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INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS: SHARED VISIONS AND STRATEGIC CONCERNS OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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ABSTRACT

The India-Russia relationship, established in 1947, has evolved into a robust strategic partnership encompassing defense, energy, technology, trade, and diplomacy. Despite challenges such as the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the bilateral ties between the two nations have remained resilient. This paper explores the historical milestones and evolving dynamics of their cooperation, with a focus on shared global security concerns, multilateral diplomacy, and mutual goals for regional stability, particularly in Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific. The analysis also delves into the challenges and opportunities arising from shifting global power dynamics, technological advancements, and economic collaboration. By examining the enduring strategic concerns of the past, present, and future, the paper underscores the continued significance of India-Russia relations in shaping the international order and their role in future global governance.

Keywords: Strategic Partnership, Soviet union, technology, innovation, defence and economic management

1. INTRODUCTION

India and Russia have enjoyed a long-standing and warm bilateral relationship that spans several decades, marked by both shared interests and strategic concerns. Over the years, the relationship between these two nations has evolved, with fluctuations in trade and diplomacy, often influenced by broader geopolitical and economic shifts. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a turning point in their relations, resulting in a temporary slowdown in trade and diplomatic engagement. However, as Russia's economy has stabilized and transformed, the relationship with India has once again gained momentum, underscoring the resilience and adaptability of their partnership. The history of India-Russia relations dates back to the establishment of formal diplomatic ties in April 1947, just months before India gained independence. At that time, India was keen on building strong diplomatic and economic partnerships to support its quest for economic self-sufficiency and development. The Soviet Union, with its industrial expertise and strong commitment to socialist ideals, proved to be a crucial ally. The two nations found common ground in their economic and political ideologies, leading India to adopt a model of economic planning inspired by the Soviet Union's Five-Year Plans. In the early years, India's reliance on the Soviet Union for technological and industrial support was a key aspect of their bilateral relationship, particularly in the development of India's heavy industries. However, the landscape of India's international trade began to shift in the post-Independence period. During the first 15 years after independence, India's export sector remained relatively stagnant, as the government's focus was on building a self-sustaining economy through industrialization and the import of raw materials and machinery. This period of

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economic isolation, though largely intentional, meant that India was not deeply engaged in global markets. It was during this time that the Soviet Union played an important role by providing essential machinery, technical expertise, and trade opportunities to support India's industrial ambitions.

The post-1991 era, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, marked a significant shift in global geopolitics and trade dynamics. The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the subsequent reorganization of Russian economic policies resulted in a temporary lull in trade relations between India and Russia. Russia, facing internal economic challenges, was forced to navigate a period of instability, which affected its international partnerships. India, meanwhile, was also undergoing significant economic reforms, including liberalization and opening up to the global market, further altering its relationship with Russia. Despite these challenges, the 21st century has seen a resurgence in India-Russia relations, driven by mutual recognition of the importance of cooperation in an increasingly globalized world. Russia's economic stabilization and its strategic interests in Asia have led to a renewed emphasis on strengthening ties with India. This has been particularly evident in areas such as defense, energy, space cooperation, and trade. Russia remains a key supplier of defense equipment to India, and both countries continue to explore opportunities in energy, particularly in nuclear energy and oil and gas. International trade, which involves the exchange of goods, services, capital, and investments across national boundaries, plays a crucial role in the modern world economy. In this context, the economic interactions between India and Russia have expanded in recent years, moving beyond the traditional areas of defense and heavy industry to include sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. Despite the challenges posed by the global economic environment, both nations have sought to capitalize on their complementary strengths, creating a framework for sustainable and diversified trade relations.

India's economic liberalization, which began in the early 1990s, has allowed the country to increasingly engage with global markets. India's growing economic stature and the subsequent liberalization of its trade policies have opened the door for new opportunities for collaboration with Russia. While both countries continue to face challenges, such as trade imbalances and geopolitical tensions, the potential for growth in their bilateral trade remains high. Looking ahead, the future of India-Russia relations will be shaped by a shared commitment to mutual development, strategic stability, and an expanding economic partnership. As both nations navigate an ever-changing global order, their bilateral relationship will continue to evolve, adapting to new challenges and opportunities. The past, present, and future of India-Russia relations reflect a complex yet enduring partnership, built on shared visions and strategic concerns that transcend the vicissitudes of history.

