

## Dynamics In India-Russia Strategic Partnership

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### ABSTRACT

Congeniality, confidence, and mutual understanding with common interests in the international system are very vibrant in the bilateral relations between India and Russia. However, both states have faced a low level of experience in their relations after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. New steps have been taken to deepen strategic and defense cooperation with the signing of a strategic agreement on October 3, 2000, in New Delhi. They collaborate to create plans for dealing with insurgencies, strengthening technology links, expanding diplomatic relations, mitigating climate catastrophes, and forging a multipolar world. In light of the dynamics of their foreign policies changing due to geopolitical and geoeconomic competition in the new global order, this article examines the strategic partnership between India and Russia. It also analyzes the importance of India-Russia relations in addressing post-pandemic challenges and problems.

**Key Words:** Congeniality, diplomacy, India, Russia, strategic, multipolar.

### Introduction

India skewed toward the communist bloc in the early years following independence. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, was greatly influenced by the 1917 Russian Revolution and even had plans to reform India's economic policies to follow the socialist model. The relationship between both countries has remained stable and time-tested for a long time, and they acknowledge the value of one another and believe it is advantageous to address certain economic, political, and strategic concerns (Chopra, 2001). Things changed drastically once Vladimir Putin took office in Russia (Kapoor, 2019). In the Putin era, it's common to refer to the relationship between Russia and India as being in transition. Together, they developed strategies for dealing with terrorism, bettering diplomacy in a multipolar world, combating insurgencies, and other issues including climate change, technology, and defense cooperation (Kuchins, 2001). India's inclusion in the Nuclear Supplier Group and for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council was vividly supported by Russia. Russia remained a reliable supplier of frontline defense equipment and strategic weapons to India at reasonable prices under President Putin. The recent successful conclusion of the S-400 missile defense pact is a case in point. It is an important addition to India's military hardware, and it shows how much Russia considers India an important strategic and defense ally (Deng, 2007). Indeed, in Putin's era, Indo-Russian relations' core pillars remained strategic partnership and military, economic, and political cooperation, which reflect assurance and trust. It is expected, given their common interests and challenges, that Moscow and Delhi will strengthen their old traditions of friendship, as both states are trusted and reliable strategic partners for each other (Kumar et al., 2011). With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, both countries recognized the importance of working together to address the global crisis. They have engaged in various forms of cooperation, including vaccine diplomacy and joint research efforts (Giusti & Tafuro Ambrosetti, 2022). Thus, it is pertinent to examine the strategic partnership or strategic cooperation of India and Russia. These are two different terms one is 'strategic' and other is 'cooperation'.

Before discussing in detail the strategic cooperation between India and Russia, it is necessary to understand what strategy is. Generally, strategy is a policy between two or more states at the international level to achieve their desired goals (Geldenhuys, 2015). The term 'strategy' derives from the Greek word 'strategos', meaning the 'art of the general', but the way strategy is defined (the application of ends to means) implies no inherent link with military power and war, which is but one way to achieve any objective. It means a calculated study

and an open-minded approach by one state towards another. In other words, strategy could be defined as a complex web of thoughts, ideas, goals, perceptions, and expectations that provides general guidance for specific actions in pursuit of particular ends (Kavalski, 2016). As far as the term strategic in the relationship between India and Russia is concerned, it means the direction taken by both countries for achieving future success in their relations, particularly political and military. A strategy is considered a plan or a pattern. It acts like a bridge between policies on the one hand and action on the other, so it can be said that strategy and action together fill the gap between ends and means. In international politics, the term strategic personifies interest-based priorities that have long, medium, and short-term implications for a country. It could involve a terrain (geopolitics), which contains the affinity of power to geography and the means to advance the particular interests of a country. It could also epitomize issues that likewise threaten or advance the national safeguard of a state, for instance, disputes over environmental issues, water, energy crises, terrorism, cyber-attacks, etc. It more indicates the connection of means to ends: what are the means that a state adopts to achieve a particular end or goal in the larger international system (Deng, 2007)? In strategy, the political actor is the central unit of analysis, in which the individual social actor is the strategic theorist, the calculations of, be it a state, a sub-state entity, or any other social grouping. Thus, strategy helps in describing and evaluating the quality of decision-making for an actor.

