

EURASIA DIGEST

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Chinese President Visited Russia

On 7 May, Chinese President Xi Jinping [arrived](#) in Moscow to pay a state visit to Russia and attend the 80th Victory Day celebrations at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Chinese President pledged solidarity with Russia against “hegemonic bullying” during a visit to the Kremlin. Xi also praised deepening “political mutual trust” and expanding cooperation between the two countries. For his part, Putin said Moscow and Beijing are “developing our ties for the benefit of the peoples of both countries and are not opposed to anyone.”

Russia and Venezuela Signed a Strategic Partnership

On 7 May, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Venezuelan [counterpart](#) Nicolás Maduro signed a strategic partnership treaty in Moscow. The deal marks Russia’s fourth agreement in two years, following similar pacts with China, North Korea and Iran. Venezuela strengthened its ties with Russia under late socialist leader Hugo Chávez, who ruled from 1999 until he died in 2013. His successor, Maduro, has continued that alliance and publicly backed Russia’s war against Ukraine.

Brazilian President Held Bilateral Meeting With Russian President

On 9 May, during his [visit](#) to Russia for the Victory Day Celebrations, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva held a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the meeting, Lula addressed current geopolitical challenges and emphasised the importance of fostering a productive strategic partnership between the two countries. The Brazilian president reaffirmed the country’s interest in promoting

a more balanced bilateral trade relationship and expanding partnerships in energy, space, science and technology, and culture.

Russia-Ukraine Talks in Istanbul

On 16 May, talks [between](#) Russia and Ukraine began at the presidential residence at Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul. This was the first direct face-to-face talk between the two nations since 2022. The Russian delegation, led by Medinsky, includes Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin, head of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Igor Kostyukov, and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Defence Minister Rustem Umerov. Also representing Ukraine are First Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislitsa and Deputy Chairman of Ukraine’s Security Service (SBU) Alexander Poklad. They agreed on a large-scale prisoner exchange in the peace talks and swapped notes on their vision of a peace deal.

Uzbekistan Hosts Central Asia-South Asia Interconnectivity Dialogue

On 19-21 May, the Uzbek city of Termez [hosted](#) the Central Asia-South Asia interconnectivity dialogue. The new dialogue initiated by Uzbekistan aims to bring the two regions closer together for a new formula for cooperation with Kabul. The three-day meetings brought together about 200 delegates from Central and South Asia, Europe, the CIS, Asia, and the Middle East.

Russian Foreign Minister Visited Armenia

On 20-21 May, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov [visited](#) Yerevan at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan. During the talks held at the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministers discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of bilateral

cooperation, interaction within the Eurasian integration associations, and coordination at the UN and other international platforms. Russia reaffirmed its readiness to further support the Armenian-Azerbaijani normalisation process based on the 2020-2022 trilateral agreement agreed upon by the Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Visited Tajikistan

On 29 May, President Emomali Rahmon [met](#) with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in Dushanbe, ahead of the first High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed areas of mutual interest. Economic collaboration was a key focus, particularly expanding energy, communications, and transportation partnerships. The leaders highlighted the strategic importance of the CASA-1000 project.

First Central Asia-Italy Summit

On 30 May, the first Central Asia-Italy Summit [took](#) place in Astana. The Summit, chaired by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was attended by the Prime Minister of the Italian Republic and the leaders of the other Central Asian nations. The Joint Declaration adopted after the summit reaffirmed the parties' commitment to deepening their strategic partnership. Key focus areas include economic and energy cooperation, development of transport infrastructure, addressing environmental challenges, strengthening security, and expanding humanitarian ties.

United Kingdom and United States Reach Trade Deal

On 8 May, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump and the United

Kingdom's Prime Minister Keir Starmer [announced](#) a historic trade deal, providing American companies unprecedented access to the UK markets while bolstering U.S. national security. This trade deal will significantly expand U.S. market access in the UK, creating a \$5 billion opportunity for new exports for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and producers.

Romanian Election Results

On 16 May, Romania elected a centrist president, Nicușor Dan, the Bucharest Mayor, who defeated George Simion. Despite coming a distant second in the first round two weeks ago, the moderate mayor of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, won by a decisive 8-point majority. With 99.8 percent of polling stations counted, Dan had won 53.8 percent to 46.2 percent for Simion. Turnout was 65 percent, the highest since 1996.

Portugal Snap Election Results

On 18 May, Portugal's centre-right Democratic Alliance [won](#) the most votes in Sunday's snap election, with the far-right Chega party surging to tie with the Socialist Party as the second-largest force in the country's parliament. The snap national election occurred just 14 months after the last legislative vote. The Chega group secured its place as the country's leading opposition party.

Poland to Build Logistics Hub

Poland intends to build the largest transshipment [logistics](#) hub in Europe. The hub will be located in Sławków, in the Silesian Voivodeship in western Poland. The estimated cost of the Euro terminal expansion project in Sławków is €1 billion. The Euro terminal in Sławków would act as a strategic point for the transshipment of containers transported by rail between the Far East, Asia, and Western Europe via Ukraine.