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23rd Russia-India Annual Summit



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Publisher's Note

Shine India – Empower. Elevate. Excel.

As we present the November–December edition of Diplomat Today, this issue stands as a reflection of a rapidly evolving global order in which diplomacy is being reshaped by strategic recalibration, economic partnerships, sustainability imperatives, cultural connectivity, and digital transformation. The articles curated in this edition collectively underline India's growing role as a confident, constructive, and consequential actor on the world stage.

We open with a significant geopolitical milestone: the **23rd Russia–India Annual Summit**, analysed by Pratima Singh. President Vladimir Putin's visit to India after a four-year hiatus marks not only a renewal of high-level engagement but also a reaffirmation of an eight-decade-old strategic partnership tested by global turbulence. The personal warmth extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects the depth of trust and continuity that defines India–Russia relations amid an unpredictable geopolitical landscape.

Economic diplomacy remains a central theme of this issue. Nessma Youssef's insightful examination of investment relations between Egypt and India highlights a steadily expanding partnership rooted in shared development priorities, industrial cooperation, and sustainable growth. Complementing this, Prabhask Kumar's analysis of India and African island economies sheds light on India's outreach to emerging markets and maritime partners, reinforcing South–South cooperation in 2025.

The climate and energy transition narrative is powerfully addressed in Prof. Dr. P. K. Rajput's article on India–Australia renewable energy cooperation, which underscores how green energy diplomacy is redefining alliances beyond traditional security frameworks. Sustainability, innovation, and energy security are now integral pillars of contemporary diplomacy.

Cultural and civilizational diplomacy finds resonance in Prof. Arvind Kumar Singh's coverage of the India–Nepal Buddhist Heritage symposium, a landmark academic initiative that demonstrates how shared heritage can strengthen people-to-people ties, academic collaboration, and soft power engagement.

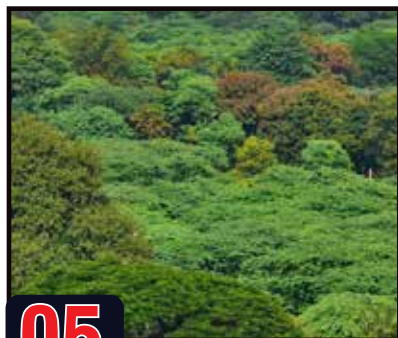
This edition also captures momentum in India's partnerships across continents—from India–Canada engagement at the G20, India–Indonesia defence cooperation, to the transformative impact of digital diplomacy, analysed by Jahnvi, which is redefining global interactions in the digital age.

A special focus of this issue is the India–UAE relationship, marking UAE National Day 2025. Articles on three years of CEPA, the celebrations in New Delhi, and my own reflections on how the India–UAE partnership is shaping the new Middle East together underline a relationship that has evolved from bilateral cooperation to a globally influential partnership.

Together, these contributions reinforce a central message: diplomacy today is multidimensional—strategic yet humane, economic yet sustainable, national yet global. We hope this edition offers our readers clarity, context, and confidence in understanding the forces shaping international relations in 2025.

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From Bilateral to Global: India–UAE
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23rd Russia-India Annual Summit



PRATIMA SINGH

Editor-in-Chief - Diplomat Today

India served the warmest welcome to Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin during his visit to India for the 23rd Indian-Russian Annual Summit on December 4 and 5, 2025. After a four-year break since the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022, President Putin's visit marks a significant milestone in the eight decades of India-Russian relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice to personally greet President Putin on the Palam Airport tarmac and ride in the same vehicle exemplifies Moscow-India strategic calculation

in light of unpredictable geopolitical challenges. The 23rd Annual Russia-India Summit began with President Putin's ceremonial greeting, which included carpooling moments, a private dinner at the PM's residence, and a banquet at President Murmu's house, signifying the two countries' long-standing friendship. PM Modi gave Vladimir Putin a Russian translation of the Bhagwat Gita, highlighting the Hindu text's worldwide appeal, and praised the India-Russian partnership as a "pole star" (dhruvtara).

President Putin's visit for the 23rd Russia-India Annual Summit came at the significant moment demonstrating the steady partnership that has stood the test of time for over seven decades. Against the background of long-drawn Ukraine-Russia war and Western sanctions out casting Russia, the high-end meeting corroborates New Delhi's commitment to a strategic self-sufficiency as well as Moscow's pivot for reliable partners in Global south. The India-Russia relationship is deep-rooted in mutual trust and exemplifies navigating multipolarity in a world of complex alliances and shifting balances.

Accomplishment of the 23rd Annual Summit

The Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to New Delhi for 23rd the Annual Summit signifies strengthening of decades-old partnership through prioritising the economic pillar of bilateral relationship largely shielded from pressures of external world and yielded various outcomes for India:

- **Unhindered Russian Fuel Supplies to India**

President Putin promised ongoing oil and energy exports to the country, offering stability in the face of international sanctions and market turbulence.

- **Development of Strategic Areas of India — Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030**

In order to achieve balanced growth beyond energy, a roadmap was adopted to diversify and maintain bilateral trade and investments.

- **Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement**

This agreement is intended to safeguard Indian companies doing business in Russia and encourage further reciprocal investments.

- **Headway for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**

The leaders decided to expedite talks, which may lower trade barriers and increase Indian exports to the EAEU.

- **Settlement of Bilateral Trade in National Currencies**

In order to lessen reliance on the US currency and ease payment concerns, all parties decided to increase the use of rupees and roubles.

- **Agreements on Labour Mobility and Temporary Work Pacts**

In order to facilitate job opportunities for Indians and fulfil Russia's labour shortages a pact was agreed upon by both the leaders.

- **Agreements in Healthcare and Medical Research**

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed by both the leaders to strengthen joint efforts in medical education, scientific research, pharmaceuticals, and health regulation, including potential anticancer drug production.

- **Reinstating focus on Defense Cooperation**

With advancements in co-production, spare parts, and maintenance support, the emphasis was on collaborative production and technology transfer, which is in line with India's objectives for defense manufacturing self-reliance.

- **Maritime and Logistics Cooperation**

These protocols, which include postal/e-commerce logistics and the construction of Arctic routes, are intended to enhance connectivity and assist India's commercial diversification.

India-Russia- The tale of unrestrained partnership

The India-Russia bond was established shortly before the formation of independent India in the year 1947. Historically, Indo-Russian ties dates back to the Cold War era, India then being a non-aligned country and USSR a super power. In the years following India's independence India and Russia signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation on 9th August, 1971 further solidifying their relation. The treaty proved decisive for India during India's war with Pakistan, and more importantly a counterweight to Western supremacy. It treaty laid the foundation for India's deep ties in defense, nuclear power, and trade which brought powerful defense equipments such as MiG-21s, T-72 tanks, and nuclear submarines like the INS Chakra. By the 2010s, Moscow was still providing more than 60% of India's military equipment, despite the country's economic liberalization and outreach to the West. Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters, T-90 tanks, and the combined development of BrahMos supersonic missiles—the latter of which is a gem of collaborative innovation—were some of the important Russian defense imports in India. The Kundakulam Nuclear Energy plant in India is Russia's extension of its defense cooperation.

The dissolution of Soviet Union of Russia has been a turning point for both the countries but India has firmly stood with Russia as its gesture of solidarity. In the year 2000, during the post-revival period, India-Russia signed a Strategic Partnership Declaration for enhanced collaboration in areas such as defense, energy and culture. This collaboration was elevated to a new privileged partnership in the year 2010.

One of the biggest foreign contributors to Indian economy, the Soviet Union had helped India established huge companies like ONGC, BHEL and BHILAI Plant which are owned by Indian Government sectors now. According to the reports issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Trade in 2025, India's total export to Russia surged from 3.1 US dollars to 4.2 US dollars in 2024. In the year 2023-24, the reported trade closed near \$65.7 billion between the two allies with an ambition of further scaling it up to 100 billion by 2030. India largely benefits by crude oil and refined oil products export from Russia at a more subsidized rates and many Indian companies have explored opportunities for collaboration in oil and gas exploration, production, and transportation. Furthermore, the Rupee-Rouble agreement, revived during Russian crisis years with Ukraine, showcases India's camaraderie towards Russia. For the unversed, the Rupee-Rouble is a trade agreement which is an alternative payment mechanism to settle dues in rupees instead of dollars. There has been a dramatic increase



in the bilateral trade between both nations, qualitatively and quantitatively. Since 2000, President Putin has made eighteen trips to India, demonstrating his close relationship with the country's consecutive prime leaders.

Striking a balance between practical gains and Ukraine's shadow

President Putin's visit for the 23rd Annual Summit underscores, both strategic, and diplomatically significant timing. The visit comes at a time of Russia's continued invasion, which has staggered Europe's post-Cold War order, and Moscow has hoisted an intense US-led peace proposal targeting to end the four-year-long conflict. In addition to this, the West has imposed economic sanctions barring import-export activities with Russia and the US has threatened India secondary sanctions on Russian oil purchase. However, India's stance on Ukraine-Russia is not neutral rather as a nation it hopes for the on-going war to end. The war has been a testing time for India to show its diplomacy fineness. As a peace-loving country, India has been providing non-lethal aid as well as medicines to Kyiv too.

But the sanctions imposed by the West on Russia, which have cost India dearly, cast a greater shadow over the negotiations. Although Mr. Putin pledged "uninterrupted fuel supplies to India" and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that it would only give in to "commercial considerations" when it came to oil purchases, it appears that European sanctions against Russian and Indian oil companies, along with the substantial 25% tariff imposed by the United States on Indian goods, have weakened India's resolve. According to data, the annual consumption of Russian oil has significantly decreased in 2025 (38% y-o-y decrease). For India, the end to Ukraine-Russia war would ease the current polarisation it is facing.

The Future

The challenges existing, Russia-India partnership remains indispensable holding a promise of renewal while navigating sanctions and challenges. In Russia's war-ravaged economy, sanctions continue to erode quality. Furthermore, the challenges arising between India-Russia partnerships do not muss up its relevance but demands to be adjusted to the contemporary realities where both the countries engage meaningfully. While the Western sanctions besiege Russia's economy, India is diversifying its export destinations and indigenizing 70% of defense procurement through programs such as the "Tejas" and BrahMos missiles. As far as the future co-production with Russia is concerned India looks ahead for co-production of BrahMos-II and S-500 air defense systems. The joint space cooperation with Russia is very important involving Gaganyaan cosmonaut training in Star City and joint Lunar missions. In terms of the economy, Russian investments in rare earths and Andaman refineries are viewed as a challenge to China's hegemony over minerals. With Russia's reliance on China the challenges loom large as India could face the risk of slipping into subservient role. Moscow's bandwidth may be restricted by the on-going drag of the Ukraine crisis, and supplies are at risk from escalation threats (like NATO intervention). India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2027 is driving its westward economic tilt, which calls for cautious hedging.

India-Russia is regarded as a paradigm of perseverance in a world of shifting orders characterized by the war in Ukraine, the spread of nuclear energy, and economic repression through tariff war. It reaffirms a connection that has persevered through shaky international relations and growing tension.



Bridging Regions, Building Futures: India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and the New Architecture of Indo-Pacific Connectivity





Strengthening Physical, Digital, and People-to-People Links Between Northeast India and ASEAN

India's Act East Policy has entered a decisive phase as efforts intensify to create deeper connectivity between Northeast India and the broader ASEAN region. At the center of this push is the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway, a landmark project that aims to establish a continuous road link from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. Once completed, the corridor will significantly reduce travel time, enhance cross-border trade, and position Northeast India as a gateway to Southeast Asia rather than a distant frontier of the Indian Union.

A Strategic Corridor for a Connected Indo-Pacific

The Trilateral Highway is designed to strengthen India's strategic engagement with Southeast Asia. For India, the corridor is not merely an infrastructure project, but a foundational element of a more connected Indo-Pacific. It supports diversified supply chains, enhances regional mobility, and improves India's access to ASEAN's manufacturing and services networks. By linking key economic nodes across three countries, the highway will foster smoother movement of goods, promote business exchanges, and enable new opportunities in tourism, education, and cultural cooperation.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Project: A Complementary Lifeline

Running parallel to the highway initiative is the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which provides an alternate route to the Northeast through maritime and river transport. This project links Kolkata to Myanmar's Sittwe Port, continues along the Kaladan River to Paletwa, and finally connects by road to Mizoram. Together with the Trilateral Highway, Kaladan forms a strategic network that boosts India's access to Southeast Asia and reduces reliance on narrow land corridors in the Northeast. The combined corridors will reinforce regional resilience and ensure more reliable connectivity to global markets.

Integrating Physical, Digital, and Social Connectivity

India's connectivity vision for 2025 underscores the importance of integrating physical infrastructure with digital and people-centric ties. Efforts are underway to expand cross-border digital links with Myanmar, support digital public infrastructure initiatives in the ASEAN region, and develop systems for secure digital payments, cyber cooperation, and telecommunications connectivity. At the same time, cultural exchange programs, educational partnerships, and business delegations are strengthening people-to-people connections, creating an atmosphere of trust and shared purpose.

A New Line of Credit for ASEAN Connectivity

Reinforcing its commitment, India has introduced a 2025 credit line dedicated to connectivity and maritime infrastructure projects across ASEAN. This financing will support port modernization, sustainable transportation, digital networks, skill development, and maritime safety initiatives. By extending this support, India positions itself as a long-term partner in shaping a seamless and secure regional connectivity framework aligned with ASEAN's priorities.

Unlocking the Potential of Northeast India

For Northeast India, these projects represent a path to expanded economic horizons. Improved connectivity will encourage cross-border trade, increase market access for local industries, and support tourism flows through cultural and ecological routes. The region's integration with Southeast Asia is expected to create new supply chains, employment opportunities, and platforms for regional collaboration.

Conclusion: A New Chapter in Regional Integration

The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Project define a new strategic architecture for India's Act East Policy. As these initiatives progress in 2025, they are set to reshape mobility, trade, and cooperation across the Indo-Pacific. By prioritizing physical, digital, and human connectivity, India aims to build a future where Northeast India becomes a central connector to ASEAN, fostering shared growth, stability, and prosperity in the region.



India's Blue Economy Vision and Naval Logistics: Strengthening Maritime Cooperation in 2026

Expanding India's Role as a Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal

As maritime competition intensifies and ocean-based economies gain new strategic relevance, India's 2026 maritime agenda is undergoing a decisive transformation. Through deeper cooperation with ASEAN partners, expansion of naval logistics capabilities, and advancing new frameworks in the Blue Economy, India seeks to reinforce its position as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Bay of Bengal. These efforts combine strategic maritime security with economic integration, sustainable resource management, and resilient supply-chain development.

Maritime Cooperation 2026: A New Foundation for Regional Stability

India's maritime cooperation framework for 2026 emphasizes a broad-based approach that includes security partnerships, capacity-building projects, and cooperative mechanisms with ASEAN and Indo-Pacific partners. The focus is on

enhancing maritime domain awareness, strengthening joint patrol mechanisms, supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations (HADR), and expanding information-sharing networks. This collaborative architecture aims to safeguard sea lanes, promote freedom of navigation, and ensure that regional waters remain stable, secure, and open.

India as a Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal

India's growing naval presence in the Indian Ocean underscores its commitment to serving as a net security provider for littoral and partner nations. With its strategic bases, surveillance assets, and operational readiness, India supports maritime stability against piracy, illegal fishing, arms trafficking, and other non-traditional security threats. In the Bay of Bengal, India's coordinated patrols, capacity-building programs, and technical training initiatives have strengthened interoperability with regional navies, making

India's maritime cooperation framework for 2026 emphasizes a broad-based approach that includes security partnerships, capacity-building projects, and cooperative mechanisms with ASEAN and Indo-Pacific partners. The focus is on enhancing maritime domain awareness, strengthening joint patrol mechanisms, supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations (HADR), and expanding information-sharing networks.

the subregion a central pillar of Indo-Pacific security cooperation.

Expanding Naval Logistics and MRO Capabilities

A key dimension of maritime cooperation in 2026 is India's push to enhance naval logistics and MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) services. India is upgrading its eastern ports—Visakhapatnam, Chennai, and Kolkata—to serve as logistics hubs capable of supporting friendly foreign navies. These facilities provide refueling, reprovisioning, and technical maintenance support that improve operational reach and maritime mobility across the Indo-Pacific.

Simultaneously, India is exploring logistics-sharing and MRO collaboration with select ASEAN facilities, enabling reciprocal naval access, repair services, and supply support. Such cooperation strengthens operational continuity, reduces deployment costs, and enhances regional maritime responsiveness.

Blue Economy Partnerships and the Marine Technology Research Fund

India's commitment to a sustainable and innovation-led Blue Economy has opened new opportunities for cooperation with ASEAN member states. Proposals for a Blue Economy and Marine Technology Research Fund aim to support joint research and industrial collaboration in:

- Deep-sea mining technologies
- Sustainable fisheries and aquatic resource management
- Marine biodiversity conservation
- Ocean energy systems and coastal resilience
- Non-traditional maritime security, including pollution control, data monitoring, and marine disaster management

This fund would enable joint innovation, knowledge exchange, and technology-sharing, creating a long-term platform for regional maritime sustainability.

Strengthening Economic Architecture: MRAs and the AITIGA Review

Beyond maritime capability and resource cooperation, India is working with ASEAN to strengthen the region's trade and regulatory architecture. Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) are being explored to simplify standards, reduce technical barriers to trade, and enable smoother movement of goods and services across maritime and coastal sectors.

The ongoing ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Review aims to modernize the framework with updated rules of origin, trade facilitation mechanisms, and digital trade provisions. Strengthening AITIGA supports the maritime economy by improving port-based trade flows, enhancing supply chain resilience, and increasing economic engagement across the Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion: Toward a Secure and Sustainable Maritime Future

India's 2026 maritime strategy reflects a comprehensive vision—one that blends security responsibilities with economic cooperation and environmental stewardship. By advancing naval logistics capabilities, promoting Blue Economy partnerships, and strengthening trade and regulatory frameworks with ASEAN, India is shaping a future defined by connectivity, security, and sustainable ocean development.