2. HISTORY

There is a profound historical affinity towards Russia in India, especially among the older generation of policymakers and influential leaders. This relationship has been shaped largely by the strong support India received from the Soviet Union during critical moments of the Cold War. The Soviet Union stood by India during periods of conflict, economic hardship, and geopolitical tension, offering both moral and material support that had long-lasting effects on the bilateral relationship. In the Cold War era, India maintained a non-aligned stance, meaning it refused to align itself with either the United States or the Soviet Union. However, despite this neutral stance, the Soviet Union emerged as one of India's most significant strategic allies. The Soviet leadership consistently supported India's position on key international issues, including the Kashmir conflict with Pakistan, and provided military and economic assistance at crucial junctures. This support created a bond that lasted for decades,

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fostering a sense of solidarity and mutual respect between the two countries.

The historical context of this alliance between India and Russia is essential to understanding the depth of the relationship. The Soviet Union's backing in moments of crisis, such as during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, when Moscow's diplomatic support played a pivotal role in deterring any foreign intervention, strengthened the foundations of the bilateral relationship. Furthermore, the Soviet Union's technical assistance in the development of India's heavy industries, nuclear program, and defense capabilities created a dependency that persisted even after the collapse of the Soviet state.[1]

Stage 1 (1947): The two countries established their diplomatic relation is April 1947 just before India got its Independence. India was in a need to achieve economic self-sufficiency so the Soviet Union was an important partner as it provided its support for the country's heavy Industry, with investment in mining, energy and steel production. The India's economic planning model was also based on the Soviet five year plan.

Stage 2: The Soviet Union had supported India during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, the USSR played a mediating role and hosted the 'Tashkent Summit' in 1996 which was the peace treaty.

Stage 3: The Soviet Union used its UN Security Council veto Several times in support of India, half a dozen times between 1957 and 1971. Which was far the issue of Kashmir and with respect to India's military intervention in Goa to end Portuguese rule.

Stage 4: The Soviet Union Supported India during the Cold war between India and Pakistan during 1971. Where US and China Supported Pakistan.

Stage 5: After 1971 the bond between India and Russia became so strong that Prime Minister of India used to stop at Moscow on way back to Washington.

Stage 6: The relationship has continued into the post-cold war period. Annual Summits have been held since 2000, when a strategic partnership was signed which was upgraded in 2010. India and Russia have been holding 2+2 meetings (joint) with foreign and defense ministers since 2021.[2]

Benefits provided by Russia to India include:[3]

1. Access to discounted Russian Crude oil. Which Increased from 2% of India's import before Russian invasion on Ukraine to over 40% is June 2024.[4]
2. Co-operation in nuclear space: India and Russia upgraded an agreement to build 6 civil nuclear power plants in the Indian State of TN.
3. Defence: Russia accounts for over 50% of Indians in-service military platforms. India is also the largest recipient of Russian coms export including $400 missile defence System
4. Both the countries have agreed in joint production Eg: Brahmas supersonic cruise missile which has been exported to third countries Eg: Philippines
5. Arms Supplier: Russia supply arms to India at a very reasonable price and also sensitive technology which other Countries does not do it.
6. Economic relationship: India and Russia aim to increase bilateral trade from 68$ billion to decade. $100 billion at the end of decade.[5]

[1] Yamini Jyothsna kambala (2024) India - Russia Relation's: A Historical & contemporary analysis, TJMDR,ISSN:2583-0317 available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/386557169_India-russia_relations_a_historical_and_contemporary_analysis (Accessed-20 February 2025)

[2] Singh. Manmohan. A critical Appraisal of Indo Russian Trade Dynamics since liberalization, available at https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/313033 (Accessed- 20 February 2025)

[3] Navigating India-Russia Ties | 21 Dec 2024 available at https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/navigating-india-russia-ties/print_manually (Accessed: 21 February 2025)

[4] Hashimy, Sayed Qudrat and Benjamin, M.Suresh (2023) *Exploring the Complexities of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict: A Close Look from the Lens of International Law and Global Responses.* The Indian Journal of Politics, 57 (3-4). pp. 91-125.

[5] India, Russia to boost bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2030 available at http://thehindu.com/news/national/india-russia-to-boost-bilateral-trade-to-100-billion-by-2030/article68386101.ece visted on 7th Feb 2025.

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Initiative: Chennai Vladivostok maritime corridor and the International North-South transport corridor.

