



Институт русской литературы  
**ПУШКИНСКИЙ ДОМ**  
Российской академии наук

**Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature  
And  
Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences**

**International Webinar on**

**ACROSS TIME AND SPACE: Cultural Ties between India and  
Russia through the writings of Russian Travellers to India during  
XV-XX centuries**

**Online**

**August 21, 2026**

INDAPRYAL along with the Pushkin House are inviting you to participate in an International Webinar **ACROSS TIME AND SPACE: Cultural Ties between India and Russia through the writings of Russian Travellers to India during XV-XX centuries** to be held online on August 21, 2026

India emerged as an independent state in 1947. Since then, in the last seven odd decades, India's ties with Russia (and with the Soviet Union before 1991) have been varied and have covered areas as diverse as ideology, literature, culture, economy, industry and defence sector. The roots of these exchanges go much deeper in time. Afanasy Nikitin from Tver was the first traveler in medieval Russia to leave notes about his visit to India. His travels to India are recorded in his famous travelogue *Хождение за три моря*. Russian royalty continued its efforts to establish contact with India and sent several missions to India. Many of the efforts failed due to turbulent situation in Persia. But Semion Malenkoy could reach the Mughal court successfully and met with Aurangzeb.

There was a significant presence of Indian traders and moneylenders in Astrakhan in the XVII century. There is a mention of a trader Marwari Barayev (the name itself is a russified version of Hindi *Bada Marwari*, according to some historians) in the Astrakhan ledgers.

The exchange of people, ideas, trade and cultural artefacts continued as can be evidenced from the variety of literature on both the sides. We can roughly divide the time span of five odd centuries into three major periods. The medieval period, the period when India was under British rule and Independent India. What were the bases of the engagement between Russia and India? Whether it was only pragmatic, strategy driven and complementary to each other's goals or whether there were causes other than this? What are the qualitative and quantitative changes that have occurred in this engagement over the last few decades? What kind of Image did India have on the minds of these travellers?



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If we set out to explore and seek answers to these questions through an interdisciplinary approach, we may arrive at many interesting insights. It also may help us to get a more comprehensive picture, enabling a deeper understanding.

### **Areas to be discussed**

The India-Russia engagement can be mapped through history, starting from medieval times to the 1917 revolution, then 1917 through 1947 and then till date. This mapping of the engagement can be through various perspectives, such as:

- History of Ideas in India and Russia
- Socio-Economical and Political History of India and Russia: Similarities and Differences
- Travelers between India and Russia – their life, writings and contribution
- Cultural History of India and Russia: Similarities and Differences, Prospects of Cooperation
- Studies of Russia in India and India in Russia: Past and Present
- Cultural influences through literature and philosophy.
- Cultural influences through translation
- Strategic issues in India and Russia
- Media studies

*This is just a suggestive list. Researchers can write on any other interesting area related to the topic.*

**Languages:** Russian or English

### **Registration:**

**Register by filling up a Google form and submit an abstract up to 250 words using the link:**  
<https://forms.gle/B7PDujSc4ZZaAkKj7>

**Last date for registration and submission of an abstract: JULY 20, 2026**

**Last date to notify acceptance of Abstract: AUGUST 01, 2026**



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### **Format for Abstract Submission**

Title of the presentation in Russian and English

Full name of the authors in Russian and English

Institute in Russian and English

Email

Abstract (in the language of presentation)

### **Organising Committee**

**Valentin Vladimovich Golovin**, Director of the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Head of the Centre for Children's Literature Studies, Doctor of Philological Sciences.

**Svetlana Alekseyevna Semyachko**, Head of the Department of Old Russian Literature at the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Philological Sciences.

**Aleksander Grigoryevich Bobrov**, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Old Russian Literature at the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Philological Sciences.

**Aleksander Vladimirovich Korotyshev**, Deputy Director of the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Secretariat of the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature, Ph.D.

**Abhai Maurya**, Former Vice Chancellor of the University of English and Foreign Languages, Professor (Retd), Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Languages, University of Delhi, Vice-President of the Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. Ph.D.

**Anagha Bhat Behere**, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Representative (West zone) of the Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. Ph.D.

**Shraddha Pal**, Assistant Professor, Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Languages University of Delhi, Representative (Central zone) of the Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. Ph.D.

**Meenu Bhatnagar**, Professor, Centre of Russian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, General Secretary of the Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. Ph.D.

For any further query, please write to us at: [conferenceindapryal@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceindapryal@gmail.com)