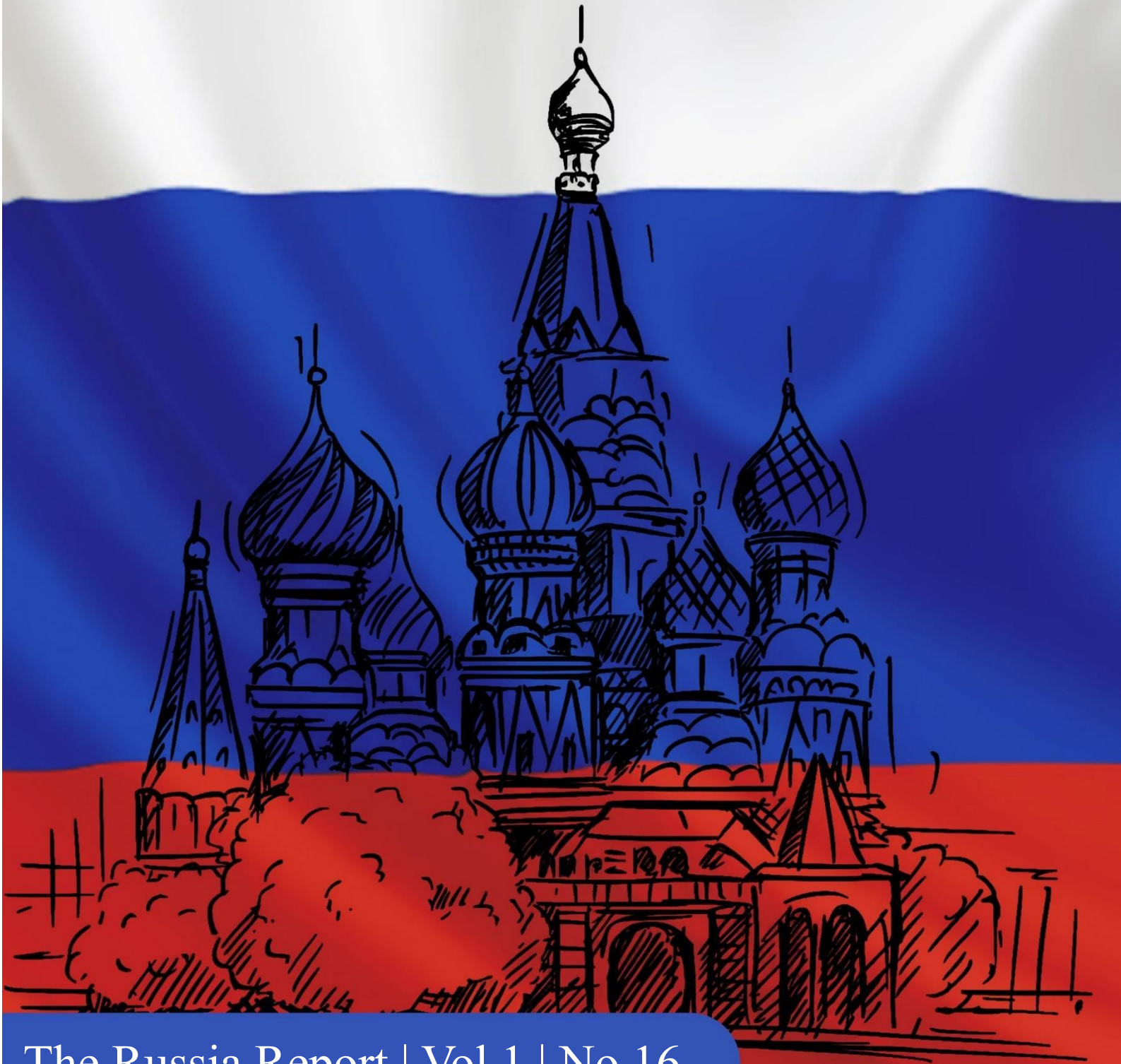


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anusua Ganguly

- **Putin's India Visit**

State Visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India

[Indian Ministry of External Affairs](#), 28 November 2025; [President of Russia](#), 4 December 2025; [President of Russia](#), [President of Russia](#), 5 December 2025

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr Vladimir Putin, undertook a State visit to India from 4 to 5 December 2025. The visit coincided with the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit, reflecting the continued importance both countries attached to their longstanding bilateral engagement.