7. Meetings: Both India and Russia Prime Ministers have met 17 times in the last decade
8. Bilateral visa free access: will be provided to Indians to Increase people to people and tourism exchanges between two Counties.
9. Commitment to strategic autonomy in its Foreign Policy: engaging all major poles of Influence in International System.

Drawback:

There is decline is relationship compared to as it was during cold war, war between Russia and Ukraine.[6]

3. FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign policy is a country's approach to managing its relationships with other countries and international organizations. It encompasses the strategies, principles, and actions that a nation adopts to achieve its national interests, promote its values, and maintain its security in the international arena. Foreign policy is not just about diplomacy or trade it's about how a country interacts with the rest of the world, balancing cooperation, competition, and conflict to protect and advance its position. Joseph Frankel rightly says that ***"Foreign policy consists of decisions and actions, which involves to some appreciable extent relations between one state and others."*** [7]

Padelford and Lincoln: 'A state's foreign policy is totality of its dealings with the external environment. Foreign policy is the overall result of the process by which a state translates its broadly conceived goals and interests into specific courses of action in order to achieve its objectives and preserve its interests.'[8]

Two functions which can be extracted from Padelford & lincoln definition is:

a) Foreign policy is to attain its conceived goals and
b) To pressurize its national interests

4. OBJECTIVES OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

4.1. National Interest: This is the primary objective. It includes securing India's borders, countering cross-border terrorism, energy, food, cyber security, nondiscriminatory global trade practice infrastructure, protection of the environment, regional stability and international peace. Foreign policy should be flexible and pragmatic to respond to emergency situations.

4.2. International Engagement: Diplomatic channels, bilateral & multilateral relations & regional groupings help to push India's national interests & promote its social, economic, cultural & political aspirations to have positive effect on citizens.

4.3. Neighborhood First Policy: India's neighborhood remains a primary diplomatic & a central pillar of India's foreign & security policies since 2014. The policy aims to ensure that our neighbors also benefit from our economic development & growth & focus on Improving ties with India's immediate neighbors.

4.4. Trade and Commerce: Attracting FDI or helping Indian Industries to establish in foreign countries acts as a catalyst to devopment.

5. OBJECTIVES OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY:

India's foreign policy is shaped by its strategic interests, national security, economic goals, and aspirations as a rising global power. Since gaining independence in 1947, India has sought to create a foreign policy that reflects its values, priorities, and geopolitical circumstances. Over

[6] Hashimy, Sayed Qudrat, Exploring the Complexities of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict: A Close Look from the Lens of International Law and Global Responses, The Indian Journal of Politics Vol. 57, No. 3-4, 2023, pp-91-125 https://www.amu.ac.in/ nonacademic/UnitPanel1.jsp, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4383915

[7] Frankel J (1968) 'The making of Foreign Policy' London Oxford University Press

[8] Padelford NJ, Lincoln GA (1977) 'The dynamics of International Politics. Macmillan Company, New York.

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the years, India's foreign policy has evolved, but its core objectives remain consistent.[9]

5.1. National Interest: This is the primary objective. It includes securing India's borders, countering cross-border terrorism, energy, food, cyber security, non-discriminatory global trade practice infrastructure, protection of the environment, regional stability and international peace. Foreign policy should be flexible and pragmatic to respond to emergency situations.

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5.5. Diaspora Engagement: India's foreign policy includes engaging with the country's diaspora and protecting their interests 180 years ago thousands of landless workers were sent away under the British raj as plantation workers to different countries. Which is now around 35 million. India has received $87 billion as remittance in 2020-2021 having full-fledged division to handle overseas Indian affairs in the ministry of external affairs.[10]

5.6. Panchsheel: The five principles of Panchsheel are

- Mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Non-aggression
- Non-interference in each-others internal affairs
- Equality and mutual benefit
- Peaceful co-existence.

5.7. Non-alignment: India does not commit to a military alliance, but instead takes an independent stance on international issues.

5.8. Peaceful settlement: India aims to promote peaceful & political Solutions to international disputes.

5.9. National interest: India aims to preserve India's national Interest

5.10. World peace

5.11. Disarmament

5.12. Afro-Asian Independence: India's foreign policy is shaped by several factors including: Geography, Strategic culture, India's goals & requirements, Global and regional challenges & Resources.

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, shaped India's foreign policy during his time in office from 1947 to 1964.

