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Ruralpreneurs and Agripreneurs*,” spotlighting women empowerment initiatives in Nigeria and the continent's rising generation of changemakers.

To end on a cultural note, our **Publisher's Choice** piece, “*Gateway of the Nile and Egypt's New Museum by the Pyramids*,” invites readers to discover a stunning blend of history and modern tourism that is redefining Egypt's global image.

Together, these stories remind us that diplomacy today is not confined to conference rooms — it unfolds in ports, markets, innovation hubs, and cultural corridors. The threads of trade, dialogue, and development continue to weave a complex yet hopeful global narrative.

As we move toward the close of 2025, **Diplomat Today** remains committed to bringing you insightful, balanced, and forward-looking perspectives from every corner of the world.

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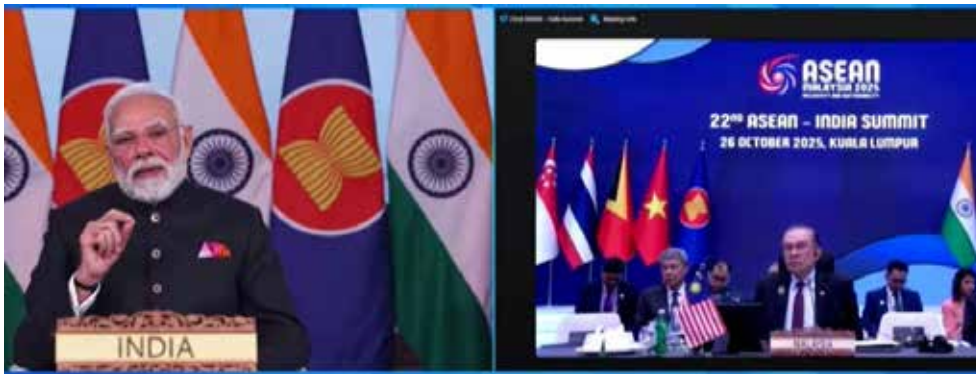
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India and ASEAN Set Sail Together: 2026 Declared Year of Maritime Cooperation

In a major announcement today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 2026 as the “ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation”. The announcement was made during the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit, signaling a new phase of collaboration between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This initiative focuses on shared maritime interests, regional security, and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region.

Building Stronger Maritime Partnerships

PM Modi highlighted that India and ASEAN share common concerns about the oceans, including maritime security, disaster response, and sustainable use of marine resources. By dedicating a full year to maritime cooperation, both sides aim to expand joint activities such as naval exercises, environmental protection, and disaster relief efforts.

“Our shared efforts in maritime cooperation will strengthen regional stability and promote sustainable growth for our people,” Modi said.

The initiative also reflects India’s commitment to being an active partner in the Indo-Pacific, working with ASEAN countries to ensure safe seas and open trade routes.

Supporting Regional Growth and Security

The focus on maritime cooperation is not just about security. It also includes boosting trade, protecting the blue economy, and improving connectivity across the Indian Ocean. India’s Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative provide the framework for this engagement, encouraging sustainable maritime practices and shared responsibility for the seas.

Experts say the initiative could help ASEAN countries and India respond faster to natural disasters, prevent piracy, and manage marine resources more efficiently, creating a win-win situation for both sides.

Global and Regional Significance

This announcement comes at a time when the Indo-Pacific region is becoming increasingly important for global trade and security. By deepening ties with ASEAN, India strengthens its influence in the region while promoting stability and cooperation among its neighbors.

The initiative also shows India’s ability to lead through partnership rather than confrontation, emphasizing diplomacy, shared growth, and regional resilience. Analysts view it as a step that could enhance India’s role as a trusted partner for ASEAN countries.

Looking Ahead

The ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation sets the stage for a series of collaborative projects and exchanges throughout 2026. These could include joint naval drills, research on marine ecosystems, coordinated disaster response programs, and training programs for maritime professionals.

For India, this initiative is part of a broader vision to strengthen strategic and economic ties with Southeast Asia, while ensuring that the seas connecting the region remain safe, open, and sustainable.

“2026 will be a year where India and ASEAN sail together towards shared prosperity and security,” PM Modi said, emphasizing the long-term importance of the partnership.

India’s announcement marks a practical and forward-looking approach to regional diplomacy, combining security, trade, and sustainability. As the ASEAN-India maritime partnership unfolds next year, it promises to deepen ties, boost regional resilience, and create new opportunities for collaboration across the Indo-Pacific.



India-China Relations at a Crossroads: Reflections from the 25th SCO Summit in Tianjin

The 25th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, in late August 2025, marked a significant moment for regional diplomacy, especially for India-China relations. With both nations at a delicate juncture following years of border tensions, the summit provided a rare opportunity for cautious engagement and recalibration of ties under the broader umbrella of multilateral cooperation.

This article examines the key developments at the summit and delves into how the event impacted the dynamics between New Delhi and Beijing—two of Asia's largest powers navigating a complicated relationship.

Overview of the SCO and the Tianjin Summit

The SCO, originally formed in 2001, has evolved into a vital regional bloc focused on political coordination, economic development, and collective security. The 25th summit, hosted in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1, 2025, brought together leaders from member states—including India, China, Russia, and several Central Asian nations—at a time when geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties are shaping global affairs.

Among the primary outcomes of the summit were the Tianjin Declaration, a long-term roadmap for cooperation, and the adoption of several strategic initiatives designed to enhance regional stability, security, and economic integration. These developments occurred against the backdrop of increasingly complex India-China relations, giving their interactions at the summit heightened importance.

Key Highlights from the Summit

1. Joint Commitment Against Terrorism

One of the more notable aspects of the Tianjin summit was

the firm language used against terrorism. For the first time, the final communiqué included a reference to the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack in India, which was strongly condemned by the SCO members. India had been lobbying for stronger consensus on terrorism and was successful in placing the issue at the centre of discussions.

This acknowledgement marks a significant diplomatic achievement for India, which has long pushed for regional cooperation against what it calls “state-sponsored terrorism,” often hinting at Pakistan's involvement. The joint stand demonstrated a rare moment of unity among SCO members, many of whom traditionally prefer to avoid country-specific references.

2. Institutional Innovations

The summit resulted in the creation of several new regional institutions:

- Four new security-focused centres were announced to address various transnational threats, including cybercrime, drug trafficking, and organized crime.
- Plans were finalized for an SCO Development Bank, aimed at funding regional infrastructure and development projects—mirroring similar institutions like the AIIB.

These initiatives reflect a desire to solidify the SCO's institutional backbone, giving it more tools to manage regional challenges beyond annual summits.

3. Streamlining Membership Structure

In a move toward greater efficiency, the SCO restructured its partnership system. Observer states and dialogue partners were merged into a single category called SCO Partners. Laos

was admitted under this new classification, raising the total number of SCO-associated countries to 27. This could lead to smoother decision-making in the future while allowing for broader participation in SCO projects.

4. Focus on Multilateralism and Sovereignty

China, as the host nation, emphasized its support for a more inclusive global governance structure and opposed unilateral sanctions. India echoed similar sentiments, promoting rules-based international cooperation while safeguarding national sovereignty. These positions indicate a shared frustration with Western-led systems, even as India and China differ on several bilateral issues.

India's Strategic Position at the Summit

India's participation in the summit was carefully calibrated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks emphasized five core themes:

- The need for unity in combating terrorism
- Respect for national sovereignty
- Transparent and inclusive development
- Multilateralism without coercion
- People-to-people connectivity

1. Bilateral Meeting with Xi Jinping

On the sidelines, PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a closed-door meeting—the first substantial one in over a year. While no concrete breakthroughs were announced, the tone of the interaction was notably more constructive than in previous years.

Xi expressed optimism, stating that “China and India should be good neighbours and reliable partners.” Modi, in return, reiterated India's longstanding position that peace at the border is essential for the normalization of broader relations. Both sides acknowledged recent progress, including limited troop disengagement and restoration of pilgrimage routes like the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

2. Trade and Economic Engagement

Despite rising geopolitical tensions, trade between India and China has remained strong—though skewed heavily in China's favor. India raised concerns about the trade imbalance and requested fairer terms for Indian exporters and investors. China, in turn, invited Indian companies to participate in its tech and green energy sectors.

While both countries recognize the benefits of economic collaboration, India remains cautious, especially regarding overdependence in sectors critical to national security.

3. Connectivity and Infrastructure

India continued to voice its opposition to projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that infringe upon its sovereignty—particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Although the SCO supports infrastructure integration, India's stance remains firm: connectivity must respect territorial integrity.

India-China Relations Post-Tianjin: A Delicate Balancing Act

The summit did not resolve any of the major points of contention between India and China, but it did introduce a more pragmatic tone in bilateral engagement. Relations remain complex, characterized by:





1. Incremental Normalization

The Tianjin meeting suggests both sides are open to improving ties—but on cautious terms. India is likely to maintain its strategic autonomy, balancing engagement with China alongside deepening ties with other major powers like the US, Japan, and Australia.

2. Managing the Border Dispute

The border remains the most sensitive issue. While limited disengagement has occurred, trust between the two militaries remains low. Without a lasting resolution, India is unlikely to fully normalize ties, especially in the political and defense spheres.

3. Security and Counterterrorism Cooperation

The shared commitment against terrorism offers a platform for India and China to collaborate. However, differences persist regarding how terrorism is defined and addressed—particularly concerning groups operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

4. Economic Divergences

While bilateral trade is robust, structural issues such as market access, investment restrictions, and dependency on Chinese goods continue to cause friction. India is focused on strengthening domestic manufacturing under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” (self-reliant India) initiative, which could reduce future trade imbalances.

Outlook: Cooperation with Caution

The Tianjin Summit reflects a turning point—not necessarily in resolving conflicts, but in keeping communication channels open and avoiding escalation. Both India and China appear to recognize that prolonged hostility serves neither’s interests, particularly at a time of global economic uncertainty and shifting geopolitical alliances.

What lies ahead is likely a phase of calibrated engagement, where competition and cooperation coexist. For India, the SCO remains a useful forum to raise its voice on terrorism, trade fairness, and sovereignty, while keeping China’s ambitions in check. For China, maintaining stable relations with India can help consolidate its regional leadership without triggering further resistance.

Conclusion

The 25th SCO Summit in Tianjin provided a moment of cautious optimism in India-China relations. While underlying tensions remain unresolved, the summit served as a platform to reintroduce diplomacy, reduce hostility, and focus on shared challenges. The real test lies in whether both sides can translate these gestures into sustained, meaningful progress.

India’s message was clear: engagement is possible, but not at the cost of its core interests. As both countries navigate a turbulent global landscape, maintaining dialogue and mutual respect may be the most pragmatic path forward—for now.



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THE MAGAZINE

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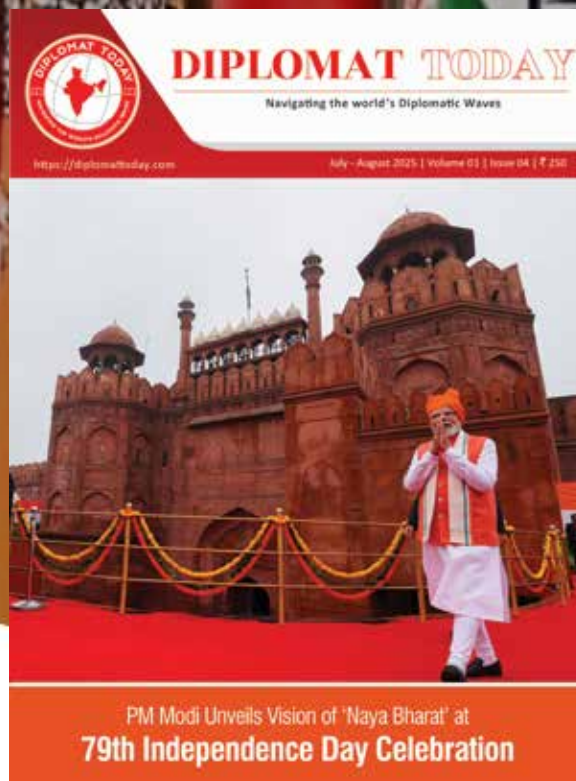
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Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi Visits India: A New Chapter of Cautious Engagement

Diplomat Today Magazine | October 2025

A rare diplomatic visit by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to New Delhi has captured global attention. It is the highest-level visit from the Taliban-led government since their return to power in 2021. For India, the visit represents both opportunity and challenge — a chance to rebuild ties with a neighbor of strategic importance, while carefully navigating the complexities of global perceptions.

"India's engagement is pragmatic, focused on people-to-people ties and regional stability, not political endorsement," a senior Indian diplomat reportedly stated.

Rebuilding Ties Amid Uncertainty

India's relationship with Afghanistan runs deep. Over the past two decades, New Delhi invested over \$3 billion in Afghan infrastructure, education, and health projects. Landmarks such as the Afghan Parliament building and the Zaranj-Delaram Highway reflect India's long-term commitment to Afghan development.

Afghanistan's location makes it a key partner in India's vision of regional stability. Its geographic position links South Asia to Central Asia, providing critical trade routes and potential energy corridors. India also aims to prevent Afghan territory from being used by extremist groups targeting its security.

The Taliban's return in 2021 disrupted these connections. India had to close its embassy and evacuate personnel, while the international community grappled with how to engage an unrecognized regime. Muttaqi's visit signals a cautious reopening of dialogue, focusing on humanitarian aid, trade, and regional security. India continues to insist on inclusive governance and respect for human rights, while Afghanistan seeks economic support and greater connectivity with its neighbors.

Strategic Interests at Play

Afghanistan's location makes it a key partner in India's vision of regional stability. Its geographic position links South Asia to Central Asia, providing critical trade routes and potential energy corridors. India also aims to prevent Afghan territory from being used by extremist groups targeting its security.

India has maintained humanitarian assistance, including wheat, medicines, and vaccines, ensuring continued engagement with the Afghan population. This careful balance allows India to safeguard its strategic interests while not overtly endorsing the Taliban government.

Economic Connectivity and Infrastructure

Reviving regional connectivity is a major goal for both countries. India's Chabahar Port project in Iran offers Afghanistan an alternative trade route bypassing Pakistan. Discussions during Muttaqi's visit reportedly focused on increasing air and land transport links, facilitating trade, and exploring collaboration in mining and energy sectors.

"Even limited progress in trade and infrastructure can help Afghanistan recover economically while reinforcing India's role as a regional partner," analysts note.

These initiatives serve a dual purpose: promoting Afghanistan's development and strengthening India's influence in a strategically sensitive region.

Global Reactions and Challenges

India's engagement with the Taliban-led Afghanistan is under close scrutiny. Most of the international community

continues to withhold formal recognition due to restrictions on women's education and political rights. Western nations, including the United States and European Union, remain cautious, which means India must navigate diplomacy without alienating allies.

Meanwhile, China and Pakistan have solidified ties with the Taliban, particularly through infrastructure and security agreements. India's return introduces another actor into Afghanistan's foreign policy landscape, creating both competition and leverage in regional politics.

A Delicate Balancing Act

India's approach is careful: humanitarian aid, trade facilitation, and quiet diplomacy. Muttaqi's visit is not a breakthrough in recognition or political alignment, but a symbolic step toward engagement. It demonstrates India's intent to remain a key player in Afghanistan's future, safeguarding its interests and promoting stability.

For Afghanistan, India's engagement offers a chance to diversify partnerships beyond Pakistan and China. For India, it is a reminder that influence in South Asia requires both patience and pragmatism.

Conclusion: Navigating a Complex Future

Muttaqi's visit opens a new, cautious chapter in India-Afghanistan relations. It reflects the shared recognition of mutual interests despite political differences. India's careful, people-focused approach — combining humanitarian aid, infrastructure support, and strategic dialogue — highlights its vision of pragmatic diplomacy.

As Afghanistan continues to face political isolation and economic challenges, India's engagement could help foster stability in a critical region, while asserting its role as a responsible regional power.

In an era of shifting alliances, India's strategy is clear: protect national interests, maintain influence, and support Afghanistan's people — without compromising on principles.



