

India's Russia ties, Brics role 'rub us the wrong way': US commerce secy

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The United States (US) Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said that past Indian policies, including defence purchases from Russia and participation in Brics, “rubbed the US the wrong way”, but added that the two countries are now moving towards a more constructive and strategic relationship.

“There were certain things that the Indian government did that rubbed the US the wrong way,” Lutnick said during his keynote address at the eighth edition of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit on Monday.

“For instance, you generally buy your military gear from Russia. That’s a way to kind of get under the skin of America... Being a part of Brics, which is let’s move to not support the dollar and dollar hegemony — that’s not really the way to make friends and influence people in America.”

India and Russia have worked together on developing and producing defence equipment, including projects like the BrahMos cruise missile and AK-203 rifles. Under India’s Make-in-India push, both countries are increasing joint manufacturing to support and maintain Russian-made arms in India.

US President Donald Trump has been vocal about his opposition to Brics, particularly its efforts to reduce reliance on the US dollar. He has repeatedly warned Brics nations against creating an alternative global reserve currency, even threatening 100-150 per cent tariffs on member states if they pursued such a move.



**United States
Commerce Secretary
Howard Lutnick**