6. INDIA RUSSIA RELATIONS.

Relations with Russia are a key pillar of India's foreign policy. After signing the 'Declaration on the India - Russia Strategic Partnership' in October 2000 the relations have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of corporation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship including political, security, trade and economy, defense, science and technology and culture. During the visit of the Russian President to India in December 2010 the

[9] Mohd Zakariya, Principles of Indian foreign Policy, International Journal of Sociology & Political Science, ISSN: 2664-7745, Volume 5, Issue 2, 2023 Pg: 67-69

[10] India-EU common Agenda on migration & mobility Diaspora Engagement, Best practices compendium available at https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/58170/file/ICMPD_India_EU_Diaspora%2520Best%2520Practices_Final.pdf (Accessed:21 February 2025)

strategic Partnership was elevated to the level of 'special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'[11]

6.1. Strategic relations: There are mechanisms that operate at both political and official levels. The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGS) has two divisions:

a. Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation (IRIGC-TEC)
b. Military and Military Technical Co-operation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

The IRIGC-TEC is headed by / co-chaired by External Minister (EAM) from India and DPM Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov. The IRIGC- M&MTC is headed by Defense Ministers of two countries.

New dimension of bilateral co-operation was added with first 2+2 Dialogue It's a format that allows for comprehensive discussions on a wide range of issues, including defence cooperation, regional security and Strategic alignment.

6.2. Ministerial engagement: The External Asset Minister (EAM) and Foreign Minister meets often (in 2023-7 times). On the side lines of East Asia Summit and FMs meeting in Jakarta, BRICS is South Africa, SCO in Goa, G20 in New Delhi. In 2023 EAM of India went to Russia for meeting with Putin, FM Lanrov Denis Monturou (First Deputy PM) & co-chair of IRIGC-TEC.[12]

Ministers of NSA (National Security Agency) and other ministers meet regularly. Example:

a) SPIEF 2023: Minister for steel and Rural development Faggan Singh kulaste.
b) In 2022: Minister of health & family welfare Mansukh Manduviya
c) Eastern Economic Forum EEF-2023: Minister of port, Shipping, waterways and AYUSH delegated

6.3. Inter-Governmental Commission: The trade & economic co-operation is through the IRIGC-TEC EAM met Deputy PM Denis Manturov in Mescow on 26th Dec 2023 and reviewed matters related to bilateral co-operation in trade & economy, energy, defence and connectivity.The SCO (Shanghai Co-operation Organization) Defence Ministers met in New Delhi Astana, Kazakhstan on 28th April 2023 and in April 26 2024.[13]

6.4. Leadership-level engagements:The highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism in the Strategic partnership between India and Russia is the annual summit between the PM of India and the President of Russia 22 Annual Summits have taken place till date. The latest was on July 2024 held in Moscow 28 MOU (memorandum of Understanding) and agreements were signed. Last In-person bilateral meeting between two leaders took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in Sep 2022. Later through telephone the conversations have been continued.For the 16th BRICS Summit on October 22nd of 2024 the leaders met. Prime minister appreciated the Russian Chair ship of BRICS and its efforts to strengthen multi-laterism, advance sustainable development and push for global governance reform.In the 22nd summit Mr. President Vladimir Putin conferred Russia's highest civilian honor the 'Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle' on PM Shri Narendra Modi for his contribution to the development of special and Privileged Strategic Partnership and friendly ties between the peoples of the two countries.[14]

[11] Ministry of External Affairs: June 2024 available at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India-Russia_june_2024.pdf
[12] Chettam House, India Russia relations, available at https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/10/india-russia-relations (Accessed:22 February 2025)
[13] Davis Vavachan , Indo-Russia Relations: A Political Analysis, Electronic Journal of Social and Strategic Studies, Volume 3 Issue 2 Date of publication: 30 September 2022 available at https://doi.org/10.47362/EJSSS.2022.3202 (Accessed: 22 February 2025)
[14] Supra note:8 page 2

6.5. Political relations: Development of the India-Russia relations over the entire spectrum of co-operation areas is a sheared foreign policy priority. The Leaders in the 22nd summit have positively assessed the multi-faceted mutually beneficial India-Russia relations that span all possible areas of co-operation including political and strategic, military and strategic, military and security , trade & Investment, energy, science and technology, nuclear, space, cultural, education and humanitarian co-operation. Both sides are actively exploring new areas for co-operation with further strengthening Co-operation in the traditional areas.