During the course of the visit, President Putin held formal discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These talks took place within the framework of the Annual Summit, which had traditionally served as a key institutional mechanism for high-level dialogue between the two nations. In addition to his meeting with the Prime Minister, President Putin was also received by the Hon'ble President of India. The Indian President hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Russian leader, underscoring the ceremonial and diplomatic significance of the State visit.

The visit provided an opportunity for the leadership of India and Russia to review the progress made in bilateral relations across various domains. It also enabled both sides to articulate a shared vision for further strengthening their 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership', which had been a defining feature of India–Russia relations over the years.

Furthermore, the discussions during the visit included an exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The State visit reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to sustained engagement at the highest political level and highlighted the enduring nature of India–Russia ties.

Putin held Interview with Indian journalists

[President of Russia](#), [President of Russia](#), [India Today YouTube](#), 4 December 2025

Ahead of his State visit to India, President Vladimir Putin responded to questions from anchors of the Indian television channels Aaj Tak and India Today at the Kremlin on 4 December 2025. The interview formed part of his engagement with Indian media ahead of the visit, allowing him to address topics of interest and set the scene for his meetings in New Delhi. Putin's interaction with the journalists provided direct insight into his perspectives immediately prior to the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit.

Following the interview, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin held an informal conversation with presenters and senior executives of the India Today Group media conglomerate at the Kremlin on 4 December 2025.

During the interaction, Vice Chairperson of the India Today Group, Kalli Purie, reflected on her surprise at the contrast between her expectations and her experience in Russia, observing that perceptions shaped by Western narratives did not align with what she witnessed in

Moscow, including the openness and friendliness of people. President Putin remarked that he had sought to maintain balance during the discussion and avoid overtly anti-Western rhetoric.

The conversation then turned to climate change and energy policy. President Putin stated that while environmental protection and climate change were important issues, they had been politicised by certain Western elites. He emphasised that transitioning away from traditional energy sources required time, investment, and technological development, particularly for developing countries. He argued that imposing restrictions without providing financial or technological support amounted to a new form of neo-colonialism.

Responding to questions on Russia's approach, President Putin noted that the country was developing renewable energy technologies while continuing to rely on existing energy sources during a gradual transition. He highlighted Russia's energy mix, including hydroelectric, nuclear, and gas energy, and pointed out the renewed use of coal in Europe.

When asked about leadership and regret, President Putin stated that he did not dwell on past decisions and followed a personal principle of doing what he believed he had no right not to do. The interaction concluded on a lighter note, with exchanges reflecting humour and informality.

Key Takeaways from President Vladimir Putin's Two-Day Visit to India

[Indian Ministry of External Affairs](#), 5 December 2025; [NDTV](#), 6 December 2025

President Vladimir Putin's two-day State visit to India culminated in the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit, during which both countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation across a wide range of strategic areas. The visit underscored the resilience of the India–Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership and highlighted shared positions on global and regional challenges.

A central outcome of the summit was the strong emphasis placed on counter-terrorism cooperation. In their Joint Statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism, including recent attacks in India and Russia. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to an uncompromising fight against international terrorism, extremism, transnational organised crime, money laundering, terrorist financing, and illicit drug trafficking. They called for concerted action against UN-listed terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda and ISIS/Daesh and their affiliates, and stressed the importance of eliminating safe havens, disrupting financing networks, and preventing cross-border movement of terrorists.

The two sides reaffirmed the importance of implementing relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They emphasised the primary responsibility of states in combating terrorism and reiterated support for a zero-tolerance approach. Both leaders called for the early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework. They also welcomed the Delhi Declaration adopted during the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting held in India in 2022, particularly its focus on the misuse of emerging technologies by terrorist groups.

