



**05 July 2025**

**Context:** Russia has formally acknowledged the Taliban-led Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, becoming the first nation to do so since the regime's takeover in 2021.



### **About Russia:**

**Location:** Situated in Northern Eurasia, Russia spans both Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

- It is the world's largest country, covering approximately 17 million square kilometers and extending across 11 time zones.
- **Capital:** Moscow

### **Neighbouring Countries:**

- Russia shares its borders with 16 nations, the highest number of any country:
- Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (via Kaliningrad), Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, and North Korea.
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Japan (via the Sea of Okhotsk) and the USA (via the Bering Strait).

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### **Governance Model:**

- Russia operates as a federal semi-presidential republic.
- **President:** Vladimir Putin (Head of State)
- **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin (Head of Government)

### **Geological & Physical Features:**

#### **Mountain Ranges:**

- The Ural Mountains serve to divide Europe and Asia.
- The Caucasus Mountains are home to Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe.
- Other ranges include the Altai, Sayan, and Kamchatka Ranges in Siberia.

#### **Rivers & Lakes:**

- The Volga River is the longest river in Europe.
- The Lena, Yenisei, and Ob Rivers are significant Siberian rivers that drain into the Arctic.
- Lake Baikal is recognized as the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake.
- Lake Ladoga is the largest lake in Europe.

#### **Landscapes & Zones:**

- The country features tundra, taiga (boreal forest), steppes, and semi-deserts.
- There are extensive permafrost zones in Siberia, which impede infrastructure development.
- Russia is rich in natural resources, including oil, natural gas, metals, and timber.