As maritime challenges evolve, India's leadership across the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal will remain pivotal. Through cooperative initiatives, shared innovation, and strategic trust, India and its regional partners are working to ensure that the Indo-Pacific remains a region of stability, prosperity, and sustainable growth.

India's Evolving Forest Conservation Framework: Protecting Ecology, Strengthening Climate Resilience

A Renewed Commitment to Biodiversity, Sustainability, and Community-Based Stewardship

India's forests stand at the heart of the nation's environmental future. They shape the country's ecological balance, support climate stability, safeguard biodiversity, and provide millions of people with livelihoods rooted in tradition and natural resources. As environmental pressures intensify, India is reshaping its forest conservation approach to build a more resilient and sustainable framework that responds to contemporary challenges while preserving long-term ecological security.

A Diverse and Dynamic Forest Landscape

India's forest cover spans a wide spectrum of ecosystems—ranging from dense Himalayan woodlands to Western Ghats rainforests, central Indian deciduous belts, arid scrublands, and rich coastal mangrove systems. These forests are categorized by canopy density and ecological function, from very dense carbon-rich forests to open and scrub landscapes in transition.

This diversity allows India to support some of the world's richest wildlife habitats and sustain an extraordinary range of plant and animal life. Forests also provide vital ecosystem services: regulating water flows, maintaining soil fertility, and moderating local climates. For numerous tribal and rural communities, forests are central to identity, culture, and economic survival.

The Growing Environmental Significance of India's Forests

As climate-related events become more frequent and severe, forests are increasingly recognized as essential climate stabilizers. They absorb large volumes of carbon, shield vulnerable regions from erosion, and help buffer against extreme weather patterns. India's commitments under global climate agreements rely heavily on healthy and expanding forest cover.

Forests are also a backbone for sustainable development. They support small-scale industries, medicinal plant collection, eco-tourism, and non-timber forest produce markets, all of which contribute to rural incomes while preserving ecological integrity. This dual role—environmental protection and livelihood support—makes forest conservation a strategic national priority.

Persistent Challenges Undermining Conservation Efforts

Despite strong policy intent, India's forests face several complex and interlinked challenges.

1. Increasing Pressure from Expanding Land Use

Growing urbanization, infrastructure development, and extractive activities continue to place stress on forested areas. Balancing development needs with ecological stability remains one of India's most difficult policy tasks.



2. Degradation and Habitat Fragmentation

Unsustainable extraction, shifting cultivation patterns, and encroachments have fragmented several forest belts. Fragmented landscapes disrupt wildlife movement, reduce genetic diversity, and weaken overall ecosystem resilience.

3. Overdependence on Forest Resources

In many regions, communities rely heavily on forests for fuelwood, fodder, and daily necessities. While essential for survival, high dependency often strains the regenerative capacity of local ecosystems.

Human–Wildlife Conflicts: A Rising Conservation Challenge

Human–wildlife conflict has become one of the most visible and urgent issues in forest governance. Expanding settlements, agricultural fields, and linear infrastructure often overlap with traditional wildlife routes. This has led to an increase in encounters involving elephants, tigers, leopards, and other species.

The causes are multi-layered:

- Shrinking natural habitats
- Loss of prey species
- Seasonal water shortages
- Fragmented corridors obstructing animal movement

Governments and conservation agencies are responding with corridor restoration projects, better compensation systems, improved early-warning networks, and long-term coexistence strategies. Yet, finding harmony between

human needs and wildlife protection remains a sensitive and evolving challenge.

Climate Change and the Escalation of Forest Fires

Climate change is amplifying the risk of forest fires across India. Longer dry spells, rising temperatures, and erratic rainfall have created conditions where even small ignitions can escalate rapidly. States in the Himalayan region, central India, and the northeast face particularly high levels of seasonal fire activity.

Many fires result from a combination of natural stress factors and human triggers. As fire frequency grows, it threatens biodiversity, soil health, and carbon storage capacities. India is increasingly turning to satellite monitoring, data-driven fire alerts, and community-based fire management teams to strengthen early response and minimize damage.

Toward a Resilient and Modern Conservation Framework

India's evolving forest policy framework emphasizes scientific management, community participation, and climate-sensitive planning. Emerging strategies include expanding forest restoration programs, promoting nature-based solutions, and integrating technology—such as GIS mapping and drone monitoring—into conservation systems.

Equally important is the shift toward community-led forest stewardship, recognizing the traditional knowledge and local participation essential for long-term sustainability. As India positions itself for a greener future, its forests remain central to national climate resilience and ecological security.





India and the Future of Rare Earth Elements: Strength, Strategy, and Sustainability

Positioning India in the Global REE Landscape

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) have become central to modern technology—powering everything from smartphones and electric vehicles to defense systems, satellites, renewable energy technologies, and high-precision electronics. As nations race to secure reliable REE supply chains, India is re-evaluating its strategic position and accelerating efforts to build a competitive and self-reliant REE ecosystem.

Where India Stands Today

India possesses one of the world's largest reserves of monazite, a mineral rich in REEs, particularly along its eastern and southern coastal belts in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. However, despite these substantial deposits, India's share in global REE production remains limited.

Most mining and primary processing activities are currently dominated by the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a PSU responsible for extraction and separation of key minerals. While India has access to resource-rich coastlines and inland deposits, the country has yet to translate this resource advantage into a strong domestic value chain.

Strategic Significance of REEs for India

REEs hold strategic importance for India across several dimensions:

1. National Security and Defence

Advanced military systems—including radars, precision-guided munitions, sensors, and communication equipment—depend heavily on REE-based components. Securing a stable supply is essential for India's long-term defense preparedness.

2. Renewable Energy and Green Transition

Permanent magnets used in wind turbines, solar technologies, and electric vehicle motors rely on neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium. With India's clean energy goals expanding rapidly, REEs will shape the efficiency and reliability of future energy systems.

3. Economic Competitiveness

Electronics manufacturing, semiconductor packaging, and digital infrastructure rely on REE-based alloys and materials. Developing a strong domestic supply chain supports India's ambition to lead in high-tech production.

4. Reducing Strategic Dependencies

Today, global REE processing is heavily concentrated in one country. A diversified approach gives India greater autonomy,

resilience, and negotiating power in global supply chains.

Primary Challenges Hindering India's REE Sector

Despite its vast potential, India's REE sector faces several structural obstacles:

1. Limited Processing and Separation Capacity

Extracting REEs is only the first step. The real challenge lies in refining, separation, and purification, processes that are technologically complex and capital-intensive. India has limited high-grade processing infrastructure.

2. Environmental and Regulatory Constraints

REE extraction generates chemical waste and requires careful environmental management. Striking a balance between ecological protection and industrial expansion remains a policy and operational challenge.

3. Fragmented Ecosystem and Skill Gap

India's research ecosystem in materials science and advanced metallurgy is evolving, but industry–research collaboration remains insufficient. Technology transfer and skill development require stronger institutional support.

4. Dependence on Imports for Advanced Components

While India mines certain REE-bearing minerals, it still depends on imports for high-purity oxides, magnets, alloys, and specialized components needed by the electronics and defense industries.

Strengthening the Processing Industry: The Next Big Step

India is gradually shifting from being just a mineral-rich nation to building a full REE value chain. Key efforts include:

- Expanding IREL's processing capacity through new separation plants.
- Supporting private-sector entry into magnet manufacturing and alloy production.
- Developing environmentally sustainable extraction technologies through partnerships with CSIR, BARC, and advanced metallurgy laboratories.
- Encouraging joint ventures with countries leading REE processing technologies.

The long-term goal is to establish India as a hub for advanced REE-based materials, not merely raw mineral extraction.

Ecosystem Adoption: Building a Complete Supply Chain

For India to emerge as a global REE player, an integrated ecosystem is essential. This includes:

- Upstream: Exploration, mining, mineral processing
- Midstream: Separation, purification, oxide manufacturing
- Downstream: Magnets, superconductors, alloys, semiconductors, renewable energy components

Emerging industries—electric mobility, aerospace manufacturing, green hydrogen, and electronics—are pushing India toward deeper ecosystem adoption. Policies now aim to integrate universities, R&D institutions, and industrial clusters to accelerate innovation.

Major Government Initiatives Shaping the REE Future

India has launched several policy and institutional actions to strengthen the REE sector:

1. National Critical Minerals Mission

A focused initiative to secure minerals essential for strategic and economic technologies, including REEs.

2. Expansion of IREL Operations

New units, upgraded processing plants, and increased exploration along coastal belts and inland reserves.

3. Public–Private Mining Participation

Opening certain mining and processing segments to private companies under regulated frameworks.

4. Collaboration with International Partners

Engagements with Australia, Japan, the U.S., and EU partners for technology-sharing, joint exploration, and sustainable processing.

5. Incentives for Rare-Earth Magnet Manufacturing

Part of India's thrust to support electric mobility and renewable energy industries through domestic magnet production facilities.

Conclusion: A Turning Point for India's REE Ambitions

India stands at a crucial juncture. With rich mineral reserves, strategic imperatives, and expanding industrial demand, the country has all the fundamentals needed to become a major REE power. The challenge—and opportunity—lies in building a complete ecosystem that links extraction, processing, innovation, and manufacturing.

As India strengthens its policy frameworks and invests in technology-driven processing, its rare earth sector is poised for significant transformation. A self-reliant, sustainable, and globally competitive REE industry will play a defining role in India's economic, technological, and strategic future.



The New Age of Digital Diplomacy: Transforming Global Relations in 2025



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In the rapidly evolving landscape of international relations, digital diplomacy has emerged as one of the most transformative forces in global governance. By blending traditional diplomatic practices with cutting-edge technologies, digital diplomacy is reshaping how nations communicate, collaborate, and negotiate in the 21st century.

As we move further into 2025, digital tools—ranging from social media platforms to artificial intelligence (AI)—are increasingly integral to how countries project power, promote national interests, and engage with one another on the world stage.

The Rise of Digital Diplomacy

Digital diplomacy refers to the use of digital platforms, social media, and technology to conduct diplomatic activities, promote a nation's foreign policy goals, and engage with global audiences. Over the past decade, the rise of platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn has changed the traditional way governments communicate. Rather than relying solely on official speeches, press releases, and face-to-face meetings, nations now harness the power of digital tools to interact directly with foreign publics, policymakers, and global stakeholders.

As of 2025, digital diplomacy is no longer an experimental or niche field—it is a mainstream practice. Governments, embassies, and international organizations across the globe are adapting their diplomatic strategies to include digital tools, realizing the importance of maintaining a dynamic online presence in an increasingly interconnected world.

Impact of Social Media in Diplomacy

The most visible shift in digital diplomacy has been the rise of

social media as a tool for foreign policy. Twitter and Instagram have become the public face of many diplomatic efforts, with heads of state, foreign ministers, and ambassadors sharing updates, official statements, and engaging in real-time discussions with the public. Social media has democratized diplomacy, allowing governments to directly communicate with both their citizens and the international community, bypassing traditional media intermediaries.

In 2025, leaders such as the U.S. President (following the outcome of the 2024 election), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan use platforms like Twitter not just for domestic issues but to articulate positions on global concerns such as climate change, international trade, and geopolitical tensions. Social media also facilitates real-time crisis management, with officials offering updates and responding to events as they unfold, as seen during global health emergencies and natural disasters.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics

While social media dominates the public-facing aspects of digital diplomacy, more behind-the-scenes innovations are transforming how governments conduct diplomacy. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics have become powerful tools for analyzing global trends, public sentiment, and diplomatic interactions. AI-powered platforms can analyze millions of tweets, news articles, and online posts to give diplomats critical insights into the state of public opinion, foreign policy trends, and economic indicators.

Governments are increasingly using predictive analytics and machine learning to anticipate geopolitical shifts, track regional conflicts, and measure the effectiveness of their diplomatic strategies. For instance, AI-powered chatbots are now being used by embassies to provide information and assistance to foreign nationals in real-time, while also collecting data to improve consular services.

Cybersecurity: A Growing Concern

With the rise of digital diplomacy comes a critical issue: cybersecurity. As diplomatic communications move online, governments must be more vigilant than ever about securing sensitive information from cyberattacks. The hacking of email servers, leaked diplomatic cables, and cyber espionage have become frequent risks for embassies and international organizations. In 2025, protecting cyber infrastructure is no longer just an IT issue; it's a core element of national security and global diplomacy.

The U.S. State Department and European Union have been at the forefront of promoting cyber diplomacy, working with nations to create norms and frameworks for cybersecurity and data privacy on the international stage. Cooperation between

nations on cybercrime, hacking prevention, and information warfare has become a priority in digital diplomacy efforts, with agreements being negotiated through multilateral organizations like the United Nations and G20.

Public Diplomacy in the Digital Era

The concept of public diplomacy, where countries engage directly with foreign publics to foster mutual understanding and influence opinions, has expanded significantly in the digital age. Traditionally, public diplomacy involved cultural exchange programs, speeches, and media outreach. In 2025, these efforts are increasingly moving online. Governments are using digital storytelling, online cultural events, and virtual exchanges to connect with citizens worldwide.

For instance, India's Ministry of External Affairs regularly conducts webinars, virtual cultural festivals, and digital exhibitions to promote Indian culture and foster goodwill with other countries. Similarly, the UAE uses its global social media channels and online platforms to share content about its culture, sustainability efforts, and innovation projects, further enhancing its international image.

The Future of Digital Diplomacy: Opportunities and Challenges

Looking ahead, the future of digital diplomacy will likely see even more integration of virtual technologies and artificial intelligence into diplomatic processes. With the rise of metaverse technologies, diplomats could soon attend virtual summits, engage in immersive cultural exchanges, or negotiate agreements in virtual environments. The concept of a "digital embassy" could evolve, allowing diplomats to operate fully within virtual or augmented spaces.

However, the rapid development of digital diplomacy also presents challenges. As nations increasingly rely on digital platforms, there is a risk of misinformation, disinformation, and cyber interference in diplomatic efforts. Deepfakes, bot-driven misinformation, and state-sponsored cyber campaigns are new threats that will require global cooperation and innovative solutions.

Conclusion: A New Era of Diplomacy

Digital diplomacy has arrived, and it is here to stay. As of 2025, it has fundamentally altered the landscape of international relations, providing governments with powerful tools to communicate, engage, and influence global affairs. While there are significant challenges—especially concerning cybersecurity and the risks of misinformation—the opportunities for more direct, efficient, and transparent diplomacy are immense. As nations continue to navigate this new digital world, it will be those who embrace technology and innovate in their diplomatic efforts that will thrive in shaping the future of global relations.



The India-Jordan Business Forum, held on 16 December 2025 in Amman, marked a significant moment in the evolving economic relationship between India and Jordan. Addressing the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan jointly emphasized the need to deepen business-to-business engagement, enhance investment cooperation, and unlock new avenues of economic collaboration between the two nations, particularly in high-growth and future-oriented sectors.

The forum brought together senior leadership from both countries, including His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Jordan and Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment Hussein, alongside leading business representatives and industry stakeholders. The presence of top political and economic leadership underscored the strategic importance both countries attach to strengthening bilateral trade, improving ease of doing business, and encouraging private-sector-led growth.

Call to Double Bilateral Trade

In their addresses, the leaders expressed a shared ambition to double bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in the coming years, signaling confidence in the complementary strengths of the two economies. Discussions at the forum focused on expanding cooperation across pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, information technology, textiles, agri-products,

tourism, healthcare, and infrastructure development. Both sides highlighted the need to diversify trade baskets, improve market access, and support long-term commercial partnerships.

Prime Minister Modi noted that India's growing manufacturing base, digital economy, and innovation ecosystem offer strong opportunities for Jordanian investors, particularly in sectors such as technology, clean energy, and industrial manufacturing. King Abdullah II, in turn, highlighted Jordan's role as a gateway to the Middle East, its stable macroeconomic environment, and investor-friendly policies, positioning the country as an attractive destination for Indian businesses seeking regional expansion.

Strengthening Business-to-Business Engagement

A key focus of the forum was the importance of direct engagement between Indian and Jordanian companies. Leaders called for closer collaboration between chambers of commerce, regular business delegations, and sector-specific forums to foster partnerships. Emphasis was also placed on trade facilitation, including improved logistics connectivity, access to trade finance, and regulatory transparency to support exporters and investors on both sides.

The forum further discussed opportunities for technology collaboration, innovation-led growth, and skill development,



recognizing the role of human capital and digital solutions in strengthening economic ties. Encouraging startups, SMEs, and young entrepreneurs to participate in bilateral trade was identified as a priority area.

Broader Engagements During the Visit

Beyond the business forum, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Jordan included a series of high-level engagements aimed at reinforcing the broader bilateral relationship. Discussions covered cooperation in education, culture, tourism, technology, and people-to-people exchanges, reflecting the multifaceted nature of India-Jordan ties. The visit reaffirmed both countries' commitment to working together on regional stability, economic development, and global challenges.

Looking Ahead

The India-Jordan Business Forum of 2025 represents more than a single event; it signals a renewed momentum in bilateral relations driven by economic pragmatism, mutual trust, and shared strategic interests. With a clear focus on trade expansion, investment promotion, and private-sector collaboration, the forum laid a strong foundation for future engagement.

As India and Jordan move forward, sustained cooperation between governments and businesses will be critical in translating ambition into achievement—positioning the partnership as a model of constructive economic diplomacy in the region.





India–Ethiopia Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership: Deepening Cooperation in Addis Ababa

On 17 December 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met at the National Palace in Addis Ababa in what has been described as one of the most significant milestones in India–Africa relations. During their bilateral talks, both leaders agreed to elevate bilateral ties to the level of a Strategic Partnership, marking a new chapter in diplomatic, economic, and development cooperation between the two nations.

Historic Elevation of Bilateral Relations

In a formal statement, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abiy reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between India and Ethiopia, rooted in shared values of peace, development, and mutual respect. This new Strategic Partnership framework was acknowledged as a platform to deepen cooperation across multiple domains, reflecting India's growing engagement in Africa and Ethiopia's rise as a key partner in the Horn of Africa.

