

## 6. India-Russia 25 Years of Strategic Partnership

Russia and India have significantly advanced their 25-year strategic partnership amid a changing global landscape.

### India-Russia Relations

**Historical Background** – In 2000, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership, marking a new era in bilateral relations. In December 2010, this partnership was upgraded to a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership”, reflecting deepening trust and multifaceted engagement. Since then, the partnership has expanded across politics, defense, trade, energy, science, and culture, institutionalized through multiple dialogue mechanisms.

### Institutional Dialogues

**Intergovernmental Commission (IGC)** – Ensures policy coordination and oversees progress in economic, technological, and defense collaboration.

**2+2 Dialogue** – Involves joint meetings between foreign and defense ministers, enhancing strategic and security coordination.

**Working Groups** – Cover specific sectors such as defense procurement, science & technology, energy, and trade, ensuring focused and sustained cooperation.

### Leadership-Level Engagements

**India-Russia Annual Summit** – The highest-level dialogue mechanism, alternately hosted by India and Russia. 22 summits have been held to date. The July 2024 summit in Moscow resulted in joint statements extending partnership and economic cooperation until 2030 and signing 9 MoUs across sectors.

**Recognition of leadership** – The Indian PM received Russia’s highest civilian honor, the Order of Saint Andrew, symbolizing mutual respect and strong personal rapport. Regular high-level contacts via phone calls and visits maintain continuity in addressing bilateral and global issues.

### Ministerial and Bureaucratic Engagement

Continuous interaction between External Affairs Ministers, including Sergey Lavrov, and other key ministers ensures –

1. Alignment on bilateral policy issues
2. Smooth functioning of trade, defense, and energy agreements
3. Coordination on multilateral forums

### Multilateral Cooperation

**United Nations (UN)** – Russia supports India’s bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

**G20 & SCO** – During India’s G20 and SCO presidencies in 2023, both countries conducted multiple high-level meetings to coordinate policy and development initiatives.

**BRICS** – Russia chaired BRICS in 2024, hosting extensive events including the Leaders’ Summit in Kazan, with India actively participating. Cooperation in multilateral forums strengthens shared strategic and economic interests, particularly in global governance, trade, and security.

### Trade and Economic Relations

**Trade Targets** – India and Russia aim to achieve \$100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030 and \$50 billion in cumulative investment by 2025.

**Trade Performance** – In FY 2023-24, trade reached \$65.7 billion, marking a record high.

India’s exports – Pharmaceuticals, machinery, IT services, and engineering goods.

India’s imports – Crude oil, fertilizers, coal, and minerals from Russia.

**Investment Areas** – Strong Indian investments in oil, gas, petrochemicals, banking, railways, and pharmaceuticals. Services trade remains stable, with increasing focus on IT, energy, and high-tech sectors.

### Defence and Security Cooperation

**Institutional Framework** – Cooperation guided by the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on

Military & Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

**Joint Military Exercises** – Includes INDRA, Vostok, and other drills to enhance interoperability.

**Key Defense Projects** –

1. S-400 air defense systems
2. T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI fighter jets
3. MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters
4. INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier
5. AK-203 rifles and BrahMos missiles

Evolution – Shift from buyer-seller relationship to joint research, development, and technology transfer.

## Science and Technology Cooperation

**Areas of Collaboration** – Spaceflight, nuclear energy, nanotechnology, quantum computing, and innovation-driven technology projects.

**Kudankulam Nuclear Plant** – Symbol of strategic cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

**2021 Roadmap** – Guides bilateral cooperation in innovation, technology commercialization, and joint R&D projects.

**Working Group Meetings** – Regular meetings ensure progress and implementation of scientific and technological agreements.

**Strategic Significance** – India-Russia relations combine historical trust, strategic alignment, and mutual economic interest. Cooperation supports India's energy security, defense modernization, and global diplomatic goals. Multilateral coordination enhances India's global standing, particularly in forums like BRICS, SCO, G20, and the UN. The partnership is characterized by resilience, continuity, and leadership-level engagement, making it a cornerstone of India's foreign policy and strategic autonomy.

Source – <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/india-russia-celebrate-25-years-of-strategic-partnership-highlighting-decades-of-cooperation/>