

India-Russia Relations

Bilateral ties with Russia are a key pillar of India's foreign policy. India sees Russia as a time-tested friend that has played a significant role in its economic development and security. Since the signing of the "Declaration on the India Russia Strategic Partnership" in October 2000 (during the visit of President Vladimir Putin to India) India-Russia ties have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation taking place in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship including political, security, trade and economy, defense, science and technology and culture. Under the Declaration of Strategic Partnership, several institutionalized dialogue mechanisms have been put in place that operate at the political and official levels, and ensures regular interaction and follow up on cooperation activities. During the visit of President Dmitry Medvedev to India in December 2010, it was decided to further elevate the strategic partnership to the level of a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership".

Annual Summits

2. The system of Annual Summit meetings between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation is the highest and most important institutionalized dialogue mechanism. Meetings are held every year in India and Russia alternatively. Since the Declaration of Strategic Partnership, twelve Summit meetings have taken place. The 12th Summit meeting was held in Moscow, on December 16, 2011, between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Dimitri Medvedev. The Joint Statement released on the occasion reflected the "special and privileged" nature of the India Russia strategic partnership, as well as the broad range of India-Russia cooperation activities. Five bilateral documents were also finalized on the occasion: (a) MoU between the Central Drug Standard Control Organization (Republic of India) and the Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare and Social Development (Russian Federation) (b) MoU between the Competition Commission of India and the Federal Antimonopoly Service (Russian Federation) (c) Protocol 2 (On the SU-30 MKI aircraft licensed production expansion in India for 42 Units) to the agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India dated October 4, 2000. (d) Education Exchange Programme (e) Protocol of intentions between Department of Science and Technology,

Government of India and Interregional Association "Siberian Accord" Siberian Federal District, the Russian Federation, on Fly Ash Utilization and Safe Management

Defence Cooperation

3. Indo-Russian cooperation in the military technical cooperation sphere has been transformed from a simple buyer-seller framework to one involving joint R&D, joint production and marketing of advanced defence technologies and systems. The *BrahMos* missile system is a shining example of this type of cooperation. Joint development of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) and the Multi Transport Aircraft (MTA), as well as the licensed production in India of SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks, are other examples of flagship cooperation programs that are presently underway in this area.

4. The India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC), co-chaired by Raksha Mantri and the Russian Defence Minister, is the main institutional mechanism of interaction in this field. The 11th meeting of the IRIGC-MTC between Shri AK Antony Raksha Mantri and Mr. A Serdyukov Russian Defense Minister took place in Moscow on October 4, 2011.

Cooperation between the NSCS and the Russian Security Council

5. Regular contacts are maintained between the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and the Secretary of the Russian Security Council. An institutionalized mechanism for interaction between NSCS and the Russian Security Council known as the "Joint Coordination Group" is also in operation at the Deputy National Security Advisor level.

Foreign Office Consultations

6. There is also a system for regular consultations between the Foreign Offices. Every two years the Foreign Ministers adopt a Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations identifying specific subjects on which consultations are held. The present Protocol covers the period 2011-2012. In addition

there are regular consultations between the Foreign Secretary and the Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister. The next round of this level of talks will be held in New Delhi, in the first half of 2012.

Nuclear Cooperation

7. Russia has been a long standing partner of India in the field of nuclear energy. The construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project is a good example of ongoing cooperation in this area. Units 1&2 of the KKNP (VVER 1000 units) have been built with Russian collaboration. Unit 1 is undergoing pre-commissioning testing, while Unit 2 is at an advanced stage of construction. Negotiations for the construction of two additional NPPs at Kudankulam (Units 3&4) are also at an advanced stage.

8. During the visit of Prime Minister Putin to India in March 2010, an "Inter Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" for broad based cooperation in the nuclear field was finalized. A "Road Map" of long term cooperation in the nuclear field was also finalized on the occasion.

9. Russia recognizes India's as a country with advanced nuclear technology and impeccable track record in non-proliferation. It supports India's intention to seek full membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other multilateral export control regimes like the MTCR and Wassenaar Arrangements. In June 2011 the two countries signed a MoU on cooperation on India's 'Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership' initiative.

Space

10. India and Russia have been collaborating in several high-technology space projects. Under the 2004 Inter-Governmental Agreement on "Cooperation in the area of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes", Russia and India are cooperating on projects such as *Chandrayan 2* - that will place an Indian rover-craft and a Russian lander-module on the Moon, the Human Space Flight Project, and the Yuthsat

project. On 20th April 2011, the jointly developed Indian-Russian Student Satellite “Youthsat” was successfully launched by India on a PSLV rocket.

11. India and Russia are also cooperating in the launching and joint development of the Russian GLONASS satellite navigation system. In March 2010, an MOU was signed between ISRO and the Federal Space Agency for joint production of GLONASS satellite navigation receivers and ground support equipment.

