

1. India-Mongolia Relations

India and Mongolia inked 10 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa in New Delhi

India-Mongolia Relations and Strategic Cooperation

Historical and Political Ties

Diplomatic Relations – Established on 24 December 1955; 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Multilateral Support – India supported Mongolia in securing UN and NAM memberships. Mongolia consistently backs India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

Political Engagements – India and Mongolia maintain regular high-level diplomatic dialogues, focusing on strategic, economic, and cultural collaboration.

Cultural and Educational Cooperation

Buddhist Heritage – Buddhism is the foundation of India-Mongolia relations. The historic link between Nalanda University and Gandan Monastery (Mongolia) continues through educational and heritage exchanges. India will send a Sanskrit teacher to Gandan Monastery and digitize ancient Buddhist manuscripts, strengthening cultural preservation and academic ties.

Cultural Exchange Programs (CEP) – Governed by the India-Mongolia Cultural Agreement of 1961. Includes initiatives like the India-Mongolia Friendship School and celebration of International Day of Vesak in Ulaanbaatar.

Yoga and Wellness Cooperation – MoU between India's MDNIY and the Mongolian Yoga Federation promotes wellness and traditional practices.

Heritage Projects – India's Archaeological Survey of India will assist in renovating Bogd Khan Palace, preserving Mongolia's historic legacy.

People-to-People Mobility

Visa Facilitation – Mongolia granted gratis e-visas for citizens traveling to India.

Cultural Ambassador Visits – India sponsors annual visits to promote cultural diplomacy.

Economic and Strategic Agreements

Energy Security – India is financing Mongolia's first oil refinery via a \$1.7 billion line of credit, enhancing Mongolia's energy infrastructure and providing India a strategic foothold in Central Asian energy markets.

Critical Minerals and Technology – MoUs guide joint ventures in mining, rare earths, coking coal, uranium, and digital transformation. Supports India's energy transition and industrial growth.

Promotion of Cooperatives and Industrial Development – Encourages economic development and people-centered growth models.

Defence Cooperation

Joint Military Exercises – Annual exercise "Nomadic Elephant" focuses on counter-insurgency, peacekeeping, and disaster response.

Capacity Building – India trains Mongolia's border security forces. Appointment of a Defence Attaché in Ulaanbaatar strengthens military diplomacy.

Strategic Significance for India

Regional Connectivity – Engagement with Mongolia complements India's Act East Policy and Connect Central Asia Policy, bridging South, East, and Central Asia.

Global South Partnership – Cooperation reflects solidarity among democracies of the Global South, promoting inclusive growth, sustainable development, and renewable energy cooperation.

Energy and Industrial Security – Access to critical minerals and energy infrastructure supports India's long-term energy security and industrial competitiveness.

Key Takeaways

India-Mongolia relations are a multi-dimensional partnership encompassing culture, education, energy, defence, and economic collaboration. The bilateral framework strengthens India's strategic

presence in Central Asia, enhances regional connectivity, and provides access to critical resources. Cultural diplomacy, such as Buddhist heritage programs and wellness initiatives, reinforces people-to-people ties, ensuring a durable foundation for long-term strategic cooperation. India's proactive engagement in Mongolia exemplifies a comprehensive approach combining soft power, economic collaboration, and defence partnerships.

Source - <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-and-mongolia-sign-key-agreements-to-boost-cooperation-in-culture-energy-and-minerals/>

