



# 80 YEARS OF VICTORY

ADVERTORIAL



M E S S A G E

**DENIS ALIPOV**

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

## On the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War



Caucasus to the mines of Kazakhstan — the war effort was a united struggle. On the morning of June 22, 1941, the many peoples of the Soviet Union stood shoulder to shoulder — taking their first, and for many, their last stand. The Victory was forged not only on the front lines but in the quiet, relentless determination of those who kept the nation alive behind them.

For countless families across Europe, it was the Soviet soldier who brought not only the end of war, but the return of hope. Streets that once echoed with boots of occupation rang once more with the sounds of freedom. This victory was not solely a Soviet triumph — it was a victory for all of humanity. It marked the moment when light reclaimed a world teetering on the brink of perpetual darkness.

India, too, stood in solidarity during these tumultuous times. The Indian people demonstrated unwavering support for the global fight against fascism. Over two and a half million Indian soldiers volunteered to serve in the British Indian Army, making it one of the largest volunteer forces in history. They fought bravely across various theatres — from the deserts of North Africa to the jungles of Southeast Asia — exhibiting unparalleled courage and resilience. Notably, in 1941, Indian divisions played a crucial role in ensuring that vital supply lines to the Soviet Union through Iran remained open.

This brutal and heinous war left permanent scars on mankind and those who fearlessly stood up against the Nazi plague. The Soviet Union paid an unbearable price for this Victory — more than 27 million Soviet citizens perished — soldiers, partisans, prisoners, civilians. The soil of Eastern Europe remains hallowed by their sacrifice.

Let us never forget their memory and let such an appalling tragedy never be repeated!



## Motorcycle Rally of Victory

On April 5, 2025, on the occasion of the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, New Delhi hosted a Russian-Indian motorcycle rally. Jointly organized by the Russian Embassy in India and the DBBR Social Club the race brought together more than 120 motorcycle enthusiasts — citizens of Russia, India and Belarus went along the route from the diplomatic mission through the central part of New Delhi to the Russian House.

As part of the event, the documentary "Eternal Heroes" by the RT Doc TV channel was screened. The programme also included a concert by the Russian and Indian musical bands "Connaught" and "Aryan Bir".

In the foyer of the Russian House, the guests had a chance to get acquainted with a photo exhibition dedicated to the important contribution of Soviet motorcycles to the Victory over Nazi Germany.



## Immortal Regiment in New Delhi



Annually in May, Russian people all over the world arrange the traditional rally dedicated to the celebration of the anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

On May 7, 2025, New Delhi hosted the "Immortal Regiment" rally dedicated to the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Victory.

Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov, as well as several

hundred compatriots, Indian citizens, employees of Russian organizations' foreign offices in India and members of their families joined the campaign and marched through the central part of the Indian capital with portraits of their relatives who fought on the fronts of World War II. During the memorial event, its participants also unfurled an 80-meter-long St George's Ribbon.



## India's participation in Great Patriotic War

■ Alexander Gasyuk

India played a significant role in defeating the Axis powers. Indian soldiers fought the Italians and Germans in Africa, France and Italy, and the Japanese in the Philippines, Singapore and Burma.

In the summer of 1942, when the Nazis were advancing into the Caucasus, moving towards the oil fields of Grozny, and the oil-bearing regions of Iran, which supplied the Allies with fuel, were also under real threat of the Nazi capture, the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition decided to act preemptively and sent their troops into Iran. Units of the Red Army entered the country from the north, and a contingent called the Persia and Iraq Force (PAI Force) consisting of the 8th and 10th infantry divisions of the Indian Army was sent from British India, which bordered the southwestern part of Iran.



Indian troops not only quickly took control of the strategically important region, but also began building a land transport route along which the Red Army's much-needed military supplies went to the Soviet Union.

It was the Indians who, in difficult cli-



matic and geographical conditions, built a road from India through Baluchistan to Eastern Iran to the city of Tabriz, where Soviet troops were stationed, in 1942. The total length of the road built by Indian engineering and construction units was more than 1,100 kilometers, and the route

ran through dangerous high-mountain passes.

Thanks to this road, during the most difficult months of the fighting in the Caucasus, it was possible to establish supplies to the Transcaucasian Front and transport more than 60 thousand tons of

cargo by "aid convoys". The Royal Indian Army Service Corps made 428 trips (275 with ammunition, 52 with bitumen, 35 with oil, 66 with various military materials) across the mountain passes and deserts of the "Indo-Soviet route".

In 1944, in recognition of the work done by the Indian supply corps, two Indian soldiers — Subedar Narayan Rao Nikkam and Havildar Gajendra Singh Chand — were awarded the Soviet Order of the Red Star.

On May 7, 2025, a memorial plaque with the names of the awardees was unveiled at the Russian House in New Delhi.

Photo courtesy: Squadron Leader Rana T.S. Chhina (Retd), MBE, Director, United Service Institutions of India Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies.

