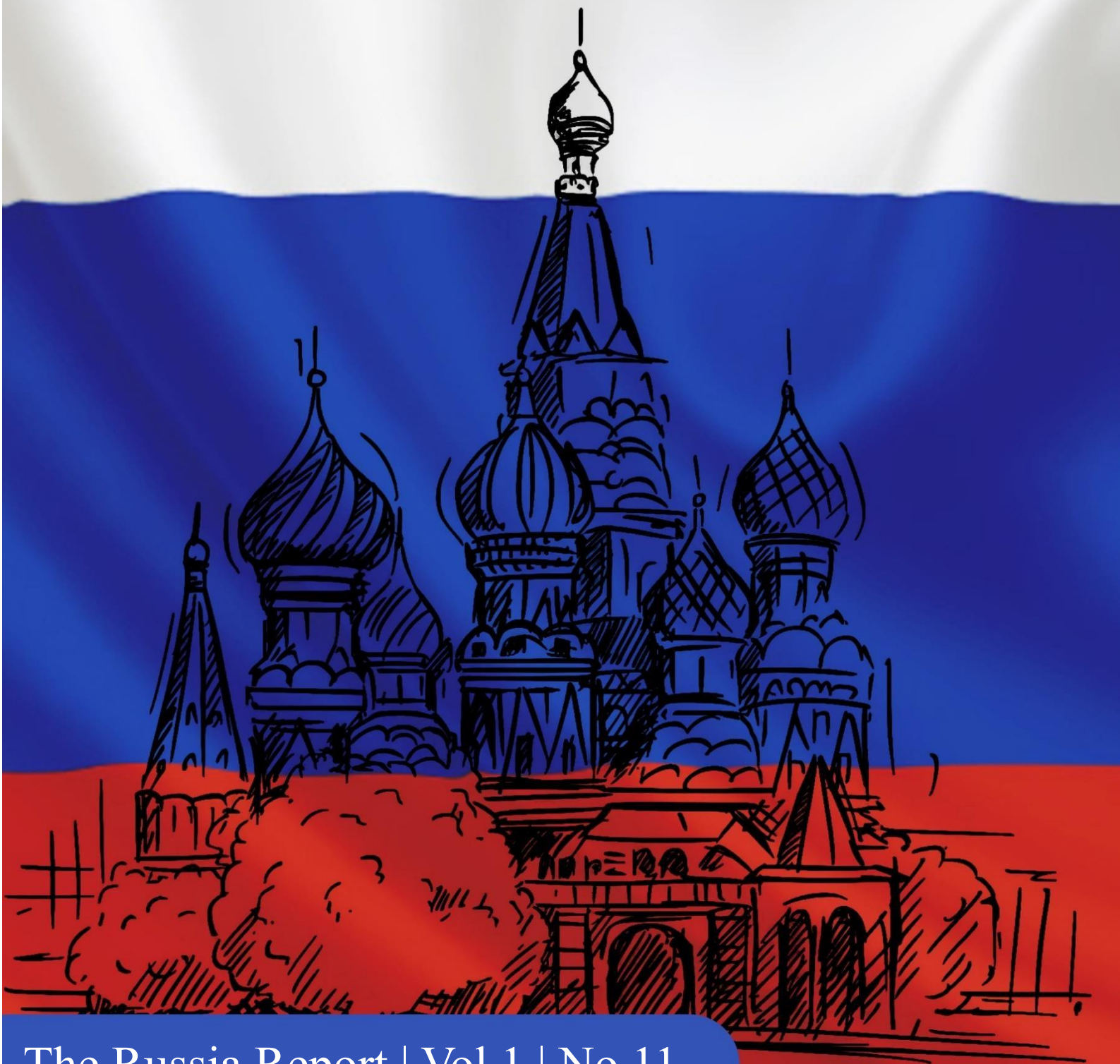


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anusua Ganguly

- **Russia – India Partnership**

Putin, Modi Discuss Strategic Ties and Alaska Summit

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), August 18, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation to discuss bilateral relations and recent international developments, the Indian Foreign Ministry has confirmed.

Key Takeaways:

- **Strategic Partnership:**

The two leaders reviewed various areas of cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the “special and privileged strategic partnership” between Russia and India.

- **Putin Briefs Modi on Trump Talks:**

Putin shared his assessment of the 15 August summit with US President Donald Trump in Alaska, where Ukraine was the central topic.

- **India’s Position:**

Modi reiterated India’s consistent support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine through diplomacy and dialogue. “India supports all efforts in this direction,” the Foreign Ministry noted.

- **Ongoing Dialogue:**

Both leaders agreed to maintain close contact going forward.

The Alaska summit lasted roughly three hours, involving both one-on-one and small-group formats. Putin emphasised the need to reset Russia–US relations, while Trump described the meeting as productive, albeit with some unresolved points.

Russia–India Partnership Resilient Amid US Tariff Pressure, Says Moscow’s Diplomat in New Delhi

[Business Standard](#), [TASS](#), August 20, 2025

The strategic partnership and mutual trust between Russia and India are robust enough to withstand outside pressures, including new US tariffs, Russia’s Charge d’Affaires in India, Roman Babushkin, said during a press briefing.

Commenting on Washington’s recent imposition of an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports — specifically targeting India’s continued purchase of Russian oil — Babushkin stated that Moscow does not expect New Delhi to alter its energy cooperation under pressure.

