

INDIA-UKRAINE RELATIONS



Key Points:

- ❖ India's shift in policy and Modi's visit to Ukraine can be seen as part of India's evolving foreign policy. Ukraine, after the dissolution of the USSR, was not a focus of India's foreign policy, which had been predominantly oriented towards Russia.
- ❖ This visit signals a broader attempt by India to diversify its international relationships and assert a more active role in global politics.

India's Interest in Ukraine

India's interest in Ukraine is driven by several factors:

- ❖ **Business Opportunities:** The war has strained India-Ukraine relations, leading to a significant drop in bilateral trade. Trade volumes fell from \$3.39 billion in 2021-2022 to \$0.78 billion and \$0.71 billion in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 respectively. Despite this, the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine presents new opportunities for Indian businesses.

- ❖ **Strategic Importance:** Ukraine's strength as an agrarian power, particularly its role as a major supplier of sunflower oil before the war, adds to its strategic significance for India. This has implications for India's food security and economic interests.
- ❖ **Defence Cooperation:** There are potential avenues for defence collaboration, which could be explored as Ukraine rebuilds its military capabilities post-conflict.
- ❖ **Impact on India-Russia Relations:**
- ❖ Experts suggest that while Modi's engagement with Ukraine represents a shift, it is unlikely to negatively impact India's relationship with Russia.
- ❖ India continues to maintain strong ties with Russia, reflecting its policy of balancing relationships, similar to its approach with Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Modi's visit to both Poland and Ukraine illustrates a broader strategy to enhance ties with Central and Eastern Europe, without compromising long standing relationships.
- ❖ **Way Forward**
- ❖ **Post-War Reconstruction:** As the war ends, opportunities for Indian companies to participate in Ukraine's rebuilding process could arise.

- ❖ **Defence Collaboration:** Potential defence cooperation could benefit both nations.
- ❖ **Food Security:** Importing sunflower oil from Ukraine could address India's food security needs.



- ❖ **N.B.-Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM)** is a unique effort which will ensure medical facilities in a rapidly deployable manner. It consists of cubes which contain medicines and equipment for medical care.

PM Modi in Poland: India Poland elevates ties to Strategic Partnership



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Poland have agreed to elevate their bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Poland.

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi is on a two-nation - Poland and Ukraine, from 21 to 23 August 2024. He first visited Poland and will undertake a 10-hour-long train journey to Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, on 23 August 2024 to become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Ukraine.
- ❖ Prime Minister Morarji Desai visited Poland in 1979, and after a 45-year gap, the Indian Prime Minister also visited Poland.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi's visit to Poland marks 45 years since the visit of an Indian prime Minister and an Indian Prime Minister visited Poland.
- ❖ Prime Minister Morarji Desai visited Poland in 1979. In 2024, India and Poland are celebrating 70 years since establishing their diplomatic ties.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to Poland on 21-22 August 2024.
- ❖ He met the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Sebastian Duda. During the Meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Donald Tusk in Polish Capital, Warsaw, on 22 August, both countries agreed to elevate their relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

- ❖ They agreed on a five-year Action Plan that will guide bilateral collaboration in identified areas of cooperation from 2024 to 2028. Both countries will hold annual political dialogues at the level of deputy ministers in charge of foreign relations.
- ❖ Meetings of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) are to be held at least twice a year to increase cooperation in the fields of high-tech, agriculture, smart cities, defence, healthcare, agritech, food tech, energy, climate, green technologies, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and mining. Both countries will cooperate in developing sustainable and environmentally friendly technological solutions for the circular economy and waste-water management.
- ❖ On the 75th Anniversary of establishing Diplomatic Relations (in 2029), both sides will hold cultural festivals in each other's countries.
- ❖ During his visit to Poland, PM Modi visited Good Maharaja Square, the Monte Cassino Memorial, and the Kolhapur family memorial in Warsaw.

Good Maharaja Square

- ❖ Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar - Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhj offered shelter to around 1000 Jewish Polish

children aged two to 17 years who came to India from Siberia, Russia, during the Second World War.