Subsequently, strategic theory is not just the study of military power. The majority of self-described strategic theorists probably study the use or threat of the use of armed force in politics. Fundamentally, though, strategic theory has universal application across the sphere of human activity, as the great Thomas Schelling, an economist by training, demonstrated in much of his work. Strategic theory does not refer only to the study of force, and strategic theorists themselves sometimes need to be reminded of this fact (Nadkarni, 2010). The strategic approach is thus one that takes into account the role played by force, or the threat of force, in the international system. It is descriptive in so far as it analyzes the extent to which political units have the capacity to use or threaten the use of armed force to impose their will on other units, whether to compel them to do something or to deter them from doing others (Kumar et al., 2011).

Now the question arises: What does partnership mean? A long-term interaction between two states or countries is called a strategic partnership. It is based on economic, social, political, and historical factors. Such a partnership reveals itself in a variety of relationships. India has signed "strategic partnerships" with more than 30 countries (Wilkins, 2008a). A collective relationship between two or more states to work toward common objectives through a mutually agreed division of labor is the working definition of a partnership. While this working definition is not very precise, it does help distinguish partnerships from other forms of aid relationships. Partnerships are inherently complex vehicles for the delivery of practical solutions on the ground and at the strategic level. Several studies of how partnerships operate indicate that practitioners manage the complexity by adopting a long-term, flexible, and organic approach (Cox, 2016). During the course of these partnerships, states often evolve as they learn more about effective participation in international relations, policy formulation, and decision-making. In that sense, partnerships act as learning mechanisms that teach one state or country to be better at what that state or country does and enables it to achieve its goals. If a state or country is considering a potential partnership, it should become familiar with several key components of the most common approaches to partnerships (Watts et al., 2016).

In India-Russia relations, there is an enormous store of compassion, which is not only based on an age-old relationship but also on abiding political trust between the two countries. They made efforts to revive their relationship by signing a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation in 1971, followed by military and technical cooperation (Joshi & Sharma, 2017a). Furthermore, since the signing of the 'Declaration of Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation' in October 2000 under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, an initiative has been taken to strengthen the relationship. According to the then Indian defense minister, A.K. Antony, the Indo-Russian relationship has changed from that of buyer-seller to a co-producer in design, development, and scientific research. There have been areas of contention between India and Russia, as India could not rely on Russia for a supply of defense equipment after the Cold War since Russia submitted to US pressure. Moreover, in recent times, delays in the delivery of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov and issues with regard to the purchase of spare parts have created some problems in bilateral relations. More importantly, the geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts lead to the process of renewing their multi-dimensional relations. Therefore, the efforts made by both countries to overcome old romanticism and engage themselves in a pragmatic way provided a platform to develop collective responsibility and friendship between India and Russia (Rekha, 2016).

It has been argued that Russia's President Vladimir Putin remains highly popular in India because of the decisive role he played in normalizing the bilateral relationship between India and Russia in recent years and because he is respected for what the Indian media represents as a strong, dynamic leadership style. Besides strategic cooperation, the nations joined hands to make policies for better diplomacy, a multipolar world, countering insurgencies, climate change, technology, and defense cooperation. They are also working together to solve outstanding issues such as global terrorism, the Syrian crisis, chemical weapons, and climate change through international and regional forums such as BRICS, SCO, and the G20. Russia is one of the world's largest oil producers and exporters, and India is a major importer of oil. India's dependence on imported oil is high, with over 80% of its oil requirements being met through imports. In 2019, Russia was the third-largest supplier of crude oil to India, accounting for 12% of its total imports.

While delivering a speech in Russia, the former Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai mentioned that there are five major components of India-Russia strategic relations, i.e., anti-terrorism cooperation, space, civil nuclear energy, defense, and politics, on the basis of which India-Russia strategic relations have been built (Akihiro, 2012). However, the sixth component, economics, has also grown in importance in recent years in the bilateral relationship between both countries. India, being the leading importer of Russian weapons, contributed a lot to the revenue of its defense. Both countries had cultural and person-to-person contact, too.

### Research Questions

How the both countries relations are fulfilling each other's requirement?

How India is a big market for Russia and its economic development while fulfilling its defence requirement?