“Whatever happens, even when faced with challenges or problems, we are capable of getting together to solve these issues — or at least minimise their impact — while fully respecting national interests,” he said.

Despite long-standing Western sanctions, Babushkin highlighted that trade between Russia and India has grown significantly, increasing seven-fold in recent years. “We’ve found practical solutions to any complications. Our cooperation helps us grow together,” he added.

The United States imposed the new tariff on 6 August, raising the total duties on Indian goods to 50%, in response to India’s continued energy trade with Russia. President Trump criticised India for being one of the largest purchasers of Russian energy and defence equipment.

However, India dismissed the US measure as unjustified. Notably, after his recent talks with President Putin in Alaska, Trump signalled that Washington may reconsider punitive measures against countries maintaining trade with Moscow.

Russia and India to Jointly Develop Northern Sea Route and North–South Corridor

[OANA News](#), August 20, 2025

Russia and India are set to enhance their trade and logistical cooperation through the joint development of the Northern Sea Route and the International North–South Transport Corridor, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov announced during a meeting of the Russian–Indian Intergovernmental Commission.

“It is clear that the growth of trade and economic ties must go hand-in-hand with the creation of reliable transport corridors and new container services,” Manturov said. “In this regard, we aim to jointly develop both the Northern Sea Route and the North–South Corridor.”

Manturov also emphasised Russia’s readiness to expand cooperation in the space sector, noting that Moscow is prepared to share expertise in manned spaceflight, rocket engine production, and satellite navigation.

In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted promising opportunities for collaboration in the digital technology sphere.

“Our countries possess unique expertise in information security, artificial intelligence, and smart city technologies. A practical dialogue is already under way in many of these areas, and it requires further development,” he said.

Lavrov and Jaishankar to Discuss Trade, Strategic Ties and Global Affairs

[The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation](#), [TASS](#), August 21, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar are set to hold talks aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade, economic cooperation, and strategic coordination on key global issues.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the two ministers will focus on deepening collaboration in sectors such as transport, energy, agriculture, science and technology. Particular attention will be paid to developing transport and financial infrastructure that is

resilient to external pressure, along with expanding the use of national currencies in mutual transactions.

“The ministers will discuss current and long-term priorities for bilateral cooperation, and exchange views on forthcoming high-level engagements,” the ministry said. Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov earlier confirmed that a Russia–India summit is scheduled for later this year.

The talks will also cover key international developments. Lavrov and Jaishankar will coordinate positions on matters discussed within multilateral platforms such as the UN, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the G20.

Regional security will feature prominently on the agenda, including developments in Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Asia-Pacific, and the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Both Moscow and New Delhi view the emerging multipolar world order as essential to ensuring a balanced and equitable international system.

“Russia remains committed to building an inclusive global framework based on cooperation and constructive interstate dialogue,” the ministry emphasised

Lavrov Discusses Security Guarantees for Ukraine, Zelensky, and Russia-India Cooperation

[TASS](#), August 21, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held talks in Moscow with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, addressing a wide range of issues including security guarantees for Ukraine, prospects for dialogue with Kiev, and deepening bilateral cooperation between Russia and India.

On Putin's Visit to India

Lavrov confirmed that preparations are underway for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, expected later this year. “We discussed upcoming events within the framework of our dialogue, including preparations for the President's visit by year-end,” he said. A comprehensive package of documents is being prepared for the summit between the two leaders.

On Legitimacy of Ukrainian Leadership

Lavrov stressed that any future agreement with Ukraine must address the legitimacy of the Ukrainian signatory. “President Putin has repeatedly said he is ready to meet with Mr. Zelensky, provided all key issues are thoroughly prepared by experts and government ministers,” Lavrov explained. “However, when it comes to signing agreements, the legitimacy of the person signing for Ukraine must be resolved.”

Lavrov also criticised the current Kiev regime, stating it shows no genuine interest in a just and lasting solution. He recalled that Zelensky has not revoked a decree from three years ago forbidding direct negotiations with Putin. He added that Zelensky's calls for a summit with

Putin are “cheap comedy tricks” intended to give the appearance of constructive engagement, while avoiding serious negotiation.

On Security Guarantees for Ukraine

Russia maintains that collective security guarantees for Ukraine, as initially proposed by Kiev in Istanbul in 2022, remain relevant and natural. Lavrov warned against unilateral security initiatives that aim to isolate Russia or perpetuate confrontation, describing such efforts as “entirely futile.”

Moscow firmly opposes any deployment of foreign troops on Ukrainian soil. “This would be absolutely unacceptable for Russia and for all sensible political forces in Europe,” Lavrov said.

On Western Interference in Negotiations

Lavrov expressed hope that European attempts to undermine progress from the Russia-US Alaska summit will fail. He dismissed Western claims that Ukraine defends “European values” as a revealing admission of what those values truly represent.

He accused Western sponsors of Ukraine of undermining US President Donald Trump’s efforts to find sustainable solutions to the conflict, and suggested that the so-called “coalition of the willing” is working to derail nascent progress towards a settlement.

On Russia-India Cooperation

Highlighting strong ties with India, Lavrov noted “good results in cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector,” including Russian oil supplies to the Indian market. Both countries are interested in joint projects to develop energy resources in Russia, particularly in the Far East and Arctic shelf.