India: A New Powerful Player in the Middle East & the Global South



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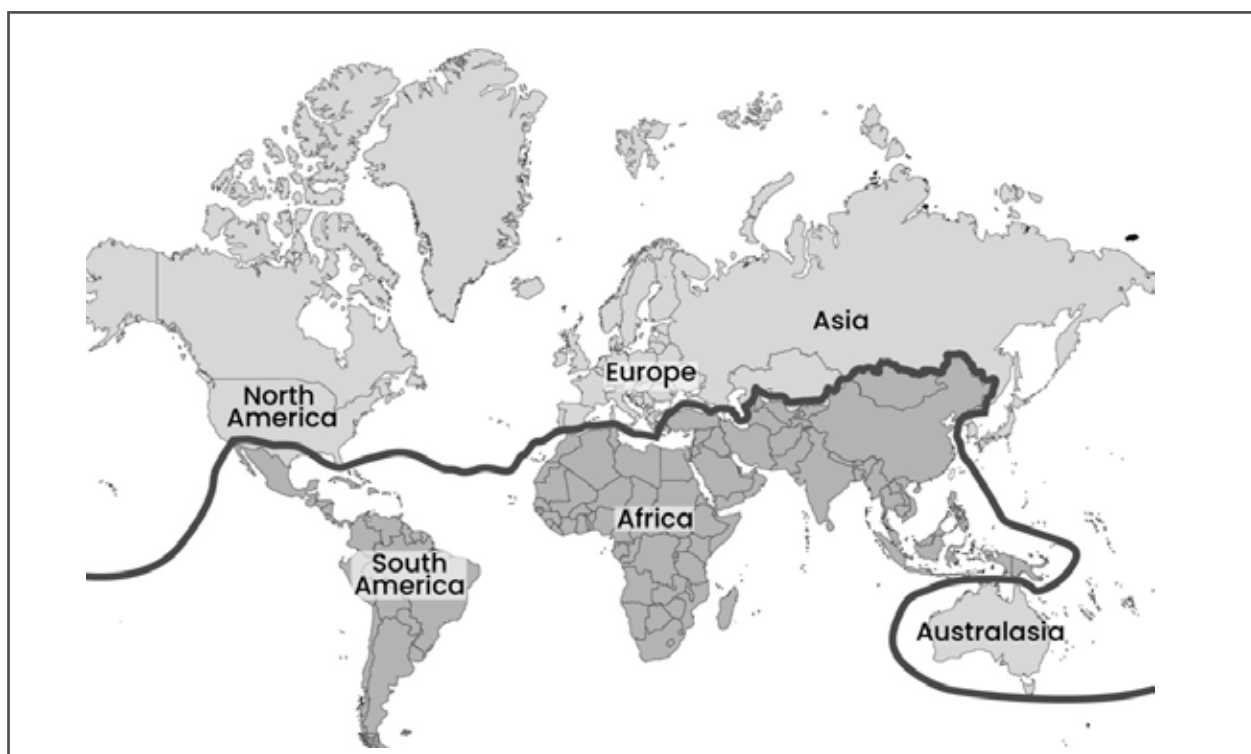
BY UDAY JHA

Publisher, Diplomat Today

Over the past decade, India has quietly but decisively transformed from a regional actor into a key geopolitical player with growing influence across the Middle East and the Global South. Once content to focus on its immediate neighborhood, New Delhi is now engaging in a more assertive and diversified foreign policy—anchored in energy security, trade, technology, and strategic diplomacy. As global power centers shift and multipolarity deepens, India is positioning itself as both a bridge and a balanced between the developed and developing worlds.

A Pragmatic Foreign Policy Shift

India's foreign policy has undergone a profound recalibration under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. No longer defined primarily by non-alignment, India's diplomacy today is pragmatic, interest-driven, and multi-vector. Rather than aligning rigidly with any power bloc, India seeks to engage



flexibly with a wide range of partners—particularly those that can advance its domestic and international ambitions.

The Middle East, once viewed through the lens of energy imports and the welfare of Indian expatriates, has emerged as a strategic theatre where India's economic and geopolitical interests converge. At the same time, India's growing voice in the Global South has become central to its international identity—a platform through which it projects itself as a leader of developing nations in global governance.

India and the Middle East: From Energy Dependence to Strategic Partnership

The Middle East remains India's largest source of crude oil, but the relationship has expanded far beyond hydrocarbons. Over the past decade, New Delhi has deepened its ties with key Gulf states such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman, transforming transactional energy links into long-term strategic partnerships.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between India and the UAE in 2022 marked a turning point, reducing tariffs and boosting non-oil trade to record levels. Similarly, the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council, established in 2019, has institutionalized cooperation in energy, investment, defense, and digital technologies.

The India–Middle East corridor gained renewed global attention in 2023 when India joined the India–Middle East–

Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative alongside the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and the European Union. Designed as a counterweight to China's Belt and Road Initiative, IMEC aims to develop a multimodal network linking Indian ports to Europe through the Arabian Peninsula, facilitating faster, greener, and more secure trade routes.

This shift underscores India's broader strategic vision: leveraging geography, connectivity, and diplomacy to cement its role as a central node in global trade and energy flows.

Soft Power and the Indian Diaspora

Beyond formal agreements, India's influence in the Middle East is amplified by its vast diaspora—over 9 million Indians live and work in the Gulf region. These expatriates are vital contributors to both the economies of their host countries and India's own economy, sending back billions of dollars in remittances annually.

Yet the diaspora's significance extends beyond economics. Indian workers, professionals, and entrepreneurs have helped build cultural bridges between India and Arab societies, contributing to mutual understanding and trust. Bollywood films, Indian cuisine, and yoga have become part of the region's urban cultural fabric.

New Delhi has also positioned itself as a reliable partner during crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India's vaccine diplomacy and swift humanitarian assistance

strengthened goodwill across the region, enhancing its image as a responsible global actor.

Strategic Balancing in a Complex Region

India's expanding footprint in the Middle East is not without challenges. The region's geopolitical landscape remains volatile—marked by the ongoing Israel–Palestine conflict, U.S.–Iran tensions, and competition among Gulf powers.

India has navigated this complexity with careful balance. It has deepened its economic and defense ties with Israel, particularly in technology and innovation, while simultaneously maintaining cordial relations with Iran, a crucial partner for connectivity projects such as the Chabahar Port and the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

This diplomatic dexterity—maintaining constructive relations with actors on opposite sides of regional divides—has earned India respect as a credible and independent partner. It also underscores New Delhi's commitment to strategic autonomy, a hallmark of its foreign policy.

Championing the Global South

If the Middle East represents the pragmatic side of India's foreign policy, the Global South represents its moral and political dimension. As global inequality deepens and the legitimacy of Western-led institutions is increasingly questioned, India has seized the opportunity to lead conversations around reform and representation.

India's presidency of the G20 in 2023 was a pivotal moment in this regard. By prioritizing the voices of developing nations and hosting the Voice of the Global South Summit, New Delhi signaled its intent to act as a bridge between advanced economies and emerging ones. The successful inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20—a diplomatic achievement largely credited to India—demonstrated its commitment to inclusivity in global governance.

India's outreach to Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia is rooted in shared developmental experiences—sustainable growth, climate resilience, technology transfer, and equitable access to finance. Through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), India is exporting not just technology, but also governance models tailored to the realities of the Global South.

Economic Diplomacy and Emerging Technologies

India's global rise is also driven by economics and innovation. As one of the fastest-growing major economies, India offers an alternative development model—combining

market dynamism with social inclusivity. This makes it an attractive partner for developing nations seeking digital transformation without overreliance on Western or Chinese technology ecosystems.

From digital public infrastructure (like the Aadhaar identification system and UPI payments network) to renewable energy leadership, India's innovations are becoming templates for the Global South. Many African and Asian nations are adopting Indian digital solutions for governance and financial inclusion, often with technical and financial support from New Delhi.

In the Middle East, technology and sustainability have become new frontiers of cooperation. Indian firms are partnering with Gulf investors in renewable energy, space technology, and artificial intelligence, while Gulf sovereign wealth funds are channeling billions into India's infrastructure and startups.

A Balancer in a Multipolar World

In today's fragmented international order, India's foreign policy demonstrates the art of balance. It maintains strong strategic partnerships with the United States, deep historical ties with Russia, and constructive engagement with China, all while expanding its presence in the Middle East and Global South.

This balancing act—between great powers, regions, and ideologies—reflects India's emerging role as a stabilizing force in global politics. Its non-confrontational diplomacy and emphasis on “partnership over polarity” resonate widely in a world weary of zero-sum rivalries.

Conclusion: The Road Ahead

India's ascent as a powerful player in the Middle East and the Global South is not accidental—it is the outcome of consistent strategic engagement, economic strength, and moral credibility. As the world faces simultaneous crises—climate change, inequality, and geopolitical fragmentation—India's dual identity as both an emerging power and a developing nation allows it to speak to multiple audiences with authenticity.

Whether through trade corridors in the Arabian Peninsula, digital public infrastructure in Africa, or climate partnerships across Asia, India is redefining what it means to be a global power—one that leads by cooperation rather than coercion.

As the 21st century's geopolitical map continues to evolve, India's growing influence in the Middle East and the Global South signals not just its own rise, but the emergence of a more inclusive and multipolar world order.

West Bank Annexation



PRATIMA SINGH

Editor-in-Chief - Diplomat Today

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems to be under pressure ever since the Israel-Hamas ceasefire went into effect since Trump's persistent opposition to West Bank annexation has been causing reactions all across the world. The West Bank will be crucial to future resolutions, so even US President Donald Trump's significant first step toward a permanent end to the two-year conflict between Israel and Hamas through his 20-point peace plan is not expected to fully end the animosity between the two rivals.

As settlement continues to thrive in the Palestinian territory politics and population are few ticking points that points towards the future.

Where is West Bank?

The key to ending the Israel-Palestine conflict lies in the West Bank, which is situated on the Jordan River's western bank between Israel and Jordan. While the growing Israeli settlement is viewed as harmful to an independent Palestine state, the independent Palestine views its future including the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem as its capital. The Israeli settlement has also been deemed unlawful by the Geneva Convention and the International Court of Justice. Over a thousand Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the last two years due to the ongoing unrest between Israel and Palestine. But the origins of the two disputed states can be found in the 1947 UN Partition Plan, which called for the creation of distinct Arab and Jewish states. The Arab League quickly rejected this idea, and in 1948 the Arab League launched its first invasion. Israel seized a large portion of the area from the Palestinian state later in 1949. 750,000 displaced Palestinians sought safety in 5655 square kilometers of the West Bank during the war. Many worldwide societies continue to challenge Israel's occupation of the West Bank. To this day, UN humanitarian missions continue to monitor the Palestinian camps.

Israeli Settlement in Palestine

After its first settlement in 1960, Israeli settlements started to spread in the late 1980s. As a result, the West Bank now has some 700,000 settlers, including East Jerusalem, few of whom are attacking Palestine. Beginning with the establishment of the first Israeli settlement in the West Bank, subsequent Israeli governments have unlawfully occupied positions with the goal of growing the settlement.

The lives of civilians have been adversely impacted by Israeli troops' activities against the West Bank refugee camps in the current escalation of tensions between Hamas and Gaza on October 7, 2023.

Palestine Economy and Politics

According to the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, the West Bank is home to about 700,000 Israeli settlers and 3.2 million Palestinians.

Palestinians are regarded as a highly educated and culturally rich community among Arabs. In terms of agriculture, olive farming is still essential in Palestine. Under the Oslo Accords, the Palestine Authority was established in 1994 and was headed by Mahmoud Abbas. Notably, the region was categorized into three zones in 1995 under the Oslo Accord II, taking civil and security surveillance into account. With approximately 800,000 Israelis and 300,000 Palestinians, Israel controls 82% of the overall land under the Palestine Authority. Roadblocks and a frequent checkpoint have frequently restricted Palestinians' access to employment opportunities. A recurrent check post, road barriers have often delimited Palestinian relocation for jobs and livelihood.

In the current situation, the Israeli right wing is vigorously lobbying the government to take complete control of the West Bank, a strategy that is opposed by Palestinians, Arab neighbours, and the international community. Numerous nations acknowledge Palestine as a separate state, and the United Nations, European Union, and Arab League have all endorsed the idea of a two-state solution.

West Bank Annexation Bill

The Knesset approved a resolution endorsing Israel's annexation of the West Bank on July 23, 2025. Netanyahu rejected the annexation plan, which was approved by a vote of 25–24 in October 2025, claiming that it was a deliberate provocation meant to sow discord amid efforts to restore peace. While many in Israel's right wing have long harbored dreams of annexing the West Bank, others see it as merely a means of preventing Palestine from becoming a state. Although the new measure has not yet been passed into law, once it is, tensions between the occupied Palestinian Territory and the entire Middle East will rise.





USA's Dual Policy for India and China

On February 22, 2022, Russia declared war on its enemy, Ukraine, sparking yet another silent conflict for which the world was unprepared: the war of global oil flow. The US tariff war was developing right here in Russia. Russia's energy exports to China and India throughout the crucial periods continued to be a point of dispute with the White House, as Washington sought directly to neutralize Moscow's escalating hostility. What followed after that has become one of the most ambiguous scenes in the recent foreign policy- Trump's tariff war. Accordingly, Trump has imposed a 50% tariff on India's exports, in a newly-devised mechanism to punish India for its purchase of Russian crude oil while allowing China to subtly escape penalty for the same volumes of purchases leaving the world pondering.



PRATIMA SINGH

Editor-in-Chief - Diplomat Today

The answer does not just lie in volumes of oil purchases, and even exceeds the international laws of trade. The answer to disparity is rather contained in USA's policymakers differently viewing China and India in terms of economic leverage and political calculations. Trump's new position as administrator of the truce has a role as well, since he thinks China can use its influence to put an end to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

India, with a population of 140 crores, largely depends on Russia for its crude oil requirements for all its refineries. In the pre-war years India's import accounted for almost 2% of the Russian crude whereas post-war years (2022) the figures jumped to 40%, an all time high that continued its trend even in 2025.

India's real story of purchase of Russian oil...

India, with a population of 140 crores, largely depends on Russia for its crude oil requirements for all its refineries. In the pre-war years India's import accounted for almost 2% of the Russian crude whereas post-war years (2022) the figures jumped to 40%, an all time high that continued its trend even in 2025. In total, India imported around 88 million metric tons of Russian crude in fiscal year 2025, out of a total of 245 million ones – more than 1.7 million barrels per day, a 20-time uptick in span of three years. When the world's greatest influencer like USA had boycotted Russia and its oil purchases over its aggression with Ukraine, Indian refiners continued their support to Russia and purchased large volumes of oil. This also gave Indian businessmen an advantage of steep wartime discounts. However, India's gradual foray into supplying refined crude oil did not go well with the western market as they were against Russian oil purchase in any form.

China's market.

China's oil market is much larger as compared to India. It accounts for buying almost half the Russian crude along with coal, gas and refined products from Russia. Even though, Beijing made up for 40% of total Russian crude exports in 2025 it was never hard-slapped with high duties from the US. This leverage makes the diplomatic ties between China, India, USA and Russia even more complex.

Here it is important to understand that India is an easy target for economic pressure as opposed to China because of its high dependence on western market for its technological and investment needs. On the other hand US-China years of mutual interdependence on each other has kept America from meddling in its oil exports as it could trigger unequivocal response in the form of reciprocal tariffs.

The USA, since long, has been vigilant "India's profit narrative" as they have condemned the Indian refiners of re-selling crude Russian oil to the countries enforcing sanctions against after Russia.

However, the motive behind US's hesitancy towards China could also translate into Trump's own motive of casting himself as "ceasefire negotiator" and it clearly aligns with the believe

that China can secure a deal to end Russia-Ukraine war. The Trump's administration sees India having too little control over Putin and, by contrast, China does not feature in the list of it countries receiving punitive actions because of its economic significance as well as, asumably, a negotiating agent between Russia-Ukraine.

USA's motive in China and reality...

Yet, USA's motive in China is assumed to be far away from reality as pinning hopes on china to resolve the war stands inconsistent with Beijing's own interest. A long drawn out war would be a great distraction for USA giving China an edge over to regionally assert itself and in a way locking Russia into economic dependence.

On the diplomatic handling of the war Beijing has adopted a pretense while in actuality has put in to little efforts for settlement extending its support through diplomatic cover. With the continuation of the war China's presence in global south would loom large as a counter weight to the West. This directly leads Trump's calculation of Chinese cooperation in the ending the Ukaraine Russia war to a self defeat. In every way USA's move to exempt China from the tarrif war hands it more leverage over European security crisis that Trump wants to control.

As a result of USA's tariff gamble is lopsided sanction regime with differing priorities. The US is risking estranging India as one of the most important emerging trade partners through such sanctions. It is noteworthy that by exempting China the US signals a violation message that is more of a power calculus and over principle.

It is important for US to rethink its own riddled policy and abandon wishful thinking. U.S. policy must face the reality of this balancing and give up on idealistic thinking if it is to be successful. India's energy decisions provide a real threat to the sanctions system, but China's capacity to avoid pressure and influence the course of the conflict to its benefit poses a longer-term strategic risk. Washington's approach to China and India will continue to be reactive, erratic, and susceptible to manipulation by the very nations it aims to influence unless it acknowledges this and takes appropriate action.

India and Australia Sign MoU to Strengthen Food Safety Collaboration

In a significant move to bolster international cooperation in food safety, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday at the FSSAI headquarters in New Delhi.

The agreement was formalized by Rajit Punhani, CEO of FSSAI, and Tom Black, First Assistant Secretary of DAFF, marking a key milestone in the growing strategic partnership between India and Australia.

A Step Forward in Bilateral Cooperation

The MoU aims to deepen bilateral ties by facilitating the exchange of best practices, knowledge sharing, and technical collaboration in the field of food safety. A critical focus of the agreement is on aligning import procedures, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and promoting capacity-building initiatives that benefit both nations.

Officials from both sides expressed optimism about the long-term benefits of the collaboration. They emphasized that the agreement would not only help improve institutional linkages but also raise food safety standards in both countries.

Enhancing Consumer Protection and Trade

The partnership is poised to deliver tangible benefits to stakeholders across the food supply chain. By improving regulatory systems and fostering mutual understanding, the MoU will support safer food for consumers, promote efficiency in trade, and reduce potential barriers to food imports and exports between India and Australia.

The MoU is expected to encourage harmonization of standards, build trust between regulatory authorities, and support the development of more resilient and transparent food safety systems.

A Growing India–Australia Partnership

This agreement comes at a time of expanding economic and strategic cooperation between India and Australia. In recent years, the two nations have strengthened collaboration in sectors such as education, energy, agriculture, and now food safety.

As both countries continue to navigate global challenges related to food security and safety, this partnership underscores the importance of international collaboration in addressing shared concerns and improving public health outcomes.