### Aims:

To understand the factors and forces that are vibrant for the strategic cooperation of Russia and India?

To understand how the India and Russia are continuously working to promote each other national interest in global community.

### Dynamics in India-Russia strategic partnership: Challenges and Prospects

On an international level, India and Russia are two important players that are strategically important and have played a very vital role in combating regional as well as international issues. Regarding the Russia-Ukraine war, India has maintained a cautious and balanced stance on the Ukrainian-Russian war. India's stance has been driven by a combination of factors, including its historical ties with Russia and its strategic interests. Consequently, this conflict and Russia's annexation of Crimea led to international condemnation and the imposition of economic sanctions on Russia by Western countries. India, being a significant player in the international arena, had to navigate these tensions and balance its response. Officially, India has expressed concern over the conflict and its impact on regional stability. It emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution through dialogue and negotiations while respecting the principles of sovereignty and non-interference (Zhou et al., 2023). Both countries have cooperated in the following fields since the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement:

### Political and Cultural Cooperation

India and Russia enjoy cordial political and cultural relations and mutual concerns, with convergence of views on regional and international issues (Gul et al., 2021a). Both countries have high levels of regular interaction under the Strategic Partnership (Rekha, 2017). Since 2000, almost 21 annual summits have alternately been held between two countries uninterruptedly (Kugiel & Upadhyay, 2017). It was Russia that supported India's inclusion in the SCO and also helped India gain full membership. Both countries have boosted their cooperation on various political issues that include terrorism, uprisings in Chechnya and Kashmir, Central Asia, and joint efforts for a multipolar world on bilateral as well as multilateral forums (Ambrosio, 2001). The two countries also signed the 'Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy' in 2014 and agreed on the 'Partnership for Global Peace and Stability' in 2016 (Gul et al., 2021b). In early 2019, Russia bestowed the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle on PM Modi for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India (Cox, 2016).

Historically, they enjoy cultural relations, and one of the oldest Indian organizations in Russia is The Hindustani Samaj, which was set up in 1957 and works in close cooperation with the Indian Embassy (Ivashentsov, 2022). In the last five decades, our cultural exchanges, which are centuries old, have been put on a strong new foundation. All major Indian languages have been translated into the Russian classics, including the works of Indian writers. Russian plays are regularly performed in India in translation; the great attention of the Indian public has been attracted by Russian music, dance, films, etc. Indian people are delighted to know about the continued curiosity Russian people in various regions have in Ayurveda, Indian philosophy, Yoga, dance, Indian music, and literature. In addition, in Mumbai, the Cultural Centre of Russia has always endeavored to enrich the multifaceted cultural life by presenting Russian films, ballet, music, dances, and the literary and cultural heritage of friendly Russians. When Vladimir Putin visited India on January 25 and 26, 2007, a major boost to cultural relations took place as cultural agreements were signed between them. The year 2008 was celebrated as the "Year of Russia in India", and the year 2009 was celebrated as the "Year of India in Russia". Similarly, the "festival of Indian culture" was efficaciously held in Russia during 2011, and 2012 was acknowledged as the year of the "festival of Russian culture" in India. During the official visit of Putin to India in 2012, the program of cultural exchanges between Russia and India for 2013–2015 was signed. It was planned that the two countries would share technical performances, exhibitions of contemporary art, and visits by art groups, museum staff, writers, and filmmakers. In 2015, India's President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Namaste Russia, a "festival of Indian culture in Moscow," to enhance and boost cultural bonds that build solid bridges of friendship and understanding between the peoples of both countries (Ying, 2018).

## Trade and Economy

Another important aspect of the India-Russia relationship is trade and the economy. Since 2000, Delhi and Moscow's trade has acquired a new pace and significance. Russia is a major supplier of defense equipment and nuclear technology to India, while India is a major importer of Russian oil and gas. The trade between the two countries has been growing steadily in recent years, with bilateral trade reaching \$11 billion in 2019 (Vidya & Prabheesh, 2020).

