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India – Russia: In Changing world order

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India and Russia the two old friend since Soviet era. Trust and mutual interests are at the base of India's relationship with the former Soviet Union/ Russian federation. The deep roots of this relationship go back to the early 20th century when India was under British rule and the Czars ruled over Russia. The Russian Revolution inspired Indian freedom fighters. In 1947, the Stalin led Soviet Union became one of the first countries to recognize India's independence. Starting in the 1950s, India received from the Soviet Union generous assistance for its industrialization. After Stalin's Death in 1953 Nikita Khrushchev showed greater interest in aiding countries with a mixed economy. India also get substantial assistance from USSR during the Khrushchev period. India got reliable, affordable, and good quality military supplies and crucial products like oil and oil products, fertilizers, metals etc. India's emerging public sector was scripted with Soviet helps. India's relationship with USSR help

India in many ways to become more self-reliant . This period saw strengthening of bilateral defense ties with India appreciating the role of Soviets during mediation of the Tashkent declaration. India and Russia also converged on issue like the Vietnam War and Czechoslovakia. Soviet Union used its veto power for the first time to block anti India initiative on Jammu and Kashmir first in 1957 then in 1962 and many times.

During the Cold War and Non aligned movement era the India was dependent on USSR on strategic issues such as the Jammu and Kashmir. Support of Soviet Union has been behind India's space technology and nuclear advancement. The Indo-Soviet friendship Treaty of 1971 in the wake of 1971 Indo- Pak war where Russia supported India while the US and China supported Pakistan supplied the framework to deepen the corporation. In 1962 the USSR agreed to transfer the then cutting edge technology to Co produce the MiG-21 jet fighter in India something which was denied to China earlier. The military technical assistance the USSR was providing to India came with the advantage of payment in nonconvertible rupees through a rupee --rouble credit fund set up by the Soviets ,thereby saving scarce foreign currency. India debt to USSR could be paid back in goods as per the agreement between the two nations. So, traditional exports commodities like Indian , leather, textile goods and agricultural products dotted many Soviet households. Military technical cooperation has indeed been at the centre of this bilateral relation.

The years immediately following the collapse of Soviet Union saw the Boris Yeltsin administration adopting a pro western foreign policy orientation. For India meanwhile it was the time it began liberalizing its economy and looking to the West for trade and investment. Both countries therefore were occupied with domestic priorities while adjusting to a changeover order with the United states as the sole superpower. Boris Yeltsin visited India in January 1993 ,Boris concluded the 20 year

Indo- Russian friendship and cooperation treaty. Problem erupted in 1996 when the Taliban took over Afghanistan. India and Russia along with Iran began to support the northern alliances. This convergence of interest of India Russia and Afghanistan from 1996 paved way for warming up bilateral relation ultimately cultivating in a strategic partnership in 2000. A common fear of rising China also brought the two nations together.

Since the signing of declaration of 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 level of cooperation in almost all areas there has been a marked improvement in Indo- Russian relation that has suffered setbacks from the collapse of Soviet Union. Bilateral high levels visit has been institutionalized and mutual visits by head of the state as are announced than an expectation. India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and also engage with Russia and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) forum and RIC(Russia, India, China)also.

India imports its majority of defence weapons from Russia from S-400 air defence system to naval submarine. Recently Russia top the list of nations from whom India importing crude oil. Also Russia became number one exporter of fertilizers to India.

Countries in the former USSR



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|------------|------------------|
| 4. Belarus | 11. Turkmenistan |
| 5. Moldova | 12. Uzbekistan |
| 6. Ukraine | 13. Tajikistan |
| 7. Georgia | 14. Kyrgyzstan |

Changing world order and India- Russia relations

India - Russia relations which have been time tested, consistent and mutually beneficial have gone through a trial by fire in recent months since Russian military operations in Ukraine. Russia attacked Ukraine in February, 2022 that completely changed the world order. Amid Russian attack on Ukraine the crude oil hits at record 134 billion dollar per barrel now this stand at 80 billion dollar per barrel , world faces the surge in fertilizers price, food prices leading to rise in inflation rates across the countries of the world. After Covid -19 this Russian attack is pushing world economy very closer to recession that wil hurt every economy of the country and recent rise in Corona virus cases in China triggered more fear of economic recession. West along with US putting pressure on India to not to take Russian side and criticize Russia but India withstood collective western pressure as it took a position of neutrality and subtle support for Russia as the western alliance went hammer and tongs against the Russian operation in Ukraine.



India has chosen not to endorse the West effort to isolate and condemn Russia in several international forums.

India has made sure that no forum that it is part of take a stance against Russia. India has ensured its strategic relations with Russia. The huge Indian market and defence capabilities enable India to retain strategic autonomy. India needs Russia and Russia need India during this time. We want to ensure our energy need to be secure with import of Russian crude oil at discounted price to make oil available at not very high price inside the country.

