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INDO-RUSSIAN
STRATEGIC AND SECURITY COOPERATION
AND
PROSPECTS OF JOINT COLLABORATIONS TILL 2025



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ABSTRACT

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FINAL ABSTRACT

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Introduction

After Indian independence, with the exception of first few years in the Stalin age when USSR kept distance from India due to his strong misgivings about independent India's continued links with the British and post disintegration of erstwhile USSR for a brief period, the Indo-Russian relations have always stood the test of time and have been mutually beneficial for both the countries.

Post independence, first Prime Minister of India Mr. Jawaharlal Lal Nehru nurturing the ideology of self-determination imbibed the Non Alignment policy. Due to his socialist inclination American policy makers called him **quasi communist** and India termed as **satellite** of USSR.

USSR always helped India in times of need. It supported its claim to Kashmir and foiled the Anglo- American attempt by using the right of veto in Indian favor in UNO on Goa and Kashmir issues. The Soviet Union declared its neutrality during the 1959 border dispute and the Sino-Indian war of October 1962, despite strong objection from Chinese. The Soviet Union gave India substantial economic and military assistance during the Khrushchev period, and by 1960, India had received more Soviet assistance than China. In 1962 the Soviet Union agreed to transfer technology to co-produce the Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 jet fighter in India, which the Soviet Union had earlier denied to China. In 1965, the Soviet Union served successfully as peace broker between India and Pakistan in Tashkent conference during the Indian-Pakistani

border war. In August 1971, a new era of close friendship started with the signing of 20 year treaty called **Treaty of Friendship, Peace and Cooperation** by Soviet foreign minister Mr. Gromyko and Indian Foreign minister Swarn Singh. It acted as a guarantee for possible Chinese entry into the conflict on the side of West Pakistan. In December, India entered the conflict and ensured the victory of the secessionists and the establishment of the new state of Bangladesh. Russia played a very active role in deterring the moves made initially by British Naval fleet and later by the US fleet to come to the aid of West Pakistan.

In 1991 there were unexpected changes in Soviet Union and Soviet supported east European countries that lead to sudden downfall of communism. In Dec 1991 with disintegration of USSR, a superpower ceased to exist and 15 independent nations obtained membership of United Nation and Russia was acknowledged in international community as successor of soviet union and given permanent seat in United nation security council. The initial two years from 1991-93 were most difficult years in bilateral relations. There was confusion and intense debate in Russian foreign policy establishment regarding the course of action to be undertaken i.e. whether to pursue a vigorous pro-west policy giving up the old relations or maintain a balance among old and new partners. Russian economy was undergoing difficult phase of transition from a socialist society moving towards a market oriented pattern; the transition swept the whole society that was unprepared for such a drastic change. In this complex scenario, it was but natural that Indo-Russian relations underwent a huge churning.

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, India was faced with the difficult task of reorienting its external affairs and forging relations with the fifteen

Soviet successor states, of which Russia was the most important. Independent Russia's first government made relations with the United States and the West in general its priority, and it expressed diminished interest in Asia and a strong will to distance itself from the legacy of Soviet foreign policy. Special relations with India were seen as one of those legacies. There was considerable pressure during that period to normalize relations with Pakistan and even supply arms to Islamabad. In November 1991, Moscow voted for a Pakistani sponsored United Nations (UN) resolution calling for the establishment of a South Asian nuclear-free zone. Russia urged India to support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and decided in March 1992 to apply "full-scope safeguards" to future nuclear supply agreements. In 1993, under American pressure, Russia denied its former obligation to provide India with necessary technology to manufacture cryogenic engines for its rocket program. India was shocked, and openly questioned Russia's reliability and the independence of its foreign policy.

Russia believed that its future prosperity depended on friendship with USA and West European countries only and henceforth became a member of NATO and G-7. However soon Russia's love for West was lost as it felt that west particularly US wanted Russia to become permanently dependent on West. Russia was given secondary membership in G-8. It also failed to influence any American decision in NATO regarding the expansion in East Europe. Resultantly, Russia started revitalizing its relationship with its old friends like India.

The many forecasts of an imminent end to the Russo-Indian strategic partnership after the Cold War proved to be wrong. The Cold War legacy did not end and the U.S-India rapprochement being uneven and controversial, it

required New Delhi to maintain close ties to traditional partners such as Russia, particularly when China continued to be a strategic rival or at least an unknown. Russian arms supplies remained a key factor in Indian military modernization. The rise of Islamic radicalism particularly through the Talibanization of Afghanistan and its spillover into Kashmir and Chechnya became an additional motivator for bilateral strategic partnership. Last and not the least, Russia and India entered almost simultaneously into a process of economic reform and liberalization, which offered new opportunities for their bilateral relationship.

Objectives of The Study

My research subject encompasses emergence of Russia as successor of USSR and its security relationship with India. Under this research I would like to explain various facts and areas of Indo Russia relation in post cold war era especially in 21st century. Along with this, I would like to throw some light on the effect of Indo Russian relationship on India's security and progress in new world order. I would also like to explore those areas where the nations may find opportunities for future cooperation. Apart from this I would try to present the current and actual situation. During my research I would stress and induce thought provocation on question, which are in my mind and are been enlisted below.

- The relevance of Indo- Russian relationship in current world context.
- The structure of Indo Russian relationship.
- Can Indo Russian relationship be defined as traditional?
- The impact of Indo Russian relationship on South Asian balance of power structure.

- Which areas can play important role in developing Indo Russian relationship in future.
- How is Indo Russian relationship being influenced by United States of America
- Probability of new strategic triangle between India-Russia and China.
- Joint action plans to contain Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism
- Prospects of cooperation in oil, gas and energy field.
- The bypassing routes of NPT, CTBT and nuclear regime to make nuclear cooperation easy.
- The present Russia – China – Pakistan nexus and the roadmap for a futuristic relation ahead.

Conclusion

Today, both India and Russia have acquired a new self-confidence arising out of their rapid economic growth, at the time when many developed countries are suffering from economic recession. As rising economic powers, both India and Russia are playing an increasingly larger role on the world stage. The two countries share the goal of creating a multipolar world. India values the political and diplomatic support it continues to get from Russia on vital issues. India is also happy to note that Russia is recovering economically and militarily and is reasserting itself on the international sphere. In today's complicated and fast changing geopolitical situation, both countries have wisely diversified their foreign policy options, yet have been careful not to abandon a mutually beneficial partnership of trust built up over decades.