Prime Minister Modi described the elevation of ties as a reflection of trust, shared aspirations, and a long term

vision for collaboration. Prime Minister Abiy underscored Ethiopia's appreciation for India's consistent developmental support and emphasized the potential for accelerated economic cooperation under the new partnership.

Focus on Developmental and Economic Cooperation

A central theme of the dialogue was economic engagement. Both nations committed to expanding bilateral trade and investment, with a joint focus on:

- **Infrastructure Development:** India will enhance support for Ethiopia's flagship initiatives in railways, roads, and urban infrastructure through technical expertise and project financing.
- **Renewable Energy and Power:** Agreements were signed to promote cooperation in solar, wind, and hydroelectric power projects, including joint feasibility studies and capacity building programs.
- **IT and Digital Collaboration:** India and Ethiopia

“Prime Minister Modi’s engagement in Addis Ababa reinforces India’s commitment to Africa’s development narrative and strengthens a partnership that aligns with Ethiopia’s developmental priorities.”

agreed to expand partnerships in digital governance, skills development, and technology transfer to support Ethiopia’s digital transformation.

Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

During the visit, several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to operationalize the Strategic Partnership:

- **Trade Facilitation and Market Access:** An MoU to strengthen trade facilitation mechanisms and reduce non tariff barriers, aimed at increasing the volume and diversification of bilateral trade.
- **Capacity Building and Education:** Agreements to enhance educational exchange programs, scholarships for Ethiopian students, and joint research initiatives in priority sectors.
- **Health and Pharmaceuticals Cooperation:** A pact to promote collaboration in pharmaceuticals, including regulatory harmonization and joint efforts in vaccine research and production.
- **Skill Development and Vocational Training:** Frameworks for establishing centers of excellence in technical and vocational training, supported by Indian institutions.

Activities and Engagements During the Visit

Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Addis Ababa included a series of high profile engagements beyond the bilateral talks:

- **Meeting with the Ethiopian Council of Ministers:** A plenary session with Ethiopia’s senior leadership to identify priority areas for cooperation and implementation timelines for signed agreements.
- **India–Ethiopia Business Roundtable:** Prime Minister Modi addressed a delegation of Indian and Ethiopian business leaders. The roundtable focused on investment opportunities, especially in manufacturing, agriculture,

logistics, and renewable energy. CEOs and industry representatives explored potential joint ventures and public private partnerships.

- **Visit to an Indian Supported Development Project:** Prime Minister Modi visited a solar power installation and vocational training center established with Indian technical and financial support, showcasing India’s on ground impact in Ethiopia.
- **People to People Diplomacy Events:** Cultural engagements highlighted the longstanding historical connections between India and Ethiopia, along with programs aimed at strengthening diaspora links and educational ties.

Regional and Strategic Dimensions

The discussions also encompassed regional cooperation, including stability in the Horn of Africa, counter terrorism cooperation, and alignment on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations and African Union. Both leaders expressed support for collaborative approaches to peace and economic integration within Africa and beyond.

Looking Ahead: A Transformative Partnership

By elevating India–Ethiopia ties to a Strategic Partnership, both nations have laid the groundwork for a long term and multifaceted cooperation agenda. The emphasis on mutually beneficial trade, infrastructure development, technology exchange, and human capital development reflects a coherent strategy to build resilient, future ready economies.

Prime Minister Modi’s engagement in Addis Ababa reinforces India’s commitment to Africa’s development narrative and strengthens a partnership that aligns with Ethiopia’s developmental priorities.

As implementation of agreements progresses, sustained collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society will be key to achieving the full potential of this Strategic Partnership—one that promises shared prosperity, stability, and regional integration for years to come.

India–Mongolia Business Dialogue Opens New Avenues for MSME & Franchise Collaboration



New Delhi, 9 December 2025 – The Indian Small Business & Franchise Association (ISFA) hosted a high-level meeting with H.E. Mr. Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador of Mongolia to India, to explore new pathways for bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and entrepreneurship. The interaction was also attended by Satyam Garg, Executive Director, Franchise India Knowledge Services, along with ISFA representatives and members from key industry segments.

The discussions focused on leveraging India's robust MSME and franchising ecosystem and Mongolia's young, dynamic, and resource-rich economy. His Excellency welcomed ISFA's initiative to deepen institutional linkages with the Mongolian Government, business chambers, industry associations, and sector leaders, and assured his full support in building a structured framework for ongoing engagement.

"We see Mongolia as an important and natural partner in India's extended neighbourhood, with significant potential for co creation in sectors that are important for both countries" said Gaurav Marya, Chairman, ISFA. "As Mongolia accelerates its growth journey, there is a compelling opportunity for our members to collaborate in areas such as mining services, healthcare, education, and new age consumer brands – especially through franchise and MSME led models that create jobs and capabilities on both sides."

H.E. Mr. Ganbold Dambajav highlighted Mongolia's strong interest in expanding economic and people to people engagement with India. "Mongolia is open and eager to welcome Indian businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs," he added. "We see great promise in deepening cooperation with ISFA and its member network and Indian food franchise concepts. Our embassy will actively work with ISFA to convert today's discussions into concrete partnerships and long term collaborations."

ISFA and the Embassy also discussed the possibility of curated business delegations, B2B matchmaking, and knowledge-sharing platforms to help Indian and Mongolian enterprises engage more effectively.

Speaking about franchise opportunities, Satyam Garg, Executive Director, Franchise India Knowledge Services, shared that Franchise India has been actively engaged with the Mongolian market since 2025, introducing multiple international brands across food and beverage, healthcare, and training and consulting, including globally recognised concepts such as ActionCOACH, Bagelstein, Zorgers, Uclean, Mars Venus Coaching, Sales Geek and BusinessKids. Franchise India also started the first mongolian brand to go into Global Franchising called Dreamy Drinka. "Our experience demonstrates that Mongolia is ready for specialised, high-quality global brands and structured franchise formats," he said. "Working closely with ISFA and the Embassy, we intend to widen this portfolio and enable more Indian and international brands to enter Mongolia through sustainable, win-win partnerships."

The association aims to position the India–Mongolia business corridor as a model for MSME-led, franchise-driven growth, unlocking new avenues for innovation and entrepreneurship.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's Moscow Visit: A Strategic Dialogue on Bilateral Cooperation and Political Engagements

On Monday, India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, concluded a significant diplomatic visit to Moscow, where he engaged in a comprehensive review of the longstanding and multifaceted bilateral ties between India and Russia. This high-level visit, coming at a time of complex global geopolitical developments, underscores the strengthening of India-Russia relations and their commitment to enhancing cooperation in several key areas, including defense, energy, trade, and political engagement.

Key Objectives of the Visit

Dr. Jaishankar's visit to Moscow was primarily aimed at evaluating the progress of the strategic partnership between the two countries, which has been traditionally rooted in mutual respect and shared interests. The External Affairs Minister held discussions with senior Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, to review the status of various ongoing projects, assess the challenges facing the bilateral relationship, and chart the course for future cooperation.

The visit comes ahead of several major political engagements between India and Russia, making it an opportune moment to take stock of the evolving dynamics. As both countries navigate an increasingly complex global order, the visit highlighted the importance of maintaining robust diplomatic channels and furthering the comprehensive strategic partnership that has been in place for decades.

Strengthening Defense Ties

A major component of the discussions during Jaishankar's visit revolved around defense and security cooperation. Russia remains one of India's largest defense suppliers, and



both nations have a long history of military collaboration. The two sides reviewed ongoing defense deals, including the procurement of advanced weaponry, defense technologies, and joint military exercises.

Particularly significant was the conversation surrounding the S-400 Triumf air defense system, which India recently purchased from Russia, despite pressure from Western countries. This purchase has drawn attention from global powers, but India has maintained that the deal is essential for its national security interests. The visit provided an opportunity to reassure Russian officials about India's commitment to maintaining a balanced approach in its defense partnerships and to discuss the future trajectory of defense cooperation between the two countries.

Energy Cooperation: A Key Focus

Energy collaboration between India and Russia has emerged as a cornerstone of their bilateral relationship. Dr. Jaishankar's visit focused on strengthening the energy ties between the two nations, with an emphasis on expanding India's access to Russian oil and gas resources. Given the ongoing energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine, India's strategic partnership with Russia in the energy sector has been critical in meeting the country's growing demand for oil, particularly through discounted Russian crude.

The discussions also revolved around increasing cooperation in nuclear energy, with India looking to further diversify its energy sources while ensuring energy security. Russia, with its advanced nuclear technologies, continues to be a key partner in India's civilian nuclear energy program, which includes major projects such as the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.

Trade and Economic Cooperation

In the realm of economic ties, Jaishankar's visit aimed to boost trade relations, which have seen significant growth in recent years. Bilateral trade between India and Russia crossed \$10 billion in recent times, with the two nations aiming to increase this figure through greater cooperation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, agricultural products, and technology.

India's growing interest in Russia's vast natural resources, including energy, metals, and minerals, was a key topic of discussion. Both nations have also explored opportunities for expanding trade under the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which is expected to enhance connectivity between the two countries and facilitate trade across regions.

The discussions also covered potential Russian investments in India's infrastructure development, technology startups, and manufacturing sectors, with a particular focus on the

Make in India initiative and the promotion of joint ventures.

Political Engagement and Global Issues

Beyond economic and defense cooperation, the visit included extensive talks on global political issues. Both India and Russia continue to maintain a close alignment on various international matters, including support for multilateralism, the strengthening of the United Nations, and the resolution of regional conflicts.

With both countries facing increasing pressure from the West, the visit also served as a reaffirmation of their mutual respect for sovereignty and their desire to resist unilateral actions that threaten global stability. Jaishankar's discussions with Russian leaders underscored the importance of a multipolar world order, where India and Russia continue to play pivotal roles.

The two countries also discussed their positions on the war in Ukraine, with India maintaining a neutral stance, calling for dialogue and peaceful resolution while balancing its energy needs and its long-standing strategic relationship with Russia.

Looking Ahead: Future Political Engagements

Looking ahead, Jaishankar's Moscow visit laid the groundwork for several upcoming political engagements between India and Russia. The two sides are expected to hold a series of high-level meetings, including the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, which will further solidify their political and economic ties. India and Russia have also expressed their intention to deepen cooperation in key areas such as counter-terrorism, space exploration, and science and technology.

Furthermore, India's growing role on the world stage, including its participation in the G20, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), provides an opportunity for enhanced political coordination between India and Russia in multilateral forums.

Conclusion

Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to Moscow represents a significant chapter in the evolving relationship between India and Russia. As both countries look to adapt to an increasingly multipolar world, the visit reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, especially in the areas of defense, energy, trade, and political coordination.

In a world marked by shifting alliances and rising geopolitical tensions, India's strategic partnership with Russia continues to be of paramount importance. The outcomes of this visit indicate that the relationship is poised for further growth, ensuring that India and Russia will continue to collaborate closely on the global stage.

Modi and Lee Chart a New Course for India–South Korea Ties at G20 Johannesburg

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung used their meeting at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg to inject new energy into the growing relationship between their two countries. Held on the sidelines of the summit, the discussion reflected a shared understanding that India and South Korea are well-positioned to expand cooperation in areas that are increasingly shaping global affairs—most notably the economy, defence and high-technology sectors.

The conversation unfolded in a warm and constructive atmosphere. President Lee spoke of his intention to strengthen economic ties and expand cultural and security engagement with India. Prime Minister Modi echoed this sentiment, highlighting South Korea's reputation for technological leadership and industrial excellence. He expressed particular appreciation for Korea's shipbuilding industry and noted opportunities for deeper collaboration in defence-related manufacturing and maritime technologies.

A key takeaway from the meeting was the decision to open formal working-level channels focused on artificial intelligence and defence industry cooperation. Both leaders agreed that these sectors offer significant potential for joint

innovation, shared expertise, and practical partnerships that can directly support national security and economic modernization.

Modi also extended an invitation to President Lee to visit India, a gesture Lee welcomed enthusiastically. He conveyed his intention to travel soon, underscoring his desire to broaden exchanges not only in business and technology but also in cultural and educational fields.

After the meeting, Modi described the engagement as a reflection of the “strong momentum” shaping the India–South Korea partnership—a sentiment that aligns with recent diplomatic outreach between the two nations. As both countries navigate a rapidly shifting geopolitical environment, the willingness of their leaders to push for closer coordination suggests a clear recognition that their strategic interests are increasingly aligned.

The Johannesburg meeting may have been brief, but it marked an important step toward a more ambitious and structured phase of cooperation—one anchored in shared priorities, complementary strengths, and a mutual commitment to shaping a stable and innovative Indo-Pacific region.





President Droupadi Murmu's Botswana Visit Strengthens a New Era of India–Africa Cooperation

President Droupadi Murmu's historic visit strengthens cooperation in conservation, development, and shared growth

President Droupadi Murmu's state visit (November 11–13, 2025) to Botswana marked a defining moment in India's engagement with Africa, bringing renewed momentum to a relationship built on trust, development partnership, and cultural goodwill. As the first Indian President to visit the country, Murmu's arrival symbolized India's deepening commitment to Africa's growth story and Botswana's role as a key partner in the region.

Strengthening Bilateral Dialogue

In Gaborone, President Murmu held comprehensive discussions with President Duma Gideon Boko, where the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across priority sectors. From trade and investment to agriculture, renewable energy, defence, digital technology, and skill development, the meetings reflected a shared understanding that India and Botswana can jointly navigate emerging global challenges and opportunities.

Both sides emphasized capacity-building and technology-driven growth, with particular focus on education, innovation, and sustainable development—areas where India's experience aligns closely with Botswana's long-term national vision.

A Landmark Moment for Conservation

A major highlight of the visit was the progress made under the cheetah translocation initiative, a landmark conservation partnership between the two nations. At the Mokolodi Nature Reserve, President Murmu received a symbolic handover of eight cheetahs from Botswana, reaffirming the shared commitment to biodiversity and environmental protection.

The initiative supports India's Project Cheetah, while also reinforcing Botswana's leadership in wildlife conservation. The moment showcased how ecological collaboration can become a pillar of modern diplomacy.

Expanding Cooperation in Health and Governance

During the bilateral engagements, new steps were taken to advance collaboration in health, including strengthened access to essential medicines and cooperation in pharmaceutical standards. These efforts aim to boost Botswana's healthcare infrastructure while fostering scientific exchange and technological advancement.

Parliamentary Address & People-to-People Ties

President Murmu also addressed the National Assembly of Botswana, reflecting on the values of democracy, inclusivity,

and shared development that connect the two nations. She highlighted India's readiness to partner with Botswana in digital public infrastructure, women-led development, climate resilience, and educational exchange programs. Her address underscored the importance of legislatures as anchors of democratic cooperation and as bridges that foster long-term institutional partnerships.

Murmu praised the Indian community in Botswana—entrepreneurs, professionals, teachers, and innovators—who have contributed significantly to sectors such as diamonds, construction, retail, and healthcare. She described the diaspora as a “living link” between the two nations, strengthening cultural understanding and creating pathways for deeper economic and social collaboration. Their presence, she noted, reflects the people-centered spirit of India–Botswana relations

and the shared aspiration for prosperity, stability, and mutual respect.

A Renewed Vision for India–Africa Relations

President Murmu's visit reflects India's broader outreach to Africa—an approach rooted in partnership, shared values, and inclusive development. With the two countries approaching six decades of diplomatic relations, the visit has set the stage for new collaborations that span economic growth, cultural exchange, environmental conservation, and strategic cooperation.

Her visit not only celebrated the friendship between India and Botswana but also outlined a forward-looking agenda that promises greater connectivity, stronger development partnerships, and a more sustainable shared future.

PM Modi Strengthens India–Bhutan Ties with Inspiring Address in Thimphu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a two-day visit to Bhutan, where he reaffirmed the deep spiritual, cultural, and developmental bonds between the two Himalayan neighbours. The visit, held on November 11–12, coincided with the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and featured Modi's address to a massive gathering at the Changlimethang Celebration Ground in Thimphu.

In his speech, PM Modi praised Bhutan's journey under the wise leadership of its kings, highlighting the nation's unique vision of Gross National Happiness. He said India and Bhutan are “not just neighbours by geography, but partners connected through culture, faith, and shared dreams.” Modi described the friendship as a model of trust and cooperation in South Asia.

During the visit, both sides strengthened bilateral cooperation across several key sectors. Modi and Bhutanese leaders jointly inaugurated the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, a major milestone in clean energy collaboration. India also extended a ₹4,000-crore concessional credit line to support Bhutan's renewable energy and infrastructure development.

A series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed in renewable energy, health, and technology. The two countries agreed to boost connectivity, with India announcing a new immigration checkpoint at Hatisar in Assam to link with Bhutan's upcoming Gelephu Mindfulness City — a regional hub for innovation and wellness.

PM Modi also participated in the Global Peace Prayer Festival, which featured the sacred Kalachakra empowerment ceremony, organised by the Bhutan Government. He lauded Bhutan for its role as a global symbol of peace and environmental sustainability, noting its achievement as the world's first carbon-negative country.

Concluding his visit, Modi reiterated India's commitment to Bhutan's progress. “India will always walk shoulder to shoulder with Bhutan — in faith, friendship, and the journey toward peace and prosperity,” he said.

The visit underscored India's “Neighbourhood First” policy and reflected a modern partnership grounded in ancient cultural ties, mutual respect, and shared aspirations for a peaceful and sustainable future.

India–Angola Relations Strengthened

During President Droupadi Murmu's Historic Visit

During her landmark state visit to Angola from November 8–11, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu reinforced the strong and growing partnership between India and Africa, with a special focus on Angola.

On Monday, President Murmu addressed members of the Indian community in Luanda at a reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador. She encouraged the diaspora to actively contribute to the shared prosperity of India and Angola, describing them as vital connectors fostering cultural, economic, and social ties between the two nations.

Speaking on the bilateral relationship, President Murmu highlighted that India values its partnership with Angola, built on mutual respect, equality, and shared goals for progress. She pointed to the ongoing cooperation in sectors such as energy, technology, agriculture, defence, health, and infrastructure, which continues to deepen economic and people-to-people linkages.

The President also underscored India's engagement with Africa through the India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and announced that the next summit would be hosted in India, reaffirming the country's long-term commitment to African development and collaboration.