India and Russia expressed readiness to enhance cooperation in preventing radicalisation and countering extremist ideology in the online space, noting positive developments within the SCO and BRICS frameworks. The leaders also welcomed counter-terrorism measures against international terrorist groups in Afghanistan and noted close coordination between the two countries through established dialogue mechanisms, including the Moscow Format. They emphasised the need for uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

On regional and global issues, both sides reiterated their commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East and West Asia, stressing restraint and adherence to international law. They supported dialogue on the Iran nuclear issue and expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

On climate change, India and Russia agreed to intensify bilateral dialogue on implementing the Paris Agreement, developing low-carbon technologies, and using sustainable finance instruments. They welcomed the launch of the BRICS Climate Research Platform and the BRICS Laboratory for Trade, Climate and Sustainable Development, and agreed to continue coordination within the G20, BRICS and SCO.

The visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of India and Russia to global peace and stability in a multipolar world.

- **President Subianto's Visit to Russia**

Russia–Indonesia Talks

[President of Russia](#), [ANTARA Indonesian News Agency](#), [TASS](#), 10 December 2025

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin held talks with President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto at the Kremlin in Moscow on 10 December 2025. President Subianto was in Russia on a working visit. The discussions focused on the further development of the Russia–Indonesia strategic partnership, as well as current international and regional issues.

Welcoming the Indonesian President, President Putin expressed condolences over the recent flooding and loss of life in Indonesia. He recalled previous meetings, including their interaction during the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in China and President Subianto's participation in the St Petersburg International Economic Forum in June. He noted that bilateral relations had gained steady momentum, with 2025 marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

President Putin highlighted the active work of intergovernmental commissions and reported that trade and economic ties had grown by 17 per cent in the first nine months of the year. He underlined significant potential for cooperation in energy, including nuclear power, as well as in industrial projects and agriculture. He also noted established cooperation in military-technical fields, growing direct military-to-military contacts, and the training of Indonesian specialists at Russian universities and military academies.

Humanitarian ties were also noted, with an increase in tourism supported by direct flights and favourable visa arrangements. President Putin welcomed Indonesia's full participation in BRICS and noted ongoing talks with the Eurasian Economic Union on a free trade zone.

President Subianto thanked President Putin for the warm reception and stated that the purpose of his visit was to hold consultations and reaffirm appreciation for the dynamic growth in bilateral relations. He noted productive engagement with Russian delegations in Jakarta and extended an invitation to President Putin to visit Indonesia in 2026 or 2027, which President Putin accepted in principle.

- **Putin in Ashgabat**

Meeting of International Forum “Peace and Trust: Unity of Goals for a Sustainable Future”

President of Russia, 12 December 2025

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin participated in the International Forum Peace and Trust: Unity of Goals for a Sustainable Future in Ashgabat on 12 December 2025. The forum was held to mark the International Year of Peace and Trust, the International Day of Neutrality, and the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's proclamation of permanent neutrality.

Ahead of the plenary session, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov hosted a welcoming ceremony for the heads of delegations attending the forum, followed by a group photograph. Addressing the plenary, President Putin congratulated Turkmenistan on the anniversary of its neutrality and recalled that the country's neutral status had been unanimously recognised by a United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 12 December 1995. He noted that the same date had later been designated by the UN as the International Day of Neutrality at Turkmenistan's initiative.

President Putin emphasised that Turkmenistan's decision to adopt permanent neutrality had shaped its development as an independent and sovereign state and contributed to regional and international stability. He highlighted the country's balanced foreign policy and its role in fostering cooperation and mutual trust in international affairs. He expressed Russia's support for the draft Ashgabat Declaration, noting that it reaffirmed commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, including peace, non-interference, and respect for national sovereignty.

The Russian President described the Russia–Turkmenistan strategic partnership as developing successfully in a spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness. He noted that bilateral trade turnover had increased by 35 per cent in the first ten months of 2025, surpassing the previous year's total, and highlighted expanding cooperation in energy, transport, investment, education, and humanitarian exchanges. He also expressed support for Turkmenistan's forthcoming chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2026.

Meeting with the President of Iraq Abdul Latif Rashid

[President of Russia, Izvestia](#), 12 December 2025

President Putin met with President of the Republic of Iraq Abdul Latif Rashid in Ashgabat on 12 December 2025. The meeting focused on the long-standing relationship between Russia and Iraq and prospects for further cooperation amid regional developments.