US along with west trying hard to punish Russia in every possible way.

NATO policies as outlined by its new 10 year strategic document June 29th ,2022 are in effect declaration of a Cold War 2.0. For NATO the major threat in Europe is Russia whereas its primary competitor and long term threat is China. Any power that does not conform to western desires can be earmarked for inclusion as threat. The US-led west tactics to counter threat are hybrid and intersectional since their aim is primacy, from space to sea. US and Western world just want to isolate Russia and destroy Russian economy in order set stage for Russian President coup by

Russian people but currently they failing to do so Putin has managed internal politics of Russia and remained undisputed supreme leader of Russia without much protests. So west says that Neutrality is not acceptable in this schism and countries outside the block will be under pressure to take sides. This is where India and other in the global South matter. West want full support of Indian in order to put pressure on Russia. But India stays neutral.

India has repeatedly abstained in voting on resolutions in the Security Council and in United Nations General Assembly that condemned Russian activity in Ukraine and refused western attempts to isolate Russia in global forums. India's simple strategy is "just abstain and chill" in order to maintain its neutrality. In order to balance India also sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine and also criticised bombing on citizens during war. Prime Minister Modi in his conversation with President Putin has repeatedly call for diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the Ukraine crisis while India continues to maintain all relations with Moscow long war is not good for India as well as the world . PM Modi said in front of President Putin that "this era is not the era of war" this shows that India started losing its patience as war is stretching very long and as the time passing it is becoming very hard to remain neutral and not to criticize Russia. So India clearly want to end this war but Russia has its own interest regarding this war.

India imports about 60% of its defense needs from Russia and supply has remained uninterrupted since 1960s. From submarines, rifles, missile to helicopter India is using Russian made weapons in very large quantity. India benefits from technology transfers. Missiles and nuclear submarines it can't get anywhere else. Russia's collaboration with Indian nuclear power program in a period of U.S. sanctions targeting India since 1990s. Even as India's diversified defence imports, Russia dominates this sector and is likely to do so in the near future. India's long term strategy is to diversification of importing defence weapons. Sanctions on Russia can definitely impact India's defense import and the implications are under examination

in order to manage the sanctions. India's capacity to purchase from the West is used as leverage to avoid US legislation like the counter America's adversary through sanctions act (CAATSA). India seeks exemption from sanctions by leveraging its needs and market. India is buying oil at discounted price and its oil import from Russia has increased from 1% to 20% of its need and could increase further Russia become the number one supplier of oil to India replacing Iraq .

One of the main reason of India – Russia relationship for being not so warm as in Soviet union era is that both countries bilateral trade was very low around 15 billion dollar year while Indo- China trade was more than 100 billion dollars and Russia Chnia also has trade around 100 billion dollars so it can be seen as postive as India amd Russia trade is increasing at a very fast speed since Russia- Ukraine conflict. Increase in Indo- Russian trade will make their relationship more stronger. India's state and private gas companies has invested a significant of \$10 billion in Siberian and other oil fields in Russia. Link between the ports of Vladivostokt of Russia and Chennai of India to facilitate a direct maritime route are on the drawing board. India is also investing in development of Russia's far eastern regions.

India's geostrategic thinking is shaped by unresolved border dispute with China and Pakistan. India has concerns about China's claim to India's northeastern territories that have led to skirmishes along the border and a standoff. The deepening Sino-Russian relations is a major concern in Russia-India relationship. The US Secretary of Defense indicated to India that China is hardening its position along the line of actual control as he spoke about Taiwan the same breath the US needs India to contain China story between India and China. Their plan to take India to their side.



India has signed agreement with the US to provide logistic support for their ships also India is a member of the quadrilateral forum , Russia says QUAD is made to counter China and Russia is against the QUAD(US, India, Japan, Australia). In addition to America’s soft power as Indian working in US and Indian student in America and people working in US industries are an important factor in their relationship. So this clearly indicates India is getting closer to US and Russia getting closer to China but Russia- Ukraine conflict changed the complete equation and India- Russia relations started strengthening.

PM Modi and President Putin both leaders wanted to deep relationship. Trade as shown in recent phase can help to deepen both countries relationship. Increasing trade strengthening the defence relationship are key for Indo Russian relation. US is by own making Russia and China’s alliance while India is single handedly countering this and doing everything thing to stop Russia to depend wholly on China . That’s how geopolitical games is played.

One very crucial project in which India and Russia cooperation can turn the table for their relationship as well as their trade that is North – South transport corridor.

By making this corridor operational India and Russia trade can touch the new heights. Also other countries will benefit with this corridor. Both Russia and India

can co-operate with Iran in this respect. Iran also has a rich oil and natural gas resources but Iran is under sanctions right now and India is not purchasing its oil and gas. But Iran can play a major role in Russia – India relations. India has also made a port in Iran which is operative. After sanctions remove from Iran , Iran can become a catalyst in Indo- Russian relation.

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