India's Exports Grow 6.18% to \$349.35 Billion in April–August 2025, Trade Deficit Narrows

India's total exports of goods and services reached US\$ 349.35 billion during the April–August 2025 period, reflecting a 6.18% increase over the US\$ 329.03 billion recorded in the same months of 2024, as per the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In this period, merchandise exports stood at US\$ 184.13 billion, a 2.52% rise from US\$ 179.60 billion in April–August 2024. Notably, non-petroleum exports saw stronger growth, climbing 7.35% to US\$ 158.07 billion, compared to US\$ 147.25 billion a year earlier.

For August 2025, combined exports of goods and services were estimated at US\$ 69.16 billion, showing a 9.34% increase year-on-year. Meanwhile, imports for the month declined by 7% to US\$ 79.04 billion, narrowing the trade deficit to US\$ 9.88 billion, a sharp improvement from the US\$ 21.73 billion recorded in August 2024.

Merchandise Trade

India's merchandise exports in August 2025 rose to US\$ 35.10 billion, up from US\$ 32.89 billion in the same month last year. Imports declined to US\$ 61.59 billion, compared to US\$ 68.53 billion in August 2024.

Export growth was led by strong performances in several sectors:

Electronic goods surged 25.93% (from US\$ 2.32 billion to

US\$ 2.93 billion)

Gems & Jewellery grew 15.57% (from US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 2.31 billion)

Engineering goods rose 4.91%

Petroleum products increased 6.54%

Drugs & Pharmaceuticals climbed 6.94%

Services Trade

In August 2025, India's services exports were estimated at US\$ 34.06 billion, up from US\$ 30.36 billion in August 2024. Services imports also saw a slight increase, reaching US\$ 17.45 billion compared to US\$ 16.46 billion a year ago.

During April–August 2025, services exports grew by 10.57% to US\$ 165.22 billion, while imports rose to US\$ 84.25 billion, resulting in a services trade surplus of US\$ 80.97 billion — significantly higher than the US\$ 68.25 billion surplus seen in the same period last year.

Key Trade Partners

On the export front, major growth markets in August 2025 included the United Arab Emirates, United States, Netherlands, Hong Kong, and China. For imports, countries such as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Iraq, and Qatar showed increased trade activity compared to August 2024.



From New Delhi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister held intensive meetings with major Indian companies to discuss cooperation on new projects between the two countries



About the Author:

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is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

- The possibility of studying reaching an agreement between the two countries to conclude equal deals to exchange Indian wheat and Egyptian fertilizers
- The Egyptian Foreign Minister reviews cooperation opportunities between the Egyptian Sovereign Fund and India's Oberoi in developing several buildings and assets

- The Egyptian Foreign Minister encourages the Indian chemical company TCI Sanmar to invest more in Egypt
- The regional president of the Indian Tata Group: We are interested in expanding our business in the Egyptian market

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. Badr Abdel Aty met today, Thursday, with Ashok Chatur Vaidy, Chairman of the UFLEX Flexible Packaging Group, at the start of his visit to New Delhi.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister traveled to the Indian capital, New Delhi, yesterday to hold the first round of the strategic dialogue between the two countries at the foreign ministerial level. He will also hold bilateral meetings with senior Indian government officials, as well as heads of major Indian companies, as part of strengthening bilateral relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Minister expressed Egypt's aspiration to attract more Indian investments in various industrial sectors, especially those needed by the Egyptian market. He noted that UFLEX is the second largest Indian company investing



in Egypt, with a total investment volume of more than \$350 million. He also intends to expand its investments in Egypt by establishing a factory in Ain Sokhna.

He also emphasized that the Egyptian government aims to create a more competitive and attractive investment climate for local and foreign investments, based on transparency, providing a supportive institutional and legislative environment, improving the business environment, simplifying procedures, and removing obstacles facing investors, while strengthening the role of the private sector as a key partner in development.

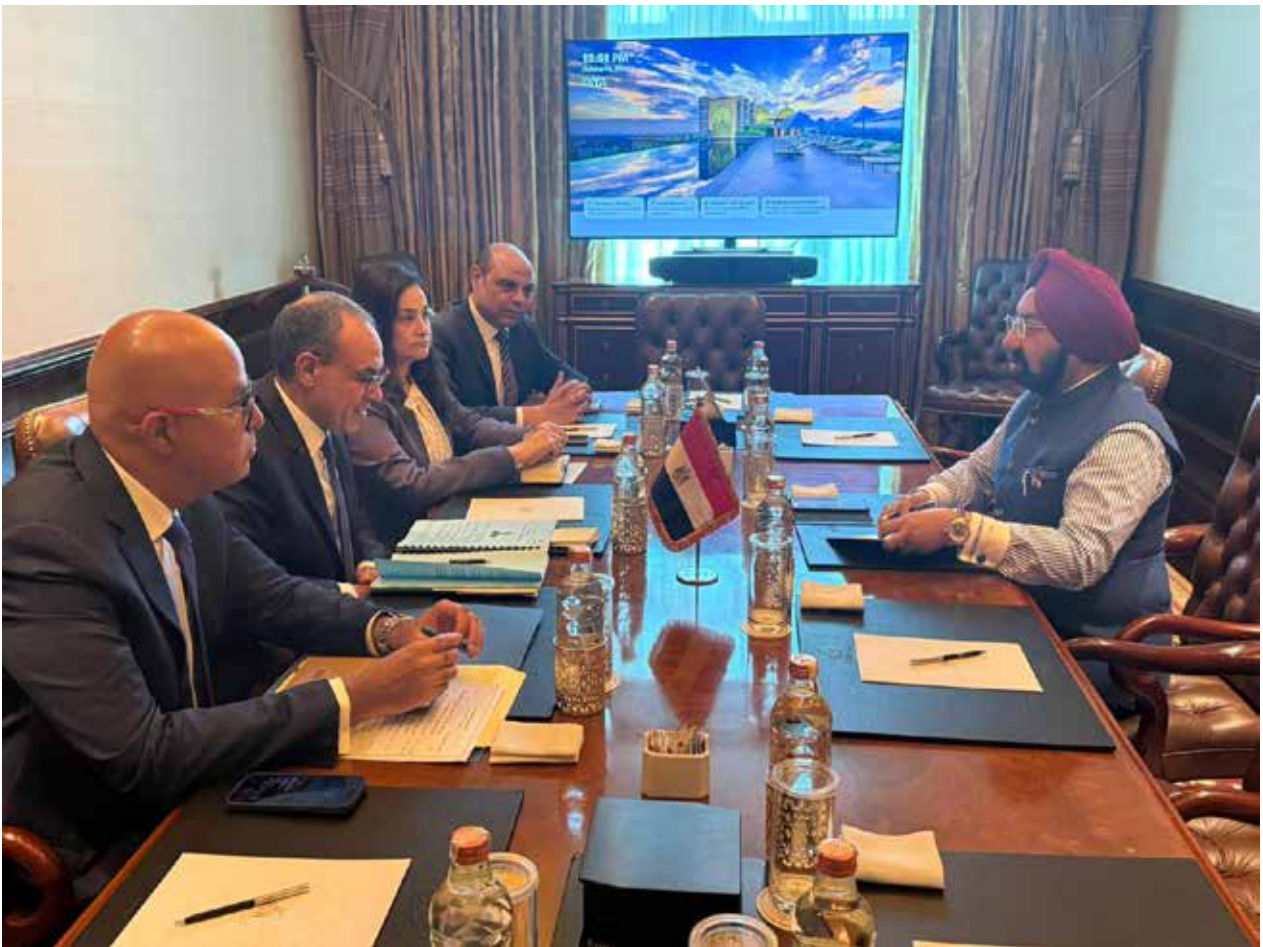
He also highlighted the Egyptian government's commitment to meeting all requests from foreign investors and facilitating any difficulties they may encounter, including facilitating visa issuances for officials of foreign companies investing in Egypt.

• Meeting with the Chairman of the Indian Sun Group of Companies

The Egyptian Foreign Minister also met with Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahni, Chairman of the Indian Sun Group of Companies, which manufactures fertilizers and fertilizer raw materials.

During the meeting, he expressed Egypt's interest in enhancing trade and investment cooperation with India in all sectors, particularly in food security, as well as the manufacturing and export of phosphates and fertilizers, which would positively reflect on industrial integration between the two countries.





He indicated the possibility of exploring the possibility of reaching an agreement between the two countries under which equal deals would be concluded to exchange Indian wheat and Egyptian fertilizers.

• Meeting with the Vice President of the Oberoi Group of Companies

The Minister also met with Ajay Mehra, Vice President of the Oberoi Group of Hotels. Mehra expressed the importance of taking advantage of the distinguished investment opportunities offered by the Egyptian Sovereign Fund in sectors of interest to the Indian side, particularly real estate and hospitality.

The Minister reviewed opportunities for cooperation between the Egyptian Sovereign Fund and the Oberoi Group in developing several buildings and assets, particularly after the relocation of ministries and government agencies to Egypt's New Administrative Capital.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also presented Egypt's vision for increasing the number of tourists coming to Egypt, encouraging the company to expand its operations in Egypt by establishing more hotels and restaurants in various cities across the country. This is in light of the trend to attract more Indian tourists, who are increasingly interested in visiting

Egypt, whether for archaeological and historical sites or for entertainment services.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed the company's plans to build a hotel near the Pyramids area, in addition to its management of several existing hotel projects in Cairo and Aswan.



• Meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of TCI Sanmar Group of Companies

The Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs met with P.S. Jayaraman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TCI Sanmar Chemicals.

TCI Sanmar is the largest Indian company investing in Egypt, with an estimated investment of approximately \$1.5 billion. The Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs encouraged the company to invest further in Egypt in light of the developments taking place in the Egyptian economy.

• Meeting with the Director of the Hinduja Group of Companies

The Minister also met with Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Director of the Hinduja Group of Companies. Kumar emphasized that the Egyptian government is interested in cooperating with foreign companies to attract more investments and localize the vehicle industry of various types in Egypt, particularly cars and buses, both electric and fuel-powered.

The Minister also reviewed Egypt's numerous sources of electricity generation from renewable sources in large quantities and at low costs, as well as the high demand for electric cars and buses locally in Egypt, especially with the expansion of electric charging points in several governorates.

He also highlighted the facilities, incentives, and customs and tax exemptions offered for investment in Egypt's free industrial zones, particularly in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, which boasts a strong infrastructure and a prime geographical location. He also highlighted Egypt's links to a network of free trade agreements with several economic blocs, including Arab, African, European, and Latin American countries. This allows Egyptian-manufactured products to be exported to these countries duty-free.



• Meeting with the Regional President of Tata Sons

The Egyptian Minister also met with Yogita Sharma, Regional President of Tata Sons, a car assembly company, and reviewed the distinguished investment opportunities the Egyptian economy offers foreign investors, as well as the legislative and financial incentives and multiple comparative advantages. He emphasized the importance Egypt places on the pivotal role of the private sector in development.

For her part, Ms. Sharma reviewed the company's activities in India and globally, explaining that the Tata Group is interested in expanding its business in the Egyptian market and is currently exploring new investment opportunities in various sectors in light of the economic reforms taking place in Egypt.

She explained that the group is confident in the great potential of the Egyptian economy and considers Egypt a strategic hub for launching into African and Arab markets, affirming the company's commitment to continuing and deepening cooperation with the Egyptian government.





UP International Trade Show 2025: A Grand Showcase of India's Economic Potential and Uttar Pradesh's Industrial Rise

The Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 (UPITS-2025), inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 25 in Greater Noida, has emerged as a landmark event in India's trade and industrial calendar. Running until September 29, the five-day event is more than just a business exhibition—it's a comprehensive reflection of India's evolving economic landscape and Uttar Pradesh's growing stature as a hub for innovation, manufacturing, and international commerce.

A Powerful Opening Message

Prime Minister Modi's inaugural address set the tone for the event, emphasizing India's ongoing journey towards self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and structural economic reforms. He highlighted how Uttar Pradesh, once seen as a laggard in industrial development, has rapidly transformed into one of India's most promising investment destinations.

PM Modi stressed the importance of indigenous research and development, urging increased private sector participation. "India must create a robust ecosystem for homegrown research, design, and innovation," he said. This

call for deepening India's innovation capacity resonated strongly with both domestic and international stakeholders attending the event.

Uttar Pradesh: A State Transformed

Over the past decade, Uttar Pradesh has undergone a significant transformation in infrastructure, governance, and industrial capacity. The state now leads in expressway length, international airports, and logistics infrastructure. With two major freight corridors passing through it, UP is positioned as a logistics and manufacturing powerhouse.

PM Modi noted the success of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, which has elevated local artisans and manufacturers by giving their products access to global markets. From textiles to terracotta, brassware to carpets, UP's local crafts and industries were on proud display at the trade show.

The Prime Minister also cited key milestones in the state's industrial growth:

55% of India's mobile phones are now produced in UP,



making it a national leader in electronics manufacturing.

A new semiconductor fabrication plant is set to begin operations nearby, reinforcing India's strategic goal of becoming a global semiconductor hub.

The UP Defence Corridor is already producing BrahMos missiles and will soon begin manufacturing AK-203 rifles in collaboration with Russia, establishing UP as a critical node in India's defence production chain.

GST Reforms and Economic Impact

One of the standout elements of PM Modi's address was his detailed explanation of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and their impact on household budgets and business operations. Citing figures, he explained how a ₹1,000 shirt that incurred ₹170 in taxes in 2014 now attracts just ₹35 in GST after the latest reforms. He also highlighted the overall reduction in prices for essential items and consumer goods, translating to significant savings for middle-class and lower-income families.

The Prime Minister termed these savings part of a broader economic benefit, calling 2025 the year of the "GST Savings Festival", with citizens expected to save ₹2.5 lakh crore collectively.

An Event of Global Significance

With Russia as the partner country, UPITS-2025 is not just a national exhibition—it's a platform for international collaboration and investment. Over 2,200 exhibitors are showcasing products and innovations across sectors such as:

- Handicrafts & Textiles
- Leather & Footwear
- Agriculture & Food Processing
- Information Technology & Electronics
- AYUSH & Wellness

Automotive & Engineering

The event is projected to host over 1.25 lakh B2B (business-to-business) visitors and 4.5 lakh B2C (business-

to-consumer) visitors, making it one of the largest trade shows in India.

The theme, "Ultimate Sourcing Begins Here," underlines the trade show's ambition to be a global sourcing hub, especially for industries looking for high-quality, cost-effective, and scalable alternatives to established global suppliers.

Spotlight on MSMEs and Startups

A key feature of UPITS-2025 is its focus on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. Dedicated pavilions have been set up to help small businesses connect with investors, retailers, and international buyers. These platforms are crucial in enabling regional manufacturers to scale globally and promote local innovation.

Government agencies are also providing on-ground support through business counselling, export guidance, and digital onboarding to e-commerce platforms.

Cultural and Culinary Showcases

Beyond business, UPITS-2025 is also a celebration of Uttar Pradesh's rich culture and heritage. Visitors can experience live demonstrations of traditional crafts, folk performances, and a diverse culinary spread representing the state's regions—from Awadhi kebabs to eastern UP's traditional sweets.

This blending of commerce and culture provides international visitors with a deeper understanding of the state's identity and values, enhancing soft diplomacy and cultural exchange.

A Platform for the Future

UP International Trade Show 2025 is not just an exhibition—it is a vision statement. It showcases the possibilities that emerge when infrastructure, policy, talent, and leadership align. For investors, it's a chance to explore one of India's most promising markets. For entrepreneurs and innovators, it's a platform to scale. For global buyers, it's a source of authentic, high-quality products across sectors.

As PM Modi rightly said, "India today has the political will, democratic stability, policy clarity, and skilled human resources to become a global economic leader. Investing in India—and particularly in Uttar Pradesh—is not just a business decision, it's a growth opportunity."

With this show, Uttar Pradesh has made a clear statement: it is ready to lead India's next phase of industrial and economic growth.



Global Wildlife Fair 2025: A Turning Point for Conservation and Ecotourism

The bustling heart of India's capital played host to a unique confluence of conservation visionaries, eco-entrepreneurs, artists, and explorers at the inaugural Global Wildlife Fair 2025 held at the Constitution Club of India. Over three vibrant days, the fair showcased the future of sustainable wildlife tourism—and perhaps, more importantly, offered a powerful reminder of the delicate balance between biodiversity, local communities, and responsible travel.

For a first-time event, GWF 2025 punched well above its weight, attracting global and regional players from across the wildlife and ecotourism spectrum. It was a rare platform where field biologists mingled with tour operators, indigenous community leaders shared space with tech innovators, and wildlife artists sketched side-by-side with conservation NGOs.

While there were teething issues—crowded venues, limited space for breakout events, and some confusion over ticketing—the fair delivered a dynamic blend of ideas, business opportunities, and public engagement. More than a traditional expo, it felt like a living, breathing ecosystem of global collaboration.

A Showcase of Global Expertise

Among the international participants that stood out, Adventures Worldwide brought a compelling focus on immersive, community-based wildlife expeditions

across Asia and Africa. Their exhibit emphasized not just exploration, but education—offering experiences that foster understanding between travelers and the ecosystems they visit.

Latin America was also strongly represented, particularly through specialist birding and wildlife travel companies. Manakin Nature Tours and Kolibri Expeditions, both respected names in South American ecotourism, used the fair to promote their conservation-through-tourism models, with an emphasis on endemic species, local employment, and habitat protection. From the Peruvian Amazon to the cloud forests of Colombia, their message was clear: biodiversity can be protected when tourism becomes a force for good.