President Rashid highlighted the deep historical ties between Iraq and the Soviet Union, and later Russia, noting extensive cooperation in industry, trade, economic development, and humanitarian affairs. He recalled that many Iraqi engineers had been trained at Russian universities and observed a growing number of mutual visits between the two countries. President Rashid stated that relations had reached a stage where additional efforts were required to give new impetus to bilateral engagement, particularly in light of political and security challenges facing the Middle East.

Emphasising the need for stronger political coordination, President Rashid expressed Iraq's interest in benefiting from Russia's technological expertise. He identified mechanical engineering, infrastructure development, and agriculture as priority areas for renewed and deeper cooperation. He also conveyed his wish to visit the Russian Federation with a large delegation, including ministers and representatives of Iraqi society, to further advance bilateral dialogue.

President Putin reaffirmed that President Rashid had a standing official invitation to visit Russia and confirmed that the visit would be coordinated through diplomatic channels. He agreed that relations between the two countries were deep-rooted and noted that there had never been a negative period in their shared history. Despite regional turbulence, he observed that bilateral relations had remained consistently positive.

President Putin highlighted ongoing economic cooperation and the interest of Russian companies in expanding their engagement with Iraq. He noted that bilateral ties were becoming increasingly diversified and expressed readiness to continue working together. He also underscored Russia's firm support for Iraq's territorial integrity and the efforts of the Iraqi leadership to stabilise the situation, describing this position as fundamental. He concluded by emphasising the importance of maintaining close consultations and regular contact.

Meeting with the President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian

[President of Russia, Iran International](#), 12 December 20225

On the sidelines of the International Forum Peace and Trust: Unity of Goals for a Sustainable Future, President Putin met with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian in Ashgabat on 12 December 2025.

President Putin welcomed President Pezeshkian and noted the regularity of high-level contacts between the two countries. He recalled that earlier in the year the two sides had not only held talks but had also signed a comprehensive agreement on strategic partnership. President Putin asked President Pezeshkian to convey his wishes for good health and wellbeing to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

During the meeting, President Putin observed that Russia–Iran relations were developing constructively. He noted that bilateral trade had increased by 13 per cent in the previous year and had grown by a further 8 per cent during the first three quarters of 2025. He highlighted continued progress on major joint projects, including the Bushehr nuclear power plant and key infrastructure initiatives such as the North–South transport corridor. He also referred to ongoing discussions on cooperation in the gas and electricity sectors, as well as significant joint work in agriculture.

President Putin further underlined close coordination between Russia and Iran on major international issues, including matters related to the Iranian nuclear programme. He stated that Russia continued to support Iran at the United Nations and noted that foreign ministers of the two countries remained in constant contact.

President Pezeshkian thanked President Putin for Russia’s support of Iran’s political positions on the international stage and reaffirmed Iran’s commitment to implementing the provisions of the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement. He provided an update on the Astara–Rasht railway project, noting that more than 100 kilometres had been completed and that the project was expected to be finalised by the end of the year. The meeting concluded with a brief exchange reflecting close attention to ongoing cooperation.

Meeting with the President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

President of Russia, Anadolu Ajansı, 12 December 2025

President Putin met with President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the sidelines of the International Forum Peace and Trust: Unity of Goals for a Sustainable Future in Ashgabat on 12 December 2025. The meeting began with expanded talks involving members of the Russian and Turkish delegations.

During the discussions, it was noted that relations between Russia and Türkiye were developing steadily across all areas. Both sides emphasised the comprehensive and diversified character of Russian–Turkish cooperation, particularly in trade and economic relations, which enabled bilateral ties to withstand international challenges and external pressure from third countries.

The leaders reviewed progress on major joint projects, with particular attention given to the continued construction of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, which remained a key element of bilateral cooperation. The project was highlighted as a cornerstone of long-term collaboration between Russia and Türkiye in the energy sector.

A detailed exchange of views also took place on Ukrainian, regional, and broader international issues. President Putin and President Erdoğan discussed European efforts to seize Russian assets, with the Russian President reiterating his established assessment of such initiatives. The parties agreed that actions of this nature could undermine the Bretton Woods system and weaken the fundamental principles of the international financial order.

Following the expanded talks, Russian–Turkish discussions continued in a restricted format, allowing for more focused dialogue between the leaders. Subsequently, Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif joined the meeting, expanding the scope of consultations.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance both sides attached to maintaining close dialogue and cooperation amid evolving regional and global developments.