- ❖ They came to India after the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939, which was under Nazi Germany's occupation.
- ❖ Later, in 2014, a memorial was built in Warsaw to honour the Maharaja, known in Poland as the Good Maharaja. Around eight Polish primary and secondary schools are named after Jam Saheb.



Kolhapur Memorial

- ❖ The Kolhapur Memorial is built adjacent to the Good Maharaja Square.
- ❖ Due to its favourable climate, the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar kept the Polish Children in the Valivade village of Kolhapur (Maharashtra).

Monte Cassino Memorial

- ❖ The monument was built as a tribute to over 900 Polish soldiers of the Second Polish Corps who were killed during the Second World War in 1944 at the Battle of Monte Cassino.

India Poland Relationship

- ❖ Diplomatic relations between India and Poland were established in 1954, and an Indian Embassy was opened in Warsaw in 1957.
- ❖ India's first prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, visited Poland in 1955. Indology, which studies Indian history, culture, philosophy, etc., is also very strong in Poland.
- ❖ Sanskrit was studied at the 600-year-old Jagiellonian University in Krakow in 1860-61, and a Chair of Sanskrit was established there in 1893.
- ❖ During the Visit to Poland, Prime Minister Modi met the renowned Polish Indologist and Padam Shri awardee Prof. Maria Christopher Byrski, Prof. Monika Browarczyk, Prof. Halina Marlewicz, Prof. Danuta Stasik and Prof. Przemyslaw Szurek.

About Poland

- ❖ Poland is a Central European country which came into existence as a sovereign country in 1918.
- ❖ Nazi Germany conquered it during the second world war, and Germans killed almost the entire Jewish population.
- ❖ It became a communist state after the defeat of the Nazi Germany. In

1989, after the fall of the communist government, Poland became a democratic country.

- ❖ Later, it became a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).



President :Andrzej Sebastian Duda

Prime Minister: Donald Tusk

Capital: Warsaw

Currency: Polish zloty

Sri Lanka announces visa-free access to Indians, nationals from 34 other countries from Oct 31



Key Points:

- ❖ The Sri Lankan government has announced visa-free access to citizens from 35 countries, including India, the U.K. and the U.S. to the island nation for six months.

- ❖ Countries on the list include India, the U.K., China, the U.S., Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Poland, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nepal, Indonesia, Russia, and Thailand.
- ❖ Other countries include Malaysia, Japan, France, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, Belarus, Iran, Sweden, South Korea, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and New Zealand. Visitors from India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia received tourist visas free of charge to Sri Lanka.

About Sri Lanka

- ❖ Legislative capital – Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- ❖ Executive and Judicial capital – Colombo
- ❖ Currency – Sri Lankan rupee
- ❖ President – Ranil Wickremesinghe
- ❖ Prime Minister – Dinesh Gunawardena

JNCASR partners with HZL to scale up indigenous Zn-ion battery technologies



Key Points:

- ❖ Vedanta-owned Hindustan Zinc Ltd., India's largest integrated zinc producer, has signed an MoU with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to collaborate and develop new variants of zinc materials to propel the commercialisation of zinc-based batteries.
- ❖ At present, lithium-ion batteries dominate the market but lithium availability, geographic concentration of mineral processing, and safety concerns around combustion issues pose some key challenges to the advancement of sustainable energy solutions.
- ❖ The indigenous development of zinc-based batteries will also help the exchequer save due to the element's abundance within the country.
- ❖ Some of the widely recognized zinc-based battery chemistries include zinc-manganese, zinc-carbon, nickel-zinc, and zinc-air.
- ❖ The collaboration will focus on the research and development of zinc alloys as anodes for zinc ion and zinc air batteries, developing electrolytes for high-performance zinc alloy anodes, and designing and developing chemical processes for recycling zinc metal-based batteries.