President Putin Receives India’s Foreign Minister at the Kremlin

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), [Anadolu Ajansi](#), August 21, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the Kremlin, the presidential press service has confirmed. The meeting reflects the continued high-level engagement between Moscow and New Delhi.

The talks took place in the Kremlin’s representative office and were attended by senior officials, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov — who co-chairs the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation — and India’s Ambassador to Russia, Vinay Kumar.

This visit follows a recent series of diplomatic engagements between the two countries. On 18 August, President Putin held a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the strategic partnership and brief him on the outcomes of the Russia-US summit in Alaska. Earlier, on 7 August, Putin also received Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at the Kremlin.

The ongoing high-level exchanges underscore the strategic nature of the Russia-India relationship and the shared commitment to strengthening cooperation across key areas including trade, energy, defence, and international security.

Russia-India Energy Ties Remain Strong — Lavrov

[TASS](#), August 21, 2025

Russia continues to supply significant volumes of crude oil to India, reflecting the strength of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following talks in Moscow with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

“We are seeing solid results in our collaboration within the hydrocarbon sector, including ongoing deliveries of Russian oil to the Indian market,” Lavrov noted during a press conference.

India, the world’s third-largest oil consumer, relies heavily on imports to meet domestic demand. According to Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, energy cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi remains robust, even amid global instability. Russia’s share in India’s total oil imports consistently exceeds 30%, underscoring the strategic importance of this partnership.

Russian-Indian Summit Scheduled for 2025 — Russian First Deputy PM

[TASS](#), August 21, 2025

A Russian-Indian summit is scheduled to take place by the end of this year, First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov announced during a meeting of the Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

“Our political interaction — grounded in regular, direct communication between the leaders of Russia and India — has traditionally been at the highest level. This forms a solid foundation for the continued development of our bilateral relations. The upcoming Russian-Indian summit, set to take place later this year, will be a key milestone in this context,” Manturov stated.

He emphasised the importance of close coordination between Moscow and New Delhi at multilateral platforms, particularly the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and BRICS.

“India will assume the BRICS presidency next year. I am confident this will give added momentum to the advancement of joint initiatives in trade and economic cooperation — which remains at the heart of our intergovernmental commission’s agenda,” Manturov added.

- **Russia – China and SCO**

Xi Jinping Meets State Duma Chairman Volodin in Beijing

[TASS](#), August 26, 2025; [CPPCC](#), August 27, 2025

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Beijing with Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the Russian State Duma, who is leading a Russian parliamentary delegation on an official visit to China.

During the meeting, Volodin conveyed greetings and best wishes from Russian President Vladimir Putin. He also briefed Xi on the outcome of the 10th session of the Interparliamentary Commission for Cooperation between the Russian Federal Assembly and China's National People's Congress, held earlier in the day.

Volodin stressed the importance of aligning legislative efforts with decisions made at the presidential level. "It is important for us to ensure, through legislation, the implementation of decisions taken by our heads of state. This was the core focus of our interparliamentary commission," he said.

President Xi praised the role of the State Duma and its members in deepening China-Russia ties, stating that the Chinese side "highly values" their contribution to bilateral cooperation. He also welcomed the outcomes of the commission's session.

Volodin's visit includes a series of high-level meetings, underscoring the growing strategic partnership between Moscow and Beijing, particularly in legislative coordination and multilateral cooperation.

Kremlin Finalising Putin's Schedule for SCO Summit in China

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), August 27, 2025

Preparations are underway to finalise Russian President Vladimir Putin's schedule of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed on Tuesday.

"We are working on the schedule of bilateral meetings, which will need to be incorporated into the events that our Chinese friends will host. Once everything is agreed upon, we will inform you," Peskov told reporters when asked about the possibility of a meeting between President Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during the summit.

The SCO summit is set to take place in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin from 31 August to 1 September. Leaders from more than 20 member and observer states, along with representatives of ten international organisations, are expected to participate.

President Putin's attendance underscores Russia's continued engagement with the SCO, a key Eurasian multilateral platform that addresses regional security, economic cooperation, and political coordination.

Although the full programme of bilateral meetings has not yet been disclosed, the Kremlin indicated that details would be shared once consultations with the Chinese hosts are complete.

Gazprom and CNPC to Sign Key Agreements During Putin's China Visit

[The Hindu](#), September 2, 2025; [TASS](#), August 29, 2025

Gazprom and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) are set to sign significant agreements during Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming official visit to China, Russian Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov announced.

Speaking ahead of the talks scheduled for 2 September in Beijing, Ushakov said that the main focus of the discussions will be the signing of important documents between Gazprom and CNPC. Although he did not disclose the exact content of the agreements, he stressed their strategic importance.

"Three documents will be signed," Ushakov said, declining to reveal details before the event. He noted that both sides are eager to make a formal announcement during a meeting involving a wide range of delegation members, underlining the significance of the deals.

The agreements are expected to further strengthen energy cooperation between Russia and China, highlighting the continuing deepening of ties between the two countries amid the broader geopolitical context.

Putin's visit to China, which includes participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, offers a platform for advancing key bilateral projects and reinforcing economic partnership.

Around 20 Documents to Be Signed During Putin's Visit to China — Kremlin Aide

[Interfax](#), September 2, 2025; [TASS](#), August 29, 2025

Nearly twenty agreements are expected to be signed during Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to China, Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov said, ahead of the Sino-Russian talks in Beijing.

Speaking to reporters, Ushakov noted that while some documents are still under consideration, the full package will be announced in due course.

