

Importance of Indo-Russian Relations in the Globalised World

Dr Mallikarjun I Minch

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science , G P Porwal Arts, Com and V V Salimath Science College,
Sindagi-586128, Dist- Bijapur, Karnataka, India

***Corresponding Author:**

Dr Mallikarjun I Minch

Email: dmallikarjuni_minch@rediffmail.com

Abstract: 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 ensure regular interaction and follow up on cooperation activities. Bilateral ties with Russia are a key pillar of India's foreign policy. India seeks Russia as a longstanding and 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. Russia has been a long standing partner of India in nuclear energy and recognizes India as a country with advanced nuclear technology and an impeccable non-proliferation record. The construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project India and Russia has also 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 the Moon mission Chandrayan 2, and the Human Space Flight Project. On 20th April 2011, the jointly developed Indian-Russian Student Satellite Youth sat was successfully launched by India on a PSLV rocket Defiance relations between India and the Russian Federation have a historical perspective. The Soviet Union was an important supplier of defiance equipment for several decades, and that relationship was inherited by Russia after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Today, the co-operation is not limited to a buyer-seller relationship but includes joint research and development, training, service to service contacts, including joint exercises.

Keywords: India Russia relations, Political relations, Economic relations, Military relations, Defense relations

INTRODUCTION

Indo-Russo relations refer to the bilateral relations between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation. During the cold war India and the Soviet Union enjoyed a strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship. After the collapse of the USSR, Russia inherited the close relationship with India, even as India improved its relations with the west after the end of the Cold War[1]. Traditionally, the Indo-Russian strategic partnership has been built on major components. However, in recent years economic, has grown in importance with both countries setting a target for US\$20 billion in by 2015. In order to facilitate this target both countries are looking to develop a free trade Agreement. Bilateral trade between both countries in 2012 grew by over 30%. The powerful IRIGC is the main body that conducts affairs at the governmental level between both countries. Both countries are members of many international bodies where they jointly collaborate closely on matters of shared national interest. Important examples include the UN , and BRICS where India has observer

status and has been asked by Russia to become a full member[2]. Russia has stated publicly that it supports India receiving a permanent seat in United Nation Security council In addition, Russia has expressed interest in joining SAARC with observer status in which India is a founding member. India is the second largest market for the Russian defense Industry. In 2004, more than 70% of the Indian Military's hardware came from Russia, making Russia the chief supplier of defense equipment[3].

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF INDIO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

A cordial relationship with India that began in the 1950s represented the most successful of the Soviet attempts to foster closer relations with Third World countries. The relationship began with a visit by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the Soviet Union in June 1955 and Khrushchev's return trip to India in the fall of 1955. While in India, Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union supported Indian sovereignty over the disputed territory of the Kashmir region and over

Portuguese coastal enclaves. The Soviet Union's strong relations with India had a negative impact upon both Soviet relations with the People's Republic of China, and Indian relations with the PRC, during the Khrushchev period. The Soviet Union declared its neutrality during the 1959 border dispute and the Sino-Indian war of 1962, although the Chinese strongly objected[4]. 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 had. This disparity became another point of contention in Sino-Soviet relations. In 1962 the Soviet Union agreed to transfer technology to co-produce the 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 after an Indian-Pakistani border war. India maintained a close relationship with the Soviet Union. Indicating the high priority of relations with the Soviet Union in Indian foreign policy, the new Indian Prime Minister visited the Soviet Union on his first state visit abroad in May 1985 and signed two long-term economic agreements with the Soviet Union. In turn, Gorbachev's first visit to a Third World state was his meeting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi in late 1986. Gorbachev unsuccessfully urged Gandhi to help the Soviet Union set up an Asian collective security system. Gorbachev's advocacy of this proposal, which had also been made by Brezhnev, was an indication of continuing Soviet interest in using close relations with India as a means of containing China. With the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations in the late 1980s, containing China had less of a priority, but close relations with India remained important as an example of Gorbachev's new Third World policy.

