



## Sansad TV Special: PM Modi's Historic Visit to Poland & Ukraine

**For Prelims:** [Ukraine](#), [Poland](#), [Strategic Partnership](#), [Five-Year Action Plan For 2024-2028](#), [Green Technology](#), [Joint Commission For Economic Cooperation \(JCEC\)](#), [Sustainable Technology](#), [Clean Energy](#), [Space Exploration](#), [Terrorism](#), [Comprehensive Convention On International Terrorism \(CCIT\)](#), [Russia-Ukraine Conflict](#), [Bharat Health Initiative For Sahyog Hita & Maitri \(BHISHM\)](#), [Path To Peace Summit](#), [UN Security Council](#), [AN-32 Aircraft](#), [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#), [Ukraine's Spetsstechnoexport \(STE\)](#), [SU-30MKI Fighters](#), [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#), [UN Resolutions Condemning Russia's Actions](#), [S-400 Air Defense](#), [Article 370](#), [Global South](#).

**For Mains:** Significance of India-Ukraine & India-Poland Relations in Securing India's Interests.

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister of India** visited [Ukraine](#) and [Poland](#).

- It was the **first visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in 45 years and the first to **Ukraine** since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Visit to Poland & Ukraine?

- **India-Poland:**
  - **Enhanced Bilateral Ties:** As **India and Poland** celebrated the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations**, the two nations have agreed to upgrade their relationship to a "[Strategic Partnership](#)," reflecting their strong connections and mutual dedication to deepening cooperation.
    - With the elevation of bilateral relations to **strategic partnership** both countries can collaborate in fields like, food processing, science and technology, defense and security, [e-vehicle](#), [artificial intelligence\(AI\)](#), green energy, cultural cooperation.
  - **Expanding European Ties:** By visiting Poland, India emphasizes the importance of strengthening relationships with European nations beyond the traditional partners like **Germany, France, and Britain**.
    - As a rising economy in Central Europe, Poland offers significant opportunities for India in **trade, investment, and technology**, potentially opening new avenues for economic collaboration and correcting previously imbalanced trade relations.
  - **Five-Year Action Plan:** To build on this **Strategic Partnership**, they have decided to implement a [Five-Year Action Plan for 2024-2028](#), focusing on key areas of collaboration:
    - **Political Dialogue and Security:** Establishing regular high-level contacts, annual political dialogues, and security consultations.
    - **Trade and Investment:** Aiming to balance trade, explore **high-tech and green technology** opportunities, and boost economic security.
      - They will use the [Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation \(JCEC\)](#) to address trade imbalances and broaden trade areas.

- **Climate and Technology:** Collaborating on [sustainable technology, clean energy, and space exploration](#).
- **Transport and Connectivity:** Improving **transport infrastructure** and increasing **flight connectivity**.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** Reaffirming their commitment to **fighting terrorism, terror-financing** and advocating for the adoption of the [Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism \(CCIT\)](#).
- **India-EU Relations:** Supporting the conclusion of [India-EU](#) trade and investment negotiations, the activation of the [India-EU Trade and Technology Council \(TTC\)](#), and the implementation of the **India-EU Connectivity Partnership** to enhance the **strategic partnership** in trade, technology, and security.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:** Enhancing **cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and tourism**.
  - Both sides agreed to work on an agreement between the **Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange** and respective Indian agencies on teaching Polish language at various universities in India.
  - India announced the **Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Program**, inviting 20 Polish youth to India annually to strengthen ties.

#### ▪ **India-Ukraine:**

- **Clarification on Russia-Ukraine War:** India's Prime Minister emphasized that India has consistently supported peace and has never been neutral in the [Russia-Ukraine conflict](#). India seeks genuine engagement among all parties for a practical resolution.
- **Formation of Intergovernmental Commission:** An **Intergovernmental Commission** has been set up between India and Ukraine to restore and enhance bilateral trade and economic relations to pre-conflict levels, with bilateral trade reaching USD 3.386 billion in 2021-22.
- **Signing of Agreements:** Four key agreements were signed covering **agriculture, the food industry, medical product regulation, and cultural cooperation**. These agreements aim to boost cooperation in these areas and strengthen ties between the nations.
- **BHISHM Cubes Gifted:** India gifted four [Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri \(BHISHM\)](#) cubes to Ukraine, designed to provide emergency medical care through mobile hospitals as part of **Project Aarogya Maitri**.
- **International Participation:** Ukrainian participation in events like the Vibrant **Gujarat Global Summit 2024 and the Raisina Dialogue 2024** was appreciated.
- **International Law:** Both leaders committed to upholding international law, including respect for sovereignty. They agreed on the need for more bilateral dialogue.
- **Peace Summit:** India's role in the [Path to Peace Summit 2024](#) was welcomed by Ukraine, and the **Joint Communiqué on Peace** was seen as a basis for future efforts.
- **Food Security:** They highlighted the importance of **global food security** and the uninterrupted supply of agricultural products, especially to Asia and Africa.
- **Broadening Cooperation:** Both sides discussed enhancing cooperation in trade, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and technology, and explored new partnerships in green energy and manufacturing.
- **IGC:** The Indian-Ukrainian **Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation (IGC)** was highlighted for strengthening economic ties. Recent reviews and upcoming sessions were appreciated.
- **Defense Cooperation:** Both sides agreed to strengthen defense ties through joint projects and partnerships, planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the **Joint Working Group on Military-Technical Cooperation**.
- **Previous Defence Collaborations:**
  - **Soviet-Era Equipment:** India retains a significant inventory of Soviet-era defense equipment, including gas turbine engines for Indian Navy warships and [AN-32 aircraft](#) used by the [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#).
  - **Indian Air Force:** In June 2009, India secured a USD 400 million deal with [Ukraine's SpetsTechnoExport \(STE\)](#) to upgrade its 105 AN-32 aircraft, extending their lifespan by 40 years and enhancing their avionics.
  - **Indian Navy:** Ukraine provides essential components for building two **Admiral Grigorovich-class frigates** at Goa Shipyard Limited. Over 30 Indian warships rely