China remains Russia's largest foreign trade partner, while Russia ranks fifth among China's trade counterparts. Bilateral trade turnover increased by 7.5% in 2024, reaching a record high of \$244.9 billion. Financial cooperation is expanding, with over 95% of payments conducted in rubles and yuan.

The intergovernmental investment commission currently oversees 86 joint projects valued at over \$200 billion, with energy cooperation as a key focus. Russia is a major energy supplier to China.

Ushakov highlighted ongoing successful projects in hydrocarbon production and refining in Russia's Arctic and Far East regions. Construction continues on new units at the Tianwan and Xudapu Nuclear Power Plants. Industrial collaboration is also growing rapidly, including localisation of Chinese vehicle production in Russia, as well as cooperation in shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing.

Putin Arrives in Tianjin, Launching Four-Day Visit to China

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), August 31, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin has arrived in Tianjin, marking the first stop on his four-day official visit to China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.

Upon arrival at Tianjin Binhai International Airport, Putin was welcomed with a guard of honour. Among those greeting him were Chen Min'er, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party and party secretary of Tianjin, Russian Ambassador to China Igor Morgulov, and senior Russian diplomats. Putin exchanged handshakes before departing to his residence in Tianjin.

Later on 31 August, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit will commence at the Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center. The opening programme includes a welcoming ceremony, a photo session, followed by a reception and concert for the attending leaders.

Putin's visit is set to include engagements in both Tianjin and Beijing, where discussions with Chinese counterparts are expected to cover bilateral cooperation and regional security matters.

Putin Attends Formal Reception for SCO Leaders in Tianjin

[MFA Russia X](#), [TASS](#), August 31, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin joined a formal reception hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping in honour of the heads of delegations attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The event took place at the Tianjin Meijiang International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Putin was accompanied by several senior Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk, Deputy Chief of Staff Maxim Oreshkin, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov, Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov, Russian Ambassador to China Igor Morgulov, and the President's Special Representative for SCO Affairs, Bakhtiyor Khakimov.

The reception brought together leaders from SCO member states and other invited guests. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a welcoming address, emphasising the importance of cooperation and unity among the SCO nations. The evening concluded with a concert performance showcasing Chinese culture.

The SCO summit, which runs from 31 August to 1 September in Tianjin, gathers leaders from over 20 countries, highlighting regional collaboration in areas such as security, trade, and infrastructure. Putin's visit forms part of a broader diplomatic push to deepen Russia's ties with China and strengthen multilateral cooperation within the SCO framework.

Putin Attends Formal Reception Honouring SCO Delegations in China

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), August 31, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin participated in a formal reception hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping in honor of the heads of delegations attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

The event took place at the Tianjin Meijiang International Convention and Exhibition Center and brought together leaders and high-ranking officials from across the SCO member states. President Putin was joined by a senior Russian delegation, including:

- Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
- Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk
- Deputy Chief of Staff Maxim Oreshkin
- Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov
- Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov
- Russian Ambassador to China Igor Morgulov
- Presidential Special Representative for SCO Affairs Bakhtiyor Khakimov

President Xi delivered a welcoming speech at the reception, emphasizing the importance of multilateral cooperation and mutual respect among SCO countries. The evening continued with a cultural program, including a concert showcasing traditional and modern Chinese performances.

The gathering marks another step in strengthening ties among SCO nations and reaffirms Russia's commitment to fostering regional dialogue and strategic partnerships.

President Putin Meets with Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan in Tianjin

[President of Russia](#), August 31, 2025

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan.

The leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations, regional developments, and international matters of mutual interest. The meeting underscored the ongoing partnership between Russia and Armenia, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to maintaining regular dialogue and cooperation at various levels.

The discussion also highlighted the active engagement between the two governments, with frequent exchanges between ministers and high-level officials. The meeting took place in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the historically close ties between the two nations.

President Putin Extends Independence Day Greetings to President of Kyrgyzstan

[President of Russia](#), August 31, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin sent a formal message of congratulations to President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov on the occasion of Kyrgyzstan's Independence Day.

In his message, President Putin emphasized the strategic nature of Russian-Kyrgyz relations and expressed confidence in the continued development of bilateral cooperation. He noted the

strong foundation of partnership and alliance between the two countries, supported by active collaboration within key multilateral organizations such as the EAEU, CSTO, CIS, and SCO.

The greeting also reflected a shared commitment to strengthening ties across political, economic, and regional security dimensions in the interest of both nations and broader Eurasian stability.

- **Russia on Afghanistan**

Shoigu: West Must Take Full Responsibility for Afghanistan's Reconstruction

[Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#), [TASS](#), August 29, 2025

Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu has stated that Western countries should bear full responsibility for rebuilding Afghanistan, criticising them for politicising humanitarian aid and delaying the country's development. Writing in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, Shoigu highlighted that approximately \$9 billion of Afghanistan's state reserves remain frozen abroad — funds that could significantly assist Kabul in addressing its urgent social and economic challenges.

Shoigu emphasised that the reconstruction burden should primarily rest on Western states, given their long involvement in the country. Instead, he accused the West of slowing Afghanistan's progress by linking aid to political interests, a practice he noted has worsened under former US President Joe Biden's administration.

The Russian official also pointed to deteriorating security in Afghanistan, particularly highlighting the surge in drug production during years of US presence. This growing issue, he said, exacerbates instability in the region.