By 2015-16, India constituted only 1.2 percent of the total Russian trade, while the corresponding figure for Russia stood at 12 percent. The two sides also agreed to "improve the structure of trade in goods and services," apart from aiming to increase trade volumes. An Exim Bank study in 2015 noted that India should strive to increase its exports to Russia in the sectors of machinery and instruments; electrical and electronic equipment; vehicles other than railways and tramways; pharmaceutical products, plastics, and articles; articles of iron or steel; edible fruits and nuts; and furniture (Envall & Hall, 2016). In terms of Russian exports, there is promise in the areas of wood and articles made of wood and other natural resources like aluminum. Indeed, there has been little change in Russia's export profile to India in 2019 over the past decade, which continues to be dominated by mineral fuels and precious metals. While it is an indicator of India's growing needs for natural resources, it also shows Russia's limited success in diversifying its exports (Sautenet, 2012). The 2019 summit reiterated the importance of the oil and gas sectors, as well as mining, as the center of Indian companies' engagement with Russia, particularly in resource-rich areas. There is also a need to push for increased private-sector engagement to achieve the 2025 targets. The cooperation agreement between FICCI and Roscongress Foundation as well as the MoU between FICCI and the Autonomous Non-profit Organization Agency for Strategic Initiatives to promote New Projects have the potential to encourage the private sector to look closely for opportunities in each other's countries (Kapoor, 2019). Indeed, the business community has been demanding a reduction in trade barriers to facilitate economic ties, which the two sides expect to address through the proposed trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and India. However, the pandemic has led to disruptions in trade and economic activity between India and Russia. The restrictions on international travel and the closure of borders have impacted the movement of goods and people, leading to delays in trade and economic activities. The decline in global economic activity has also impacted demand for goods and services, leading to a reduction in trade volumes (Pahl et al., 2022). The pandemic has also highlighted the need for greater self-reliance in trade and economic relations. In order to lessen their reliance on foreign nations for essential commodities and services, both India and Russia have been working toward this goal. Russia's import substitution policy and India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative are two examples of initiatives to improve native capabilities and lessen reliance on imports.

## Defence and Technology:

Indo-Russian defense cooperation has an increasing focus on the long-term transfer of technology, modernization of existing equipment, and access to the latest equipment and weaponry in the Russian arsenal (Lalwani & Sagerstrom, 2021). Most promisingly, the defense relationship has begun to move beyond the buyer-seller model to a more cooperative relationship involving joint research, design, and production (Bakshi, 2006). The only country with whom India has an institutionalized mechanism at the level of defense ministers to monitor military-technical cooperation is Russia. The shift has been slow, however, and many of the fruits of increased cooperation are still to be seen. Another important cooperative effort has been GLONASS, the Soviet-era global satellite navigation system that India decided to cooperate on making fully functional in 2007 as an alternative to being dependent on the American GPS system. Other promising joint ventures in the defense space have been the Medium Transport Aircraft Development Program, the Sukhoi/HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.) Fifth-Generation Fighter Aircraft, and the Multi-Generation Fighter Aircraft that will be fitted with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system that the two countries have also been developing together under a joint patent (Rekha, 2016).

## Energy Resources

Energy is one of the important aspects of long-term cooperative arrangements between India and Russia, particularly with regard to nuclear power plant development programs. The resumption of economic dialogue between India and Russia is concerned with more political than economic considerations. The construction of two nuclear reactors for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (Tamil Nadu), with a cumulative capacity of 2,000 MWe, is underway. Apart from other nuclear power installations elsewhere in India, in January 2007, an agreement was reached on building two additional nuclear reactors as part of this project. However, healthy cooperation only became possible in 2008 following the decision by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the entry into force of the "India-specific" safeguards agreement and the decision of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to suspend restrictions on the export of nuclear materials and equipment, as well as dual-use technologies, to India (Cheung, 2021).

## Military-Technical Cooperation

Military-technical cooperation has traditionally been accorded the most prominent status in the entire spectrum of Russian-Indian relations. Agreements have been signed on the creation of an Inter-governmental



Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation, the purchase and production in India of cutting-edge Russian tanks, armored vehicles, and fighter aircraft under Russian licenses, and the transfer to India of the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier. On October 18, 2007, an intergovernmental agreement was signed in Moscow on the joint development of an advanced multifunctional fighter aircraft of the fifth generation. This project might become one of the biggest collaboration programs between the two countries in the military-technical sphere (Kapoor, 2019).