Russian Media Post Sparks Row Over Pakistan PM's Meeting in Ashgabat

[The Print](#), [Dawn](#), 13 December 2025; [X](#), 12 December 2025

A video circulating on social media has triggered controversy after appearing to show Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif interrupting a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ashgabat. The incident reportedly took place on the sidelines of the International Forum marking the International Year of Peace and Trust.

According to an initial post by Russian state-controlled outlet RT News, Prime Minister Sharif had been kept waiting for over 40 minutes for a bilateral meeting with President Putin before entering the ongoing Putin–Erdogan interaction. The post described the incident as a diplomatic faux pas and quickly gained traction online.

RT News later deleted the post and issued a clarification, stating that the earlier description “may have been a misrepresentation of events”. No official clarification has since been issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry or Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the sequence of meetings.

Prime Minister Sharif subsequently shared details of his engagement with President Erdogan on social media, describing the Turkish leader as a “dear brother” and a “trusted friend of Pakistan”. He noted that their discussions covered regional and global developments, including Gaza and Afghanistan, and reaffirmed commitments to peace and stability.

The episode has revived attention on previous moments that attracted public scrutiny during Prime Minister Sharif’s international engagements. Similar incidents were noted during meetings with President Putin in 2022 in Uzbekistan and again in 2024 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Beijing, where he appeared to struggle with interpretation equipment.

The development comes shortly after President Putin’s visit to India for the annual India–Russia Summit.

- **Russia – Ukraine War Updates**

Trump’s 28-Point Ukraine Peace Plan: Key Provisions and Implications

[Sky News](#), 1 December 2025

A draft 28-point peace plan attributed to negotiations between Washington and Moscow outlines a proposed framework for ending the war in Ukraine, with provisions that significantly reshape Ukraine's territorial, military, and geopolitical position. The plan, reportedly devised by US negotiator Steve Witkoff and Russian official Kirill Dmitriev, closely mirrors longstanding Russian demands and is widely viewed as favourable to Moscow.

At its core, the proposal requires Ukraine to cede Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk to Russia, while freezing the status of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia along current lines of control. These arrangements would be recognised de facto by the United States, marking a major departure from existing Western policy. Ukraine would also be constitutionally barred from joining NATO, though eligibility for European Union membership would remain.

The plan limits Ukraine's armed forces to 600,000 personnel and prohibits NATO troop deployments on Ukrainian territory. While it promises "reliable security guarantees," these stop short of automatic military intervention by the US or Europe. Any renewed Russian invasion would trigger sanctions and a coordinated response, but without clearly defined enforcement mechanisms.

Economically, the proposal envisages large-scale reconstruction of Ukraine through US-led investment vehicles funded partly by frozen Russian assets, alongside phased sanctions relief for Russia and its reintegration into the global economy, including a return to the G8. Joint US-Russia economic projects in energy, infrastructure, and technology are also outlined.

Humanitarian provisions include prisoner exchanges, family reunification, and amnesty for wartime actions. Implementation would be overseen by a Peace Council chaired by President Donald Trump, with a ceasefire taking effect immediately upon agreement.

While presented as a comprehensive settlement, the plan has raised significant concerns in Kyiv and Europe over sovereignty, security, and precedent.

Ukraine Prepares Revised Peace Plan as Zelensky Rejects Territorial Concessions

[BBC](#), 9 December, 2025; [The New York Times](#), 11 December 2025

Ukraine is preparing to present a revised peace proposal to the White House as President Volodymyr Zelensky firmly ruled out surrendering any Ukrainian territory to Russia. Kyiv's move comes amid ongoing US-led diplomatic efforts to end the war and growing concern in Europe that a settlement involving major concessions could leave Ukraine vulnerable to future aggression.

Speaking after meetings with European and NATO leaders, Zelensky said he had "no legal or moral right" to give up land under Ukraine's constitution or international law. He reiterated that any changes to Ukraine's borders would require a national referendum. Ukrainian officials indicated a new proposal could be sent to Washington imminently, offering alternatives to territorial concessions while keeping negotiations alive.