Shoigu's comments underline Moscow's criticism of Western policies in Afghanistan, arguing that these approaches hinder effective assistance and prolong the suffering of the Afghan people.

Shoigu Accuses Western Intelligence of Facilitating Militant Transfers to Afghanistan

[TOLO X](#), [Izvestia](#), [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#), August 29, 2025

Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu has accused Western intelligence agencies of orchestrating the transfer of militants to Afghanistan to destabilise the region near Russia, China, and Iran. Writing in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, Shoigu asserted that extremist groups hostile to the Taliban are being supported to create chronic instability along these borders.

He stated that Western powers, having lost their influence in Afghanistan, are planning to re-establish NATO military infrastructure in the area. Despite official claims of not recognising the Taliban government, Shoigu highlighted increased diplomatic engagement from London, Berlin, and Washington, noting frequent visits by their representatives to Kabul.

Shoigu emphasised Moscow's readiness to assist the Taliban in stabilising Afghanistan, focusing on cooperation in anti-terrorism and anti-drug efforts. He expressed hope that coordinated efforts between Russia, the Taliban, and neighbouring countries would help promote economic development and peace in Afghanistan.

This statement reflects Russia's critical stance on Western involvement in Afghanistan, portraying Western actions as attempts to undermine regional security while positioning Moscow as a stabilising partner for the Taliban regime.

Shoigu Calls for Resumption of Afghanistan's Relations with SCO

[Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#), August 29, 2025

Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu has advocated for the resumption of Afghanistan's relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), noting that most member states support this move. In an article for x, Shoigu emphasised the shared interest of Russia and Afghanistan's neighbours in restoring Afghanistan as a stable, self-sufficient state free from terrorism, war, and drug trafficking.

Shoigu pointed out that it is time to consider reopening ties between Afghanistan and the SCO, starting with the establishment of a contact group. He recalled that Russia was the first country to officially recognise the Taliban leadership on 3 July 2025, aiming to enhance cooperation in trade, economic development, humanitarian aid, regional security, counter-terrorism, and anti-drug efforts.

Reflecting on his November 2024 visit to Kabul, Shoigu noted the Afghan leadership's keen interest in constructive political dialogue and potential economic collaboration with Russia. He stressed the importance of ensuring the security of businesses willing to operate in Afghanistan to foster economic progress.

Shoigu concluded by highlighting that many regional countries are intensifying engagement with Kabul, signalling a shift towards greater cooperation in line with evolving geopolitical realities.

Drug Trafficking Situation in Afghanistan Remains Challenging — Shoigu

[Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#), [TASS](#), August 29, 2025

Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu has acknowledged that while the Taliban leadership has managed to reverse some negative trends in Afghanistan's drug trafficking, the situation remains difficult. Writing in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, Shoigu highlighted the growing problem of synthetic opioids, particularly nitazenes, which are far more potent than fentanyl and deadly even in tiny doses.

Shoigu also noted a sharp 75% increase in methamphetamine seizures in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries during 2024, despite a decline in opium production. He pointed out that the centre of opium drug synthesis is shifting to the so-called Golden Triangle region where Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet.

Despite these challenges, Shoigu emphasised that the Taliban have succeeded in reversing the worsening drug trafficking trends that emerged during the years of US presence in Afghanistan. Since 2021, heroin availability on the Russian market has significantly decreased, with seizures dropping from 1.4 tonnes to 319 kilograms, a threefold reduction.

The situation remains complex, but these developments indicate some progress in curbing Afghanistan's drug crisis under the current leadership.

• **Putin – Trump Meet at Alaska Summit**

What Putin Told Russia's Partners About His Summit with Trump

[TASS](#), August 18, 2025

Following his summit with US President Donald Trump in Anchorage, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a series of phone calls with the leaders of India, Brazil, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to brief them on the outcome. Below are the key points from each conversation:

- **India:**
Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed prospects for a long-term resolution to the conflict in Ukraine. Modi thanked Putin for sharing his impressions of the summit and reiterated India's support for peaceful solutions.
- **Brazil:**
President Lula da Silva was briefed on the Alaska meeting, which Putin described as positive. Lula stressed the relevance of the discussion to the Group of Friends of Peace in Ukraine, and Putin acknowledged Brazil's peace initiative with China.
- **Kyrgyzstan:**
President Sadir Japarov expressed optimism that the results of the summit could help lay the groundwork for resolving the Ukrainian crisis, citing improved Russia–US cooperation.
- **Tajikistan:**
President Emomali Rahmon highlighted the global importance of the Russia–US dialogue. The two leaders also discussed Putin's upcoming state visit to Dushanbe and preparations for regional summits.
- **South Africa:**
President Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to its strategic partnership with Russia. Both leaders expressed continued support for diplomatic efforts towards a peaceful settlement in Ukraine.

Trump Hosts Zelenskyy, European Leaders at White House for Peace Talks

[US Department of Defense](#), August 18, 2025

US President Donald Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and several European leaders at the White House to discuss pathways toward ending the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The talks follow the 15 August Trump–Putin summit in Alaska.

Key Highlights:

- **Two Meetings Held:**

The first was a one-on-one between Trump and Zelenskyy, followed by broader talks involving NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, and Finnish President Alexander Stubb.

- **Trilateral Talks on the Table:**

Trump said a three-way meeting between the US, Ukraine, and Russia could happen if progress is made. “If we do, there’s a good chance of maybe ending the war,” he noted.