Indian space research programs are also closely linked to the history of Russian and world space exploration (Kadakin, 2020). India became the seventh member of the international space club—after the USSR, US, France, Japan, China, and UK—by putting its first operational satellite into orbit with its own SLV-3 launch vehicle in the summer of 1980. The Russian-Indian space partnership mainly focuses on such important lines of activity as space navigation, lunar exploration, and man-controlled space flight programs (Ivanova, 2004). During a visit to India made by Vladimir Putin in January 2008, an unparalleled Agreement on Long-Term Cooperation in Joint Development and Use of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) was entered into (Yelahanka, 2019).

### **International Terrorism**

Russia and India have common views on all international problems concerned with fighting terrorism. They emphasized that in assessing terrorism, double standards were not acceptable. The 'Moscow Declaration, signed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation on June 30, 1994, specified that India and Russia "reiterate their support for each other's territorial integrity" as constituted by law and enshrined in their respective constitutions. Both Russia and India not only have a long history of mutual cooperation and friendship dating back to the 1950s, when Russia was a part of the erstwhile Soviet Union, but have also been exposed to fundamentalist Islamic terrorism—India for over a decade and Russia for about two decades (Yatanoor, 2015). Russia supplies helicopters and land mine detectors to India to fight against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The copters are particularly useful in spotting terrorist movements and interdicting them. In locating mines, particularly IEDs (improvised explosive devices, mostly RDX-packed mines), the mine detectors are very efficient (Kuhrt, 2015). These have claimed a large number of policemen's and security forces' lives. India has already procured from Israel some lethal hardware to battle terrorist activities and, in conjunction with Russian help, enhance its ability to counter the militant menace. Russia and India are facing separatist movements in their respective regions of Chechnya and Kashmir based on the right to self-determination. Both countries have failed to curb these freedom movements completely yet. They believe that these movements have the backing of some regional countries, which are extending them moral, political, and financial support. Both believed that the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan had become a 'breeding ground' for sponsoring and promoting 'extremism' in Chechnya and Indian-held Kashmir (Mahapatra, 2004). On the Chechnya and Kashmir issue, both countries hold similar views: that the violent movements for self-determination being waged in both regions are acts of terrorism. Furthermore, both countries link these self-determination movements with outside support that targets their sovereignty and territorial integrity (Ibid.). The present position of Russia on Kashmir is very favorable to India in the sense that Russia, as a major power and permanent member of the UNSC, is bending over backwards to consolidate past friendship and make strategic partnership a reality. While Pakistan officially recognizes the Chechen dispute as an internal matter of the Russian Federation and avoids giving harsh statements on this account, Russia's unflinching support to India on Kashmir will undoubtedly harm Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir dispute (Mahapatra, 2008).

### **G-8 Forum: An opportunity or misfortune?**

The purpose of the G-8 is to consult and promote consensus on global issues such as energy conservation and the use of alternative energy, as well as the promotion of economic growth. The G-8 is an opportunity for both countries to work together and exchange views for economic development, as both India and Russia are members of the G-8. By doing so, they are pursuing umbrella diplomacy, which is vital for the promotion of national interests as well as the strengthening of the foreign policies of both countries. India and Russia are playing vital roles in developing cordial relations and helping each other maintain strategic relations in contemporary times (Surendra, 2013). It was in 1998 that Russia took a step towards democratization and joined this group. Earlier, Russia had neither a Western-style democracy nor a fully liberalized economy, but G7 leaders hoped Russia's inclusion would safeguard its democratic progress. The group provides an open platform to all its members, and the forum enables heads of state like Presidents and Prime Ministers, as well as their Finance and Foreign Ministers, to candidly discuss pressing international issues. The emerging powers, however, have been excluded by their small and static membership from important talks concerning the global economy and international security (Malek, 2004b).

The Presidency of the G8 rotates each calendar year, and the country holding the G8 Presidency is responsible for hosting and organizing the annual summit, with a number of preparatory meetings leading up to it. Russia, being a close friend of India, helps her as a member of the G-8 in strengthening its position, and India also takes advantage of this opportunity for its economic development. The G8 did not have a formal charter, offices, or a permanent secretariat. The discussions took place in informal settings, with the summit's

agenda depending on international events and circumstances. For instance, the forum's focus was on the energy crisis in the 1970s, environmental issues in the 1980s, financial instabilities in the 1990s, and problems faced by Africa in the early 21st century. In 2009, the G8's major focus was the global food supply, with the members pledging to contribute \$22 billion towards the issue, of which 93% had been disbursed by 2015 (Joshi & Sharma, 2017b).