Ola becomes only EV maker to secure PLI certification for four electric scooters



Key Points:

- ❖ Ola Electric's S1 X 3 kWh and S1 X 4 kWh scooters have received certification for compliance with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automobile and auto components sector.
- ❖ This certification, awarded by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), comes after Ola Electric successfully met the minimum localisation criteria of 50% as mandated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- ❖ The company stands to receive incentives ranging from 13% to 18% of the determined sales value of compliant products for up to five consecutive financial years starting from Fiscal 2024.
- ❖ With this Ola Electric has become the only EV maker to get PLI compliance certification for four products: S1 Air, S1 Pro, and S1 X models in both 3 kWh and 4 kWh versions. The S1 Air received PLI certification earlier at the Auto PLI Conclave held in January 2024.

About PLI Scheme

- ❖ The PLI scheme, unveiled by the government in 2021 with a budgetary outlay of INR 25,938 crore, aims to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), such as Battery Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, by providing financial incentives to automobile OEMs and component makers.

President Murmu presents Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024 at an award ceremony held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ In the first edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, 33 awards were

presented to distinguished scientists in four categories – Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.

- ❖ The Vigyan Ratna Award, given to the scientists who have made lifetime contributions in any field of Science and Technology, was presented to Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a pioneer of molecular biology and biotechnology research in India.
- ❖ The Vigyan Shri Awards, given to the scientists who have made distinguished contributions to Science and Technology, were presented to 13 scientists for their path-breaking research in their respective domains.
- ❖ The Vigyan Team Award, given to a team of 3 or more scientists for making ground-breaking research contributions in any field of science and technology, was given to the team of Chandrayaan-3 for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander.
- ❖ The Vigyan Yuva-SSB award, given to recognize scientists who have exceptionally contributed to any field of science and technology, was given to 18 scientists for their significant contribution in the areas spanning from the study on the warming of the Indian Ocean, and its consequences, to the development of indigenous 5G

base stations and communication and precision tests of quantum mechanics.

UAE joins BRICS partners for launch of Centre for Industrial Competences



Key Points:

- ❖ The UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology joined its BRICS counterparts on the launch of a Centre for Industrial Competences in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to support the development of Industrial skills and capabilities.
- ❖ The meeting, chaired by Russia, takes place under the theme of “strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security”.
- ❖ The declaration was made at the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, bringing industry, trade and technology ministries together from the UAE, Russia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, and South Africa.
- ❖ The centre will promote partnerships within the framework of the New Industrial Revolution

(NIR) to identify interests, challenges, and opportunities in the rapidly evolving industrial landscape.

- ❖ In addition, the centre aims to enable industry and the develop industrial skills of its members.
- ❖ The declaration recognises the role of the PartNIR (Partnership on New Industrial Revolution) Innovation Centre, which focuses on policy coordination, personnel training, and project development.
- ❖ The declaration includes discussions to create several working groups, including the chemical industry, metals, SMEs, smart manufacturing, clean technology, and medical equipment.

Former Meghalaya CM Salseng Marak passes away



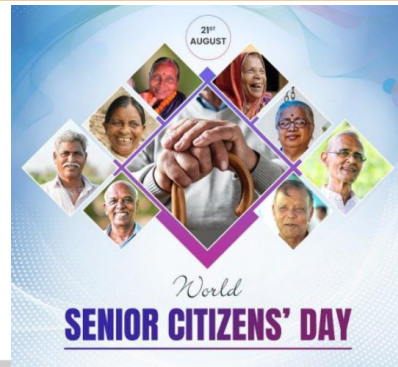
Key Points:

- ❖ Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Salseng C Marak passed away at the

age of 82. Marak became the first chief minister of the state to complete a five-year term in 1993.

- ❖ He also held the office of the CM for the shortest time – 12 days – in 1998 when the Congress-led coalition collapsed. He also served as the state Congress chief in 2003

World Senior Citizens Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Senior Citizens Day is observed every year on 21 August.
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of the issues being faced by older adults like health deterioration and elder abuse. It is also celebrated to acknowledge their contributions towards society