President Murmu's visit comes at a significant moment, marking decades of diplomatic relations between India and Angola, and serves as a catalyst to strengthen trade, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding. Her message was clear: the bond between India and Angola is not only strategic but also rooted in friendship, shared values, and the pursuit of common prosperity.

This visit highlights India's continued efforts to build bridges across continents, leveraging diplomacy, commerce, and community engagement to create a more connected and cooperative world.



India and Poland Advance Strategic Dialogue at 11th Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi

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Modi and Meloni Launch India–Italy Initiative to Combat Terror Financing at G20

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni unveiled a new bilateral effort aimed at tackling the financing of terrorism. The India–Italy Joint Initiative to Counter Financing of Terrorism reflects a shared determination to disrupt the financial networks that sustain terrorist activities while strengthening multilateral coordination through platforms like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF).

During their discussions, the two leaders emphasized the broader trajectory of India–Italy relations, including trade, investment, technology, defence, and education. Both reaffirmed their commitment to the 2025–2029 Joint Strategic Action Plan, highlighting how the partnership has steadily evolved into a multi-dimensional strategic alliance.

The joint counter-terrorism initiative is designed to facilitate closer intelligence sharing, enhance capacity-building efforts,

and coordinate strategies in global forums dedicated to combating terror financing. Prime Minister Modi described the effort as “timely and essential” for cutting off the financial lifelines of terrorist networks. Prime Minister Meloni expressed Italy’s strong support for India’s counter-terrorism priorities and emphasized the importance of global collaboration to confront illicit financial flows that fuel extremism.

Beyond security, Modi and Meloni explored opportunities to expand economic and technological collaboration, including artificial intelligence, space, and defence sectors. They also highlighted growing business exchanges between the two countries, citing recent economic forums as evidence of deepening ties.

By launching this initiative, India and Italy are signaling a strategic alignment that combines national action with multilateral cooperation, strengthening global efforts against terrorism while reinforcing their bilateral partnership.



India Looks to Korea's Maritime Strength: Hardeep Singh Puri's Visit to Hanwha Ocean Signals Strategic Shift

India's growing ambitions in the global maritime arena took a visible step forward with Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's recent visit to the Hanwha Ocean shipyard in Geoje, South Korea. The visit, part of a larger outreach to Korea's shipbuilding giants, reflects New Delhi's intention to reshape how India engages with the global shipping industry—moving from dependence to strategic capability.

A Meeting of Ambitions and Capabilities

Hanwha Ocean, known for some of the world's most sophisticated shipbuilding systems, offered Puri a firsthand look at its cutting-edge production lines. The scale of the yard, its automation, and its ability to deliver high-value vessels—ranging from LNG carriers to specialized energy ships—stood out as major strengths India hopes to learn from.

For India, which relies heavily on foreign-flagged vessels to transport crude oil and LNG, the gap between its maritime needs and its domestic production ability has long been evident. Puri's message at Hanwha was clear: India wants to narrow that gap, not gradually, but through high-impact partnerships.

India's Maritime Moment

India's energy sector spends billions annually on maritime freight—a cost that New Delhi increasingly views as both a financial strain and a strategic vulnerability. The government now wants more Indian-built, Indian-owned, and Indian-flagged vessels handling the nation's vital energy supply chains.

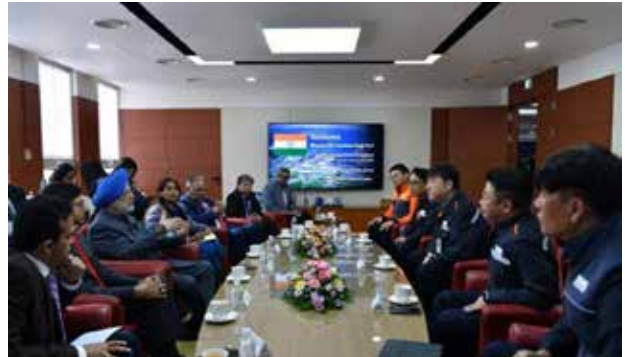
Puri emphasized that India is ready to scale. Demand for new crude, LNG, and petrochemical carriers is rising; policies supporting shipbuilding have been strengthened; and long-term planning through initiatives like maritime development funds and targeted incentives is underway.

In short, India is preparing a framework that makes shipbuilding partnerships not just possible, but commercially attractive.

Why South Korea Matters

South Korea remains an undisputed leader in shipbuilding, with a technological edge that few countries can match. For India, tapping into that expertise—whether through joint ventures, technology collaboration, or building ships in India with Korean support—offers a faster route to strengthening its maritime industry.

Puri's visit to Hanwha Ocean sends an important diplomatic signal: India sees South Korea not only as a supplier of ships,



but as a strategic collaborator capable of helping it leapfrog into a new phase of maritime capability.

Win-Win Logic

For Korean shipyards, India represents a rare combination of scale, long-term demand, and policy support. For India, Korean know-how can accelerate timelines, reduce costs, and raise the technical standards of domestic production.

The logic behind the partnership is straightforward:

India brings demand, workforce, and strategic geography.

South Korea brings advanced shipbuilding technology and global leadership.

Together, they can develop a competitive shipbuilding ecosystem well beyond bilateral needs.

A Strategic Roadmap Emerging

Puri's stop at Hanwha was part of a broader engagement with Korea's shipping and shipbuilding sectors, indicating that India plans not just one-off deals, but a sustained maritime partnership. The long-term vision appears to be an integrated approach: Korean-backed construction, Indian shipyards, and shared expertise building a fleet designed for both Indian and global markets.

Conclusion: A New Phase in India-Korea Maritime Relations
Puri's visit to Hanwha Ocean was more than a tour—it was a statement of intent. India wants to move from being a major shipping customer to an active participant in global shipbuilding, and it sees South Korea as a key ally in that transition. As India's trade and energy needs grow, and as it seeks a stronger role in the Indo-Pacific maritime landscape, partnerships like this will shape the next chapter of India's economic and strategic trajectory.

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 Kuttabul 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, Indonesia Amplify Strategic Defence Cooperation at High-Level Dialogue in New Delhi

India and Indonesia on Thursday held the third India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi, marking a renewed push to elevate their fast-growing strategic relationship. The meeting was co-chaired by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, who conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing defence cooperation and outlined fresh areas for expansion.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing that defence ties form a central pillar of their Indo-Pacific engagement. The ministers discussed progress across key domains, including maritime security, joint military exercises, defence capability development, and increased defence-industrial collaboration.

A significant portion of the dialogue focused on the shared strategic imperative of ensuring a stable, rules-based maritime order. With both countries positioned along critical sea lanes, the ministers highlighted the need for deeper coordination in the Indo-Pacific, particularly through enhanced naval engagement and information sharing.

The two leaders also reviewed ongoing training exchanges

and cooperation between their armed forces, expressing satisfaction with the steady expansion of bilateral defence activities. They discussed ways to further streamline operational interactions, develop long-term exercises, and improve interoperability across services.

Defence industrial cooperation emerged as another important theme, with both ministers exploring opportunities for co-development and co-production under India's growing defence manufacturing ecosystem and Indonesia's evolving technological ambitions.

The dialogue included an exchange of perspectives on the broader regional security environment, with both sides acknowledging emerging challenges and underscoring the necessity of continued collaboration to safeguard regional stability.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the two countries' shared vision: a stronger, more dynamic defence partnership that supports peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. The next round of high-level engagements is expected to build on this momentum as India and Indonesia consolidate their strategic convergence.





India and Slovenia Strengthen Economic Ties at 10th JCTEC Meeting

India and Slovenia reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic engagement as senior officials from both countries convened the 10th meeting of the Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) on Wednesday. The session served as an important platform to review bilateral trade performance and identify new avenues for partnership across emerging and traditional sectors.

The meeting was co-chaired by Saket Kumar, Joint Secretary in India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Peter Japelj, Director General for Economic, Cultural and Scientific Diplomacy at Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Delegations from both sides held detailed discussions aimed at strengthening policy coordination and facilitating smoother trade flows.

Reviewing Bilateral Trade

Officials assessed the current trajectory of India-Slovenia trade, noting consistent growth in recent years and the rising interest of businesses on both sides. The review covered existing trade patterns, sectoral strengths, and opportunities for diversification. Both delegations stressed the importance of reducing procedural hurdles, enhancing logistics connectivity, and encouraging greater business-to-business linkages.

Exploring New Areas of Cooperation

Beyond traditional trade sectors, the two sides explored new and emerging areas of collaboration, including:

Technology and Innovation

- Green and Circular Economy solutions
- Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences

- Information Technology and Digital Services
- Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering

India and Slovenia also highlighted opportunities for cooperation in start-up ecosystems, research partnerships, and industrial collaboration, aligning with global economic shifts and the strengths of both economies.

Strengthening Institutional Frameworks

The meeting emphasised the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms that support trade and investment. Both sides agreed to facilitate regular engagement between chambers of commerce, promotional agencies, and business councils to sustain momentum.

The co-chairs also underlined the importance of predictable regulatory environments and continued dialogue to address market-access issues, ensuring a stable foundation for long-term commercial partnerships.

Forward-Looking Partnership

India and Slovenia expressed optimism about expanding cooperation in the coming years, noting the complementarity between the two economies and shared commitment to innovation-driven growth. The successful conclusion of the 10th JCTEC meeting marks an important step in advancing a forward-looking, resilient, and mutually beneficial economic partnership.

Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination and continue efforts to deepen economic ties ahead of the next JCTEC session.



Modi and Carney Forge New Momentum for India–Canada Partnership at G20

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to strengthen bilateral ties and explore a new roadmap for economic, technological, and strategic cooperation. The meeting underscored both nations' intent to move beyond past differences and deepen engagement across trade, investment, and security.

Renewing the Relationship

Modi and Carney highlighted the renewed energy in India–Canada relations, building on recent diplomatic exchanges and discussions between their foreign ministries. Both leaders emphasized the importance of consistent dialogue and high-level visits to maintain momentum and foster mutual understanding. Modi formally invited Carney to India, an invitation Carney welcomed, signaling a commitment to closer people-to-people and business connections.

Economic Cooperation: Laying the Groundwork for CEPA

A key focus of the discussions was the launch of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The proposed framework seeks to significantly expand bilateral trade, targeting a potential increase to \$50 billion by 2030. Areas of emphasis include trade in goods and services, investment facilitation, agriculture, digital commerce, and sustainable development. Both leaders agreed that the CEPA would provide a structured mechanism to enhance economic ties while promoting inclusive growth.

Strategic Collaboration Across Sectors

Beyond commerce, Modi and Carney explored avenues for

deeper strategic cooperation. Discussions covered defence, education, science and technology, space, and energy, highlighting the breadth of India–Canada collaboration. In addition, the two leaders welcomed a new trilateral initiative — the Australia–Canada–India Technology & Innovation (ACITI) partnership — aimed at fostering innovation in critical technologies, artificial intelligence, and supply chain resilience. Modi also highlighted India's upcoming AI Impact Summit, which Carney endorsed as an important platform for collaboration.

Civil nuclear cooperation also featured prominently in the talks. Modi and Carney reaffirmed commitments to strengthen long-term nuclear energy collaboration, including uranium supply and potential joint projects that could benefit both countries' energy security.

Strengthening People-to-People and Institutional Links

Recognizing the importance of robust people-to-people connections, both leaders agreed to enhance consular support and streamline processes for businesses and citizens engaging with each other's countries. They also emphasized the role of frequent ministerial and business delegations in sustaining high-level dialogue and deepening bilateral ties.

A Reset with Geopolitical Significance

This meeting represents a pragmatic reset in India–Canada relations, which had experienced strains in recent years. Strengthening ties with Canada offers India access to advanced technologies, critical minerals, and innovation ecosystems, while Canada benefits from India's growing market and

dynamic workforce. The discussions in Johannesburg signal that both nations are prepared to set aside past frictions in favor of a long-term, strategic partnership that encompasses trade, technology, energy, and global governance.

Looking Ahead

By initiating CEPA negotiations, expanding collaboration in

high-tech sectors, and reaffirming shared interests in energy and defence, Modi and Carney have laid the foundation for a robust India–Canada partnership. Their engagement at the G20 underscores the importance both countries attach to building a forward-looking relationship, one that combines economic growth with strategic foresight and global collaboration.

India and Bahrain Unveil Seamless Cross-Border Payments Link

UPI–EFTS integration marks a new chapter in financial connectivity and digital cooperation

India and Bahrain have taken a major step toward strengthening their economic and financial linkages with the launch of a real-time cross-border payment system that connects India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Bahrain's Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS). This breakthrough has been made possible through a strategic partnership between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)—the global arm of the National Payments Corporation of India—and BENEFIT, Bahrain's leading fintech and electronic payments company.

The new digital bridge will enable individuals and businesses in both countries to send and receive money instantly, securely, and at far lower costs. At the heart of this collaboration is Bahrain's widely used Fawri+ service, which has now been seamlessly integrated with UPI's fast, user-friendly payment infrastructure. For the nearly half a million Indian expatriates living and working in Bahrain, this is set to be a transformative development, simplifying remittances that have historically been slow or expensive.

The cross-border link strengthens the vision of promoting financial inclusion, fintech cooperation, and digital innovation between India and the Gulf region. As India's digital payments ecosystem emerges as a global leader, UPI's expansion into Bahrain represents another milestone in showcasing India's technology-driven financial architecture on the world stage. For Bahrain, the partnership enhances its ambition to position itself as a regional fintech hub with modern, interoperable financial systems.

Beyond remittances, the UPI–EFTS connection provides new opportunities for trade, tourism, and investment, allowing smoother financial interactions for businesses and



travelers. Real-time payments reduce operational friction, support micro and small enterprises, and encourage greater financial participation across communities.

The initiative also reflects the deep-rooted ties between India and Bahrain, shaped by cultural affinity, economic partnership, and decades of people-to-people connections. With remittances forming a key economic pillar in bilateral engagement, the UPI–Fawri+ link adds technological strength to a relationship already built on trust and cooperation.

As digital economies evolve, India and Bahrain's latest collaboration stands out as a forward-looking model for cross-border financial innovation. It not only benefits millions of users but also sets a precedent for future digital partnerships between India and other nations seeking secure, scalable, and inclusive financial solutions.

Through this landmark initiative, the two countries have demonstrated how fintech diplomacy can drive connectivity, empower communities, and support the broader vision of a seamlessly integrated global digital economy.

India–New Zealand FTA to Elevate Strategic Partnership: Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said that the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand is comprehensive, forward-looking, and poised to elevate bilateral relations to a higher strategic level. Addressing the significance of the agreement, the minister underscored that the FTA reflects the shared vision of both nations to strengthen economic cooperation in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Goyal noted that the agreement is designed to be balanced and mutually beneficial, creating new opportunities for trade, investment, and collaboration across a wide range of sectors. By improving market access and reducing trade barriers, the FTA is expected to support businesses, farmers, and service providers in both countries, while also strengthening resilient and diversified supply chains.

The minister further emphasized that the FTA goes beyond trade in goods, incorporating areas such as services, innovation, technology, and sustainable development. He highlighted that closer economic engagement would reinforce broader diplomatic and strategic ties between India and New Zealand.

According to Goyal, the agreement represents a long-term commitment to partnership and trust, and will contribute to greater prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, marking a new chapter in India–New Zealand relations.





The Global Indian Brand “TAJ” Enters the Egyptian Market: A New Step to Enhance Cooperation Between Egypt and India



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 Grand Continental Hotel
Preliminary Architecture PLANS
perspective



ADLY Street

Signing of the Operation Contract for the Historic Continental Hotel in Downtown Cairo Under the Global Brand “TAJ”

Last week, Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, the Egyptian Prime Minister, witnessed the signing ceremony for the management and operation contract of the historic Continental Hotel in downtown Cairo under the global Indian brand “TAJ”. This marks TAJ’s entry into the Egyptian market and represents a strategic step towards revitalizing one of Egypt’s most

important hotel and historical landmarks, located in Opera Square in the heart of Khedival Cairo. This initiative also supports the state’s efforts to develop heritage areas of unique architectural value.

The Continental Hotel is one of Cairo’s most prominent historical landmarks, dating back to 1870. It enjoys a prime location overlooking Azbakeya Garden and Opera Square. The hotel is slated for restoration as a five-star establishment with approximately 300 rooms, while preserving its historical architectural style and original facade.

The Taj brand is one of the world's leading hotel brands, operating more than 335 hotels in over 150 locations worldwide. The hotel is owned by the Egyptian General Company for Tourism and Hotels (EGOTH), a subsidiary of the Holding Company for Tourism and Hotels, which is affiliated with the Egyptian Ministry of Public Business Sector.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Engineer Mohamed Sheimy, the Egyptian Minister of Public Business Sector, and Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy, the Indian Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, underscoring the depth of bilateral relations and economic and investment cooperation between Egypt and India.

The contract was signed by Hisham El-Demery, Managing Director and CEO of the Egyptian General Company for Tourism and Hotels (EGOTH), and Puneet Chatwal, CEO of Indian Hotels Company Limited, a subsidiary of the Indian Tata Group (owner of the Taj brand), a luxury hotel brand.

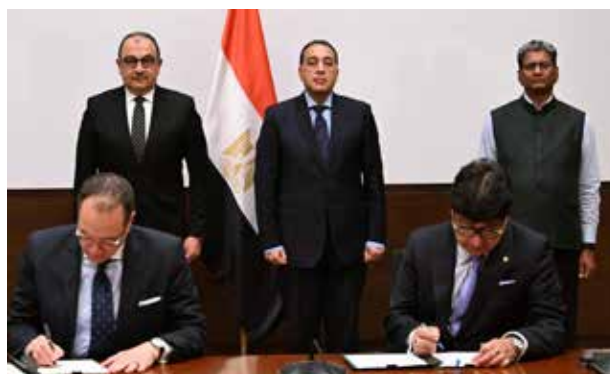
The Egyptian Prime Minister affirmed that the project to revitalize the historic Continental Hotel in downtown Cairo is a successful model of partnership between the state and the global private sector. This aligns with the state's vision to preserve architectural heritage and leverage it economically in a modern and sustainable manner, thereby contributing to the support of the tourism sector, generating new job opportunities, and enhancing Cairo's position on the global tourism map.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Minister of Public Business Sector explained that the signing of this contract comes within the framework of the ministry's comprehensive strategy to revitalize and develop state-owned tourism and hotel assets and maximize their economic returns through partnerships with leading international brands possessing extensive experience in hotel management and operation.