Africa's voice was powerfully present as well. Birdwatching Kenya, known for its conservation-first travel model, showcased a mix of avian riches and community involvement. Their focus on citizen science and rural development added depth to the usual safari narrative, reminding delegates that birding isn't just a niche hobby—it's a catalyst for conservation in some of the continent's most threatened ecosystems.

Adding an edge of raw authenticity was Wildman – Tiwan, a boutique operator blending wilderness survival, indigenous knowledge, and conservation awareness in the Amazon basin. Their presence at GWF offered a more primal, immersive



view of ecotourism—one that blurs the line between guide and guest, culture and nature.

Art, Advocacy and Adam Rainoff

Beyond business and policy, the fair celebrated the power of storytelling and visual art in conservation. A highlight was the work of Adam Rainoff, a Colombian photographer whose vivid imagery of South America's most fragile ecosystems left an indelible impression. His ability to capture both wildlife and the human connection to nature offered a compelling argument for photography as both art and activism.

Rainoff's work resonated with audiences not just for its technical brilliance, but for its emotional weight—evoking wonder, urgency, and a quiet plea for preservation. Many attendees described his exhibit as one of the most moving experiences of the entire fair.

India at the Center

While the fair had a strong international flavor, India was at its core. The Delhi government's support was visible, and the showcase of Uttar Pradesh's ecotourism potential—especially Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserves—served as a regional model for how conservation and local economies can intersect. Nature art workshops, bird walks, and panel sessions on human–wildlife conflict all reflected the urgent need to reconcile development with ecological stewardship.

The Constitution Club may not have been the ideal venue logistically, but it offered a symbolic setting: a space historically associated with policy and governance now playing host to voices from the field—many of whom seldom find a seat at official tables.

Spotlight on Uttar Pradesh: A Model for Regional Ecotourism

One of the standout features of the fair was the vibrant Uttar Pradesh Tourism stall, which drew significant attention for its immersive showcase of the state's diverse natural heritage.



With a focus on the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit, and the wetlands of Sarsai Nawar, the stall offered a compelling narrative about UP's rising potential as a wildlife tourism destination. Informative displays, interactive maps, and live cultural presentations highlighted how the state is integrating conservation with community-based tourism. Officials from the UP Forest Department and Tourism Board engaged directly with visitors, sharing insights into ongoing efforts to promote lesser-known eco-destinations while ensuring local livelihoods and habitat protection. The stall served as a regional best-practice model—demonstrating how state-led initiatives, when rooted in sustainability, can uplift both biodiversity and rural economies.

A Future Worth Building

For all its ambitions, GWF 2025 was not perfect. The depth of some discussions could be improved, and the fair will need a clearer post-event roadmap if it aims to influence long-term policy or partnerships. However, as a first step, it was remarkably promising.

What stood out most was the fair's spirit of collaboration. There was a shared recognition among global participants—from Colombia to Kenya, from Peru to India—that the future of ecotourism depends not just on protecting wildlife, but on empowering people, sharing knowledge, and building networks that cross borders.

The Global Wildlife Fair 2025 didn't just put conservation on display—it made it personal, political, and practical. For policymakers, diplomats, and development strategists, it offered a living example of how soft power, sustainability, and storytelling can come together in service of the planet. As part of its commitment to spotlighting global environmental diplomacy and cross-border cooperation, Diplomat Today was proud to report from the ground, bringing these vital conversations to its international readership. If future editions build on this momentum, GWF could well become a landmark in the global conservation calendar.



India Proposes to Host 2027

Coast Guard Global Summit, Emphasizes Role in Maritime Security

India has formally offered to host the next Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in 2027, signaling its commitment to enhancing international maritime cooperation and highlighting the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) growing role in promoting safer, cleaner oceans.

The proposal was made during the 4th edition of the CGGS, held in Rome on September 11–12, where a two-member Indian delegation, led by ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani, participated actively. Sivamani also delivered a presentation on India's tactical approach to managing fire-related maritime emergencies, showcasing the country's capabilities in maritime safety and disaster response.

The summit brought together representatives from 115 countries and international organizations, with Italy and Japan co-chairing the event. Key areas of discussion included marine safety, environmental protection, pollution response, disaster management, and combating cross-border maritime crimes through technology, training, and stronger partnerships.

The conference also emphasized the vital role coast guards play as the “guardians at sea.” Leaders such as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (who addressed the summit virtually) called for greater global cooperation in tackling marine pollution, conducting search and rescue missions, and enforcing maritime law.

Launched in 2017 by the Japan Coast Guard in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, the CGGS has evolved into a significant platform for building trust, encouraging dialogue, and enhancing coordination among maritime forces worldwide.



APEC 2025: Asia-Pacific Leaders Call for Resilient Trade Amid Global Fractures

As cracks deepen in the global trade order, leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) struck a tone of cautious unity at their annual summit in Seoul, South Korea, adopting a joint declaration that underscored the need for resilience, inclusivity, and shared benefits in trade.

A Summit in the Shadow of Tensions

The 2025 APEC summit unfolded against an uneasy backdrop — escalating geopolitical rivalries, aggressive economic measures, and a global trading system increasingly marked by fragmentation. From U.S. tariffs and China's export controls to the rise of protectionist policies worldwide, member economies faced mounting pressure to find common ground.

While U.S. President Donald Trump announced a series of bilateral trade deals ahead of the meeting — including agreements with China and South Korea — he departed before the summit officially began. Yet, his influence lingered in the final communiqué, which notably omitted any reference to multilateralism or the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the first time in years.

A Shift in the Global Trade Dialogue

Analysts viewed the omission as symbolic of a shifting era.

“It is a result of member countries acknowledging, at least to some degree, that it will be difficult to restore a free trade order based on multilateralism and the WTO,” said Heo Yoon, professor of international trade at Sogang University in Seoul.

Instead, the declaration focused on “resilient supply chains,” “inclusive growth,” and “regional cooperation,” reflecting a pragmatic turn toward regional self-reliance rather than global liberalization.

The New Trade Reality

This year's APEC meeting underscored how Asia-Pacific economies are recalibrating — balancing between competing powers while seeking stability amid uncertainty. For many, the priority now lies in strengthening intra-regional partnerships, fostering digital trade, and building supply chain security in critical sectors like semiconductors and green energy.

As global trade governance drifts away from its traditional multilateral anchors, APEC's message was clear: the future of trade will be built on adaptability, cooperation, and regional resilience — not on the return to a bygone free-trade ideal.

India and Nepal Power Up Cross-Border Energy Ties

India and Nepal have taken another decisive step in strengthening their fast-growing energy partnership. The two neighbours signed agreements this week to build two major cross-border power transmission lines, marking a significant push toward deeper electricity trade and greater regional energy security.

The new projects — Inaruwa (Nepal)–New Purnea (India) and Lamki (Nepal)–Bareilly (India) — will operate as 400-kilovolt double-circuit transmission lines, designed to handle high-capacity electricity flow between the two nations. The agreements were inked by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), who will jointly develop and operate the lines through new joint venture companies.

A Milestone for Energy Cooperation

These transmission links are more than just infrastructure — they represent a key milestone in South Asia's move toward a shared power market. As Nepal ramps up hydropower generation and India expands its clean energy grid, both countries see cross-border electricity trade as a win-win solution.

Energy experts believe the projects will help stabilize the regional power grid, allowing surplus electricity from Nepal's rivers to flow into India's growing market. This will also pave the way for Nepal to export power further

afield, including to Bangladesh, through India's transmission network.

Long-Term Vision

Construction of the new lines will take several years, with completion expected by 2030. Once operational, they will add crucial capacity to the existing power corridors linking the two countries. Both governments have agreed to coordinate on technical standards, investment models, and regulatory frameworks to ensure smooth implementation.

The agreements follow a series of successful energy deals in recent years — including Nepal's ongoing electricity exports to India — that are helping transform the Himalayan nation from an energy importer into a regional power exporter.

Powering Regional Growth

Officials from both sides hailed the agreements as a symbol of their shared commitment to sustainable development and energy interdependence. "Our goal is not only to trade power but to build long-term energy security for the entire region," one senior energy official noted.

For India and Nepal, these transmission lines are more than cables and towers — they are bridges of cooperation, lighting homes, fueling industries, and connecting two economies through the shared current of clean energy.





UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Historic Visit to India: A New Chapter in Bilateral Relations

United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer made his first official visit to India on October 8-9, 2025, responding to an invitation from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This landmark visit reinforced the growing partnership between the two nations, guided by the ambitious 'Vision 2035' roadmap—a comprehensive 10-year plan focused on strengthening collaboration in trade, technology, defence, climate action, health, education, and cultural exchanges.

Advancing Economic and Trade Partnerships

A key focus of the visit was enhancing economic ties through the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Starmer and Modi met with numerous business leaders to discuss how this agreement could unlock significant trade and investment opportunities. The partnership aims to boost bilateral trade by billions and emphasizes sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital services, clean energy, and innovation.

Reflecting this momentum, 64 Indian companies announced investments totaling £1.3 billion in the UK, marking a strong vote of confidence in the partnership. British Airways also revealed plans to improve air connectivity by reintroducing its First-class cabin on London-Mumbai flights and rolling out upgraded seating options, strengthening people-to-people and business ties.

Boosting Technological and Defence Collaboration

The visit highlighted growing cooperation in technology, with the launch of the India-UK Joint Centre for Artificial Intelligence aimed at fostering research and innovation. Additionally, both countries inaugurated Phase-II of the Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory to secure

essential resources for clean energy and advanced technologies.

Defence ties were further strengthened with a £350 million deal for UK-made Thales missiles, creating hundreds of jobs in the UK and enhancing India's defence capabilities. The leaders also committed to joint efforts against terrorism and agreed to expand military collaboration through joint exercises and training programs.

Education, Culture, and Global Diplomacy

In education, Starmer announced that UK universities including Lancaster and Surrey would open campuses in India, contributing to a growing number of British institutions establishing a presence in the country. This move is expected to deepen academic exchange and cultural understanding.

On the global stage, Starmer reiterated the UK's support for India's bid to secure a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, recognizing India's increasing influence in international affairs. The two leaders also discussed pressing issues such as the war in Ukraine and climate change, affirming their commitment to collaborate despite differing political views.

Looking Ahead

Prime Minister Starmer's visit has injected fresh energy into India-UK relations, moving beyond diplomatic niceties to tangible progress in trade, technology, defence, and education. The initiatives and agreements forged during these two days set the stage for a dynamic and future-focused partnership, benefiting both nations and contributing to stability and prosperity in the broader Indo-Pacific region.

India Reaffirms Indo-Pacific Commitment as Papua New Guinea Marks 50 Years of Independence

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday extended his congratulations to Papua New Guinea on its 50th Independence Day, reiterating India's dedication to strengthening ties in the Indo-Pacific region.

“Warm greetings to Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko, the Government, and the people of Papua New Guinea on their 50th Independence anniversary. India remains committed to enhancing our partnership in the Indo-Pacific,” Jaishankar posted on X.

Representing Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the celebrations in Port Moresby, Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita participated in the commemorative events. He attended the national flag-hoisting ceremony at Independence Hill and conveyed best wishes from India.

“It is a privilege to be in Papua New Guinea for their golden

jubilee celebrations. On behalf of PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and the people of India, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea,” Margherita shared on X.

During his visit, Margherita also met with Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, James Marape. “It was an honour to meet Hon'ble James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. I conveyed warm greetings from PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and the people of India on the occasion of PNG's 50th Independence Day. Both nations are committed to advancing bilateral cooperation and people-to-people engagement,” he said.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Margherita's presence in Papua New Guinea was at the official invitation of the PNG government to represent Prime Minister Modi during the 50th Independence Day celebrations.



Singapore PM Lawrence Wong Begins First Official Visit to India

On September 2, 2025, Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong arrived in New Delhi for a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across key sectors. This is his first visit to India since taking office and comes at a significant moment — marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

PM Wong was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including senior ministers like Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and officials from finance, trade, and transport ministries. Upon arrival, he was warmly received by Indian officials at the airport, setting a positive tone for the visit.

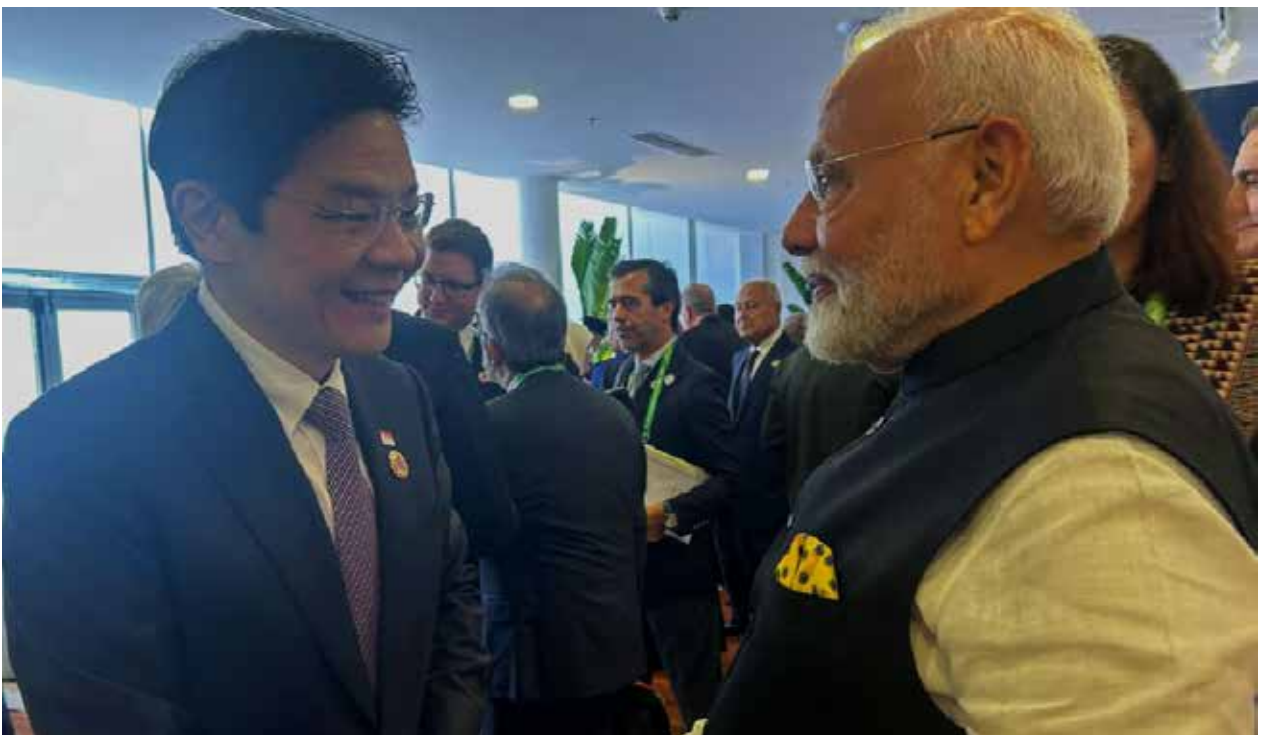
The visit is expected to lead to the signing of five major agreements covering areas such as shipping, civil aviation, space technology, digital innovation, and skill development. These pacts are part of ongoing efforts to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and

Singapore, originally upgraded during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore in 2024.

During his stay, PM Wong will meet with top Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. He is also scheduled to pay tribute at Rajghat, the memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi.

Officials on both sides view this visit as a key opportunity to enhance collaboration in trade, technology, sustainability, and regional connectivity. Discussions are likely to focus on joint initiatives in green shipping, renewable energy, digital trade, and infrastructure development.

PM Wong's visit underscores Singapore's strong support for India's Act East policy and signals a shared commitment to fostering stability and economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region.



German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul Begins Two-Day Visit to India, Focuses on Strategic and Innovation Partnerships

German Foreign Minister Johann David Wadephul began his official two-day visit to India on September 2, 2025, with a strong focus on deepening strategic, economic, and technological ties between the two nations. His first stop was Bengaluru, where he highlighted India's growing importance as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

During his visit to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Wadephul explored opportunities for bilateral cooperation in space research and advanced technologies. He emphasized Germany's interest in collaborating on innovation and tech-driven initiatives with India's scientific institutions.

A major highlight of the day was the inauguration of the SAP Experience Center at the SAP Labs India campus. The new facility showcases cutting-edge technology in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and enterprise solutions. Wadephul praised the collaboration between German and

Indian tech sectors, calling it a model for innovation-led growth.

In public statements, the German minister underlined that the India-Germany partnership is built on shared democratic values and a mutual commitment to global peace, security, and sustainable development. Trade and economic collaboration, particularly around the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), was also a central theme of the visit.

Looking ahead, Wadephul is expected to meet senior Indian leaders in New Delhi, including External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, to discuss key issues like defense cooperation, market access, and strengthening trade ties.

Wadephul's visit reflects Germany's growing engagement with India not only as a major regional power but also as a vital partner in shaping global policy across security, economy, and technology.