POLITICAL RELATIONS

The first major political initiative, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, between India and Russia began with the Strategic Partnership signed between the two countries in 2000. "The Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and Russia signed in October 2000 became a truly historic step. Indian prime minister also agreed with his counterpart by stated in speech given during President Putin's 2012 visit to India, President Putin is a valued friend of India and the original architect of the India-Russia strategic partnership". Both countries closely collaborate on matters of shared national interest these include at the G 20 and SCO where India has observer status and has been asked by Russia to become a full member. Russia also strongly supports India receiving a permanent seat on the United Nation Security Council.[5] In addition, Russia has vocal backed India joining the NSG. Moreover, it has also expressed interest in joining SAARC with observer status in which India is a founding member. Russia currently is one of only two countries in the world that has a mechanism for annual

ministerial-level defense reviews with India. The Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission which is one of the largest and comprehensive governmental mechanisms that India has had with any country internationally. Almost every department from the Government of India attends it.

RELATIONS WITH IRIGC

The Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission is the main body that conducts affairs at the governmental level between both countries. Some have described it as the steering committee of Indo-Russia relations. It is divided into two parts, the first covering Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation. This is normally co-chaired by the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and the Indian External Affairs Minister. The second part of the commission covers Military Technical Co-operation this is co-chaired by the two countries respective Defense Ministers. Both parts of IRIGC meet annually[6]. In addition, to the IRIGC there are other bodies that conduct economic relations between the two countries. These include, the Indo-Russian Forum on Trade and Investment, the India-Russia Business Council, the India-Russia Trade, Investment and Technology Promotion Council and the India-Russia Chamber of Commerce.

DEFENSE RELATIONS

Between India and the Russian Federation have a historical perspective the Soviet Union was an important supplier of defense equipment for several decades, and that relationship was inherited by Russia after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Today, the co-operation is not limited to a buyer-seller relationship but includes joint research and development, training, service to service contacts, including joint exercises. The last joint naval exercises took place in April 2007 in the Sea of Japan and joint airborne exercises were held in September 2007 in Russia. The last military exercise between Russian and Indian army units were held in Uttarakhand in October 2010. However, the bilateral relations seem to be strained with Russia cancelling both its 'India' series of military exercises with India for the year 2011. In April 2011, a flotilla of five warships from the Indian navy's eastern fleet that went for joint naval exercises to Vladivostok in the Russian far-east, was turned back without any man oeuvres. The joint army exercises scheduled to be held in Russia in June, an Inter-Governmental commission on military-technical co-operation is co-chaired by the defense ministers of the two countries. The seventh session of this Inter-Governmental Commission was held in October 2007 in Moscow. During the visit, an agreement on joint development and production of prospective multi-role fighters was signed between the two countries[7]. An India-Russia co-operation agreement was signed in December 1988. It has resulted in the sale of a multitude of defense equipment

