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Trump Criticises India and Russia Over Trade, Threatens Tariffs Amid Global Tensions

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Former President Donald Trump has sparked controversy once again with a sharp rebuke of India and Russia, stating the two “can take their dead economies down together, for all I care.” The remarks, which have drawn international attention, were made in the context of mounting trade and geopolitical tensions, particularly surrounding the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the shifting global alliances reflected in the 2025 BRICS summit.

Trump's comments came alongside a call for a 25% tariff on goods from both India and Russia, in addition to an unspecified financial penalty. His criticism targets India's trade imbalance with the United States and its continued purchase of Russian energy and military equipment. According to *The Guardian* (July 30, 2025), Trump's statement is part of a broader push to pressure nations perceived as drifting away from American influence.

Recent economic data, however, challenges the accuracy of the "dead economies" claim. A report by the United Nations University published in May 2025 shows that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita grew by 40% between 2014 and 2022, reaching more than \$7,000. Russia, while impacted by international sanctions and political isolation, has maintained certain economic fundamentals such as a flat 13% income tax policy since 2001, contributing to past periods of growth.

The comments also arrive during a critical moment for the BRICS coalition—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—which held its latest summit on July 29. According to *National Public Radio* (NPR), the bloc is seeking to expand its global economic role, challenging the dominance of Western-led institutions. Trump's remarks may be interpreted as an effort to dissuade further alignment among non-Western powers, though no direct evidence links BRICS policies to changes in U.S. trade strategy.

While Trump's tone continues to divide opinion, his focus on America's trade deficits and energy dependence has remained consistent. Supporters argue that strong rhetoric is necessary to reassert U.S. economic interests, especially in the face of growing international coalitions. Critics, however, caution that aggressive trade policies could risk further alienation and disrupt global markets.

No formal tariff action has been implemented as of this writing, and the Biden administration has not commented on whether it intends to follow through on similar measures. The situation continues to develop as global economic and political dynamics evolve.