- **Security Guarantees & Territorial Talks:**

Trump revealed that Putin had signalled openness to security guarantees for Ukraine — a key issue under discussion. Trump also acknowledged that negotiations would need to consider the current line of contact and potential territorial compromises.

- **European Commitment:**

The US president emphasised that Europe would carry much of the responsibility for Ukraine’s future security, with American support. “They are the first line of defence ... but we’re going to help them.”

- **Durability of Peace:**

Trump underscored the need for a long-term solution: “We’re not talking about a two-year peace, and then we end up in this mess again.”

- **Further Contact with Moscow:**

Trump confirmed he would speak with Putin again after the White House talks. “If we don’t have a trilat, the fighting continues.”

- **Ukrainian Sovereignty Central:**

Ultimately, Trump said, the resolution must be negotiated between President Zelenskyy and President Putin, with decisions resting on the Ukrainian and Russian peoples.

Kremlin Aide Summarises Putin–Trump Phone Call

[President of Russia](#), August 19, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump held a 40-minute phone call, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov confirmed. The discussion was described as frank and constructive, with both leaders reviewing key international matters, particularly the ongoing situation in Ukraine.

Key Points from the Call:

- **Ukraine Crisis:**

Trump briefed Putin on his recent conversations with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and several European leaders. Putin reiterated the importance of Trump's personal role in efforts to secure a long-term resolution to the conflict.

- **Alaska Summit:**

Putin expressed appreciation for the hospitality and organisation of the recent summit in Alaska, noting the positive steps made toward a peaceful settlement.

- **Diplomatic Channels:**

Both sides supported the continuation of direct Russia–Ukraine talks, including the possibility of elevating the level of representatives involved.

- **Continued Contact:**

Putin and Trump agreed to maintain close communication on Ukraine and other key international and bilateral matters.

Lavrov Calls Unilateral Security Guarantees for Ukraine Futile

[Pravda Turkey](#), [The Hill](#), August 21, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described unilateral initiatives regarding security guarantees for Ukraine as a “hopeless effort,” emphasising that Moscow remains committed to an honest and constructive dialogue.

“The security principles agreed upon — initiated by the Ukrainian delegation in Istanbul in April 2022 — have been and continue to be supported by Russia, as they are firmly based on the principle of collective security and indivisible security,” Lavrov stated during a press conference following talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. “All other unilateral approaches are, of course, entirely futile.”

Lavrov also addressed the contentious issue of deploying foreign troops on Ukrainian territory, which Moscow has consistently opposed.

“Discussions between the West and Ukraine appear to centre on guarantees secured through foreign military intervention on Ukrainian soil. I sincerely hope these plans are mere posturing. Nevertheless, such actions would be wholly unacceptable to Russia and to all sensible political forces across Europe,” he said.

Legitimacy of Ukrainian Signatory Must Be Resolved Before Any Deal — Lavrov

[Interfax](#), [The Hill](#), August 21, 2025

The question of the legitimacy of the Ukrainian signatory must be settled before any agreement with Kiev can be finalised, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated at a press conference following talks with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

“Our President, Vladimir Putin, has repeatedly expressed his readiness to meet, including with President Zelensky, provided that all issues requiring highest-level consideration are thoroughly prepared, with expert and ministerial recommendations in place,” Lavrov explained. “Of course, when it comes to signing any future agreements, the legitimacy of the individual signing on behalf of Ukraine must be established.”

Lavrov also reminded that Zelensky has not revoked his own decree from three years ago, which explicitly forbids negotiations with President Putin.

“Clearly, Zelensky’s recent efforts to arrange a summit with the Russian leader are aimed at projecting a supposedly constructive stance on resolving the crisis. In reality, however, this replaces serious, difficult work on agreeing sustainable principles with mere theatrical gestures,” Lavrov concluded.

- **Russia – Ukraine War Updates**

Russia Returns 1,000 Ukrainian Bodies, Receives Just 19 in Return — Kremlin Aide

[Anadolu Ajansi](#), [Xinhua](#), August 19, 2025

In accordance with the agreements reached in Istanbul, Russia has returned the remains of 1,000 fallen Ukrainian soldiers, while receiving just 19 bodies of Russian servicemen in exchange, according to Presidential Aide and chief negotiator Vladimir Medinsky.

Writing on his Telegram channel, Medinsky stated: "As agreed in Istanbul, we handed over 1,000 bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to the Ukrainian side today, while 19 Russian bodies were returned — the same number as a month ago."

The third round of direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine took place in Istanbul on 23 July. During the talks, both sides consented to the exchange of civilians and military personnel. Russia also proposed the formation of three online working groups focused on political, military, and humanitarian matters.

Additionally, Moscow offered to transfer a further 3,000 bodies of deceased Ukrainian servicemen to Kiev and called for the reinstatement of brief humanitarian pauses along the front lines to allow for the recovery of the wounded and dead.

Medinsky noted that a decision regarding a potential fourth round of negotiations would be made only after the implementation of the latest agreements.

Russian Forces Launch Offensive on Sobolevka Near Kupyansk — Military Expert

[Institute for the Study of War](#), August 19, 2025

Russian troops are pressing forward in the Kupyansk direction, with active fighting now underway for the village of Sobolevka in the Kharkov Region, military expert Andrey Marochko told TASS on Tuesday.