EU Unveils New Strategic Agenda to Deepen Ties with India

On Wednesday, the European Union introduced a comprehensive new strategic agenda aimed at strengthening its partnership with India across key sectors such as trade, technology, defence, and global collaboration. The European Commission and the High Representative released a Joint Communication titled the 'New Strategic EU-India Agenda,' outlining plans to boost bilateral cooperation, promote shared prosperity and security, and jointly address global challenges.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the importance of building alliances based on mutual values and interests. "Now is the time to focus on reliable partners and double down on partnerships rooted in shared interests and guided by common values," she said. "With our new EU-India strategy, we are taking our relationship to the next level—advancing trade, investment, and talent mobility; strengthening economic security; accelerating the clean transition; driving innovation; and deepening industrial cooperation in defence." She also reaffirmed the EU's goal of finalizing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India by the end of the year.

The Joint Communication identifies five key priority areas: trade and investment, sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, and global connectivity. It proposes actions to reinforce supply chains, promote emerging technologies, expand collaboration in renewables and green hydrogen, and initiate negotiations for a Security of Information Agreement to allow classified data sharing. It also highlights joint efforts in crisis management, maritime security, counterterrorism, cyber defence, and cooperation on global challenges such as food security, climate resilience, and multilateral governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the new strategy, calling it a "shared commitment, shared goal, and shared responsibility." In a phone conversation with President von der Leyen, he expressed appreciation for the EU's initiative and reiterated India's determination to conclude the FTA negotiations within the year. Modi also extended an invitation for the next India-EU Summit to be held in India in 2026.

The two leaders also discussed ongoing global and regional developments, including the war in Ukraine, and reaffirmed

their support for a peaceful resolution. President von der Leyen took the opportunity to convey birthday wishes to Prime Minister Modi.

The announcement of the new strategic agenda marks a significant step forward in EU–India relations, aligning both sides in their pursuit of economic resilience, innovation, and a rules-based international order.

Later in the day, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shared a message on X, saying, “On the day we launched our new EU–India strategy, I had the pleasure of wishing Narendra Modi a very happy birthday. I look forward

to returning to India for our next Summit. Together, we will open a new chapter in our partnership. We also discussed the progress of our ongoing trade negotiations and how we can collaborate to effectively support Ukraine in its fight for freedom.”

PM Modi responded: “Delighted to know about the ‘New Strategic EU–India Agenda’ adopted today. India is ready to take the India–EU relationship to the next level. It is our shared commitment, shared goal, and shared responsibility. We remain committed to an early and peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.”

PM Modi Praises Nepal’s Interim PM Karki, Sends National Day Wishes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a phone conversation on Thursday with Nepal’s interim Prime Minister, Sushila Karki, during which he conveyed India’s support for restoring peace and stability in the neighbouring nation. He also offered condolences over the recent loss of lives during public demonstrations.

During the call, PM Modi congratulated Karki on her new role and conveyed his best wishes on behalf of the Indian government and people.

Expressing deep sorrow over the casualties in recent protests, Modi reaffirmed India’s willingness to collaborate closely with Nepal to enhance bilateral relations and assist Kathmandu in its journey toward peace, stability, and development.

In response, Prime Minister Karki thanked Modi for India’s

consistent support and echoed the sentiment of strengthening the historically close ties between the two nations.

Modi also extended greetings to Nepal ahead of its upcoming National Day.

Both leaders agreed to maintain ongoing communication.

Karki assumed office as interim prime minister last week following the resignation of former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. His departure came in response to widespread demonstrations led by Gen Z activists, who voiced frustration over entrenched political corruption and stagnant leadership. The youth movement called for a neutral figure to guide Nepal through a transitional period.





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India in the Indian Ocean: Rising Influence and New Tensions with Turkey

About the Author:

BY UDAY JHA

Publisher, Diplomat Today

The Indian Ocean has become one of the most important regions for global trade, security, and power politics. For India, this ocean is not just a body of water — it is the heart of its strategic and economic future. Nearly all of India's energy imports and international trade move through these sea lanes. Keeping them open, secure, and stable has become a top national priority.

But as more countries show interest in the Indian Ocean, India faces new challenges. One of the latest and most unexpected ones comes from Turkey, a country that has recently tried to increase its influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. This shift has caused new tension between New Delhi and Ankara, adding another layer of complexity to India's maritime and diplomatic strategy.

India's Role and Vision in the Indian Ocean

India sees itself as the natural leader of the Indian Ocean region. With its central location and long coastline, it has always been deeply connected to the sea. India's foreign policy includes several initiatives that reflect this, such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Neighbourhood First Policy. These policies focus on building partnerships with neighbouring and island nations, improving maritime security, and promoting shared prosperity.

India's Navy has also expanded its presence across the ocean. It now conducts joint patrols, naval exercises, and anti-piracy missions with friendly countries like France, Australia, Indonesia, and the Maldives. India has also helped smaller island nations such as Seychelles, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka by supplying patrol boats, building radar stations, and offering disaster-relief assistance.

Through these efforts, India aims to act as a “net security provider”—a nation that not only protects its own waters but also contributes to regional safety and stability.

However, as the Indian Ocean becomes more crowded with other powers, India must balance cooperation with competition.

New Players and Old Challenges

China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean — through ports, naval bases, and investments — has been India's main concern for years. But now, new actors like Turkey are also showing interest in the region.

Turkey, though geographically far away, has been trying to expand its diplomatic and military ties with South Asian and African countries. It has signed defence and trade agreements with several nations near India's sphere of influence. This has made Indian policymakers uneasy, especially since Turkey's foreign policy in recent years has often aligned with Pakistan, India's traditional rival.

The Source of India–Turkey Tensions

India and Turkey have historically had limited but respectful relations. However, in the past few years, their relationship has taken a sharp downward turn.

The tension largely stems from Turkey's open support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Turkish leaders have frequently made statements critical of India's policies in Jammu and Kashmir, which New Delhi sees as interference in its internal affairs. In return, India has expressed “serious concern” and warned Turkey to respect mutual sensitivities.



Adding to the unease, Turkey has sold advanced military drones and equipment to Pakistan, strengthening Islamabad's defence capability. This move has alarmed India, as it directly affects regional security and balance of power.

Beyond South Asia, Turkey's efforts to establish closer ties with countries in the Indian Ocean — such as the Maldives and Sri Lanka — have also caught India's attention. While Ankara frames this as part of its broader "Asia Anew" strategy, India views it as a potential attempt to extend influence into what it considers its strategic neighbourhood.

Economic and Diplomatic Fallout

The political disagreements between India and Turkey have started to affect trade and people-to-people ties as well. Indian businesses have shown growing reluctance to import certain goods from Turkey, and some tourism and education partnerships have been paused.

These steps are symbolic but reflect public frustration in India over Turkey's stance on Pakistan and Kashmir. While the economic fallout is still limited, it shows how quickly political disputes can spill into other areas of cooperation.

India's Broader Response in the Region

India has not responded to Turkey's growing activity in a confrontational way but has taken a more strategic and long-term approach.

1. Strengthening Regional Partnerships:

India continues to deepen its ties with friendly countries in the Indian Ocean. It is working on major infrastructure projects like the Greater Malé Connectivity Project in the Maldives and helping modernize ports in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. These projects not only promote economic growth but also serve as anchors for India's influence.

2. Boosting Maritime Power:

The Indian Navy has expanded its operational reach by increasing surveillance and joint exercises. India now regularly takes part in naval exercises such as MALABAR, Varuna, and MILAN, which involve key global partners.

3. Promoting Collective Security:

Through organizations like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and initiatives like SAGAR, India continues to promote cooperative security rather than confrontation. The message is that peace and stability benefit everyone in the region.

4. Balancing Diplomacy and Deterrence:

India understands that every external actor — whether it is China, Turkey, or another country — will try to build its influence. India's goal is not to isolate anyone but to make sure that its own strategic interests and regional stability are not undermined.

Why the Indian Ocean Matters So Much

The Indian Ocean is the world's third-largest ocean and one of its busiest trade routes. Every day, thousands of ships carrying oil, gas, food, and goods pass through its sea lanes. Whoever controls or secures these routes holds major influence over global trade and energy security.

For India, this ocean is also a lifeline for energy supplies from the Middle East and Africa. Any instability — whether caused by piracy, terrorism, or foreign interference — can affect India's economy and national security.

That's why India has steadily built naval facilities, improved coastal infrastructure, and established data-sharing agreements with other countries. It has also been leading humanitarian missions and disaster-response operations across the region — soft-power tools that win goodwill and trust.

Looking Ahead: Balancing Friendship and Caution

Despite the tensions, India and Turkey are not enemies. Both are major developing nations with growing global roles and rich historical connections. There are still opportunities for cooperation — in trade, technology, education, and culture — if both sides show restraint and respect each other's core interests.

However, for now, the relationship remains tense. Turkey's support for Pakistan and its efforts to expand in the Indian Ocean have created suspicion in New Delhi. On the other hand, India remains firm that its national security and maritime interests are non-negotiable.

The coming years will show whether these tensions can cool down through diplomacy or whether the rivalry will deepen further. Much will depend on whether Turkey continues to involve itself in South Asian issues or chooses to rebuild trust through balanced engagement.

Conclusion: Protecting the Blue Frontier

India today stands at the center of the Indian Ocean — geographically, economically, and strategically. Its leadership in the region is being tested by new challenges, from China's assertiveness to Turkey's emerging presence.

But India's approach remains steady: build partnerships, promote peace, and strengthen its own maritime power. It is aware that control and stability in the Indian Ocean are not just about defence — they are about economic growth, global trade, and the security of millions of people.

As the tides of global politics shift, India's success will depend on how wisely it navigates these waters — protecting its "blue frontier" while managing both friends and rivals with patience, vision, and confidence.

India Debuts First ‘Made-in-India’ Chip ‘Vikram’, Cementing Role in Global Semiconductor Ecosystem



About the Author:

NESSMA YOUSSEF

is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

At the Semicon India 2025 event held in Delhi, Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, unveiled the country's first "Made-in-India" semiconductor chip, named Vikram, and presented it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Vikram is a 32-bit processor and forms part of the test chips developed under the four sanctioned semiconductor projects.

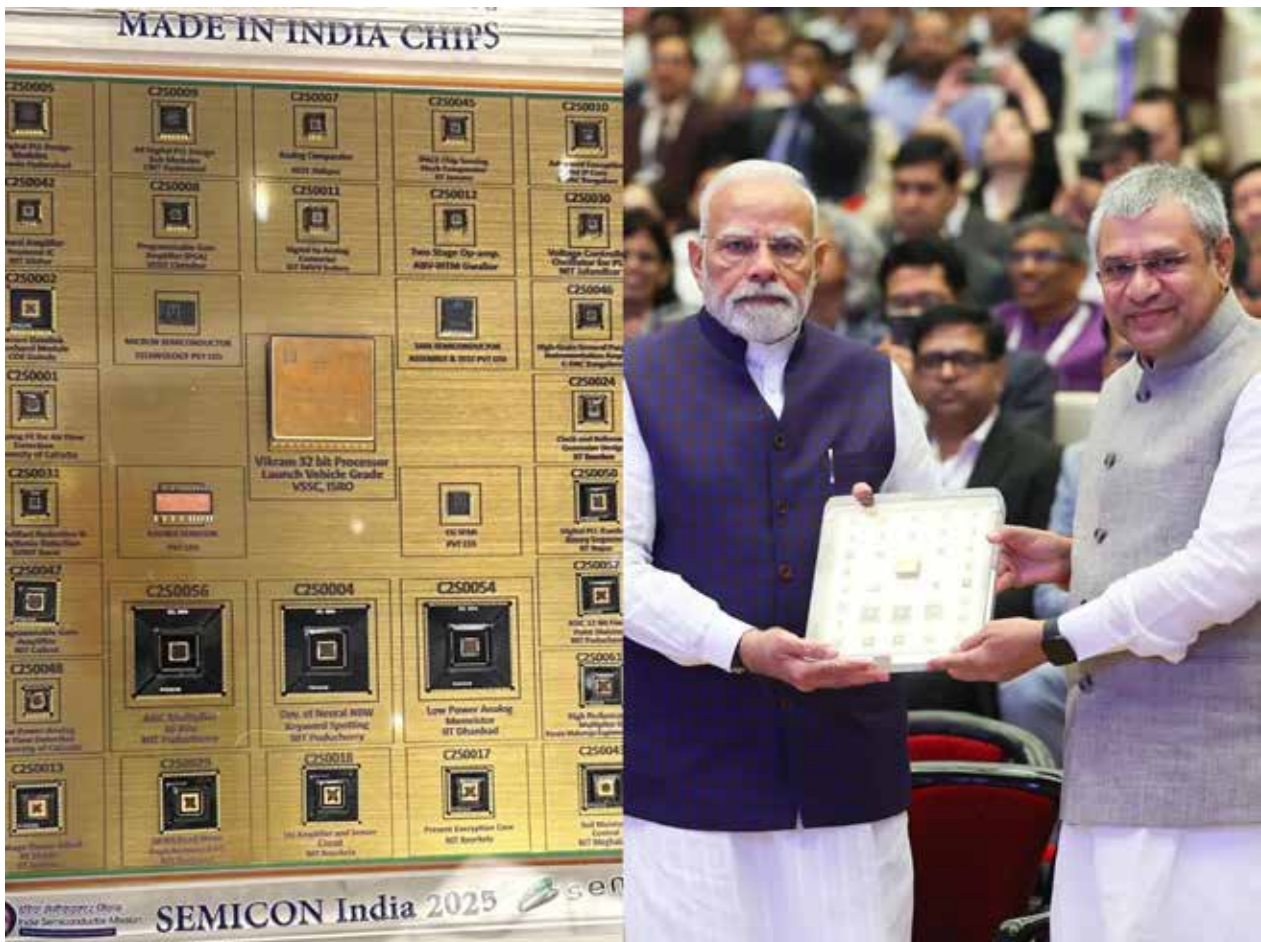
Minister Vaishnaw highlighted that five semiconductor

fabrication units have been established in India over the past three and a half years, following the launch of the country's Semiconductor Mission. He credited this progress to Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership.

According to a Bastion Research report, India contributes nearly 20% of the global semiconductor design engineering workforce, underscoring the country's significant role in the global semiconductor design ecosystem.

According to news agency ANI, a recent report emphasized India's growing prominence in the global semiconductor value chain, stating, "India is already a significant part of the global semiconductor design landscape. You may be surprised to know that nearly 20% of the world's chip design engineers are based here."

Major global tech companies such as Qualcomm, Intel, Nvidia, Broadcom, and MediaTek have established large



R&D and design centres in Indian cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Noida. This robust presence has helped position India as one of the world's leading chip design hubs.

Outlining the global distribution of roles in chip development, the report noted that engineers in the United States typically handle high-level chip architecture—including defining the chip type, end-use applications, key features, and go-to-market strategies. In contrast, Indian engineering teams play a pivotal role in executing the architecture, which includes tasks such as logic design, chip simulation and testing, performance optimisation, driver and firmware development, and refining electronic design automation (EDA) tools.

The report by Bastion Research also highlighted India's policy initiatives aimed at building a robust domestic semiconductor ecosystem, indicating strong government support to further elevate the country's role in the global semiconductor supply chain.

The Semicon India Programme was launched by the Government of India in 2021, offering incentives totaling approximately EGP 418 billion to attract leading global semiconductor manufacturers. As domestic demand surges, India's semiconductor consumption, currently estimated at EGP 1.2 trillion, is projected to increase to EGP 5.0–6.0 trillion by 2030. Commenting on this growth, Sandeep Kumar, CEO of L&T Semiconductor Technologies and Chairman of the Semiconductor Product Leadership Forum, told ANI: "When India starts producing these chips, our share in the global market will undoubtedly rise."

The Semiconductor Product Leadership Forum, established by the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), seeks to nurture an innovation-driven ecosystem focused on product design, intellectual property (IP) creation, and high-value R&D. The Forum aims to support the launch of approximately 100 new companies by 2035, creating employment opportunities for nearly 500,000 professionals, with a significant focus on engineering talent.

In a landmark achievement, India recently produced its first indigenous semiconductor chip at CG Semi's Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand, Gujarat. To date, the government has approved 10 semiconductor manufacturing projects worth over EGP 880 billion across six states, and work is already underway on Semicon 2.0, the next phase of India's semiconductor development roadmap.

A major milestone in this journey is the Vikram chip, developed by ISRO's Semiconductor Lab (SCL). Vikram is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor, specifically designed for harsh conditions in space launch vehicles. The chip was fabricated and packaged at SCL's 180nm CMOS facility in Mohali, Punjab, and is capable of handling memory-intensive operations and executing complex functions during satellite and launch vehicle missions.

Amid global economic and policy uncertainties, India has emerged as a beacon of stability and growth, steadily building its presence in the strategic semiconductor industry.





Defence Diplomacy in Action:

India and Australia Chart a Bold Course Forward

As part of his official tour to Australia, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the historic HMAS Kuttubul naval base in Sydney on Friday. Accompanied by Australia's Assistant Minister for Defence, Peter Khalil, Singh was briefed on the cutting-edge maritime facilities at Sydney Harbour and was taken on a guided tour aboard the vessel Admiral Hudson.

The visit underscored the growing alignment between the Indian and Australian naval forces and highlighted the importance of deepening cooperation in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) across the Indo-Pacific. Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhancing naval collaboration aimed at ensuring regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

Later in the day, Singh and Khalil co-chaired the inaugural India–Australia Defence Industry Business Roundtable, marking a significant step in boosting bilateral defence industrial cooperation. The discussions focused on advancing joint efforts in defence technology, manufacturing, and innovation, with a strong emphasis on leveraging India's 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives to

promote co-development and collaborative projects.