Economic Cooperation

12. Overall bilateral trade has been growing steadily. Trade in 2009 was USD 7.46 billion, in 2010 it was USD 8.535 billion, and is expected to reach US\$ 9 billion in 2011. In 2010, Russian exports to India amounted to USD 6.392 billion and imports from India to Russia amounted to USD 2.142 billion. The two-way investment between the two countries stands at approximately USD 7.8 billion.

13. Both sides acknowledge that given the respective sizes of the Indian and Russian economies, as also untapped economic complementarities, there is vast potential for an increase in bilateral trade volumes and investment. In 2009, both sides set the target of achieving USD 20 billion in bilateral trade by 2015. Special attention is being paid to the energy, pharmaceuticals, IT, steel, hydrocarbons, aerospace, diamonds and agriculture sectors for this purpose.

14. The Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister on the Indian side and the Deputy Prime Minister on the Russian side, is the main institutional mechanism supervising economic cooperation. The IRIGC-TEC integrates inputs from six working groups on economic and trade cooperation, mines and metallurgy, energy, tourism and culture, science and technology, and IT. The 17th meeting of the IRIGC-TEC took place in Moscow on 18 November 2011 and was co chaired by Shri S.M. Krishna External Affairs Minister and Mr. Sergey Ivanov, Deputy PM.

15. *Indo-Russian Forum on Trade and Investment* (established in 2007 and co-chaired by the Commerce and Industry Minister of India and the Russian Minister for Economic Development) and the *India-Russia CEO's Council* (established in February 2008 and co-chaired by Shri Mukesh Ambani, Chairman Reliance Industries Ltd., and Mr. Vladimir Yevtushenkov, CEO of SISTEMA) are the two primary mechanisms to promote direct bilateral business-to-business contacts. The last meeting of the Indo-Russian Forum on Trade & Investment was held on 10 November 2011 in Moscow and co-chaired by Mr. Anand Sharma, Commerce & Industry Minister, and Deputy PM Mr. Sergei Ivanov. Mechanisms such as the *India-Russia Business Council* (in partnership with FICCI of India and CCI of Russia) established in 2007; the *India-Russia Trade, Investment and Technology Promotion Council* (in partnership with CII of India and RUIE of Russia) established in 2007; and the *India-Russia Chamber of Commerce* (focusing on SMEs), supplement the efforts to build direct business-to-business ties. In June 2011, the 2nd India-Russia Business Dialogue was also held within the framework of the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

Science and Technology

16. The Working Group on Science and Technology functioning under the aegis of the IRIGC-TEC, and the *Integrated Long Term Programme* (ILTP) serve as the two main institutional mechanisms for S&T cooperation between India and Russia. The Working Group focuses on collaboration activities in mutually agreed priority areas of biotechnology, building materials, industrial realization of technologies, medical research, metrology & standardization, meteorology, oceanology and seismology. The ILTP programme focuses on collaborative research in the basic sciences and on inter-academy exchange programmes. The ILTP program was extended for another 10 year period beyond 2009, with a renewed mandate for "Innovation Led Technology Growth". The "ILTP Joint Council" reviews the functioning of the "Joint Centres of Excellence" that have been established in India and Russia.

17. Under an initiative taken during the 2007 Annual Summit, a "Russian-Indian Scientific and Technological Centre" was inaugurated in

Moscow on 15 December 2011 that will seek to commercialize the results of joint R&D cooperation activities. A similar sister center is scheduled to be opened in New Delhi in 2012.

Cultural Cooperation

18. There is a strong Indology tradition in Russia. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Center (JNCC) of the Embassy maintains close links with six Russian institutions:-the Institute of Philosophy, Moscow, that has a Mahatma Gandhi Chair on Indian Philosophy; the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow; the Institute of Asian and African Studies of the Moscow State University; the School of International Relations, St. Petersburg University; the Kazan State University; and the Far Eastern National University, Vladivostok. ICCR is setting up a Chair of Modern Indian Contemporary Studies in leading Russian Universities and Institutions. About 20 Russian Institutions, including leading universities and schools, teach Hindi to over 1500 Russian students. There are also many Russian experts in Indian languages such as Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit and Pali. Interest in Indian dance and music is widespread in Russia and yoga is very popular. The JNCC conducts classes in yoga, dance, music and Hindi, for approximately 800 students every month.

19. Several other cultural initiatives have also been taken to promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries. In 2008, the Year of Russia in India was held. In 2009, the Year of India in Russia was conducted. In September 2011, a mini Festival of Indian Culture was organized in Russia, while several cultural events and academic conferences were held as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. A Festival of Russian Culture is being organized in India in 2012.

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