6.6. Multi- lateral engagement: India & Russia are closely connected at various multilateral platforms like UN, G20, BRICS & SCO. India's presidency in G20 and SCO in 2023 afforded opportunity to various officials and ministers to meet. Both the Countries have a history of close co-operation in the UN. Russia has consistently expressed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat at the UNSC.[15]

6.7. Trade and Economic relations: To achieve balanced and sustainable bilateral trade in long term, the leaders have stressed the need to increase Indian exports to Russia through Strengthening industrial co-operation, forging new technological & investment partnerships especially is advanced high-technological areas. The leaders have noted that there is significant growth in bilateral trade in 2023 which is around double which target of USD 30 billion set for 2025. Aiming to further accelerate and sustain the growth in bilateral trade, the leaders have agreed to set the bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.The major bilateral Investment by Russia in India are in Oil, Gas, banking, pharmaceuticals, railways and steel Sectors. Full negotiations has been provided for Free Trade Agreement on goods between India and the Eurasian Economic Union.

- Agreed for company to company long-term contracts within the framework of Joint India Russia committee on Fertilizers.
- 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programmes for Indian companies to Invest in Russia.
- India invited Russian business to set up manufacturing facilities in Greenfield industrial areas under Industrial Corridor program of GOI.

6.8. Parliamentary co-operation: Inter-Parliamentary Co-operation can be seen between Lok-Sabha and Russian State Duna (lower house). They have met for five times in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2017 and 2018. The fifth commission was held on 9th Dec 2018. In Russia both houses i.e.., the state duna and Federation Council have their own 'Group of Deputies for Asia' which includes a subgroup of Deputies focusing on India. In India we have India-Russia Friendship group in our Parliament. P20 (G20 Parliamentary Speakers summit) Chairperson of the federation Council led the Russian delegation to New Delhi. On 11 and 12 April 2024 Indian Parliamentary delegation participated in International Affairs of BRICS held at Russian Federation Council (upper house) Moscow.

6.9. Defense and Security co-operation: IRIGC-M&MTC mechanism is headed and guided by ministers of both countries. The 22nd meeting was held in Moscow on 10/12/2024 by Shri Rajnath Singh and Mr. Andrew Belousov. They decided to extend the capability of its domestic defense Industry across domains and Industrial collaboration. To

[15] Supra note:8 page 4

Increase Russian participation of Russian Industries in 'make in India projects' that is military technical co-operation agreement for 2021-31.The discussion was on focusing on the operationalization of the military Tech Co-operation agreement and the military exercise between India and Russia is called as 'Indira'. The Bilateral projects include the supply of S-400, Licensed production of T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI, supply of MiG-29 and kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya (formerly Admiral Gorshkov), production of AK-203 refiles in India and BrahMos missiles.

6.10. Science and Technology co-operation:Key role in Bilateral India-Russia partnership. It works on the areas of basic science, materials science, mathematics, nanotechnology, quantum computing, Gaganyan (India's manned space flight program).In the 22nd summit the sides identified potential areas of co-operation as agriculture and food science & technology, ship building & repair, blue economy, marine Industry, Ocean resources, chemical science & technology, energy, water, climate, natural resources, health & medical technologies, life sciences & biotechnology, physics and astrophysics, polar research.The sides have also agreed to hold Russia-India round tables, seminars, conferences and other activities aimed at enhancing & expanding bilateral educational & scientific ties. & also promote linkages between Universities and educational Institutions.

6.11. Education:Indian students in large number are studying is Russia especially in Medical field, Engineering, Economics, Science etc..,Hindi, Sanskrit, Pali and Indology is thought in Russia.Atal-Innovation mission and SIRIUS have been collaborated and concentration is laid on smart mobility, agri-tech, clean energy, space research & health care.

6.12. Civil Nuclear co-operation, co-operation in space:In the Summit the sides noted the importance of the co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a significant component of the strategic partnership. Frist site: Kudankulam , Tamil Nadu the progress was welcomed. Discussions with respect to second site took place. Technical discussions on VVER 1200 took place, localization of equipment & joint manufacturing of NPP components & Co-operation with third country was also concentrated. The co-operation in space-Russian space corporation.'Roscosmos' and Indian Space Corporation aimed in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, navigation, spaceflight programs & planetary explanation. Also agreed in development of rocket engine, production & use.

