



CAIER038

Why in the news?

9 PM Radio
Recently, India and Russia signed three documents including a Protocol on consultations during the External Affairs Minister's official visit to Russia in December 2023

Duration of the protocol: Four years (2024-2028)

INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Way Forward

- Modernization of Defence Supplies through joint development and co-production
- Diversification of trade and increasing private sector participation
- Protection of multilateralism/multipolarity
- Operationalising Eastern Maritime Corridor for improved logistical connectivity
- Broadening collaboration on bilateral and regional issues for global peace and stability

Areas of Cooperation

Defence and Security

- Supply of defense items to Indian armed forces
- Joint research, development, and production of advanced defense items
- Bilateral projects: S-400, T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI, Ak-203 rifles, BrahMos missiles
- Guided by the Agreement on the Programme for Military-Technical Cooperation for 2021-2031

International/Multilateral Cooperation

- Support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and NSG membership
- Engagement at international/multilateral organizations like BRICS and SCO
- Participation in connectivity projects such as INSTC

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Bilateral trade and investments targets
- Challenges such as trade deficit and regulatory impediments

Other Areas of Cooperation

- Nuclear Energy cooperation and non-proliferation efforts
- Space Cooperation including support for India's space programme
- Science and Technology collaborations

Challenges

- Defence challenges, diversification needs, and concerns about CAATSA sanctions
- Shifting world order due to USA-China rivalry
- Expanding geo-strategic interests and inclinations towards the West
- Economic challenges including trade deficit and regulatory barriers



INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Why in News?

India and Russia signed three key agreements during the Indian External Affairs Minister's official visit to Russia in December 2023.

1. Protocol on Consultations:

- Covers military cooperation, energy trade, military-technical collaboration, connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges
- Valid for four years (2024–2028)

2. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Agreement: Strengthens civil nuclear cooperation

3. MoU on Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare: Enhances collaboration in the health and pharmaceutical sectors.

Key Areas of India-Russia Cooperation

1. Defence and Security

- **Major Supplier:** Russia remains a primary supplier of advanced defence systems, with notable projects like:
 - S-400 Triumf Air Defense System.
 - T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI aircraft, AK-203 rifles, and BrahMos missiles.
- **Joint Development and Production:** Guided by the Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement (2021–2031).

2. International and Multilateral Engagements

- **Support at the UN:** Russia endorses India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) and NSG membership.
- **Collaborations:** Active engagement through BRICS, SCO, and projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- **Global Challenges:** Cooperation on terrorism, drug trafficking, and Afghanistan's stability.

3. Trade and Economic Ties

- **Bilateral Trade Goals:**
 - Reached \$13.2 billion in FY 2021–22, with a target of \$30 billion by 2025.
 - Bilateral investments exceeded \$30 billion, aiming for \$50 billion by 2025.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Increased Russian oil imports and potential projects in renewable energy.

4. Nuclear Energy

- Collaboration on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including:



- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.
- Tripartite agreement with Bangladesh for civil nuclear projects.

5. Space and Scientific Cooperation

- Support for India's Gaganyaan Mission.
- Collaboration in Arctic and Antarctic research and the Russian-Indian Network (RIN) of Universities.

Challenges in India-Russia Relations

1. **Defence Diversification:** India's efforts to reduce dependency on Russian arms under Make in India and avoid CAATSA sanctions
2. **Evolving World Order:** The US-China rivalry is leading to a bipolar world, contrasting with India and Russia's shared vision of a multipolar global order
3. **Geostrategic Divergence:** India's growing engagement in the Indo-Pacific and ties with Russia-adversarial nations (e.g., the USA) pose alignment challenges
4. **Trade Barriers:** Issues like phytosanitary standards on exports (e.g., tea) and a growing trade deficit complicate economic relations
5. **Natural Western Inclination:** India's democratic ethos aligns it closer to the USA and Europe, potentially straining its partnership with Russia

Way Forward

1. Strengthen Defence Collaboration

- Joint development of advanced systems and spare parts manufacturing under Make in India
- Explore reciprocal logistics support agreements for enhanced military cooperation

2. Diversify Economic Engagement

- Focus on reducing trade deficits by increasing private-sector participation
- Expand collaboration in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and renewable energy

3. Connectivity Projects: Operationalize the Eastern Maritime Corridor (Chennai–Vladivostok) to improve logistics

4. Leverage Multilateral Forums: Promote multilateralism through platforms like BRICS, SCO, and INSTC to ensure rules-based international order

5. Revitalize Trade

- Implement the recent list of over 500 export products from Russia to India.
- Encourage technological and industrial collaborations to deepen economic ties.



Do you know?

- **INDRA Exercise:** A tri-service bilateral military exercise fostering operational coordination between India and Russia
- Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions(CAATSA) Act, was enacted by the USA in 2017 to impose sanctions on three nations, i.e., Russia, Iran, and North Korea.
- India was threatened by CAATSA sanctions on the purchase of the S-400 air defence system from Russia.

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