“There are certain successes in the Kupyansk area. Our forces are now engaged in intense combat near Sobolevka and are also advancing towards Blagodatovka, where the N-26 highway — a key supply route for the Ukrainian battlegroup — is located,” Marochko said during a live interview on Komsomolskaya Pravda radio. A recording of the broadcast was later posted on his VKontakte page.

While Ukrainian forces still retain some access routes near the settlement of Kovsharovka, Marochko noted that the main supply road in the area is now under Russian fire control.

“This makes the situation rather precarious for Ukrainian troops near Kupyansk,” he added.

Vitaly Ganchev, head of the Kharkov Region’s Military-Civilian Administration, told TASS on 18 August that Russian forces are working to encircle Kupyansk. However, he stressed that a direct assault is not feasible due to the extensive Ukrainian fortifications within the town.

Russian Forces Enter Sobolevka in Kharkov Region as Ukrainian Troops Attempt Withdrawal — Expert

[Institute for the Study of War](#), [TASS](#), August 20, 2025

Russian troops have entered the village of Sobolevka in the Kharkov region after bypassing Ukrainian fortified positions, according to military expert Andrey Marochko.

Speaking to TASS, Marochko stated: “Russian troops bypassed the enemy's fortified area in small, manoeuvrable groups and entered the settlement of Sobolevka. Some Ukrainian servicemen attempted to retreat without authorisation but were intercepted by barrier detachments and forced back to the southern outskirts.”

The expert added that Ukrainian troop movements suggest a counteroffensive may be imminent. “The nature of the Ukrainian army’s actions indicates that additional forces and resources may soon be deployed in an attempt to recapture lost positions in the area,” he said.

Russian Forces Destroy Two Tanks, Including Leopard, in Kupyansk Area — Defence Ministry

[Izvestia](#), [TASS](#), August 22, 2025

Russian forces have destroyed two Ukrainian tanks — a German-made Leopard and a Soviet-era T-72 — near the settlement of Podoly in the Kupyansk direction, located in the Kharkov Region, the Russian Ministry of Defence reported.

According to the statement, reconnaissance units of the Russian Armed Forces identified the tanks, reportedly concealed in a forested area, as belonging to Ukraine’s 14th Separate Mechanised Brigade.

“In the area of Podoly, reconnaissance detected camouflaged tanks — a Leopard and a T-72 — operated by Ukrainian nationalists. These were engaged and successfully neutralised through coordinated strikes by UAV crews, FPV drone operators, and Lancet loitering munitions from the Zapad group of forces,” the ministry said.

The ministry added that the destruction of the vehicles was confirmed through real-time objective monitoring, with visual confirmation of smoke and the subsequent complete burnout of both tanks.

Russian Forces Strike Ukrainian Defence Industry Facility and Military Positions

[TASS](#), August 23, 2025

Over the past 24 hours, Russian armed forces have conducted strikes on a Ukrainian military-industrial complex facility and on temporary deployment points housing Ukrainian personnel and foreign mercenaries, according to a statement from the Russian Ministry of Defence.

TASS has compiled the key developments in the zone of the special military operation during this period.

Combat Losses

According to the Ministry, Ukrainian forces suffered over 1,325 personnel losses across multiple fronts:

- Kharkov direction: Up to 150 personnel neutralised by Battlegroup North
- West: Over 230 casualties
- South: More than 210 casualties
- Centre: In excess of 430 casualties
- East: Over 245 casualties
- Dnepr direction: Up to 60 casualties

Air Defence Activity

Russian air defence systems intercepted four guided aerial bombs and 160 fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) within the past day, highlighting ongoing aerial activity and countermeasures in the region.

Territorial Gains

Russian troops reportedly took control of the settlements of Kleban-Byk and Sredneye, located in the Donetsk People’s Republic.

Kharkov Official Hopes for Full Liberation of Region by Russian Forces

[TASS](#), August 25, 2025

Vitaly Ganchev, head of the Russian-installed military and civilian administration in the Kharkov Region, has expressed hope that the entire region will be “liberated” by Russian forces before any ceasefire agreement is reached with Ukraine.

Speaking to TASS, Ganchev said that while he could not speak for President Vladimir Putin, he personally hoped to see all of Kharkov and the wider region under Russian control. “As a Kharkov citizen, I certainly hope for the liberation of the entire territory of Kharkov and the Kharkov Region,” he stated.

Ganchev added that many local residents were “waiting for Russia” and that the outcome of various peace initiatives would depend on support from both friendly and hostile nations.

His comments follow recent remarks by Ukrainian presidential adviser Mikhail Podolyak, who indicated that Kiev might accept a temporary freeze along the current line of contact. Podolyak said Ukraine could seek to regain lost territories through diplomatic and economic means over time.

Moscow to Begin Systematic Restoration of War-Damaged Districts in Donetsk

[Комсомольская правда](#), August 26, 2025

The city of Moscow will launch a large-scale effort next year to restore districts of Donetsk that suffered direct artillery strikes, Mayor Sergey Sobyenin announced in an interview with Komsomolskaya Pravda.

"One of the major tasks right now is the restoration of the districts of Donetsk that were under direct artillery fire. The enemy has been pushed back, and starting next year, we will systematically enter these areas — there is a tremendous amount of work to be done," Sobyenin said.

The mayor noted that Moscow has been consistently involved in supporting reconstruction efforts in Donetsk and Lugansk, which are officially designated as sister cities of the Russian capital.