He added that the Continental Hotel is a prominent architectural and historical landmark in the heart of Khedival Cairo. The ministry launched the hotel's revitalization project and commenced on-site implementation in the second quarter of 2025, in accordance with the state's plan to develop the area and restore its cultural splendor, while fully committing to preserving the building's authentic architectural character and historical facades, and integrating them with the latest international hotel operating standards.

He added that the cooperation with the global brand "Taj", which is entering the Egyptian market for the first time through this project, reflects the growing confidence of major international hotel brands in the Egyptian economy and the tourism investment climate, and what Cairo possesses

in terms of historical and cultural assets that qualify it to regain its position as a leading global tourist destination. It also reflects the Ministry's keenness to choose partners who have a distinguished international record and established experience in managing and operating luxury hotels with a heritage character, in order to ensure the provision of a high-end tourist experience that befits the historical value of the Continental Hotel and its distinguished location, and contributes to increasing the capacity of high-quality hotels, attracting more tourists to Egypt, and enhancing its position on the world tourism map.



The Grand Continental Hotel
Preliminary Architecture PLANS

perspective



El-Gomhoreya Street

The Grand Continental Hotel
Preliminary Architecture PLANS

perspective



El-Gomhoreya Street

Sustainability and Green Energy Diplomacy: India–Australia Renewable Energy Partnership

“In the age of climate urgency, diplomacy is no longer defined by borders, but by shared commitments to a cleaner planet.”



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The Strategic Imperative for Green Alliance

The global climate crisis and the urgent need for a clean energy transition have reshaped the foundations of international diplomacy. In this new paradigm, strategic alliances are increasingly forged not just by security concerns, but by shared commitments to sustainability and energy security.

In an era where climate change poses one of humanity's most pressing challenges, the global shift toward sustainability and green energy solutions is not just a necessity but an urgent imperative. Green energy diplomacy, the art of leveraging renewable energy initiatives to foster international cooperation, has emerged as a critical instrument.

Green Energy Diplomacy represents a modern convergence of foreign policy, economic security and climate action. It moves beyond traditional environmental negotiations to actively build resilient, decarbonised economies through bilateral cooperation. In the Indo-Pacific, no partnership exemplifies this shift more profoundly than the escalating alliance between India and Australia

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), enacted in December 2022, have emerged

as the pivotal catalyst. This agreement is transforming a complementary bilateral relationship into a strategic “Green Energy Partnership,” built on three interdependent pillars: trade in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, collaboration on critical minerals and strengthened bilateral innovation. This trinity of cooperation is positioning the two nations to enhance supply chain resilience, accelerate their respective energy transitions, and foster a more stable and sustainable Indo-Pacific region.

The Imperative of Green Energy Diplomacy

For both India and Australia, the shift to green energy is a matter of national security and economic prosperity. At the heart of this shift lies the burgeoning partnership between India and Australia, the two democratic powers in the Indo-Pacific. India, with its ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, presents a colossal demand market for clean energy technology and investment, thus achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, requires transformative technological and material partnerships.

The Green Energy Diplomacy framework is centred on technology transfer, supply chain resilience and capacity building for the technologies of the future: Solar PV, Green hydrogen and Energy storage.

The Economic Engine of Cooperation (ECTA) as a Catalyst for Green Collaboration

The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) 2022 between India and Australia serve as the primary economic enabler for the Renewable Energy Partnership (REP). ECTA provides the institutional momentum needed to convert strategic intent into commercial viability. Crucially, ECTA includes provisions that reduce tariffs and remove non-tariff barriers on goods essential for the green transition, including clean energy commodities, equipment and critical minerals.

Furthermore, ECTA is seen as a stepping stone towards a more Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which is expected to deepen economic ties further, especially in high-tech and services sectors critical for the smooth operation and maintenance of a modern green grid. ECTA, therefore, is not merely a trade deal; it is a strategic

tool for fast-tracking shared climate and energy security objectives.

The on-going discussions for a subsequent Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement are aimed at further deepening this economic integration, particularly by addressing non-tariff barriers and streamlining investment procedures, thereby maximising the synergies between India's 'Make in India' and Australia's 'Future Made in Australia' initiatives.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Collaboration: Harnessing the Power of the Sun, Technology Commercialisation and Workforce Development

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology stands as a central pillar of the REP, reflecting India's ambitious targets for solar deployment, thus standing out among the world's top solar markets

Australia, with world-leading expertise, is a global leader in solar research and innovation, thus boasting some of the most efficient solar PV technologies. Joint efforts between India and Australia have focused on technology transfer, setting up pilot projects and facilitating investments in solar manufacturing, which moves beyond simple trade to focus on "end-to-end supply chain integration and cutting-edge research" thus exploring opportunities in next-generation solar cells, battery storage and grid integration, which will help to meet domestic energy demands but also contribute to the global solar supply chain. Furthermore, a critical component is skills and knowledge exchange, sharing expertise in renewable energy policy, project financing and grid management to build human capital in both nations.

The Foundation of the Clean Tech Ecosystem

If solar PV represents the present collaboration, critical minerals are the strategic bedrock for the future. This pillar forms the geostrategic heart of the partnership. Australia possesses some of the world's largest and most sustainably managed reserves of lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements and vanadium, which are the essential building blocks for electric vehicle batteries, wind turbines and grid-scale storage systems. India's ambitious plans for domestic EV manufacturing and renewable expansion create an insatiable demand for these resources.

A specific and high-potential sub-focus is green hydrogen. Australia aims to be a top exporter, while India has launched an ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission to become a global production hub. The collaboration here spans developing mutual standards, piloting projects in hard-

to-abate sectors like steel and shipping and exploring the logistics of a future hydrogen trade corridor.

Strengthening Bilateral Collaboration: Opportunities and Challenges

The India–Australia renewable energy partnership has made notable strides, with several joint initiatives. Policy frameworks such as the India-Australia Energy Dialogue and institutional mechanisms like the Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership have provided a structured approach to cooperation. However, challenges remain. Regulatory differences, intellectual property rights and technology transfer issues can impede progress. Both countries must work to harmonise standards, streamline approval processes and ensure greater trust among stakeholders. By addressing these challenges through dialogue and policy innovation, India and Australia can unlock the full potential of their green partnership.

Summary: A Model for Sustainable Diplomacy

The India-Australia Green Energy Diplomacy is more than a bilateral agreement. It sends a clear message that like-minded, democratic nations can successfully collaborate to build resilient, sovereign and sustainable energy supply chains, reducing dependence on singular sources and mitigating geopolitical risk.

It demonstrates how astute trade policy can be harnessed as a direct instrument for strategic climate action and energy security. This collaboration moves beyond rhetorical commitments to create tangible, investment-driven pathways for decarbonisation. It represents a fusion of "Green Realism", where national economic interests, technological ambition and global environmental imperatives converge.

As the world races toward the net-zero finish line, the strategic partnership between India and Australia, combining Australia's resources and R&D with India's market scale and manufacturing ambition, is set to become an indispensable engine of the global clean energy transition. It's a diplomatic masterstroke that secures both national interests and a sustainable future for the entire Indo-Pacific region.

In the defining challenge of our age, our shared future is not zero-sum, but built on collaboration. The partnership of India and Australia is not only advancing their national interests but also contributing to global efforts to combat climate change, as it stands as a testament to what can be achieved when nations work together towards a common goal, a cleaner, greener and more prosperous future for all.

“Sustainability is the new diplomacy and collaboration is the currency with which humanity must secure its future.”

Indian Coffee: Global Leadership and Environmental Sustainability and Egypt as a Rising Strategic Destination



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.

In the context of strengthening trade and agricultural ties between India and Egypt, data released by the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) and the Indian Coffee Council revealed a qualitative leap in the Indian coffee sector, confirming India's prestigious position as the world's fifth-largest coffee exporter, with a strong strategic focus on the Egyptian market.

• The Aroma of India

Under the theme "The Aroma of India: Unveiling the Richness

of Indian Coffee," and at an event organized by the Indian Embassy in Egypt under the patronage of Ambassador Suresh K. Reddy, the Indian Coffee Council, in collaboration with the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI), presented a comprehensive report highlighting the significant growth witnessed by the Indian coffee sector.

The data reveals that India, which began its coffee journey in the 17th century with seven Arabica seeds planted by Baba Budan in Chikkamagaluru, has become a pivotal player in the global economy and a model for sustainable agriculture.

• Indian Coffee and Egypt: Record Figures and Promising Prospects

Official data revealed a strategic development in trade with the Arab Republic of Egypt. Indian coffee exports to Egypt reached unprecedented levels during the financial year 2024-2025, with India achieving its highest ever export volume of coffee to Egypt, reaching 6,932.19 MT, valued at (\$319.91 Lakhs).

Robusta Cherry (ROB CHY) coffee emerged as the primary export category to Egypt, along with significant growth in



instant coffee exports, which reached 1,322.91 MT during the same period (2024- 2025).

• India on the Global Production Map

Statistics confirm India's position as a global agricultural powerhouse. It ranks as the seventh largest coffee producer in the world with a production share of 3.54%, and the fifth largest exporter globally with a share of 5.12%. The value of Indian coffee exports to the world reached approximately US\$1.29 billion.

• Top Destinations for Indian Coffee

Italy topped the list of importers of Indian coffee with 17.50%, followed by Germany with 10.06%, and then Russia with 7.20%.

• Production Geography

Coffee cultivation in India is concentrated in the southern states, with Karnataka accounting for 70.62% of production, followed by Kerala with 20.46%, and then Tamil Nadu with 5.36%.

• Economic and Social Impact

The coffee sector is a major social pillar in India, encompassing 4.41 lakhs of agricultural holdings and employing approximately 2 million people directly and indirectly, with a national yield of around 824 Kg/HA.

• A Unique Ecosystem: A Cradle of Biodiversity

India is unique in cultivating coffee under the dense canopies



of trees in the Western Ghats. This agricultural practice contributes to the protection of biodiversity, serving as a system that combines production with environmental conservation.

Indian coffee plantations are home to more than 320 tree species and 109 bird species, as well as rare mammals such as Asian elephants, tigers, and rare butterflies. These plantations act as natural carbon sinks, sequestering between 140 and 220 tons of carbon per hectare and contributing to a 3-4°C reduction in plantation temperatures.

• Regenerative Agriculture and Sustainable Practices

India employs advanced agricultural practices (GAPs) that enhance soil fertility. Data shows that Native Shade systems achieve the highest levels of biomass (310 Mg ha⁻¹) and soil organic carbon stock, outperforming mixed or exotic shade systems. The sector also relies on hand-picking and natural sun-drying, ensuring the preservation of bean density and pH balance.



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Website Security



Web Design



Performance Optimization



SEO Setup



• Distinctive Varieties and Unique Tastes

The report highlighted a selection of Indian Arabica varieties that give them a distinctive taste signature:

- **Kents:** The oldest Arabica variety, known for its exceptional cup quality, good body, good acidity, and fairly good flavor.
- **S.795:** The most popular variety, characterized by its bold beans superior quality, balanced cup with subtle flavor notes of Mocca.
- **Slm 9:** A global award-winning specialty coffee, distinguished by its bluish-green beans, strong body, and possess distinct flavors in the cup.
- **Chandragiri:** A modern variety characterized by intense sweet citrus acidity, a hint of dried raisin aroma, and characteristic taste of exotic Indian fruits with wild flavors.

And finest Indian Robusta coffee:

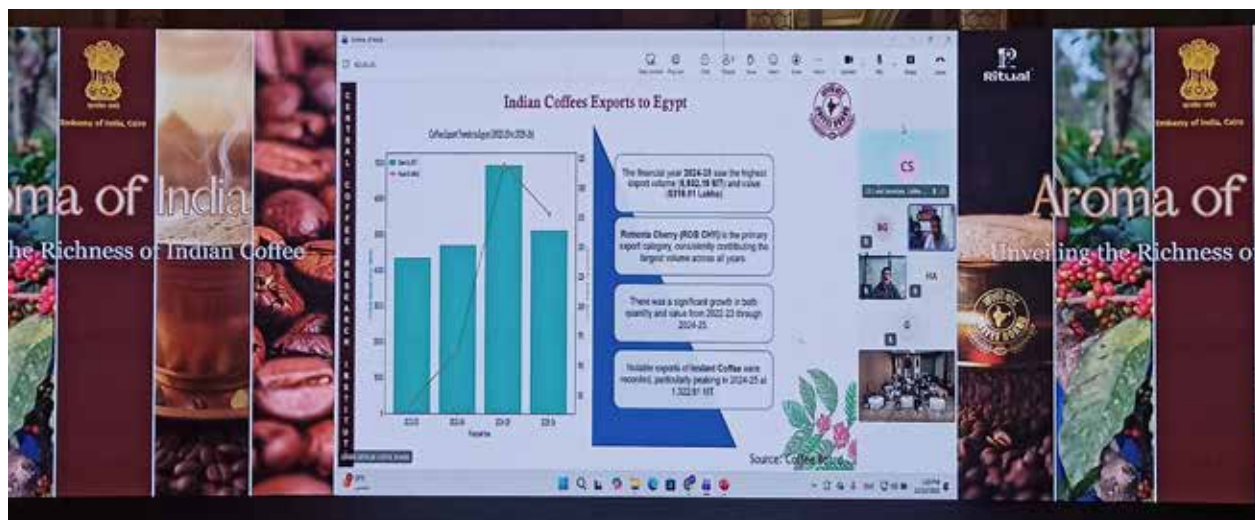
- **S.274:** High yielding, bold, and round beans that appear greyish when processed by wet method.
- **CXR:** Interspecific hybrid developed by crossing Coffee consgensis and Robusta which has soft and neutral features in the cup.

• Why is Indian Robusta Coffee so interesting?

Unlike other coffee-producing countries, Indian Robusta coffee is grown at relatively high elevations under the two-tier shade, where the beans grow more slowly, becomes more denser and hence acquires intense and complex flavor compounds.

The report emphasizes that Indian coffee is not merely a commodity, but rather the product of a holistic ecosystem that combines advanced agricultural technology with environmental conservation. With the growing demand for these products in Egypt, experts anticipate increased technical

and commercial cooperation in the coming years to ensure that the finest, sustainable coffee from Indian farms reaches Egyptian





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Egyptian-Indian Talks to Localize Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Manufacturing and Expand Medical Investments Between the Two Countries



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.

Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population of Egypt, received his Indian counterpart, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Health, Chemicals, and Fertilizers, to enhance cooperation in healthcare, particularly in exchanging expertise in the pharmaceutical industry and exploring joint investment opportunities between the two countries.

Discussions on Partnerships in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Technology Transfer

The two sides discussed strengthening partnerships in pharmaceutical manufacturing and healthcare, and exploring joint projects between Egyptian and Indian pharmaceutical companies, especially in oncology drug production, with the aim of transferring technology and



localizing the manufacturing of high-tech pharmaceuticals.

They also discussed encouraging healthcare investment through strategic agreements in the production of vaccines, oncology drugs, and biopharmaceuticals, along with technology transfer and capacity building through specialized training programs and infrastructure development.

Facilitating Pharmaceutical Investment and Coordinating Joint Efforts

The two sides discussed mechanisms to facilitate pharmaceutical investment and streamline registration, import, and export procedures. The ministers agreed on the importance of coordination between the public and private sectors, civil society, and pharmaceutical and vaccine companies in both countries to unify efforts.

The Egyptian and Indian ministers participated in the Egyptian-Indian Roundtable to explore avenues of cooperation in localizing pharmaceutical and vaccine industries and exchanging expertise. The roundtable was attended by Suresh Reddy, the Indian Ambassador to Egypt, several leaders from the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, and representatives of major Egyptian and Indian companies operating in the pharmaceutical, vaccine, and medical supplies sectors.

Qualitative Development in Egyptian-Indian Health Relations

Egyptian-Indian Talks The Egyptian Minister of Health affirmed that Egyptian-Indian relations are witnessing qualitative development in the fields of health, pharmaceuticals, and vaccines. He noted that the Egyptian state is giving significant attention to localizing vital industries and achieving self-sufficiency in pharmaceuticals and vaccines, in accordance with the directives of the political leadership to enhance the country's health and pharmaceutical security. He explained that Egypt possesses a comprehensive system for registering and monitoring the quality of medicines and vaccines through the Egyptian Drug Authority, in addition to a unified procurement system that provides a supportive investment climate for

international companies. He noted that the Ministry is working to create lasting partnerships that contribute to building a national pharmaceutical and vaccine industry based on advanced scientific and technological foundations.

India is a strategic partner in pharmaceutical manufacturing

He stated that cooperation with India is a strategic step, especially since India is one of the world's largest producers of medicines and vaccines and possesses extensive expertise in research and development. He explained that the meeting addressed opportunities for joint manufacturing, technology transfer, and establishing partnerships between Egyptian and Indian companies to meet the needs of the local and regional markets.

The Egyptian Minister pointed out that the roundtable was convened to establish an executive framework for Egyptian-Indian cooperation in the fields of pharmaceutical, vaccine, biological, and medical supplies production. He emphasized that the Ministry welcomes all initiatives that support industrial development in the health sector, in a way that serves the goals of sustainable development.

Extensive Discussions to Activate Partnerships and Exchange Expertise

The roundtable featured extensive discussions on exchanging expertise in the fields of pharmaceuticals and vaccines, and activating partnerships between Egyptian and Indian companies. The meeting also included a comprehensive presentation from the Egyptian side on the national experience in developing the vaccine and biopharmaceutical industry.

The two sides discussed the possibility of transferring modern Indian technology in the fields of vaccine and biopharmaceutical production to Egypt, and explored cooperation in clinical research and joint development, in addition to discussing opportunities for exporting Egyptian and Indian products to African and Arab markets.