The diplomatic push follows intensive talks between US and Ukrainian negotiators that failed to yield an agreement acceptable to Kyiv. Former US President Donald Trump, who has positioned himself as a broker of peace, criticised Zelensky for resisting the initial US-backed plan, which reportedly required Ukraine to relinquish control over large parts of the Donbas and make compromises over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

European leaders have publicly rallied behind Ukraine, calling for a “just and lasting peace” that includes credible security guarantees. However, divisions remain over how such guarantees would be enforced and the extent of US involvement. Proposals for deploying international troops have met resistance from some European states.

Meanwhile, fighting has continued along the front lines, particularly in eastern Ukraine, where Russia claims territorial advances that Kyiv disputes. Zelensky acknowledged that the original 28-point US plan had been reduced to 20 points but stressed that no compromises had been made on territory, underscoring that land remains the central and most sensitive issue in the peace talks.

Russian Defence Ministry Reports Weekly Operational Gains in Ukraine

[TASS](#), [Izvestia](#), 12 December 2025

The Russian Ministry of Defence reported that Russian forces liberated eight communities during the period from December 6 to 12 as part of the special military operation in Ukraine. According to the statement, Battlegroup North liberated Liman in the Kharkov Region, while Battlegroup West secured Kurilovka and Kucherovka on the left bank of the Oskol River. Battlegroup South reportedly liberated Seversk and Chervonoye in the Donetsk People’s Republic, Battlegroup Centre took control of Rovnoye, Battlegroup East advanced into Ostapovskoye in the Dnepropetrovsk Region, and Battlegroup Dnepr liberated Novodanilovka in the Zaporozhye Region.

The ministry also stated that Russian forces conducted one massive and five combined precision strikes during the week, including the use of Kinzhal hypersonic missiles. These strikes reportedly targeted Ukraine’s military-industrial facilities, fuel and energy infrastructure, transport and port facilities, UAV assembly and storage sites, and temporary deployment areas of Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries.

According to official figures, Russian battlegroups inflicted significant casualties across multiple operational sectors. Battlegroup Centre reportedly accounted for more than 3,130 Ukrainian casualties, while Battlegroups West, East, North, and South inflicted over 1,500, 1,580, 1,470, and 1,095 casualties respectively. Battlegroup Dnepr reportedly neutralised up to 310 Ukrainian personnel.

The Defence Ministry further reported the destruction of tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery systems, electronic warfare stations, ammunition depots, and military vehicles. Russian air defence systems were said to have intercepted 1,756 unmanned aerial vehicles, 27 HIMARS rockets, five Neptune missiles, and three guided aerial bombs over the week. The ministry also reported the downing of a Ukrainian Su-27 fighter jet.

Kremlin Signals Rejection of Ukrainian and European Peace Plan Drafts

[Institute for the Study of War](#), 14 December 2025

The Kremlin is laying the groundwork to reject both Ukrainian and European peace plan proposals, even after previously dismissing several elements of the US-proposed 28-point framework that was widely viewed as favourable to Russian interests. Recent statements from senior Russian officials indicate a hardening of Moscow's position and limited willingness to engage with alternative diplomatic formulations.

On December 14, Russian Presidential Aide Yuriy Ushakov stated in a televised interview that Russia had articulated its stance "very clearly" and would raise "strong objections" should Ukraine or European states amend the peace plan. Ushakov explicitly ruled out discussions on key territorial issues, including any proposal for a demilitarised buffer zone in the Donbas region. His remarks signal Moscow's refusal to revisit territorial arrangements or accept mechanisms that might constrain Russian military or political control.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov reinforced this position by stressing that Russia requires firm guarantees and an enforcement system to ensure compliance with any peace agreement, implicitly reflecting long-standing Russian concerns about Ukraine or its partners reneging on commitments. Peskov further indicated that the Kremlin has no interest in reviewing or engaging with the European peace proposal, underscoring Moscow's dismissal of Europe as a credible negotiating interlocutor.

These statements follow comments by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on December 11, in which he effectively rejected at least seven points of the US-backed 28-point plan. Among the dismissed provisions were territorial arrangements based on the current line of contact and the inclusion of reliable security guarantees for Ukraine.

Collectively, these positions suggest that Russia is not seeking compromise but rather aiming to preserve maximal strategic flexibility, limit third-party involvement, and ensure that any settlement reflects Moscow's long-standing demands on territory and security.

About the Author

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