Key representatives from the defence industries of both countries participated in the roundtable, expressing keen interest in exploring new opportunities for partnerships and investment. Their active engagement reflected a mutual desire to further elevate the India–Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through industrial and technological collaboration.

In the evening, Minister Singh addressed members of the Indian community at a special event hosted by the Consulate General of India in Sydney. He commended the community for playing a vital role in strengthening the cultural, economic, and strategic ties between the two nations, emphasizing their contributions as a bridge between India and Australia.

Minister Singh's visit not only reaffirmed the shared strategic vision of both nations but also laid the groundwork for deeper collaboration in defence, industry, and people-to-people ties—underscoring the evolving partnership between two key Indo-Pacific democracies.

India Participates in the Egyptian-American Joint Military Exercise “Bright Star 2025”: The Largest in the Region



About the Author:

NESSMA YOUSSEF

is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

An Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, to participate in the Egyptian-American joint exercise “Bright Star 2025.” The exercise, which involves 44 brotherly and friendly countries, is being held at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base and across several naval and air bases in the Arab Republic of Egypt until September 10.

The Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent was welcomed by Gp Capt Perminder Antil SC, DA and officials from the Indian Embassy in Egypt.

The Indian contingent, comprising approximately 700 personnel, is among the largest Indian contingents

participating in an external exercise, further evidence of the close and growing defense cooperation between India and Egypt.

The Egyptian-American “Bright Star 2025” joint military exercise is considered one of the largest joint land, sea, and air exercises in the region, reflecting the extent of the benefits and strengthening of military relations between all participating countries. More than 8,000 fighters from 14 countries are participating, with 30 other countries participating as observers, in addition to civilian police personnel and representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross and NATO.

The participating countries with troops are: Egypt, the United States, India, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Cyprus, Iraq, Greece, Yemen, the United Kingdom, Jordan, South Africa, and Kyrgyzstan.

The participating countries as observers are: Uganda, Hungary, Tunisia, Japan, Poland, Oman, Burundi, Malaysia, Argentina, Spain, Kenya, Australia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Germany, Malawi, Mauritania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Djibouti, Bahrain, Portugal, South Korea, Switzerland, Rwanda, France, and Pakistan.





INS Sahyadri Makes Strategic Port Call in Malaysia, Strengthening Indo-Pacific Maritime Ties

As part of its operational deployment to the South China Sea and the wider Indo-Pacific region, the Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth frigate INS Sahyadri made a port call at Kemaman Port, Malaysia, marking another milestone in India-Malaysia naval cooperation.

The Indian warship was warmly welcomed by personnel of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), reflecting the growing defence partnership and shared maritime heritage between the two countries. The visit underscores India's commitment to deepening its presence in the Indo-Pacific and enhancing security cooperation with regional partners.

Commissioned in 2012, INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the Shivalik-class guided missile stealth frigates, developed under India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiative. Equipped with advanced stealth features and weapon systems, the vessel plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests. Over the years, it has participated in numerous bilateral and multilateral exercises, symbolizing India's expanding naval footprint and its role as a net security provider in the region.

This visit marks INS Sahyadri's third port call to Malaysia, following a goodwill visit to Port Klang in 2016 and participation in the India-Malaysia bilateral naval exercise Samudra Laksamana at Kota Kinabalu in 2019. The current visit focuses on enhancing interoperability, sharing best practices, and fostering mutual understanding between the Indian Navy and the RMN.

During the three-day port stay, the ship's Commanding Officer paid courtesy calls on senior Malaysian naval officials, including First Admiral Abd Halim bin Kamarudin, Deputy Commander of the Naval Region. A wide range of engagements took place, including professional exchanges, cross-training sessions, friendly sports matches, and cultural interactions between personnel of both navies.

In keeping with India's tradition of people-to-people diplomacy, the crew of INS Sahyadri also organized a yoga session and conducted a charity event, highlighting the Indian Navy's ethos of wellness, compassion, and community outreach.

India and Malaysia enjoy long-standing cultural, economic, and strategic relations, deeply rooted in centuries of maritime connectivity across the Indian Ocean. As the Indo-Pacific emerges as a focal point for global strategic competition and cooperation, both countries have reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. This alignment is visible through India's MAHASAGAR initiative—which aims to deepen maritime cooperation with Indian Ocean littoral states—and Malaysia's support for ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which emphasizes inclusivity, dialogue, and rules-based order.

The port call by INS Sahyadri not only reflects India's proactive maritime diplomacy but also reaffirms the enduring strategic partnership between New Delhi and Kuala Lumpur—built on mutual trust, regional cooperation, and a shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.



India-Morocco Strengthen Strategic Ties with Inauguration of Defence Manufacturing Facility

On Tuesday, a significant milestone in India-Morocco relations was achieved with the inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)'s cutting-edge defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco. The ceremony was jointly led by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart, Abdelatif Loudyi. This collaboration marks a new era of strategic cooperation between the two nations in the defence sector.

The state-of-the-art facility, located in the industrial hub of Berrechid, is poised to enhance India's defence production capabilities while also supporting Morocco's security and defence requirements. The establishment of the plant represents a major step towards fostering deeper bilateral ties between India and Morocco, both of which have long histories of peaceful cooperation and shared values in international security.

Strengthening Defence Cooperation

TASL, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, is known for its role in manufacturing and assembling advanced aerospace and defence systems. With this new facility, the company aims to bolster defence manufacturing not only for Morocco but also for the wider African and European markets. The facility is expected to focus on high-end military technology, including unmanned aerial systems, military helicopters, and radar systems, among others. The collaboration between India and Morocco is expected to enhance both nations' defence capabilities, while also contributing to the development of the local economy.

Speaking at the inauguration, Rajnath Singh highlighted the growing importance of India's defence ties with Morocco. He reiterated India's commitment to working with Morocco in promoting regional peace and stability, particularly in North Africa. This facility is a clear demonstration of India's "Make in India" initiative, aimed at boosting the domestic manufacturing sector while catering to global markets.

A Historic Moment for Bilateral Relations

For Morocco, the inauguration marks a key step in diversifying its defence partnerships. While the country has long been engaged with Western defence suppliers, the new facility establishes stronger ties with India, one of the world's fastest-growing defence markets. Abdelatif Loudyi emphasized that this partnership will not only enhance Morocco's technological capabilities but also create local job opportunities and foster skill development in the country's workforce.

The facility's opening serves as a testament to the growing defence and strategic relations between India and Morocco. It reflects a shared vision of bolstering security, defence innovation, and regional stability, setting the stage for even greater collaborations in the future.

In conclusion, the launch of this high-tech defence manufacturing plant is a pivotal development in India-Morocco ties, providing both countries with an opportunity to collaborate on cutting-edge defence technologies while supporting their mutual interests in global security and economic progress.



India, Australia Strengthen Defence Partnership During Rajnath Singh's Visit

India and Australia took a major step forward in deepening their defence and strategic partnership as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Australia on Thursday for the first-ever India–Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue.

Singh's visit included a series of key meetings with top Australian officials, aimed at reinforcing the growing cooperation between the two nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

During his meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, both leaders highlighted the close and growing defence relationship built on mutual trust and shared regional interests.

"Australia and India's defence partnership keeps getting stronger – built on trust, shared interests and a commitment to a peaceful, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific," Albanese wrote in a post on X after the meeting.

Tribute and Diplomatic Engagements

As part of his visit, Minister Singh also paid his respects at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where he laid a wreath in honour of the country's fallen soldiers — a symbolic gesture reflecting the respect and solidarity between the two countries.

He also held delegation-level talks with Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, discussing broader strategic priorities and regional challenges that require close bilateral coordination.

Major Defence Agreements Signed

A highlight of the visit was Singh's detailed meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles. The two ministers conducted a comprehensive review of defence ties, covering areas such as defence production, cybersecurity, maritime cooperation, and regional stability.

The two sides also signed key agreements aimed at boosting military-to-military coordination. One such agreement will pave the way for more structured communication between the operational commands of both countries' armed forces.

Speaking to ANI, Marles said the new agreements marked a "hugely significant" development in the relationship.

"We're now seeing deep trust and strategic alignment turning into more active, operational-level cooperation. The agreement on staff-level talks between our defence forces is a big step forward," he noted.

A Shared Vision for the Indo-Pacific

Singh's trip comes at a time when both nations are focused on enhancing security cooperation across the Indo-Pacific, a region that remains central to their strategic interests. The visit reaffirms India and Australia's shared vision for an open, stable, and rules-based regional order.

With new agreements in place and high-level talks setting a clear direction, the visit has added further momentum to the already strong India–Australia defence partnership — one that continues to grow in both scope and significance.



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Lauds Indian Diaspora in Malaysia for Strengthening Ties and Driving Progress

Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, on Friday, interacted with members of the Indian workers' diaspora in Malaysia, acknowledging their vital contributions to India's growth and their role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

During his address, Dr. Mandaviya praised the Indian community for being an integral part of India's development journey, even while residing abroad. He emphasized that their hard work and achievements are not only a source of pride for the nation but also serve as a bridge strengthening bilateral relations between India and Malaysia.

Malaysia is home to the world's third-largest Indian diaspora, with more than 2.9 million people of Indian origin. Commending the community for preserving its rich cultural identity while excelling in diverse sectors, the Minister noted that their success has positively impacted Malaysia's development and helped reinforce longstanding cultural and economic ties between the two countries.

"The Indian diaspora in Malaysia has played a remarkable role in both national progress and global diplomacy," said Dr. Mandaviya. "Your achievements abroad inspire millions back

home and contribute meaningfully to our shared future."

Reiterating India's commitment to safeguarding the welfare of its workers abroad, Dr. Mandaviya highlighted the significance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Recruitment, Employment, and Repatriation of Workers signed with Malaysia in August 2024. He described it as a landmark agreement aimed at protecting the rights and wellbeing of Indian workers overseas.

The Minister also urged overseas workers to utilize the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, an insurance scheme offering comprehensive coverage, including accidental death, disability, medical emergencies, and repatriation assistance. This initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to ensure that Indian workers abroad receive adequate protection and support.

Dr. Mandaviya's visit reflects India's ongoing dedication to strengthening connections with its diaspora communities and reinforcing partnerships that benefit both India and host countries. By recognizing the invaluable contributions of the Indian diaspora, the government aims to foster a more inclusive and prosperous future for all.



Modi Calls on Global Investors to Join India's Blue Economy Growth Journey



About the Author:

NESSMA YOUSSEF

is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

Indian Prime Minister: Our Maritime Sector Has Become a Symbol of Global Confidence and National Pride

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi published an article on LinkedIn following his participation in the Maritime Leaders Conference held in Mumbai as part of India Maritime Week 2025. In the article, he affirmed that India's maritime sector is experiencing an unprecedented boom in infrastructure, reforms, and productivity, making it a cornerstone of the country's economic growth.

Modi stated that Mumbai, historically linked to India's

maritime heritage and the achievements of Commander Shivaji Maharaj, is now a pivotal hub for port infrastructure and a major center for national trade. He noted the optimism of both domestic and international investors regarding the future of port-based development in India.

He added that India, with its rich maritime history dating back to empires such as the Chola and Marathas, has regained its status as a rising maritime power in the last decade after years of legislative stagnation and limited capabilities, thanks to extensive reforms, a focus on port modernization, and enhanced private sector participation.

Significant Leaps in Capacity and Productivity

The Prime Minister explained that the handling capacity of Indian ports has more than doubled from 1,400 to 2,762 million tons annually, while the volume of cargo handled has increased from 972 to 1,594 million tons, and vessel turnaround time has decreased from 93 to 48 hours. The net surplus has also increased ninefold to 9,352 crore rupees, and the utilization rate has improved from 73% to 43%, reflecting unprecedented efficiency.

Modi noted that the number of Indian maritime workers has increased from 125,000 to over 300,000, now representing 12% of the global maritime workforce, making India one of

the top three exporters of maritime personnel in the world.

Integrated Maritime and Waterway Expansion

The Prime Minister noted that the number of registered Indian vessels increased from 1,205 to 1,549, and the total tonnage grew to 13.52 million tons, while coastal cargo transport nearly doubled from 87 million to 165 million tons. Cargo transport via inland waterways also saw record growth of 710%, reaching 146 million tons in 2025, up from just 18 million tons in 2014.

He added that India now has 32 active waterways, compared to only three a decade ago, and that ferry and Ro-Pax services carried more than 75 million passengers during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Sustainability and Innovation at the Heart of the Vision

Modi emphasized that his government's vision prioritizes sustainability and innovation in the development of the sector. He noted that Vizhngam Port has become India's first deep-sea cargo hub, while Kandla Port is home to the country's first green hydrogen production facility. He also highlighted that Nhava Sheva Port (JNPT) has attracted the largest foreign direct investment in the history of Indian ports after doubling its capacity.

The Prime Minister also discussed the Vadawan Port project

in Maharashtra, with investments totaling approximately 76 billion rupees. He affirmed that it will be among the deepest ports in the world and will contribute to creating vast economic opportunities thanks to its direct connection to road and high-speed rail networks.

Reforms Underpin Transformation

Modi pointed out that the Indian government has introduced five pivotal laws in recent years, including the Bill of Lading Act and the Indian Ports Act 2025, to modernize maritime governance, streamline trade, and strengthen state powers. A funding package of 70 billion rupees was also approved to support the sector, in addition to incentive programs that will attract more than 4.5 trillion rupees in investments and provide more than 2,500 new vessels.

A Call to Invest in the Blue Economy

Modi concluded his article by inviting global investors to join India's growth journey in the blue economy, emphasizing that India possesses long coastlines, strategic locations, world-class ports, an ambitious vision, and an environment that fosters innovation and a young generation capable of building a bright future.

The Prime Minister said, "India is a safe haven for investment. We have the infrastructure, the innovation, and the determination. Come and join us on this voyage to prosperity."



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Jaishankar Hosts High-Level Global South Meeting, Calls for Stronger Multilateralism and South-South Cooperation

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar chaired a High-Level Meeting of Like-Minded Global South countries in New York on Tuesday, held on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80). The gathering aimed to strengthen solidarity, enhance cooperation, and reinforce multilateral efforts among developing nations.

The discussions focused on shared challenges and priorities, including climate justice, digital transformation, and the urgent need to reform multilateral institutions. The meeting reflected a growing consensus among Global South nations on the importance of reshaping international systems to better represent their voices and needs.

Taking to social media platform X, Jaishankar wrote, “Delighted to host the High-Level Meeting of Like-Minded Global South Countries in New York today on the sidelines of UNGA80. In the face of the proliferation of concerns and the multiplicity of risks, it is natural that the Global South turn to multilateralism for solutions.”

He emphasized the need to utilise existing platforms to foster stronger consultations and collaboration among Global South nations. India, he said, brings valuable contributions in areas like vaccines, digital infrastructure, education, agriculture, and support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

On climate change, Jaishankar urged the Global South to take the lead in crafting initiatives tailored to their needs rather than accepting narratives defined by the Global North. He also highlighted the potential of emerging technologies—

particularly artificial intelligence (AI)—and pushed for comprehensive reforms in global institutions, including the United Nations.

Speaking to the complex global environment, Jaishankar pointed to the aftermath of COVID-19, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, extreme climate events, volatile trade conditions, and unpredictable financial trends. He stressed that the rights and expectations of developing nations—built over decades—are now under pressure.

“The very foundation of multilateralism is under threat,” he warned. “International organisations are being weakened and underfunded. The global order is fraying, and the cost of delaying critical reforms is becoming increasingly evident.”

To address these challenges, Jaishankar called for a united front from the Global South, advocating for transparent economic systems, robust trade and investment links, resilient supply chains, and deeper technological cooperation.

He also underlined the need to resolve conflicts affecting food, fertiliser, and energy security and to harness digital technology for inclusive development, including digital public infrastructure and fair market access.

During his visit, Jaishankar also held bilateral meetings with several foreign ministers, including Vivian Balakrishnan of Singapore, Alva Baptiste of St. Lucia, Ritish Ramful of Mauritius, and David van Weel from the Netherlands.



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INDIA-EGYPT

Renewing Ties, Reviving Africa's Promise





When the magic of India meets the beauty of Egypt:

Indian culture illuminates Sharm El Sheikh, one of the world's most prominent tourist cities

The rhythms of India painted a joyful picture on Sharm El Sheikh's cosmopolitan features



About the Author:

NESSMA YOUSSEF

is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

Sharm El Sheikh, one of the world's most famous coastal tourist cities, hosted the first Indian Arts and Culture Festival. The festival aims to strengthen relations between Egypt and India, within the framework of the shared human heritage and mutual cultural giving between the two countries.

Sharm El Sheikh, also known as the "City of Peace," is an important destination for hosting major international events. It boasts a diverse tourism offering that caters to all global tastes. It is also the jewel of the Red Sea coast, with its unique location on the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba, and is visited by millions of tourists of various nationalities from around the world.

On September 1, Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy, Ambassador of India to Egypt, inaugurated the Indian Cultural Festival, organized by the Embassy of India in Cairo in cooperation with the South Sinai Governorate in Egypt, at Soho Square



in Sharm El Sheikh, one of the city's most prominent entertainment destinations. This was a celebration of India's rich and diverse culture.

The festival was held over three consecutive days, and included a photo exhibition documenting the history of Egyptian-Indian relations, a diverse array of dazzling artistic performances, including classical Indian dances such as Kathak, Bollywood dance performances, traditional and contemporary Indian music, yoga performances, Indian documentary and feature film screenings, and an exhibition of the most prominent Bedouin and heritage products from the people of South Sinai Governorate in Egypt. The festival

was met with great interaction from foreign, Arab, and Egyptian tourists who gathered in Soho Square to enjoy the Indian cultural atmosphere.