to India and also the emergence of the countries as development partners as opposed to purely a buyer-seller relationship.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Bilateral trade turnover is modest and stood at US\$3 billion in 2006–07, of which Indian exports to Russia were valued at US\$908 million. The major Indian exports to Russia are pharmaceuticals; tea, coffee and spices; apparel and clothing; edible preparations; and engineering goods. Main Indian imports from Russia are iron and steel; fertilizers; non-ferrous metals; paper products; coal, coke & briquettes; cereals; and rubber. Indo-Russian trade is expected to reach US\$10 billion by 2010. The India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation is co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister and the Russian Deputy Prime Minister. There are six Joint Working Groups under the IRIGC, namely, WG on Trade and Economy, WG on Energy [oil and gas, thermal and hydal power, non-conventional energy, WG on Metallurgy and Mining [steel, non-ferrous metal, coal], WG on Science & Technology; WG on Communication and Information Technology; and WG on Culture and Tourism. The 13th of the IRIGC was held in Moscow on 12 October 2007. The two countries have set up India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment at the level of the two Commerce Ministers to promote trade, investment and economic co-operation. The first Forum was held in New Delhi on 12–13 February 2007, which was attended by the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Russian Minister of Economic Development and Trade, apart from a large number of business representatives from both sides. The Minister of Commerce & Industry Minister participated in the 11th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum on 9–10 June 2007. In February 2006, India and Russia also set up a Joint Study Group to examine ways to increase trade to US\$10 billion by 2010 and to study feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic co-operation[8]. The group finalized its report after its fourth meeting in Moscow in July 2007. It has been agreed that a Joint Task Force would monitor the implementation of the recommendation made in the Joint Study Group Report, including considering CECA. The BRIC summit was held in Brasília in April 2010. India and Russia agreed to jointly study a Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement with Belarus-Kazakhstan with the aim of boosting trade ties and achieving the ambitious trade target of \$20 billion by 2015. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated in speech given during President Putin's 2012 visit to India, "Our bilateral trade has grown by over 30 per cent this year. There is still untapped potential in areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, steel, information technology, civil aviation, telecommunications, infrastructure, food processing, innovation and services.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The ongoing collaboration in the field of science & technology, under the Integrated Long-Term Programme of Co-operation is the largest co-operation programme in this sphere for both India and Russia. ILTP is coordinated by the Department of Science and Technology from the Indian side and by the Russian Academy of Sciences and Technology the Russian side[9]. Development of SARAS Duet aircraft, semiconductor products, super computers, poly-vaccines, laser science and technology, , high-purity materials, software & IT and Ayurveda have been some of the priority areas of co-operation under the ILTP. Under this programme, eight joint Indo-Russian centers have been established to focus on joint research and development work. Two other Joint Centers on Non-ferrous Metals and Accelerators and Lasers are being set up in India [10]. A Joint Technology Centre based in Moscow to bring cutting edge technologies to the market is also under processing. An ILTP Joint Council met in Moscow on 11–12 October 2007 to review co-operation and give it further direction. In August 2007, a MoU was signed between Department of Science and Technology and Russian Foundation of Basic Research, Moscow to pursue scientific co-operation.

CONCLUSION

On international terrorism, India and Russia agree that there is no justification for terrorism, and this must be fought against, without compromise and wherever it exists. Russia has supported the Indian draft at the UN on Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism . The two sides signed a MoU on co-operation in combating terrorism in December 2002. A Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism meets from time to time and its fourth meeting was held in Delhi on 24 October 2006. Both Russia and India have faced the problem of terrorism, India has seen it in the context of its military presence in Kashmir and Russia has seen it in Chechnya and both the countries are supportive of each other on the issue of terrorism On 7 November 2009, India signed a new nuclear deal with Russia apart from the deals that were agreed upon by the two countries earlier. India and Russia are in discussion for construction of two more nuclear power units at Kudankulam. The two units already set up are ready for operation India–Russia relations in the field of culture are historical. Prominent Russian painter and philosopher Nicholas Roerich was influenced by the philosophy of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore, and the Bhagavad Gita.

REFERENCE

1. Thomas B; Afghans look at 2014, Current History , 2012;143-146
2. Thompson KW; collective Security, Re-examined, American Political Science Review, 1953; 753-766

-
3. Natalya K; Russia to return to Afghanistan
Moscow Time, The Voice of Russia, vol-II. 2011;
43-47
 4. Kulski WW; International Politics in a
Revolutionary Age, New York. 1964
 5. Marek M; Russias Afghan Problem, The Russian
Federation and the Afghanistan Problem since
2011, January 2013.
 6. Kaplan MA; System and process in International
Politics, New York. 1957; 125-127
 7. Rahman MM; The Politics of Non- alignment, New
Delhi, Associated publishing, House. 1969
 8. Richard R; Action and Reaction in World Politics,
Boston, Little Brown, 1983
 9. Hoffmann S; International Relations Long Road to
Theory, New York, 1966
 10. Gabdrashitovich SR; Current Situation in
Afghanistan. A Russian Perspective, Anamaya
Publisher, New Delhi, 2004; 228-231