It is worth noting that the meeting and roundtable took place on the sidelines of the Indian Minister of Health's visit to Egypt, where he arrived on an official visit at the head of a large delegation of senior officials and representatives of leading Indian companies in the fertilizer sector. He was received by Suresh Reddy, the Indian Ambassador to Egypt. The Indian Minister is attending the third edition of the World Conference on Population, Health and Development 2025, which is being held under the auspices of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, from November 12 to 15, 2025, at the St. Regis Hotel in the New Administrative Capital, under the slogan "Empowering People, Promoting Progress, Creating Opportunities."



Romania's Wind Boom:

Why It's the Right Moment for Indian Renewable Players to Step In

Romania is emerging as one of Europe's most dynamic wind-energy markets, and recent developments show that the country is entering a new phase of large-scale renewable expansion. For Indian wind-energy companies—whether manufacturers, developers, or O&M specialists—this is a pivotal moment to tap into an increasingly attractive landscape backed by strong policy support and substantial investment flows.

Policy Momentum Creating a Favorable Investment Climate

CfD Mechanism Accelerates Wind Deployment

Romania's introduction of a Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme has become a cornerstone for renewable investment. The country's inaugural CfD auction, held in late 2024, awarded long-term price guarantees to several major onshore wind projects. The Pestera II development, with an expected capacity of around 400 MW and a CfD for 245 MW at €64.9/MWh, exemplifies the scale of projects now moving forward.

The CfD program is backed by up to €3 billion from the EU's Modernisation Fund, ensuring predictable revenues for investors and reducing market volatility—a significant advantage for international entrants, including those from India.

Public and Private Financing Gaining Strength

The European Investment Bank's recent €30 million commitment to Romanian wind development signals deep institutional confidence in the country's energy transition. For Indian businesses, the presence of strong public financing lowers entry risk and creates fertile ground for partnerships and co-investment models.



Large Projects Receiving Steady Regulatory Support

Approvals for major wind farms, such as the 246+ MW Ialomița Nord project and a planned 1,200 MW portfolio in Botoșani County, reflect a robust pipeline of utility-scale developments. This demonstrates a market that is not only active today but set for sustained expansion over the coming decade.

A Market Already Drawing the Attention of Global Wind Leaders

Romania's wind sector is attracting top-tier global players:

GE Vernova has secured agreements for turbine supply across multiple large projects, including a 140 MW site in Vaslui County.

Vestas continues expanding its Romanian footprint with orders approaching 150 MW across several parks.

Engie Romania is acquiring both ready-to-build and operational wind assets, strengthening its renewable presence.

This influx of major OEMs and developers is a sign of a healthy, competitive, and opportunity-rich environment—one where Indian companies can find ample space to contribute, differentiate, and grow.

Why Indian Wind Companies Are Well Positioned for Romania

1. Competitive Manufacturing and Technology

Indian turbine manufacturers and component suppliers, known for cost-efficient production and robust engineering, can compete effectively in markets seeking value without compromising on performance.

2. Strong Track Record in Large-Scale Project Delivery

Indian developers bring experience from building some of the world's largest wind and hybrid projects. This expertise can be leveraged in Romania's rush to scale up capacity under the CfD scheme.

3. Expanding Opportunities in O&M and Repowering

As Romania's installed base grows, the need for operations and maintenance services—and eventually repowering—will increase. Indian companies with specialized O&M capabilities can establish long-term revenue streams through service partnerships.

4. Alignment With Global ESG and Green Finance Trends

Indian firms with strong ESG profiles or access to green

capital can collaborate with European institutions to co-develop projects, accessing blended financing and boosting their global renewable credentials.

Navigating Challenges with the Right Strategy

While promising, Romania's wind sector does come with considerations:

Regulatory updates may influence the pace of future auctions.

Grid capacity and upgrade requirements vary by region and can affect project timelines.

Established global OEMs pose considerable competition.

Local permitting processes still require close management and strong local partnerships.

However, with careful due diligence, currency-risk planning, and local collaboration, these hurdles are manageable.

Strategic Pathways for Indian Businesses

To make the most of Romania's wind opportunity, Indian companies should consider:

1. Entering joint ventures with local developers for easier permitting and land access.
2. Targeting CfD-eligible projects to secure long-term, stable returns.
3. Establishing service hubs to meet rising demand for maintenance across new and existing wind farms.
4. Pursuing green financing, leveraging India-EU clean-energy cooperation frameworks.
5. Exploring selective component localization, if project volumes justify it, to optimize costs and logistics.

Conclusion: A Prime Moment for India–Romania Renewable Collaboration

Romania's wind energy sector is undergoing a transformation driven by bold policy design, strong EU financial backing, and an accelerating project pipeline. For Indian renewable energy companies, this represents not just an international expansion opportunity, but a chance to partner in Europe's wider energy transition.

With thoughtful strategy and collaboration, Indian firms can play a significant role in Romania's wind renaissance—helping shape a cleaner, more resilient energy future for the region.

Global Biosecurity Experts Convene in New Delhi as MEA Opens Conference Marking 50 Years of the BWC

The Ministry of External Affairs today inaugurated the international conference titled “50 Years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South”, organised to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). The two-day event, taking place on 1–2 December 2025, aims to reflect on the Convention’s legacy while addressing the rapidly evolving biosecurity challenges faced by developing nations.

Delivering the inaugural address, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar welcomed scientific experts, policymakers, and diplomats from over 80 countries, as well as representatives of major international and regional organisations. Participants from Indian academia, research institutions, and industry were also present, underscoring the country’s growing leadership in global biosecurity and biotechnology governance.

The conference seeks to emphasise the specific biosecurity concerns of the Global South, particularly the implications of expanding access to dual-use biological technologies and the growing need for comprehensive preparedness, early-warning systems, and strong regulatory frameworks. Discussions over the two days will explore ways to deepen international cooperation in biosafety, surveillance, detection, and emergency response, while also identifying strategies to bridge capacity gaps in research, regulation, and crisis management.

In his remarks, Dr. Jaishankar reaffirmed India’s strong

commitment to multilateralism and responsible biological research. He highlighted India’s scientific strengths and its extensive experience in public health management, calling for enhanced cooperation among developing nations and greater support for capacity-building under the BWC. Stressing that the Convention remains a central pillar of global non-proliferation, he noted that it must continually adapt to new technologies, emerging risks, and rapid scientific advances. Strengthening transparency, trust-building, and equitable technology sharing, he stated, will be essential to ensuring a more resilient global biosecurity architecture.

The high-level gathering brings together government officials, virologists, biosafety experts, legal scholars, arms-control analysts, and global health specialists. Over the course of the conference, participants will deliberate on topics such as advances in biotechnology and their implications for the BWC, the future of verification and confidence-building measures, regional models for preparedness and surveillance, and the role of academia and industry in promoting safe and responsible innovation.

With its diverse participation and forward-looking agenda, the conference marks an important diplomatic moment for India. By creating a platform for dialogue across scientific, policy, and international domains, the event aims to strengthen global biosecurity norms and ensure that biological research and innovation continue to advance peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable development for the decades ahead.



G20 Johannesburg Summit 2025: India's Strategic Engagement Under PM Narendra Modi

The 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg (22–23 November) marked a defining moment for global governance, not only because it was the first G20 gathering hosted on African soil, but also because it unfolded during a period of shifting geopolitical alignments and intensified demand for reform of multilateral institutions. Amid these dynamics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to South Africa stood out for its clear emphasis on development partnerships, Global South leadership, and future-ready cooperation across innovation, climate, and human capacity building.

A Summit Framed by Solidarity and Reform

Hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the summit carried the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability." It focused on strengthening global resilience, addressing debt challenges, reforming international financial institutions, ensuring food and health security, and accelerating just energy transitions.

PM Modi opened his interventions by thanking President Ramaphosa for the warm hospitality and for steering a complex summit to consensus—an acknowledgment that carried diplomatic weight given the wider geopolitical tensions and leadership absences that tested the forum's cohesion.

Modi's Message: A Call for a New Development

Paradigm

Across multiple working sessions, PM Modi articulated a consistent theme: global development must evolve beyond GDP-centric metrics and embrace a holistic, human-centric model rooted in balance between growth, society, and environmental stewardship. Drawing from the Indian ethos of "Integral Humanism," he encouraged G20 partners to adopt a development framework that is inclusive, sustainable, and anchored in cultural and traditional knowledge systems.

This philosophical framing set the stage for six flagship initiatives introduced by India—each designed to address structural gaps in global governance while strengthening South-South cooperation.

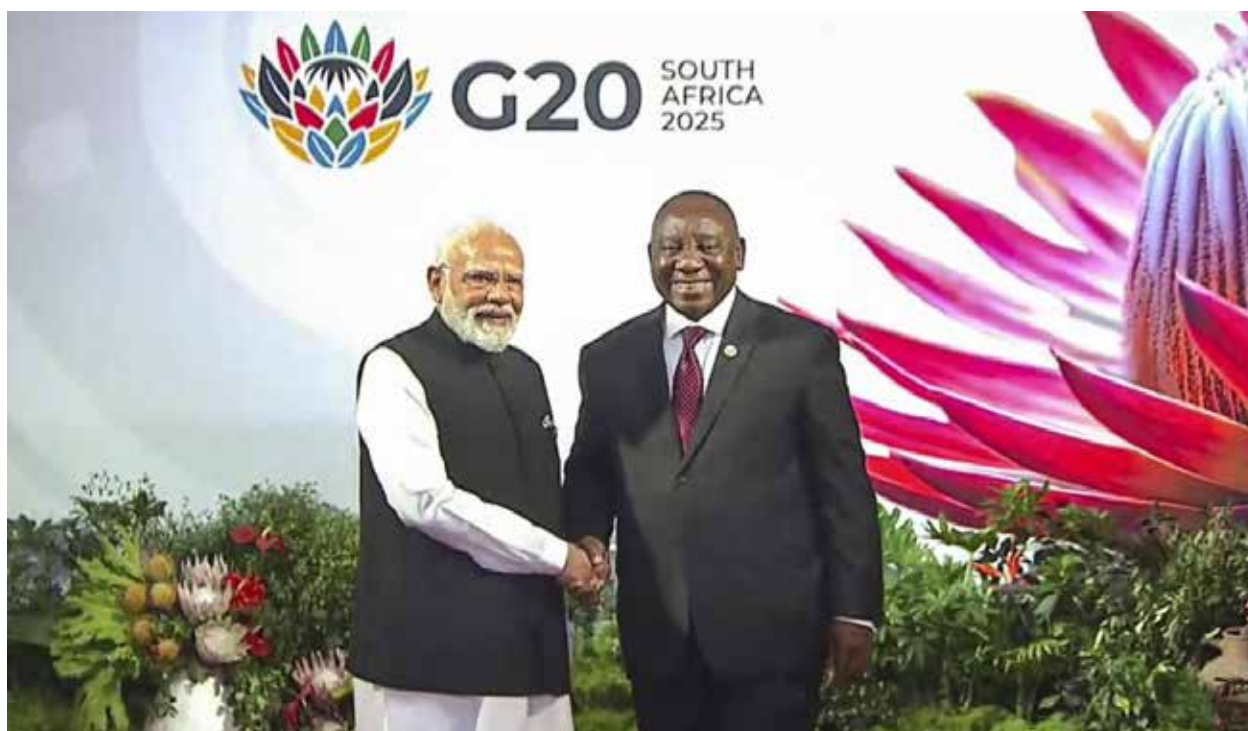
Six Major Initiatives Announced by India

1. Global Traditional Knowledge Repository

A platform to document and share indigenous knowledge, sustainable practices, and culturally rooted healthcare systems—promoting diversity in global solutions.

2. G20–Africa Skills Multiplier

A long-term effort to certify one million African trainers, designed to boost continent-wide human capital and deepen India–Africa development partnerships.



3. G20 Global Healthcare Response Team

A coordinated deployment mechanism of trained health professionals for pandemics and disasters—reflecting lessons from COVID-19.

4. Initiative to Counter the Drug–Terror Nexus

A collective security effort aimed at disrupting global linkages between narcotics trafficking, synthetic drugs, and terror financing.

5. G20 Open Satellite Data Partnership

A proposal for G20 space-faring nations to share satellite data with developing countries, supporting agriculture, disaster management, and climate forecasting.

6. Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative

A forward-looking plan to reduce dependence on raw extraction by supporting recycling, second-life batteries, and research on clean mineral value chains.

Each initiative reinforced India’s diplomatic priorities:

technology democratization, equitable development, resilience, and Global South leadership.

Disaster Preparedness, Climate Finance & Sustainable Agriculture

In the session on “A Resilient World,” Modi underscored the growing frequency of natural disasters and argued that resilience cannot be crisis-driven—it must be built into development planning. He advocated for:

greater investment in disaster-resistant infrastructure, enhanced early-warning systems, and stronger international collaboration in relief operations.

He tied resilience to food security and climate action, highlighting India’s own experience with large-scale crop insurance, digital agriculture, and the global promotion of millets as climate-resilient grains.

Modi reiterated a long-standing Indian position: climate finance and technology transfer must be delivered in full for developing nations to meet energy transition goals.

A Strong Push for the Global South

An important thread through Modi’s summit engagements was his call for continued reform of multilateral institutions. Building on India’s own G20 presidency in 2023—which secured the African Union’s inclusion—Modi urged the grouping to maintain momentum on giving emerging economies an equal voice.

He praised South Africa’s presidency for prioritising

mobility, digital innovation, AI, and inclusive growth—issues that resonate broadly across the Global South.

Active Diplomacy: Bilateral & Trilateral Engagements

PM Modi’s schedule in Johannesburg reflected intensive diplomatic outreach.

With President Cyril Ramaphosa

Modi thanked Ramaphosa for hosting the summit and discussed:

- Trade and investment expansion,
- AI, innovation, and critical minerals cooperation,
- strengthening people-to-people ties,
- coordination on Global South issues, and
- India’s 2026 BRICS Chairship agenda.

He also invited South Africa to join the International Big Cat Alliance, acknowledging its partnership in India’s cheetah conservation programme.

IBSA (India–Brazil–South Africa) Leaders’ Meeting

Alongside President Ramaphosa and President Lula da Silva, Modi proposed:

an IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance, and

an IBSA fund for climate-resilient agriculture.

These proposals highlighted the trilateral grouping’s relevance at a time when emerging powers seek to shape global governance reforms.

Other Leader Interactions

Modi held meetings with several counterparts, including European, ASEAN, and African leaders, with discussions spanning defence, emerging technologies, space cooperation, capacity building, and counter-terror financing.

A Concluding Note of Optimism

As the summit concluded, PM Modi described his engagements as “productive” and expressed confidence that the Johannesburg Summit would strengthen pathways toward a more equitable, sustainable, and collaborative global order. His visit deepened India’s ties with Africa, expanded South–South developmental initiatives, and positioned India as an architect of future-oriented multilateral cooperation.



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 African Island Economies: Strengthening Trade and Economic Ties in 2025



About the Author:

Prabhash Kumar

is an experienced financial and business leader based in Mauritius, serving as Executive Director at Automation & Power Products Ltd. He brings over two decades of finance, strategic planning, and operational expertise across industries, driving corporate growth, risk informed decision making, and digital transformation initiatives.

India's engagement with African island nations in the Western Indian Ocean — Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion — has grown significantly over the past decade, evolving into a partnership that goes beyond historical connections to embrace modern trade, finance, and investment. These partnerships are now focusing not just on increasing the flow of goods and services, but also on strengthening financial cooperation, including the innovative move to settle certain trade transactions in Indian rupees.

Mauritius: A Cornerstone of India-Africa Trade

Among these island nations, Mauritius remains India's most important partner. The India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) has opened new avenues for trade in goods and services, resulting in steady growth in bilateral exchanges. In 2024-25, trade between India and Mauritius exceeded ₹7,500 crore, with India exporting pharmaceuticals, textiles, and mineral fuels, while Mauritius exports a mix of sugar, jewelry, and financial services to India.

A major development in 2025 has been discussions between the two countries to conduct bilateral trade in local currencies — the Indian rupee and the Mauritian rupee. This initiative is aimed at reducing dependence on the US dollar, lowering transaction costs, and fostering deeper financial integration. Mauritius also continues to play a critical role as a gateway for foreign direct investment (FDI) into India, accounting for a significant portion of cumulative Indian FDI inflows over the years.

Seychelles: Expanding Economic Horizons

Trade with Seychelles, while smaller in volume, has been growing steadily. India exports medicines, consumer goods, and engineering products, while Seychelles sends spices, fish products, and niche commodities to India. In recent years, total bilateral trade has crossed the ₹100 crore mark, reflecting increasing engagement between private enterprises

and government-led initiatives. Seychelles' strategic location also positions it as a partner in broader regional economic projects in the Indian Ocean, promoting connectivity and cooperation.

Madagascar: Diversifying Trade and Investment

India's trade relationship with Madagascar is gradually expanding, particularly in agriculture, textiles, and pharmaceuticals. Indian companies are also investing in Madagascar's infrastructure, energy, and technology sectors, complementing bilateral trade flows. India extends preferential access to Madagascar under its Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme, allowing Malagasy exports to enter the Indian market with reduced tariffs. This initiative supports economic growth in Madagascar while creating opportunities for Indian businesses in sectors such as mining, healthcare, and IT services.

Réunion: Strengthening Regional Economic Links

Though Réunion is a French overseas territory, its geographic and economic position in the Indian Ocean makes it an important partner in regional trade networks. India's exports to Réunion include machinery, consumer goods, and food products, while imports from the island are modest but strategic, mainly involving specialty products and intermediate goods. Réunion's inclusion in regional trade and investment networks helps facilitate broader economic links between India and the Indian Ocean islands.

Trade in Indian Rupees: A Step Toward Deeper Financial Integration

A notable feature of India's trade strategy with these island nations is the increasing focus on settling transactions in Indian rupees. This approach, first initiated with Mauritius, aims to simplify trade settlements, reduce exposure to currency fluctuations, and reinforce India's financial presence in the region. Over time, this mechanism could extend to other island economies, providing a stable and mutually beneficial framework for bilateral trade and investment.