The festival aimed to celebrate Indian culture, enhance mutual understanding and deepen ties between the Egyptian and Indian peoples, and promote Indian classical traditions.

“The warmth of India and the timeless beauty of Egypt” is how we can describe the festival, which brought the spirit of Indian culture to the Egyptian shores and filled Sharm El-Sheikh with color, music, and dance. From the vibrant rhythms of Bollywood to the elegant Kathak dance and





captivating live performances, Soho Square was filled with magic, a festive atmosphere, and rhythmic beats that had everyone dancing.

The magic of Kathak added a special touch amidst an atmosphere of creativity and cultural diversity. Indian artist Sonam Chauhan gave a magnificent performance during her participation in the festival. Tourists and Egyptians were also able to experience authentic Indian flavors, as the festival offered a rich experience of the most delicious authentic Indian cuisine, in an unforgettable culinary journey.

A special screening of the blockbuster film "RRR", starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan, was held at the Palace of Culture, receiving a large audience and thunderous applause.

The uniqueness of this festival in Sharm El Sheikh is further enhanced by its status as a destination for millions of tourists

of various nationalities. Hotel occupancy rates reached nearly 100% in September 2025, and the city received more than 14,000 flights in the first eight months of the year. Thus, the festival was not just a cultural event; it was an open window allowing all these visitors to get closer to the spirit of India, savor its music, and dance to its rhythms, taking home a special memory that blends the splendor of the place with the magic of its culture.

The Indian Ambassador to Egypt expressed his happiness at organizing the festival in Sharm El-Sheikh, one of the most famous coastal tourist cities with a prime location, which he described as "a vibrant and fun-filled city." He noted that, in addition to this charm, the beautiful melodies of Indian music and wonderful Indian dances blend together to add joy, as if the entire city were dancing to the rhythm of happiness, reflecting the deep cultural relations and historical ties between the two countries.



He emphasized that these events contribute to strengthening cultural diplomacy and aim to stimulate dialogue and understanding through the arts, music, and cinema. He pointed out that this festival is only the beginning of more Indian cultural and artistic events that will be hosted by the “enchanted” Egyptian city of Sharm El-Sheikh, strengthening bridges of human communication and bringing the Egyptian and Indian peoples closer together.

The governor of Egypt’s South Sinai Governorate put forward proposals to support cultural cooperation between India and Egypt, most notably: establishing an Egyptian-Indian academy for arts and heritage in Sharm el-Sheikh, launching joint online platforms to document cultural heritage, and organizing periodic events that integrate Egyptian Bedouin heritage with Indian culture.



Africa – A Land of Opportunities for Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Ruralpreneurs and Agripreneurs

Digital Transformation of Africa's Agricultural Sector: Need to have Challenges understood, Priorities drawn and Strategies worked out, in the era of globalization and digitalised economy

Globalization aims at bringing the World closer like a Global Village. As the World population rises, Africa's agricultural potential will become increasingly critical to global – and regional – food security. The Africa Continent with its 55 Nations, is endowed with an abundance of natural resources, including 60% of the World's arable land (www.undp.org). It is a land of opportunities and technological innovations, and it is the second largest continent in area and the third largest in population. Africa's population is currently around 1.54 billion, representing about 18.83% of the World's population (www.Worldometer.info).

Africa's immense environmental and agricultural heterogeneity profoundly shapes its farming practices and crop cultivation. The continent's diverse climates, ranging from arid deserts to tropical rainforests, present varied agricultural challenges concerning water availability, temperature, and pest and disease prevalence. This diversity manifests across numerous agro-ecological zones, including North Africa's arid regions, Central Africa's lush rainforests, Mediterranean-type climates, high-altitude plateaus, and expansive savannas. While peasant and subsistence farming remain prevalent, supporting a significant portion of the agricultural population, irrigated systems are vital in specific areas. Africa's crop portfolio mirrors this diversity.

Agricultural Landscape in Africa includes both traditional and more modern agricultural practices, emphasizing the importance of both crop and livestock production, as well as aquaculture and forestry, all of which are vital for food security and livelihoods in Africa. Agriculture is a cornerstone of Africa's economy, employing over 50% of the Workforce and contributing up to 60% to GDP in some nations in Africa. The Report "Unlocking the Food belts of Asia and Africa" of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), released during the Asia Africa Agribusiness Summit 2014 held at New Delhi, estimated that "by 2030, the Agriculture and Agribusiness industry is projected to be 3 trillion US Dollars in Africa and almost 4.5 trillion US Dollars in Asia". It also said that "Africa and

Asia are fast emerging as the food bowl of the World". While Asia has constraint of land availability, currently only 183 million hectares of land is under cultivation in Sub-Saharan Africa which has about 452 Million hectare of suitable land for agriculture remaining uncultivated.

According to published reports in www.researchgate.net, the Globalization has significantly impacted Africa's agriculture sector, bringing both Opportunities and Challenges. While increased global trade and investment can lead to higher production and access to new markets, it also exposes African farmers to intense competition, potential price volatility, and the risk of marginalization.

Challenges and Potential due to Globalisation: Strategies for Digital Transformation of African Agriculture

Many International Organizations and Forums associated with Food and Agriculture System, and Farmers viz., The World Bank, IMF, UNDP, FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, ITU, WTO, WEF, ICRISAT, GFFA, GFF and AARDO indicate that Globalization of Agriculture has had a mixed impact on Africa, with both positive and negative consequences for its food systems and farmers, particularly smallholders, economic development, and climate change. Their assertions are visible and clear for working out appropriate strategies country-wise, region-wise and village levels, to accelerate positive impacts in a sustainable manner and minimizing negative impacts to the extent possible. The hot-line tag was "Smallholder farmers are not left behind", and "Advocate for a Sustainable Green Revolution", in Africa.

The African Union (AU) recognizes Digital Transformation as crucial for modernizing African agriculture and driving economic growth, particularly through its "Agenda 2063" Vision. The AU's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) outlines how digital technologies could modernize the agricultural sector, create jobs, and boost economic growth. This strategy aims to address inequalities in access to digital technologies, particularly

for Women and Youth in rural area (www.au.int). The International Organizations and Forums viewed “Digital Transformation in African Agriculture” was crucial and its Challenges understood, Priorities drawn and Strategies worked out viz., build Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to support digitalisation of agriculture; but, see inclusive digital transformation as crucial and recognise its potential for offering opportunities to: enhance Productivity, better Market Access through online platforms, achieve Supply Chain efficiency, access to Knowledge and Information, access to Credit, and ensure Food security leading to better livelihoods.

As correctly postulated, the African Union (AU), a continental body consisting of the 55 Member States, as of today, has emphasized the need for Africa-led solutions to address the challenges of globalization, including policies that promote sustainable agriculture growth, protect interests of local farmers, and diversify export markets.

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – A Blueprint and Master Plan for Transformation

The AGENDA 2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future with a set of Seven Aspirations and 20 Development Goals, aligned with SDGs. Among the 20 Agenda 2063 Goals, the Goal No. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 are related to the African Food and Agriculture System, as detailed below:-

Agenda 2063 Goal	Goal Mission	Aligned to UN SDG
2	Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation	4
3	Healthy and well-nourished Citizens	3
5	Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production	2
6	Blue/Ocean economy for accelerated economic growth	14
7	Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities	6, 7, 13, 15

The Continental Frameworks are developed to address the development of key sectors such as Agriculture, Trade, Transport, Energy and Mining viz., (a) Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), (b) Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA), (c) African Mining Vision (AMV), (d) Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), (e) Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT), and (f) Accelerated

Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA). It demands to have Digital Ecosystem to integrate these Continental Frameworks seamlessly in Africa to drive maximum benefits for growth and development, with an agreed timeline.

Knowledge is at the heart of Sustainable Development. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has established the “Knowledge Management Models for Agricultural Development” (KM4AgD) Challenge 2021 : Strengthening the Knowledge Ecosystem, with its Continental Partners – Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and Knowledge for Development Partner (K4DP). Along the line of Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0, Agriculture 4.0 and Extension 5.0 Frameworks are essential for CAADP.

Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) – A Great Opportunity Digital Transformation through Technology (T3) in Agricultural Landscape of Africa

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), is an Agenda 2063 continental initiative that aims to help African countries eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development: increasing productivity and farm incomes, and improving the sustainability of agricultural production and use of natural resources. The CAADP has 4 priority areas (Pillars) namely:

- 1. Sustainable Land and Water Management** - Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
- 2. Market Access:** Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
- 3. Food Supply and Reduce Hunger:** Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises; and
- 4. Agricultural Research:** Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Each Pillar of CAADP needs adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) based on Ecosystem Architecture to facilitate Digital Transformation. African Agriculture must embrace transforming agriculture sector in Africa continent by making extensive use of modern technologies, including digital technologies, enabled by connectivity.

In Africa, however, low productivity, limited market access, and climate change hinder its potential. Fragmented supply chains and inefficient farming practices exacerbate these issues, threatening food security and sustainable development. Application of Digital Technology in Agriculture and ushering in Digital transformation offers a promising solution, with innovations poised to enhance agricultural efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity. Transformation through Technology (T3) involves Information Technology (now Digital Technology), Operational Technology and Knowledge Management Technology. By leveraging digital technologies, African agriculture is facilitated moving towards improved productivity, market integration, and resource management, while fostering a more resilient and inclusive sector.

A Sustainable Agriculture and Food Farming System for Self-Reliant and Climate Resilient Agriculture requires intensive application of science and technology within a well-defined framework to adopt “strategic use” of Digital Technology in Farming System Life Cycle, as adopted in India through the Ashok Dalwai Committee on Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022 Report 2018 of the Government of India (Volume 12B – Chapter 10) as follows: -

- Digitalised Agriculture: Digital Technology and Innovation for Transformational Reforms in Agricultural Sector - SMART Irrigated Farming, Smart Rainfed Farming and Smart Tribal Farming
- Digitalised Agro-Met Advisories & Agricultural Risk Management Solution
- Digitalized Agricultural Resources Information System and Micro-Level Planning for achieving SMART VILLAGE & SMART FARMING
- Digitalized Value Chain for Agricultural Commodities (Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries etc)
- Digitalised Access to Inputs, Technology, Knowledge, Skill, Agricultural Finance, Credit, Marketing and Agribusiness Management, to Farmers (Farming as a Service)
- Digitalized Integrated Land and Water Management System
- Digitalized Farm Health Management (Public Health, Plant health, Animal health, Soil Health and Environmental health) for reduction of Farmers’ Losses.

These seven Mission Mode Programs will facilitate establishing AgriTech StartUps in a cluster of 10-15 Villages through Ecosystem Architecture at grassroot level,

facilitating StartUps to StandUp, GrowUp and ScaleUp, through appropriate assessment and valuation at each stage. This framework will promote “Decision Science” in “Agricultural Science” through an Agricultural Informatics Programme. Agricultural Informatics and e-Governance Programme has enormous potential and opportunities as an important Research, Academic and Development disciplines for digital penetration in Villages through AgriTech StartUps for the African Landscape of Agriculture. Higher Education Institutions (HEI) with Data Science Courses / Agricultural Science Courses can join with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to promote AgriTech StartUps for Agriculture 4.0 & Extension 5.0, in a cluster of 10-15 Villages in Africa. Such Development Model (One HEI – One CSO) is under implementation for promoting Smart Tribal Farming in Tribal Villages, as pilot Initiatives in India.

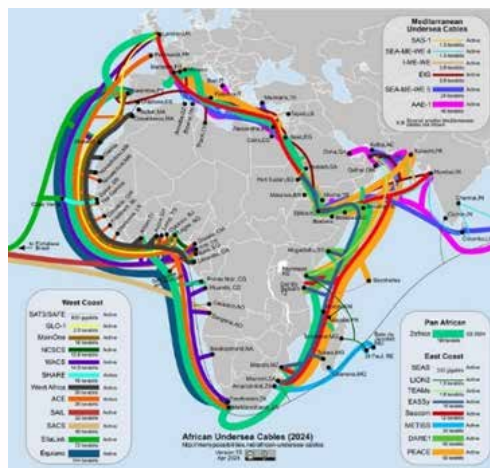


Figure-1 (Now)

Africa, Existing Regional Submarine Cable Projects



Figure-2(2003)

During the last 20 years, Africa’s Undersea Cable Capacity has undergone a tremendous growth which is visible from Figure-1 and Figure-2. Figure-1 refers to the Africa Undersea Cable System as of 2024, whereas Figure-2 shows the Africa Undersea Cable as available in 2003. Globalization impact

on Digital Networks for undertaking digital transformation in Africa Continent is noticeable. What Africa NEEDS today is terrestrial fiber to drive the existing subsea cable capacity inland to improve the broadband capacity of the wireless and cellphone networks (Eric Osiakwan in AfrISIA, 23 November 2020), and it may be better and faster to leverage on projects like Starlink in Africa, instead of depending only on building terrestrial networks. Starlink delivers high-speed Internet almost anywhere on Earth (www.starlink.com).

Many Africa Nations, e.g. Malawi and Sierra Leone, rely primarily on Rainfed Agriculture. The Case study of Malawi and Sierra Leone, which are familiar to me, amply justifies the need for development of Informatics Network and Agricultural Commodity Value Chains, and also Smart Rainfed Farming as an ecosystem applying GRIN (Genomics, Robotics, Informatics and Nano Technology) Revolution. An unexploited huge potential for job creation, inclusion of small famers, income generation, and agricultural productivity increase, is existing to be achieved through Digital Transformation in a globalized and digitalised economy.

Conclusion

The hot-line tag has been “Smallholder farmers are not left behind”, and “Advocate for a Sustainable Green Revolution”, in Africa. The Agenda 2063 and Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) may adopt the ecosystem Approach as proposed for Strategic Use of Digital Technology in Farming System Life Cycle, through 7 Mission Mode Programmes recommended by the Government of India’s Ashok Dalwai Committee on Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022 Report 2018 of (Volume 12B – Chapter 10). This Eco-system Approach is required as the “future of farming” will be mostly based on extensive research and development in the areas of Genomics, Robotics, Informatics and Nanotechnology (GRIN). Creation of Agricultural Informatics Network and Value Chains for Country specific Agricultural Commodities is undertaken as “Top Most PRIORITY” under the CAADP.

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) of Agenda 2063 needs to usher in Digital Transformation to sustain the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts due to the Globalisation of African Agriculture, and benefit from the Globalized Digital Economy.



About the Author

PROFESSOR MONI MADASWAMY

Former Director General, National Informatics Centre, a premier Institution of Government of India in the areas of e-Governance and Informatics development.

Professor Moni is a Distinguished Technocrat and Eminent Informatics Scientist in the area of “e-Governance, Informatics and Agricultural Informatics” in India and has been a PIONEER, and “played a significant role in taking e-Governance in India and strived hard, thought strategically for long-term solutions, fought ground realities and challenges faced the country, yet devised ways to succeed”.

Professor Moni was the Founder Project Director of District Information System Programme of NIC (DISNIC) for 28 development sectors including Agricultural Sector in the 520+ Districts in India in, initiated in 1987 and the “front-runner” of the present day “e-Governance Programme” of India. Also instrumental for conceptualizing Digital Networks for Farmers (DNF) – An Informatics Blueprint for Improving Agricultural Productivity and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, through the National Conference on “Informatics for Sustainable Agricultural Development, May 1995” (ISDA-95) and operationalizing many national ICT projects viz., AgRIS, AGRISNET, AGMARKNET, SEEDNET, HORTNET, APHNET, FISHNET, NADRS (National Animal Disease Monitoring System) Project etc. in the Agricultural Sector in India.

After retirement (superannuating) from the Government Service in May 2013, Professor Moni has been the Professor Emeritus and Chairman, Centre for Agricultural Informatics and e-Governance Research Studies (CAIRS) 2013; and instrumental for establishing Centre for Agribusiness and Disaster Management Studies (CADMS) 2017, Centre for Industry 4.0 Technology Studies and Applications (CITSA) 2018 and Centre for Informatics development Studies and Applications (CIDS) 2019 and Centre for Health Informatics and Computing (CHIC) 2021, of Shobhit Institute of Engineering and Technology (Deemed University Meerut, Uttar Pradesh).

Professor Moni works very closely with AARDO New Delhi and UN CIRDAP Dhaka in the areas of Informatics, e-Governance and Agricultural Informatics Research and Development.



From Chemicals to Green Hydrogen: India's Investment Footprint Grows in Egypt

Between January and July 2025, Indian companies invested approximately US\$ 33 billion across global markets, averaging about US\$ 4.7 billion each month. These investments are being channeled into greenfield ventures, brownfield expansions, and joint ventures with international partners, reflecting a strong outward investment trend.



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is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

According to data from the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, the primary destinations for these outbound investments were Singapore, Mauritius, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

In Egypt alone, over 500 Indian firms are registered, with around 50 actively operating across various sectors. The cumulative Indian investment in Egypt surpasses US\$ 4.5 billion. Key Indian players in the Egyptian market include TCI Sanmar (with an investment of US\$ 1.6 billion), Alexandria Carbon Black, Dabur, Galaxy Chemicals, Egypt Global Silicates, Flex P Films, Misr Hytech Seeds, SCIB Paints, Britannia, Monginis, Embee Garments, and Velocity Jeans, among others.