6.13. Transport and Connectivity: India and Russia have aimed in building a new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors and development of promising production & marketing chains in Eurasia (Implementing Greater Eurasian Space). Implementation of Chennai - Vladivostok (Eastern maritime) corridor and International North-South Transport Corridor & Northern Sea Route. Efforts are made to intensify the use of INSTC route to reduce the time and cost of cargo transportation and promote Eurasian space. They agreed to continue co-operation in the field of civil aviation & civil aviation security.[16]

6.14. Energy Partnership: They have agreed to explore the possibility for further increasing supply of coking coal to

[16] https://hdl.handle.net/10603/313033:Chapter 3

India, and the opportunities of exporting anthracite coal from Russia to India

6.15. Cultural co-operation, Tourism and people to people exchanges: Both the countries have deep historic and cultural linkages Russian artist & Philosopher - Nicholas Roerich stayed in Himachal Pradesh. Leo Tolstoy & Alexander Pushkin was also influenced by Indian literature. The JNCC (Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre) Moscow has close relation with Russian Institutions. Encouragement is given for direct contacts & further co-operation between ensembles, theaters, libraries, museums, creative universities and other cultural institutions. To increase people to people contacts Implementation of Cultural Exchange Program between the ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the ministry of culture of the Government of Republic of India for 2021-2024 was established. Festival of Indian Culture is held in Russia in 8 cities and Festival of Russian Culture was held in 2024. International Yoga day was celebrated in more than 60 regions in Russia. Exchange of languages can also be seen. Tourist exchange is also done and introduction of e-visa has been done to simplify visa regime in future.

6.16. Co-operation in the Russian Far East and Arctic: Both the countries have signed the Program of India Russia co-operation in trade, economic and investment spheres in the Russian for East for the period from 2024-2029. It will provide necessary framework in sectors of agriculture, energy, mining, manpower, diamonds, pharmaceuticals, maritime transport etc... Russia has invited Indian investors to implement high-tech investment projects in the territories of advanced development in Russian Far East. Gujarat Global summit in Jan 2024 was appreciated.

6.17. Co-operation in the UN and multilateral fora: Both countries closely collaborate on matters of shared national Interest. These include UN, BRICS, G20 and SCO. Russia also supports India receiving a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Russia has also backed India joining the NSG and APEC.

6.18. Counter terrorism: The 13th meeting of the India-Russia Joint working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) was held 22 December 21, 2024. Both the countries have re-affirmed their commitment to strengthening Counter - terrorism co-operation in Bilateral and multilateral platforms. They strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack on an Army Canvoy in Kathua area of Jammu & Kashmir on 8th July 2024 in Dagestan on 23rd June and on Crocus City Hall in Moscow on 22nd March.The special meeting of the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) held in India was appreciated. The Sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening global efforts for non-proliferation of weapons and mass destruction.On July 09, 2024 In a special ceremony in St. Andrew Hall in the Kremlin, President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin conferred Russia's highest national award 'The order of St. Andrew the Apostle' on PM Shri Narendra Modi for his contribution to fostering India-Russia ties.

7. INDIA'S STANCE ON THE UKRAINE WAR.

On the ongoing Ukraine Crisis, India has not condemned Russian actions while also maintaining its trade and economic ties. It has taken care not to openly advocate for sanctions, while calling for a quick resolution to the Crisis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated, 'this is not the era of war', calling on President Putin to cease hostilities a clear signal

that India does not Support Russia's action. New Delhi has adopted a studied public neutrality towards Russia. It has abstained from successive votes in the UN Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council in 2022.[17] Now, India seems to be on course to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine, and not just halt shelling at a site for some minutes. India's Independent foreign policy & balance of trade with both the west & Russia places it in a unique position as the neutral navigator.[18]

8. CONCLUSION.

India & Russia share a long history of diplomatic economic & military relations Characterized by mutual respect & co-operation. Their partnership often rooted in shoved strategic interests, has evolved over decades adapting to global changes. Trade relations have also seen growth with initiatives to increase bilateral trade & investment. However, the global shift in alliances, particularly in the wake of Russia's action in Ukraine & India's need to maintain a balance in its foreign policy, has led to careful navigation of their relationship. In conclusion, the India-Russia relationship remains strong & continues to evolve, driven by mutual interests & pragmatism. Despite the charging geopolitical landscape, both countries are likely to continue their collaboration in various sectors while managing the complexities of global politics.

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