Looking Ahead: A Path for Shared Growth

India's partnerships with Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion illustrate the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region in India's global economic policy. By expanding trade, promoting investment, and exploring innovative financial mechanisms like rupee-based settlements, India is fostering sustainable and mutually beneficial growth. These island economies, while small individually, collectively represent a dynamic and strategically significant region, bridging India's economic and diplomatic engagement with Africa.

As India continues to strengthen its ties with these nations, the combination of trade, investment, and financial cooperation is creating a resilient framework for economic growth, regional stability, and long-term prosperity for both India and its African partners.



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Power & Automation Day 2025:

Advancing a Smarter and Sustainable Energy Future

Automation & Power Products Ltd was proud to host Power & Automation Day 2025 in the beautiful island nation of Mauritius, held in close collaboration with our longstanding partner, Hitachi Energy. The event brought together a dynamic mix of engineers, innovators, policymakers, and customers for a full day dedicated to the future of energy efficiency, automation, and the wider energy transition.

The program featured a rich lineup of presentations and discussions on the rapidly evolving landscape of digital transformation within the power sector. Expert speakers highlighted the growing importance of data-driven decision-making, grid modernization, and the integration of intelligent systems to enhance operational reliability. Complementing these insights were live demonstrations of next-generation technologies, offering attendees a firsthand look at innovative automation tools, smart grid solutions, and advanced energy-management platforms shaping tomorrow's infrastructure.

Beyond the technical sessions, Power & Automation Day 2025 served as a valuable platform for collaboration. Participants exchanged ideas, explored new partnership opportunities, and reflected on the shared responsibility of accelerating sustainable development across the region.

We also extend heartfelt congratulations to the executives whose leadership and dedication were instrumental in making the event a resounding success: Ajay Vij, Binumon C Pillai, PMP®, Prabhash Kumar Jha, Shanmuga Veerapen, Nivohary Raharijaona, and Giuseppe Luca Petrelli. Their contributions continue to inspire excellence across the industry.

Diplomat Today extends its sincere appreciation for the success of this remarkable event and warmly welcomes future media collaborations to publicize similar initiatives with diplomatic missions across the globe. Our magazine actively promotes and encourages partnership opportunities





— including industrial collaborations and bilateral trade — recognizing their growing role in driving regional innovation. We invite you to showcase your outstanding technologies and processes through our platform, as we work together to foster business growth, accelerate sustainable development, and advance renewable energy solutions throughout the Indian Ocean region and beyond.

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Diwali: When India's Light is Crowned on the World Heritage List



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.



In a move akin to lighting a new lamp in the darkness of the world, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed Diwali—the Festival of Lights—on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2025. This decision seemed like a well-deserved global recognition of a civilization that has long taught the world the meaning of light, the quiet triumph of good, and the enduring presence of the spirit in the land despite the passage of time.

This inscription was not merely a cultural event; it was a moment of celebration of Indian identity, which, over thousands of years, has preserved its rituals, its beauty, and its joy, offering the world a unique model of how to create happiness from the roots of history.

A Celebration in Cairo with an Authentic Indian Flavor

In Egypt, the Indian Embassy celebrated this cultural achievement with a dazzling evening in Cairo. The event was attended by Egyptian diplomats, representatives from the Diplomatic Institute, members of the Indian community, and friends of India from Egypt who eagerly follow its vibrant cultural scene.

The evening was filled with colors, lights, and artistic performances that transported attendees to the enchanting world of India, making them feel as if they were experiencing Diwali in Mumbai or Delhi. The embassy described the occasion as: “Diwali, a festival where lights dance, colors speak, and traditions breathe.”

This statement perfectly encapsulates the essence of the festival: a blend of spirituality, joy, popular culture, and ancient symbols that have remained alive for generations.





A Heritage That Transcends Borders

When UNESCO inscribed Diwali on the World Heritage List, the Indian government welcomed the decision as an official recognition of “the spirit of its civilization.” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the inclusion as a source of pride for every Indian, saying, “Diwali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilization. It personifies illumination and righteousness,” and emphasizing that the move would further promote the festival globally.

This is absolutely true; Diwali today is not just a Hindu festival or religious ritual, but a universal celebration shared by millions of people around the world, united by the belief that light—in all its forms—can prevail.

Diwali: A Symphony of Light That Never Fades

The festival spans five consecutive days, during which Indian cities are adorned with candles, lanterns, and colorful decorations (Rangoli). At the moment of the full moon in October or November, the Indian sky is illuminated by a spectacular fireworks display.

It is a visual and spiritual spectacle: small lamps on doorsteps, candles in temples, lights adorning balconies, music, dance, and chants—all telling a single story, the story of a people celebrating the triumph of light over darkness,

good over evil, and hope over fear.

Why was this inscription important for India?

The significance of this global recognition extends beyond the cultural sphere. It enhances India’s global standing as the home of one of the oldest and richest spiritual traditions. Furthermore, it bolsters cultural tourism, attracting millions of heritage enthusiasts worldwide. It also expands India’s cultural diplomacy, which increasingly relies on the power of “soft power” and the richness of Indian arts. Finally, it reinforces cultural unity both within India and beyond, as Diwali serves as a unifying symbol for all who live in or belong to India around the world.

India: A Civilization That Continues to Shine

The inscription of Diwali was not merely the documentation of a festive ritual, but the documentation of the very spirit of an entire civilization. A civilization that continues to offer the world rare values: simple joy, inner light, and a celebration of life through art.

Therefore, it was no surprise that the world witnessed this cultural consensus in including Diwali in the inheritance of humanity. India, in all its richness, has not only been a geographically vast country, but has also become a radiant force in global culture.



ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM: India–Nepal Buddhist Heritage – A Common Legacy

About the Author:



PROF. ARVIND KUMAR SINGH,
*Symposium Coordinator and ICCR
Chair at Lumbini Buddhist University,
played a key role in conceptualizing and
coordinating the academic symposium,
fostering meaningful scholarly and
diplomatic engagement between India
and Nepal.*

Embassy of India, Kathmandu & Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

In collaboration with: Faculty of Buddhist Studies, Lumbini Buddhist University

Overview

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) hosted a landmark academic symposium titled “India–Nepal Buddhist Heritage: A Common Legacy” on 8 December 2025. The symposium brought together nearly 300 participants, including scholars, monastics, diplomats, heritage professionals, policymakers,

and students from India and Nepal. The event examined the shared Buddhist civilizational heritage of the two countries and its relevance for contemporary cultural diplomacy, academic collaboration, and sustainable heritage conservation.

Conceptual Framework

The symposium was guided by a well-defined Concept Note emphasizing the shared sacred geography connecting Lumbini, Kapilavastu, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar. Though located across national borders, these sites together form a unified spiritual landscape central to the life of the Buddha and the spread of Buddhism. The discussions stressed the preservation of both tangible heritage—archaeological sites, monasteries, manuscripts, and art—and intangible heritage, including rituals, pilgrimage traditions, monastic lineages, and oral histories. Buddhist values such as peace, compassion, non-violence, and mindfulness were highlighted as enduring instruments of soft power and people-to-people connectivity.

Inaugural Session

The symposium opened with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and homage to the Buddha, followed by the national anthems of India and Nepal. Buddha Vandana was chanted by Dr. Vajira Bhante, and the LBU University Song

“Prof. Sangraula, a special invitee, underscored Buddhist heritage as a strategic asset for strengthening bilateral ties. He highlighted the role of pilgrimage routes, heritage sites, and academic exchanges in fostering trust, mutual understanding, and peaceful cooperation between India and Nepal.”

was performed by faculty members and students, creating a reflective spiritual atmosphere.

Dr. Tilak Ram Acharya, Registrar of Lumbini Buddhist University and Chief Guest of the inaugural session, welcomed the participants. He emphasized that Lumbini, as the birthplace of the Buddha, is a global spiritual heritage and not confined to national boundaries. Highlighting Nepal's custodial responsibility, he called for deeper collaboration with India through joint research initiatives, manuscript cataloguing, academic exchanges, and heritage conservation projects.

Keynote and Special Addresses

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Basist Nandan, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Kathmandu. He reaffirmed Buddhist heritage as a foundational pillar of India–Nepal relations and noted that the Buddhist civilizational continuum predates modern political boundaries. He emphasized the global relevance of Buddhist principles in addressing contemporary challenges such as conflict resolution, environmental sustainability, and intercultural dialogue.

Prof. Sangraula, a special invitee, underscored Buddhist heritage as a strategic asset for strengthening bilateral ties. He highlighted the role of pilgrimage routes, heritage sites, and academic exchanges in fostering trust, mutual understanding, and peaceful cooperation between India and Nepal.

Academic Sessions

Two academic sessions featured scholarly presentations from India and Nepal.

The first session, moderated by Dr. Basanta Poudel, included papers by Prof. Subhra Barua Pavagadhi (University of Delhi) on Buddhist heritage as a civilizational bridge; Dr. Nir Bahadur Gurung (LBU) on Mustang as a trans-Himalayan spiritual corridor linked to Guru Padmasambhava; and Dr. Dayanidhi Gautam (LBU) on Buddhist ethics as a framework for peaceful international relations.

The second session, chaired by Dr. Shree Prasad Bhattarai, featured Dr. Elora Trivedy (Nalanda University) on shared pilgrimage networks; Dr. Nyima Sherpa (LBU) on monastic

continuities across India, Nepal, and Tibet; and Mr. Sanjay Shakya (LBU) on early Nepalese Buddhist art and its trans-regional influences.

Focus on Dhamma Setu (IICBCH)

A key highlight was the discussion on the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH), also known as Dhamma Setu, proposed in the Lumbini Monastic Zone. A documentary screening introduced participants to the Centre's lotus-inspired, net-zero design and its vision as a global hub for research, meditation, exhibitions, and inter-monastic dialogue. The Centre is envisaged as a lasting bridge connecting Buddhist traditions across Asia.

Concluding Session

The concluding session was chaired by Dr. Manik Ratna Shakya, Dean, Faculty of Buddhist Studies, LBU. He synthesized the discussions and stressed the need to institutionalize the symposium's recommendations through joint working groups, digitization of manuscripts, revival of pilgrimage corridors with ecological sensitivity, and inclusive scholarly access to the IICBCH. Prof. Gitu Giri delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the Embassy of India, ICCR, scholars, faculty, students, media, and volunteers.

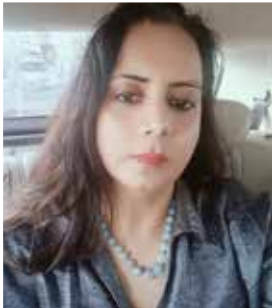
Cultural Festival

The day concluded with the 3rd India–Nepal Cultural Festival at the Little Buddha Statue near the Mayadevi Temple. The festival featured an ICCR-sponsored Indian dance performance themed on Yaśodhara and a Nepali musical presentation blending traditional and contemporary forms. Senior dignitaries, including Mr. Munu Mahawar, Additional Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, attended the event, reinforcing the integration of academic dialogue and cultural diplomacy.

Conclusion

The symposium reaffirmed that India–Nepal Buddhist heritage is both a shared inheritance and a shared responsibility. By integrating scholarship, diplomacy, and public cultural engagement, the event demonstrated how Buddhist heritage continues to serve as a living bridge of peace, cooperation, and sustainable cultural exchange in the 21st century.

“Around The World in Magnets – Sri Lanka”: A magnificent tale of 100 magnets from the Island



PRATIMA SINGH

Editor-in-Chief - Diplomat Today

A warm evening of whole-souled storytelling and cultural admiration marked the launch of *Around the World in Magnets-Sri-Lanka*, a first-of-its kind travelogue by Dr. Anthony Vipin Das and Vidushi Duggal published by Sarasavi Publisher. The book was unveiled on December 2nd, 2025, at the High Commission by Her Excellency Mahisini Colonne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India. The event was graced by many dignitaries like Her Excellency Mahisini Colonne, A. Gitesh Sarma (Retired Secretary-West), Authors Vidushi Duggal and Anthony Vipin Das, Sanjoy K. Roy, an entrepreneur and Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, and Professor Mahalaxmi Ramakrishnan, Centre for Historical Studies (South-Asian region), Jawaharlal Lal Nehru.

Engaging their readers with an unprecedented travelogue, the authors, Anthony Vipin Das and Vidushi Duggal, explore Sri Lanka emblemized in magnets, an approach like never before. *Around the World in magnets-Sri Lanka* is an extraordinary compilation of 100 magnets, each of it narrating a historical saga, a beautiful destination, or a loving memoir from the Island. The book beautifully chronicles tapestry of Sri Lanka's landscapes, architecture, traditions, flavours, cultures right from northern charm of Jaffna to the Southern coastal beauty of Galle and from the picturesque Negombo shores to the famous harbour of Trincomalee. It is a map, and yet not just a map rather a lived experience!

Her Excellency Mahisini Colonne, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka addressed the opening speech by drawing attention towards recent devastation in Sri Lanka caused by cyclone Ditwah. She said, "Sri Lanka urgently needs support of her friends. India as always has stood by Sri Lanka with remarkable solidarity." Reinstating the long standing amicable relationship between India and Sri Lanka she said, "to everyone present here and wider Indian public, your connection with Sri-Lanka has undergone far deeper than geography". She expressed her gratitude to the authors for their generous contribution to the population affected by Cyclone Ditwa. Anthony and Vidushi's book is a getaway to exploring Sri Lanka's sui generis travel tale capturing the essence of travel and exploration through souvenir magnets. Each magnet is a treasure-trove of historical past of Sri-Lanka intertwined



with three-part narrative – a personal travel account, an in-depth insight of the destination as well as a guide for readers and visitors to explore further. As a deliberate endeavour, the authors have personally collaborated with local artisans to handcraft special pieces of the magnets that they could not find during the journey. Henceforth, with their collaborative labour of love for travelling the authors present unto us Sri Lanka, in magnets for all its beauty, resilience and richness.

Adding to the appreciation for the uniqueness of the book on Sri Lanka, Professor Mahalaxmi said, "The magnets provide a glimpse of the textured history of Sri Lanka. The life revealed by gastronomical or sartorial practices, food and dress are so inviting in the magnets and invoke a sense of imagery in the readers". Ambassador A. Gitesh congratulated the authors for materialising a once-in-a-lifetime idea into a unique book that is fathomable, and yet so enriching.

The event was made livelier by Sanjoy Roy's Q&A session who tossed questions about the book at the authors. During one of the questions the co-author Vidushi Duggal, a fashion-designer-turned-writer, revealed, writing for travel is what drives me and every magnet in this book holds a story - not just of a place, but of the emotion it evoked". Dr. Anthony Vipin Das, co-author an eye-surgeon by profession walked everyone through his journey of bringing up the never-



read-before travelogue and said, "Through these miniature masterpieces, we wanted to capture the heartbeat of Sri Lanka - its people, places, and profound sense of connection," Asked about the three favourite takeaways from the book, author Vidushi Duggal replied, "there are many but devil dishes, Kandy dance and metals and crafts are just few to name."

Around the World in Magnets-Sri Lanka is a book beyond the usual tourist sight where travel is a form of conversation, an interaction with places, buildings, animal, history, philosophy food, music art and environment.

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Diplomacy Meets Decarbonization: ICGH 2025 – India's Bold Pitch for Green Hydrogen at the Center of Global Climate Diplomacy



About the Author:

BY UDAY JHA

Publisher, Diplomat Today

The International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH) 2025, hosted at New Delhi's striking Bharat Mandapam on 11–12 November, set the tone for what many describe as a defining decade for clean energy. This year's gathering was not just a technical meet; it was a powerful showcase of political will, global collaboration, and India's ambition to lead the emerging green hydrogen landscape.

Over two days, the venue brought together ministers, global climate envoys, technology pioneers, port authorities, industrial leaders, and researchers—each stepping forward with a unified message: green hydrogen must move from promise to practice, and India is prepared to accelerate that shift.

A Clear Signal From New Delhi

From the inaugural session, the government sent an unmistakable signal of commitment. Senior ministers outlined India's progress under the National Green Hydrogen Mission and announced new initiatives aimed at pushing innovation

and real-world deployment.

One of the most significant policy moves unveiled at the conference was fresh funding for pilot projects that explore producing green hydrogen from biomass and waste—an area with immense potential for a country with India's agricultural footprint. This marked a shift toward diversifying hydrogen pathways and strengthening domestic technological capabilities.

Leaders also reiterated a bold projection: India intends to meet a meaningful share of global green hydrogen demand by 2030. With renewable energy capacity expanding at record pace, India is setting out to position itself not just as a consumer but as a global supplier in the clean-molecule economy.

Hydrogen Valleys: India Prepares for Real-World Demonstration

A highlight of ICGH 2025 was the announcement of four “hydrogen valleys”—integrated clusters where hydrogen will be produced, stored, transported, and used within the same region. These valleys are expected to become living laboratories that test the economics and practicality of hydrogen-based industries, from mobility to steelmaking.

Industry partners, technology developers, and research institutions are expected to collaborate within these hubs, making them key testing grounds for large-scale deployment.

“A highlight of ICGH 2025 was the announcement of four “hydrogen valleys”—integrated clusters where hydrogen will be produced, stored, transported, and used within the same region.

For policymakers and investors attending the conference, these valleys served as tangible evidence that India is moving beyond vision statements.

Building the Value Chain: Technology, Standards, and Skills

The technical sessions at ICGH 2025 were rich and highly participatory. Experts engaged in detailed conversations on hydrogen production technologies, electrolyser manufacturing, storage solutions, and downstream industrial use.

Beyond technology, the conference placed strong emphasis on standardization and certification—critical components for global trade. Discussions repeatedly underscored the need for clear carbon-intensity benchmarks, safety protocols, and compatible international frameworks.

Another area of focus was workforce development. Hydrogen, being a new sector, will require a skilled talent pool—engineers, technicians, safety specialists, port operators, and research scientists. The conference made it clear that India must build not only infrastructure but also human capital.

India’s Diplomatic Moment: Green Hydrogen on the Global Stage

A defining feature of ICGH 2025 was its international character. Delegates from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Global South joined Indian leaders to explore cross-border opportunities. With several countries crafting hydrogen import strategies, India’s growing renewable capacity and cost advantages position it as a natural partner.