According to the Embassy of India in Cairo, TCI Sanmar stands out as the largest manufacturing investment by any foreign company in Egypt, not just among Indian firms. It is also the leading producer of caustic soda across Africa and the Gulf region. Indian companies are actively involved in

manufacturing across various sectors in Egypt, including apparel, agriculture, chemicals, energy, automobiles, retail, and more. Collectively, these companies provide employment—both direct and indirect—to around 48,000 Egyptians and contribute over US\$ 1 billion in annual exports.

In the financial year 2024-25, four Indian companies entered the Egyptian market with combined investments totaling US\$ 175 million. These include:

Flex P. Films (packaging),

ADBOS (FMCG manufacturing),

EKC Cylinders, and

Platinum Stabilisers (polymers).

A notable recent development is Willow Ferro, which became the first Indian company to invest in the Sinai region, specifically in the East Ismailia Free Zone under the SCZone. With a planned investment of US\$ 75 million, the company will manufacture ferro silicon, ferro manganese, and silico manganese—contributing to import substitution worth an equivalent US\$ 75 million annually for Egypt.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Indian firms have committed

approximately US\$ 100 million in investments toward the manufacture of oncology drugs, biosimilars, and medical instruments. Furthermore, two Indian companies are expected to invest around US\$ 12 billion in the production of Green Hydrogen, marking a significant move into the renewable energy space.

India's outbound investments have not only increased in value but also diversified geographically and sectorally. In FY 2024-25, outward investments rose by 75% to reach US\$ 30 billion, signaling a broader strategic shift in India's global investment patterns.

Egypt presents a strategic opportunity for Indian investors due to its skilled workforce, robust logistics infrastructure, cost-effective inputs, and preferential market access to over 70 countries through FTAs. It also benefits from a stable political and economic environment.

Indian businesses already operating in Egypt are positive about the country's investment climate and are planning further expansion. However, Egypt faces intense competition from GCC countries, which are also aggressively pursuing foreign investments in manufacturing. Stronger collaboration between New Delhi and Cairo, coupled with proactive outreach by Egyptian investment promotion agencies in India, could help attract greater Indian investment into Egypt.



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Role of Women in the Socioeconomic Development of Nigeria

Introduction

Women form the backbone of Nigeria's population and play a vital role in shaping the nation's socioeconomic landscape. From agriculture and education to politics and entrepreneurship, women's contributions have been instrumental in driving progress and community transformation. Despite this, gender inequality, cultural barriers and limited access to opportunities continue to hinder their full potential. This article examines the multifaceted role of Nigerian women in socioeconomic development, highlights current initiatives that empower women, and underscores the challenges and future pathways for greater inclusion.

Historical Perspective

Traditionally, Nigerian women have always been active participants in social and economic life. Before colonialism, women were farmers, traders, craft-makers and community leaders. The famous Aba Women's Riot of 1929, in which thousands of women protested against unfair taxation, highlighted their political consciousness and capacity for organised action. Over time, however, colonial structures and patriarchal norms relegated women to subordinate roles, limiting their access to education, property and political participation. Today's movement toward gender equity represents a reclaiming of this lost space in history.

Women in Agriculture and Rural Economy

Agriculture remains the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, employing a large percentage of the population, especially in rural areas. Women contribute between 60–80% of food production, post-harvest processing and marketing. However, they face challenges such as a lack of land ownership, limited access to credit, and out dated farming tools. Initiatives like the Nigeria for Women Project (NFWP) have strengthened women's economic roles by forming Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) that provide access to financial services, business mentorship and skills training tailored to women's unique needs. Empowering women through agricultural training, microfinance and land rights reforms can significantly boost food security and rural income levels, accelerating national development.

Education and Empowerment

Education is the foundation of socioeconomic advancement and women's education has proven to have a multiplier effect on families and communities. While Nigeria has made progress in female education, especially in urban areas, many girls in the northern regions still face early marriage, poverty and cultural restrictions that prevent schooling. Government initiatives like the "Girl Child Education Programme" and advocacy by civil society organisations have helped reduce the gender gap, but sustained effort is needed to ensure inclusive education for all girls. Policies focusing on women's education are essential for breaking cycles of poverty, especially since women constitute over half the population and a significant portion of the poor in Nigeria

Women in Entrepreneurship and Business

Nigerian women have demonstrated remarkable resilience and creativity as entrepreneurs. From small-scale traders in local markets to founders of thriving enterprises in fashion, technology and finance, women are redefining business leadership. The rise of organisations like the "Bank of Industry's Gender Desk" and "Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment" has provided financial and technical support to female-owned businesses.

Political Participation and Leadership

The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international partners such as the World Bank, has launched transformative programs to enhance women's socioeconomic status. Political inclusion is a critical indicator of gender equality. Cultural biases, financial barriers and political violence often deter women from contesting elections. Increasing women's participation in decision-making processes ensures that governance is more responsive, equitable and people-centred. These comprehensive efforts address systemic barriers such as gender discrimination, financial exclusion, and social norms that hinder women's advancement.

Challenges and the Way Forward

Despite progress, Nigerian women still face systemic challenges such as gender-based violence, unemployment, wage inequality and inadequate representation in leadership roles. The informal sector, where many women work, often lacks social protection and access to credit. Addressing these barriers requires a comprehensive approach combining education, legal reforms, capacity building and social awareness. By continuing to invest in women's financial inclusion, education, health and legal rights, Nigeria can unlock vast economic potential and ensure more equitable growth.

Overall, women's role in Nigeria's socioeconomic development is profound and multifaceted. Addressing the challenges women face through comprehensive empowerment programs and inclusive policies will accelerate Nigeria's development trajectory, ensuring the country's prosperity benefits all its citizens equitably. Empowering women is not merely a question of justice but a strategic investment in the country's future. When women thrive, communities prosper, economies grow and societies become more just and sustainable. Nigeria's path to inclusive development depends on how effectively it harnesses the talents and potential of its women.



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India and Egypt Discuss Opening New Markets for Egyptian Handicrafts in India



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is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

Dr. Maya Morsi, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, received Suresh K. Reddy, India's Ambassador to Egypt, at the Ministry's headquarters in the New Administrative Capital. The Minister praised the relations between Cairo and New Delhi, given the strategic partnership between the two friendly countries.

The meeting addressed enhancing joint cooperation and consolidating bilateral relations on several areas of mutual interest, particularly in the areas of economic empowerment and productive families. This sector is a priority for the Ministry due to its vital role in supporting economic empowerment and preserving authentic cultural and craft heritage.

The Minister of Social Solidarity confirmed that the Ministry organizes "Diarna" exhibitions to promote handicrafts and traditional crafts. This year, more than 36 exhibitions have



The meeting addressed enhancing joint cooperation and consolidating bilateral relations on several areas of mutual interest, particularly in the areas of economic empowerment and productive families.

been organized and held. Work is currently underway to establish a permanent “Diarna” exhibition in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, to serve as an integrated center housing the most prominent Egyptian handicraft products with an authentic character.

She pointed to the possibility of cooperation with the Indian side in this regard, exchanging expertise, and cooperating to open new markets for Egyptian handicrafts and handicrafts within the Indian market.

Dr. Maya Morsi reviewed the Ministry’s efforts in social protection programs and the importance the state attaches to this issue, given its significant significance. The “Takaful and Karama” program is one of the largest conditional cash transfer programs in the Arab region. This year marks the 10th anniversary of its launch. Since its launch, more than 7.7 million families have benefited from the program, with 3

million families having graduated to improve their economic conditions. The program currently benefits 4.7 million families. The Ministry, in cooperation and partnership with several ministries, agencies, and institutions, is currently implementing a strategic financial system for economic empowerment. This comes within the framework of the Egyptian state’s drive to transition from the traditional social protection system to more sustainable and comprehensive models.

For his part, the Indian Ambassador praised Egyptian-Indian relations, expressing his aspiration to strengthen the bilateral partnership and open new horizons of cooperation in areas of mutual interest, particularly with regard to economic empowerment through the exploitation of available environmental resources and traditional crafts, as well as cooperation in a number of economic empowerment programs.

Gateway of the Nile — Bridging Africa, Arabia & the World

At the crossroads of Africa, Arabia, and the Mediterranean, Egypt has always been a meeting point of civilizations. Today, it continues that legacy in a new way — as a central player in connecting nations, economies, and ideas. Among its most dynamic modern partnerships is the one with India, a relationship built on mutual respect, shared heritage, and growing global aspirations.

In recent years, India and Egypt have moved beyond goodwill and historic ties to forge a strategic partnership that reflects their roles as emerging powers in a rapidly changing world. The connection between New Delhi and Cairo is not just symbolic; it is practical, forward-looking, and full of potential.

A New Chapter in Diplomacy

In October 2025, India hosted the first India–Egypt Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi. The discussions were led by Dr. S. Jaishankar, India’s External Affairs Minister, and Badr Abdel Atty, Egypt’s Foreign Minister.

This high-level dialogue marked a turning point. It reaffirmed both countries’ commitment to expand cooperation in trade, technology, defence, energy, and global governance. The meeting also emphasized collaboration in new areas like digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, and green hydrogen — themes that define the next era of development and sustainability.

Trade: Building Economic Bridges

The economic partnership between India and Egypt is thriving.

Bilateral trade reached over US \$5 billion in 2024–25, with both nations working to double that figure in the coming years.

More than 50 Indian companies are currently operating in Egypt, with investments exceeding US \$4 billion. These companies are active in sectors such as energy, petrochemicals, textiles, IT, and automotive manufacturing. Egypt, with its strategic location and business-friendly reforms, offers India a gateway to both African and Middle Eastern markets.

Green energy has emerged as a promising new frontier. Indian firms are participating in Egypt’s ambitious green hydrogen projects, which align with both countries’ climate goals and commitment to sustainable development.

Defence and Security Cooperation

Defence cooperation between India and Egypt has grown steadily. Joint military exercises, naval visits, and security dialogues have strengthened trust and interoperability between the two armed forces.

Both countries share a vision of maintaining regional peace and stability, particularly across the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and North African regions. Their partnership in counter-terrorism and maritime security highlights how defence diplomacy can serve as a pillar of broader strategic cooperation.

Connectivity and Global Vision

Egypt’s location along the Suez Canal makes it a crucial partner in India’s efforts to enhance global connectivity. The two



countries are exploring ways to link their strengths through initiatives like the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) — a transformative project that aims to streamline trade and transport across continents.

For both Cairo and New Delhi, such collaboration reflects a shared goal: giving the Global South a stronger voice in international decision-making, while creating new channels for commerce, culture, and cooperation.

Cultural and People-to-People Links

Beyond economics and strategy, India and Egypt share a deep cultural connection. From the popularity of Indian films and yoga in Cairo to the growing number of Egyptian students studying in India, people-to-people ties continue to flourish.

Cultural festivals, language programs, and tourism exchanges are helping citizens of both nations better understand each

other — reminding the world that diplomacy begins with mutual respect and human connection.

A Shared Future

The story of India and Egypt is one of two ancient civilizations writing a new modern chapter together. Their partnership stands as a model of how countries with rich histories can collaborate to shape a more balanced, cooperative world.

As India and Egypt continue to strengthen their strategic, economic, and cultural bonds, they are not only advancing their national interests — they are helping to bridge continents, connect communities, and inspire a more inclusive global order.

From the banks of the Nile to the shores of the Ganges, this partnership embodies a powerful truth: that nations grounded in history can still lead the future.



Egypt's New Museum by the Pyramids: A Tourism Game-Changer

Just steps away from the world-famous Giza Pyramids, Egypt is opening its long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), and tourism experts say it could be a game-changer for the country's travel industry.

The GEM, the largest museum in the world dedicated to a single civilization, houses tens of thousands of artifacts from ancient Egypt, including the complete treasures of King Tutankhamun and monumental statues like Ramesses II. Visitors can expect immersive exhibits, modern facilities, and a seamless journey from the museum to the iconic pyramids via a newly built pedestrian walkway.

Egypt hopes the museum will attract millions of additional tourists each year. Cultural travelers, who often stay longer and spend more, will likely flock to the area, giving a boost to local businesses, hotels, and restaurants. The museum also

strengthens Egypt's reputation as a hub for history and heritage, complementing its famous desert and Red Sea destinations.

To support the GEM, Egypt has improved nearby infrastructure, including roads and the Sphinx International Airport, making access easier for both international and domestic visitors.

While challenges remain — such as managing large crowds and protecting historic sites — the Grand Egyptian Museum represents a bold step toward reviving and expanding Egypt's tourism industry. For travelers, it's a chance to experience the magic of ancient Egypt like never before, all within walking distance of one of the world's most iconic landmarks.

Tip for visitors: Plan a full day to explore both the museum and the pyramids, and don't miss the Tutankhamun collection — it's truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Egypt Explores Ways to Benefit from India's Experience in Implementing the Comprehensive Insurance System

Indian Ambassador to Cairo: The Egyptian Market is a Distinguished Attraction for Indian Companies Specializing in Health Technology and Digital Transformation



About the Author:

NESSMA YOUSSEF

is an Egyptian journalist with a specialization in diplomacy and foreign affairs. She serves as a senior editor at the prominent Egyptian daily, and is also known for her expertise as a diplomatic correspondent and writer, focusing on international relations and global tourism.

Mai Farid, Executive Director of the General Authority for Comprehensive Health Insurance, received Suresh K. Reddy, Ambassador of the Republic of India to Egypt, to discuss bilateral cooperation in the areas of digital and technological transformation of the system, integration between the public and private sectors, and leveraging the Indian experience in implementing the comprehensive health insurance system (Ayushman Bharat).

The meeting addressed ways of joint cooperation between the two sides in developing digital platforms, performance indicators, and providing innovative solutions for comprehensive health insurance system services. They also discussed coordination between the General Authority for Comprehensive Health Insurance and similar bodies in India to explore areas of joint technical and technological cooperation.

During the meeting, the Authority's Executive Director reviewed the components of the comprehensive health insurance system, noting that the Indian experience—particularly the Ayushman Bharat program—is a comprehensive and successful model for expanding health coverage through advanced digital mechanisms. The Authority seeks to leverage this experience to enhance resource management efficiency, reduce financial leakages, and improve targeting of vulnerable groups.

She explained that the Authority is currently working on developing an integrated digital platform to manage beneficiary files, insurance claims, and service pricing,



leveraging Big Data analytics to support decision-making and increase the efficiency of public spending. She highlighted the importance of cooperation with India in this area through the exchange of expertise and the building of technical partnerships.

The Executive Director of the General Authority for Comprehensive Health Insurance also highlighted the Authority's interest in expanding integration between the public and private sectors in the provision of health services, including contracting with private insurance companies. In the same context, she noted the importance of leveraging the Indian model of intelligently linking national identity data, mobile phone numbers, and bank accounts to ensure accurate verification of beneficiary data and efficient and

transparent allocation of direct support.

For his part, Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy stated that India operates the largest government health insurance system, relying on an advanced digital infrastructure and a decentralized management system that links databases, financing, and national identity.

The Indian ambassador added that Egypt is a pivotal partner in Africa, and they look forward to a long-term digital partnership. He noted that his country welcomes cooperation with the General Authority for Comprehensive Health Insurance by organizing an official visit for an Egyptian delegation to New Delhi and a number of model states to review claims management systems, connect private hospitals, quality control mechanisms, and reduce fraud in healthcare services.

He pointed out that the Egyptian market is extremely promising and a distinct attraction for Indian companies specializing in health technology and digital transformation. He noted the broad potential for joint cooperation in developing digital platforms and providing innovative solutions for the health insurance system. He added that coordination will be made with the corresponding authority in India to explore areas of technical and technological cooperation with the Egyptian authority.


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Indian Ambassador to Cairo Highlights Opportunities for India–Egypt Trade and Investment



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Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy, the Indian Ambassador to Egypt, met the representatives of Indian companies in Egypt and had a wide ranging discussion on areas of interest, global economic transition and upcoming opportunities for investments.

Indian companies, present in sizeable number in Egypt, contribute positively towards value addition, skill development and expand the manufacturing base.

In another meeting, Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy met a delegation from MSME Development Authority of Egypt, as well as representatives from several Egyptian companies visiting the UP International Trade Show being organised in Greater Noida from 25-29 September.

A briefing session was held on the opportunities for collaboration in trade and commerce, particularly in handicrafts, agricultural commodities, and carpets.

India Egypt Trade

The UP International Trade Show 2025 is the flagship B2B and B2C event of the Uttar Pradesh Government, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's remarkable industrial progress, entrepreneurial spirit, and global business potential. This mega trade show serves as a powerful platform for industries, startups, exporters, and business leaders to showcase their innovations, build partnerships, and explore new market opportunities on both national and international levels.

With the overwhelming success of its previous editions, UP International Trade Show 2025 is set to be even bigger, bringing together thousands of exhibitors, global buyers, industry experts, policymakers, and business professionals under one roof. From cutting-edge innovations to traditional craftsmanship, from emerging startups to established enterprises, this trade show is the gateway to boundless opportunities, driving Uttar Pradesh toward becoming a global business hub.

Scheduled from September 25 to 29, 2025, at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, the trade show is a reflection of Uttar Pradesh's commitment to fostering economic growth and industrial excellence. Aligned with the vision of Make in India, Vocal for Local, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, this event promotes investment, trade collaborations, and sectoral advancements across diverse industries, including manufacturing, technology, handicrafts, agriculture, and more.

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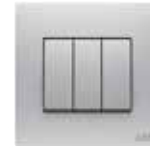
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