### **India and Russia in the Multilateral and Regional Context**

By giving priority to the multilateral approach in the regional context, a valuable input into Indo-Russian relations was diffused. However, it is important to note that both countries are keen to preserve their time-honored relationship and are major players in their bilateral relations. The year 2010 is known as a landmark in the history of Indo-Russian relations as it was the year in which Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visited India and referred to Indo-Russian relations as privileged Strategic partnerships (Casier & DeBardeleben, 2017).

An excellent opportunity to strengthen the multilateral and regional context of the relationship between two countries is India's participation in and membership in the SCO and BRICS. The defense relationship between both countries has initiated a move beyond the buyer-seller model to a more cooperative relationship with joint research, production, and design (Keukeleire & Hooijmaaijers, 2014). The deflection of goals, which is incited by both international and bilateral factors between the two countries, has honed recently. The transforming political changes in India or the systematic transformation in the Russian federation endure in congenial and amiable India-Russia relations. The mutual interests in the Central Asian Region remain the backbone of the bonding attribute in mutually amicable strategic and geopolitical relations between both countries (Hughes, 2005). First, a region that is considered by India as part of her elongated neighborhood, while for Russia it is its 'near abroad, or a zone of special interest. New actors, such as China and the West, had already established their footprints in the region. Second, India energized its policy with the aim of playing an important role in the central Asian region. Third, in Russian observation, the regional conflicts on its southern periphery had acquired a global dimension and posed a great threat to regional security. A collaborative and multi-lateral approach to regional security was necessitated by this development. Due to this kind of development, some analysts have observed that Indo-Russian relations lost their shine and also faced strain in their relations (Joshi & Sharma, 2017b). Moreover, an important dimension of the strategic partnership between both countries is civil nuclear cooperation, which includes the transfer of nuclear power reactors, fuel supply agreements, fuel supply assurance agreements, and enriched technology. India has participated in all the major economic forums in Russia. In the future, this development could be extended to other countries, deepening bilateral relations (Casier & DeBardeleben, 2017).

India and Russia are collaborating with each other to maintain balance in the region on the one hand, counter the rise of China on the other, and also lessen the United States influence. Both countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, RIC, and BRICS and have been good partners since the days of the Cold War. (Baroowa, 2007) The rise of China in the post-Cold War era is something that is adding an additional push to the contours of Indo-Russian relations. The resurgence of Russia in the world to project itself as an independent pole in the international system suits India, as it will prevent any form of Unipolar assertion by either the US or China. The second driver of Indo-Russian relations is the convergence of views about regional power plays. Russia is comfortable with a strong India in South Asia, while India would prefer an independent Russia at the global level as it would give India more space to maneuver its strategic policy. The third and most important driver of India's relationship with Russia is that in India, there is very little obligation to deepen ties with Russia, in contrast to the US. It has been felt that Russia has served Indian national interests well and will continue to do so. India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russia on issues like Kashmir, Energy supplies, access to Central Asia, and technology outputs. Russia also stands to benefit from its relationship with India because India is the second-largest arms market for Russia (Zakharov, 2019).

### **Conclusion**

Indo-Russian relations have greatly expanded their scope in the post-Cold War era. Their relations encompass social, economic, political, geostrategic, and defense collaboration; however, security cooperation remains the dominant aspect of their relationship. Thus, the formation of various working groups to monitor developments on political, economic, science and technology, and cultural fronts will go a long way toward strengthening their bilateral relations. Overall, the Ukrainian-Russian war has presented both challenges and opportunities for India and Russia. More importantly, the future prospects for India-Russia relations in the post-Ukrainian-Russian War era will depend on their ability to navigate geopolitical challenges, enhance economic cooperation, deepen defense ties, and adapt to the evolving global order. While challenges exist, opportunities also abound for both countries to strengthen their bilateral relationship and contribute to regional and global stability.

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