on engines from Ukraine's Zorya Mashproekt.

- **Defence Trade:** Following the Balakot airstrike in 2019, the IAF urgently acquired R-27 air-to-air missiles from Ukraine for its [SU-30MKI fighters](#). Also, at Aero India 2021, Ukraine signed agreements worth USD 70 million for new weapons and maintenance of existing Indian military equipment.
- **Cultural Exchange:** They welcomed the completion of the **Cultural Cooperation Programme** and planned cultural festivals in both countries, emphasizing people-to-people exchanges.

## What are the Challenges of India-Poland & India-Ukraine Relations?

### ▪ India-Poland:

- **Limited Economic Engagement:** Despite potential, bilateral trade remains relatively low. The lack of direct **air connectivity and limited awareness of market** opportunities in both countries hinder stronger economic ties.
- **Geopolitical Considerations:** Poland's commitments to [EU and NATO](#) sometimes conflict with India's independent foreign policy stance, particularly regarding relations with Russia. This can create diplomatic tensions.
- **Cultural and Linguistic Barriers:** Significant cultural differences and language barriers pose challenges for business interactions and **people-to-people exchanges**. There's limited understanding of each other's cultures and business practices.

### ▪ India- Ukraine:

- **Russia-Ukraine War:** The ongoing **Russia-Ukraine** war has strained India's relations with Ukraine and its Western allies.
  - India has maintained a **neutral position on Russia's invasion**, avoiding direct condemnation while advocating for diplomacy.
- **Sanctions and Trade:** India has opted not to join Western sanctions against Russia and has increased its purchase of discounted Russian fuel.
  - It has also largely abstained from [UN resolutions condemning Russia's actions](#).
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** The conflict has disrupted supply chains for essential defense equipment.
  - For instance, the upgrade of the **Indian Air Force's AN-32 aircraft** has been **delayed** due to impacts on Ukrainian factories. Additionally, Russia has postponed the delivery of two [S-400 air defense](#) squadrons to India until August 2026.
- **Kashmir Issue:**
  - Ukraine's comments on Kashmir have created tension. In 2019, Ukraine expressed concerns over the revocation of [Article 370](#) by India, which India perceived as interference in its internal affairs.
- **Diplomatic Tensions:**
  - Divergent foreign policy priorities, notably India's strategic partnership with Russia versus Ukraine's opposition to Russian actions, have complicated diplomatic relations between the two nations.

## Way Forward

- **Balanced Stance:** India should navigate its position on the **Russia-Ukraine conflict** carefully, balancing its **strategic relationship** with Russia while showing concern for Ukraine's sovereignty.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Emphasizing **strategic autonomy and non-alignment** can help India avoid entanglement in geopolitical conflicts that do not align with its national interests.
- **Humanitarian Support:** Enhancing relations with Ukraine through **humanitarian aid**, such as medical support and reconstruction assistance, could strengthen ties.
- **Mediation Efforts:** India could explore opportunities to mediate between **Russia and Ukraine**, leveraging its positive relations with both countries to aid in conflict resolution.
- **Global South Solidarity:** Engaging with [Global South](#) nations to form a coalition promoting peace and development could bolster India's position in addressing conflicts like that in Ukraine.
- **Enhanced Cooperation:** India and Poland can **enhance collaboration** in several key areas, including food processing, electric vehicles, green energy, and cultural cooperation.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Deepen defense cooperation through **joint military exercises** and **technology transfers** with Poland. Align positions on global challenges like terrorism and [UN](#)

[reforms](#) to strengthen the partnership on the world stage.

- **Geopolitical Synergies:** Leverage Poland's EU membership for **India's European outreach**, while India can offer Poland expanded access to its market. Align foreign policy objectives in international forums and collaborate on shared interests like energy security.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims:**

**Which of the following countries share borders with Moldova? (2008)**

1. Ukraine
2. Romania
3. Belarus

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

Code:

- (a)** 1 and 2 only
- (b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c)** 1 and 3 only
- (d)** 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

### **Mains:**

**Q.** What is the significance of Indo-US defense deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. **(2020)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sansad-tv-special-pm-modi-s-historic-visit-to-poland-ukraine>