Current aid includes the repair and refurbishment of thousands of public and residential facilities, including housing, kindergartens, schools, and hospitals. Moscow is also engaged in restoring essential infrastructure such as roads and utility networks across the affected areas.

Sobyenin’s statement highlights Moscow’s ongoing role in post-conflict reconstruction in eastern Ukraine, with efforts set to expand further in 2026 as stability returns to previously contested areas.

Russian Forces Advance into Northern Kupyansk — Military Expert

[Al Jazeera](#), [TASS](#), August 26, 2025

Russian forces have entered the northern outskirts of Kupyansk in Ukraine’s Kharkov Region, further tightening the semi-encirclement of the city, according to military expert Andrey Marochko.

Speaking to TASS, Marochko reported that Russian forward units have reached the vicinity of Komsomol Park, situated in the city's northern sector. "The enemy's position in Kupyansk has worsened significantly, and the tactical situation now demands an urgent reorganisation of Ukrainian forces," he said. However, he added that delays in decision-making by Ukrainian commanders could result in greater casualties for Kiev's troops.

The advance is part of a broader offensive in the region, with Russian assault units also making gains near Sobolevka (northeast), Moskovka (southeast), and in the vicinity of Kucherovka and Petropavlovka.

The development marks a further shift in the operational landscape around Kupyansk, a key logistical node for Ukrainian forces in the northeast. Should the semi-encirclement be completed, Ukrainian units stationed in the city may face increasing supply constraints and risk of isolation.

The situation remains fluid, with no official confirmation yet from Ukraine's Ministry of Defence.

Massive Drone Attack on DPR Cities Foiled by Intelligence Agencies

[Izvestia](#), August 28, 2025

Security services in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) have thwarted a large-scale drone attack targeting several urban areas, including Makeyevka and Dokuchayevsk, the regional branch of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) has confirmed.

According to the FSB, the attempted assault involved Czech-manufactured FP-1 drones, described as a cost-effective alternative to Western-supplied Storm Shadow and SCALP missiles. These drones are reportedly capable of carrying warheads weighing up to 120 kilograms, with a flight range exceeding 1.6 thousand kilometres.

The agency stated that Ukrainian forces employed a two-stage strategy: first launching decoy drones to trigger DPR air defence systems and disrupt the Donbass Dome electronic warfare network, followed by an actual strike using FP-1 drones armed with OFB-60-YAU fragmentation warheads containing more than 60 kilograms of explosives and shrapnel.

On 26 August, several drones targeted residential areas in Makeyevka and Dokuchayevsk. Local air defence units successfully intercepted the incoming unmanned aerial vehicles, preventing casualties and damage.

The attempted attack underscores growing concerns over the use of long-range, high-payload drones in urban conflict zones and highlights the evolving tactics in the ongoing security situation in eastern Ukraine.

Air Defences Repel Massive Drone Attack on Russia's Volgograd Region — Governor

[Press TV](#), August 31, 2025

Russia's air defences are successfully repelling a large-scale drone attack on the southern Volgograd Region, Governor Andrey Bocharov announced.

According to Bocharov, reported via the regional administration's Telegram channel, one drone crashed in the middle of a road in Srednyaya Akhtuba, where deminers are currently working.

The debris from the drones caused fires in the southern part of the region, which were swiftly extinguished.

In a related development, Acting Governor of the Rostov Region, Yury Slyusar, reported that a drone attack had also been repelled there, with preliminary reports indicating no damage on the ground.

- **In Other News**

First-Ever Nuclear Summit to Be Held in Moscow on 25 September — Rosatom CEO

[Caspian Post](#), August 21, 2025

The inaugural global nuclear summit is set to take place in Moscow on 25 September, according to Alexey Likhachev, Chief Executive Officer of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation.

"The President has given his full approval. The first nuclear summit in human history will be held on 25 September in Moscow," Likhachev told reporters, in reference to the upcoming events marking the 80th anniversary of Russia's nuclear industry.

The summit will bring together the Russian President, along with a number of national leaders, heads of state, and government representatives, to discuss the future of nuclear technology.

"We, as the wider nuclear community, are eagerly awaiting this event," Likhachev said. "Despite the current atmosphere of sanctions and geopolitical tension, we remain united. Even representatives from countries considered unfriendly — such as the United States, France, and Germany — continue to express hope that these tensions will ease, and that cooperation will ultimately prevail."

Sanctions Have Not Affected Rosatom's Production Agenda — CEO

[TASS](#), August 21, 2025

Western sanctions have not impacted the production plans of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, although certain financial and logistical processes required restructuring, Chief Executive Officer Alexey Likhachev told reporters.

"The first half of this year was challenging. We faced two significant developments — one external, the other internal," Likhachev said. "Externally, we entered the year under new American sanctions imposed on parts of Rosatom. However, this did not affect our production agenda, although we did have to adjust some financial and logistical frameworks during the year."

Likhachev emphasised that, despite these difficulties, Rosatom has meticulously followed all instructions from the President and the Government, particularly those focused on cost reduction, improving labour efficiency, and minimising reliance on borrowed funds.

"We are working in full coordination with both the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation," he said. "Our primary goal this year has been to maintain momentum on our development projects and scientific research, while fully meeting state requirements — and we have achieved that."

According to Likhachev, the corporation's financial results for the first half of 2025 reflect this success: revenue in the open segment grew by 14%, investments increased by 7% year-on-year, and tax contributions rose by 16%.



About the Author

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