Port authorities discussed the prospect of green shipping routes. Representatives from global hydrogen alliances examined potential certification partnerships. International research organizations looked at co-developing technologies and standards.

The event highlighted an important shift: green hydrogen has become a diplomatic tool, shaping alliances, trade routes, and geopolitical strategy. For India, it opens an avenue to strengthen its leadership in climate action while deepening global partnerships.

Balancing Ambition With Reality

While the atmosphere was filled with optimism, the conference did not shy away from acknowledging real challenges.

Key questions emerged:

How do we scale production while keeping costs competitive?

Can infrastructure—pipelines, terminals, ports—develop fast enough to support supply and demand?

Will industries adopt hydrogen quickly, or will high costs delay adoption?

How do we ensure stable financing for projects that require large, long-term investment?

Speakers stressed that the transition will require persistence, policy stability, and strong public-private coordination. Hydrogen valleys, pilot projects, and early adoption cases will play a crucial role in building confidence.

A Defining Start to a Transformative Journey

ICGH 2025 ultimately succeeded in doing something ambitious: it blended policy, diplomacy, industry, and innovation into a single narrative of national and global urgency.

For India, the event marked a milestone. It turned hydrogen from a conceptual opportunity into a structured, funded, internationally supported pathway. The decisions made here—and the collaborations forged—will shape the months and years ahead.

The world now watches to see how India converts its bold commitments into visible, scalable results.

But one thing is clear: ICGH 2025 has firmly placed India at the center of the global conversation on green hydrogen—and the journey from New Delhi may well chart the direction of the world’s clean-energy future.

Diplomat Today’s Perspective

At Diplomat Today, we see ICGH 2025 as more than a conference—it was a moment where India’s climate ambition, technological progress, and global diplomacy came together. The event highlighted that green hydrogen is not only an energy solution but also a tool of international influence and partnership. For media collaboration or in-depth reporting and analysis on events covering renewable and clean energy, diplomacy, sustainability, and more, Diplomat Today welcomes inquiries and expert contributions.



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SPECIAL EDITION

INDIA-UAE

Shaping the New Middle East



UAE National Day 2025:

Celebrating India-UAE Friendship in New Delhi



The United Arab Emirates celebrated its National Day on 2nd December 2025, marking a moment of pride, unity, and progress. In New Delhi, the occasion was commemorated with a vibrant celebration at the UAE Embassy, reflecting the strong and enduring India-UAE partnership. The event highlighted people-to-people connections, tourism, cultural exchange, and the invaluable contribution of the Indian diaspora in strengthening bilateral ties.

Honouring Dignitaries and Leadership

The celebration witnessed the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Ambassador Karlito Nunes, alongside key Indian and UAE officials. Both leaders expressed their gratitude for the warmth and hospitality extended by H.E. Dr. Abdulnasser Jamal Alshaali, Ambassador of the UAE to India. Their remarks underscored the pride in the strong India-UAE partnership, emphasizing how it is driven by trust, innovation, and a shared vision for the future.

Showcasing UAE Culture and Heritage

The UAE Embassy organized a cultural showcase featuring Emirati art, traditional music, and culinary experiences, which drew enthusiastic participation from diplomats, business leaders, students, and members of the Indian-UAE community. The celebration offered a platform to deepen cultural understanding, highlight UAE's achievements, and foster stronger people-to-people ties.

Engaging the Indian Diaspora

The Indian diaspora in India and abroad plays a crucial role in the India-UAE relationship. At the Embassy event, the community's contributions were celebrated, reflecting their pivotal role in commerce, education, tourism, and cultural exchange. The event reinforced the UAE's appreciation of the diaspora's efforts in promoting enduring goodwill between the two nations.



Tourism and Connectivity

India remains one of the UAE's most significant tourism partners. Streamlined visa processes, e-visas, and multiple-entry options have made travel easier for millions of Indians exploring the Emirates. These measures not only facilitate tourism but also strengthen personal, educational, and business connections, reinforcing people-to-people bonds.

Diplomatic and Strategic Engagement

The National Day celebration also highlighted India and the UAE's strategic partnership, including collaboration in innovation, technology, and sustainable development. Embassy-led initiatives and dialogues continue to expand bilateral cooperation, demonstrating that the relationship is not only economic but also cultural, educational, and strategic.

Greetings from Diplomat Today

On this special occasion, Diplomat Today extends heartfelt greetings to the United Arab Emirates and its people. We celebrate the UAE's remarkable achievements and the enduring friendship with India, built on trust, innovation, and shared vision for the future. May this National Day inspire continued collaboration, cultural exchange, and a stronger bond between our peoples for generations to come.



Strategic Trust in the Gulf:

India–UAE Defense and Security Cooperation in an Uncertain Region

Evolving Security Convergence Between New Delhi and Abu Dhabi

Defense and security cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates has steadily gained prominence as regional and global security dynamics have become increasingly complex. While the relationship does not resemble a formal military alliance, it reflects a high degree of strategic trust built through consistent dialogue, shared threat perceptions, and practical cooperation.

India and the UAE operate in a region that remains vulnerable to geopolitical tensions, maritime insecurity, and non-traditional security threats. In this context, both countries have recognized the importance of collaboration to safeguard regional stability. Regular defense consultations, institutionalized security dialogues, and joint military engagements underscore a convergence of strategic interests rather than ideological alignment.

Joint military exercises—particularly involving naval and air forces—have enhanced interoperability and operational understanding. These engagements are not directed against any specific country but focus on capacity building, disaster response, maritime domain awareness, and the protection of critical sea lanes that support global commerce.

Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Maritime security occupies a central place in India–UAE defense cooperation. The Indian Ocean and adjoining sea routes are vital for energy supplies, trade flows, and economic stability. Both countries share an interest in ensuring freedom

of navigation, combating piracy, and preventing disruptions to maritime trade.

Beyond conventional security, counter-terrorism cooperation has become increasingly important. India and the UAE share concerns regarding extremism, radicalization, and transnational security threats. Information sharing, intelligence coordination, and institutional cooperation have strengthened mutual confidence and enhanced preparedness against emerging challenges. Notably, this cooperation is conducted within a framework of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference. The emphasis remains on prevention, coordination, and stability rather than militarization.

Strategic Autonomy and Regional Stability

A defining feature of India–UAE defense relations is their balanced and autonomous character. Both countries maintain diversified foreign policies and avoid entanglement in rigid security blocs. This approach allows them to engage multiple partners while preserving strategic flexibility. For India, cooperation with the UAE complements its broader engagement in West Asia and the Indian Ocean region without compromising its principle of strategic autonomy. For the UAE, defense ties with India diversify its security partnerships and reduce over-dependence on any single power.

As regional uncertainties persist, the India–UAE security partnership offers a pragmatic model of cooperation—focused on stability, trust, and shared responsibility. It strengthens the overall bilateral relationship and reinforces the credibility of both countries as responsible regional actors.

Beyond Oil in 2025: How India and the UAE Are Redefining Economic Partnership



From Energy-Centric Ties to Economic Transformation

For much of their shared economic history, India and the United Arab Emirates were linked primarily through energy trade. The UAE emerged as one of India's most reliable suppliers of crude oil, while India became a major destination for Gulf energy exports. By 2025, however, this traditional framework no longer fully represents the depth or direction of the relationship.

Both countries have acknowledged that long-term economic stability cannot rely solely on hydrocarbons. Global climate commitments, changing consumption patterns, and technological disruption have encouraged India and the UAE to expand cooperation into new and sustainable sectors. This shared understanding has become a defining feature of the modern partnership.

Clean Energy, Technology, and Innovation

Renewable energy has moved to the forefront of bilateral cooperation. Emirati investments in India's solar, wind, and clean energy projects support India's energy transition goals while aligning with the UAE's ambition to lead in sustainable development. Green hydrogen has emerged as a promising area, with both countries exploring production, storage, and supply-chain collaboration.

Technology and innovation represent another major pillar. The UAE's role as a global financial and logistics hub complements India's expanding digital economy and start-up ecosystem. Collaboration in fintech, digital payments, artificial intelligence, and smart infrastructure reflects confidence in innovation-led growth.

Indian start-ups benefit from the UAE's access to global markets and capital, while Emirati investors gain exposure to India's scale, talent, and technological depth. These partnerships strengthen economic resilience and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

Food Security and Strategic Supply Chains

Food security has become an increasingly important area of cooperation. Global disruptions have highlighted the fragility of supply chains, prompting India and the UAE to collaborate in agriculture, food processing, and logistics. Joint investments aim to ensure reliable access to essential commodities while improving efficiency and sustainability.

The UAE's focus on food security aligns with India's agricultural capacity and technological expertise. This cooperation reflects a broader understanding that economic diplomacy must address strategic needs, not just commercial interests.

A Future-Ready Economic Partnership

The shift beyond oil does not diminish the importance of traditional energy ties; instead, it places them within a diversified and forward-looking framework. India and the UAE now pursue an economic partnership that is adaptable, innovation-driven, and aligned with global transitions.

By 2025, their relationship exemplifies how traditional trade partners can reinvent economic cooperation to meet contemporary challenges. The India-UAE partnership stands as a model of economic transformation—balancing continuity with change and positioning both nations for long-term prosperity.

India–UAE CEPA: Three Years On – Shaping Trade, Investment, and Economic Diplomacy



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is a Dubai-based international trader specializing in agricultural commodities, connecting producers and markets across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, strengthening India–UAE trade relations.



Three Years of Transformative Trade

The India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed in February 2022, has now completed three years of implementation. What began as a landmark agreement has evolved into a defining framework for bilateral trade, investment, and economic diplomacy. By 2025, CEPA's impact is tangible: Indian exports to the UAE have grown significantly, particularly in gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, and agricultural products.

CEPA not only reduced tariffs and non-tariff barriers but also institutionalized mechanisms for resolving trade issues and enhancing market access. Indian exporters now enjoy preferential treatment in key sectors, while UAE companies have leveraged the agreement to strengthen their footprint in India's infrastructure, renewable energy, and digital services markets.

Investment Flows and Economic Diversification

Beyond trade, CEPA has catalyzed investment-led growth. Over the past three years, UAE sovereign funds and private investors have increased long-term investments in India's ports, logistics, renewable energy, and technology sectors, reflecting growing confidence in India's business environment.

Conversely, Indian businesses have expanded operations in the UAE across healthcare, fintech, professional services,

and food processing. CEPA has provided a predictable policy framework, encouraging deeper integration and joint ventures. This investment-driven dimension underscores CEPA's role not just as a trade instrument but as a vehicle for economic diplomacy.

Strategic Significance and Policy Impact

CEPA is more than an economic agreement; it is a symbol of strategic trust and forward-looking partnership. By facilitating smooth trade, joint investment, and sectoral collaboration, it strengthens India–UAE relations in the broader regional context. The agreement complements other initiatives such as joint innovation programs, digital trade initiatives, and supply-chain resilience projects, highlighting the evolving scope of bilateral cooperation.

Moreover, the agreement has proven resilient amid global uncertainties, such as inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions. By 2025, policymakers in both countries are reviewing CEPA's implementation to identify further sectoral expansions, enhanced investment facilitation, and digital trade integration, ensuring the agreement remains dynamic and future-ready.

Looking Ahead

As India and the UAE look toward 2030, CEPA's three-year journey demonstrates how a well-structured trade agreement can influence economic, strategic, and diplomatic priorities. It has transformed trade volumes, catalyzed investment flows, and provided a platform for innovation and collaboration. In short, CEPA has become a cornerstone of India–UAE relations, reflecting how economic cooperation can drive both growth and strategic trust in a rapidly evolving global economy.

From Bilateral to Global: India–UAE Partnership and Its Role in Shaping the New Middle East



About the Author:

By Uday Jha

Publisher, Diplomat Today



From Traditional Bilateralism to Strategic Convergence

The India–UAE relationship has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade. What was once primarily a bilateral engagement focused on trade, energy, and expatriate welfare has, by 2025, evolved into a partnership with regional and global significance. This shift reflects broader changes in international politics, where flexible coalitions and issue-based cooperation are replacing rigid alliances.

India and the UAE now view each other as strategic partners capable of contributing to regional stability and global problem-solving. Their cooperation is no longer limited to bilateral concerns but increasingly aligned with shared interests in economic resilience, technological progress, and geopolitical balance. This evolution has allowed both countries to extend their diplomatic influence beyond traditional spheres.

Regional Platforms and Multilateral Engagement

One of the most visible indicators of this transition is the emergence of minilateral and regional platforms involving India and the UAE. Frameworks such as I2U2—bringing together India, Israel, the UAE, and the United States—illustrate how both countries are experimenting with innovative diplomatic arrangements focused on practical outcomes. These initiatives prioritize areas such as food security, clean energy, infrastructure development, and technological innovation.

Such platforms are not designed to challenge existing multilateral institutions but to complement them by addressing specific challenges efficiently. For India, these arrangements enhance its engagement with West Asia while maintaining strategic autonomy. For the UAE, they reinforce its image as a proactive and forward-looking diplomatic

actor capable of bridging regions and interests.

Economic Connectivity and Strategic Geography

The India–UAE partnership also plays a critical role in shaping regional connectivity. The UAE's strategic geographic location and advanced logistics infrastructure make it a vital hub for India's trade routes linking Asia, Africa, and Europe. Collaborative initiatives in ports, logistics corridors, and digital trade infrastructure strengthen supply chains and reduce vulnerabilities exposed by global disruptions.

This emphasis on connectivity aligns with India's broader vision of inclusive globalization and the UAE's ambition to remain a global commercial gateway. Together, they contribute to economic stability in a region often affected by geopolitical uncertainty.

A Balanced Model for a Multipolar World

Perhaps the most significant contribution of the India–UAE partnership lies in its diplomatic philosophy. Both countries emphasize dialogue, balance, and strategic autonomy. They avoid zero-sum rivalries and prioritize cooperation based on mutual benefit rather than ideological alignment.

As the Middle East undergoes political and economic transformation, the India–UAE relationship offers a model of pragmatic diplomacy—one that integrates economic growth, regional stability, and global engagement. By moving from a narrow bilateral framework to a broader global role, India and the UAE demonstrate how middle powers can shape regional order without resorting to confrontation.

In a multipolar world defined by uncertainty, the India–UAE partnership stands as a stabilizing force, offering valuable lessons in adaptability, trust, and forward-looking diplomacy.



Diaspora Diplomacy in Action: The Indian Community and India–UAE Relations in a Changing Gulf



About the Author:

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is a Dubai-based international trader specializing in agricultural commodities, connecting producers and markets across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, strengthening India–UAE trade relations.

The Diaspora as a Strategic Bridge

The Indian diaspora is one of the strongest pillars of India–UAE relations. Spread across sectors ranging from construction to advanced services, the Indian community contributes significantly to the UAE's economy and social fabric.

Over time, diaspora engagement has become more structured and central to diplomacy. Labour reforms, welfare initiatives, and skill development programs have improved working conditions and enhanced trust between the two governments.

Beyond Remittances: Cultural and Economic Impact

Highly skilled Indian professionals now play an essential role in the UAE's diversification agenda, particularly in healthcare, education, IT, and finance. At the same time, Indian workers continue to support essential services, reinforcing economic interdependence.

Remittances remain important, but diaspora diplomacy goes beyond financial flows. Cultural exchanges, education partnerships, and community engagement foster long-term goodwill. The Indian government's proactive outreach has strengthened confidence among expatriates and ensured that bilateral relations remain people-centric.

In a transforming Gulf region, the Indian diaspora acts as a stabilizing force—demonstrating how human connections enhance diplomatic resilience.

India and UAE Strengthen Consular Cooperation at 6th JCCA Meeting in Abu Dhabi

India and the United Arab Emirates deepened their consular collaboration during the sixth meeting of the India–UAE Joint Committee on Consular Affairs (JCCA), held at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. The session highlighted the countries' commitment to enhancing consular services, visa facilitation, and legal cooperation.

The Indian delegation was led by Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (Consular, Passport, Visa, and Overseas Indian Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, while the UAE delegation was headed by Omar Obaid AlHesan AlShamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The high-level discussions followed detailed technical-level meetings to review ongoing initiatives and identify areas for closer cooperation.

Key Outcomes

The meeting focused on strengthening practical cooperation in several areas:

Consular Services: Enhancing information sharing and improving access to consular support for citizens of both countries.

Legal and Judicial Cooperation: Streamlining processes for mutual legal assistance and extradition to ensure efficient cross-border resolution of cases.

Visa Facilitation: Discussing liberalisation of visa policies to support professionals, tourists, and diaspora mobility.

Institutionalised Review Mechanism: Establishing a structured framework to monitor and sustain consular cooperation.

The delegations also exchanged best practices in consular management, reflecting a shared commitment to efficient, citizen-centric services.

Focus on People-to-People Ties

Both sides emphasised the welfare and protection of citizens residing abroad, particularly the large Indian expatriate community in the UAE. Indian officials expressed appreciation for the UAE's continued support for Indian residents, while UAE representatives acknowledged the role of the Indian community as a bridge strengthening bilateral ties.



Strategic Context

This sixth JCCA meeting falls within the broader framework of the India–UAE strategic partnership, which spans trade, investment, mobility, and legal-judicial cooperation. By institutionalising consular collaboration and facilitating visas and legal assistance, both countries are creating more effective mechanisms to support their citizens and businesses.

The 7th JCCA meeting is expected to be held in India in 2026, further consolidating this collaborative framework.

Implications for Citizens

For travellers, professionals, and diaspora communities, the meeting could lead to:

Easier Travel: Streamlined visa procedures and potential policy liberalisations.

Improved Support: Faster consular services and clearer legal assistance mechanisms.

Sustained Cooperation: Long-term, institutionalised frameworks to ensure continued collaboration.

Conclusion

The sixth India–UAE JCCA meeting demonstrates how consular diplomacy is evolving into a strategic pillar of bilateral relations. With enhanced cooperation in visas, legal support, and citizen services, India and the UAE are reinforcing their partnership while ensuring practical benefits for citizens and communities in both countries.

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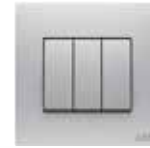
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