

India's Foreign Policy Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russia

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Abstract:

Russia, India's long term strategic ally for more that half a century, enjoys a special privileged strategic cooperation unparalleled in India's foreign relation. But over the years specially after their end of cold war the relation experienced strain as India started diversifying its defence purchases from a totally Soviet dominated one. But with Putin and Modi, both with strongman image at their home country, at the helm of affairs in their respective foreign policy it is expected to get a push. New Delhi is playing the greatest balancing act of all — its defence needs and a strategic relationship with Russia with sanctions and a growing strategic relationship with US

Keywords: Strong hold past friendship, India USA Trade relations, India-Russia Trade in Last Ten Years, Why Russia needs India, Why India needs Russia

Introduction :

Relations with Russia are a key pillar of India's foreign policy, and Russia has been a longstanding time-tested partner of India. Both countries signed "Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership" in October 2000. At Present Prime Minister Narendra Modi government giving equal importance to USA and Russia on different issues because India cannot do anything without the help of USA for that matter the matter of Truth no country in whole earth can challenge USA power and dominance in any part of the world. So being friendly with USA and doing its own job is so crucial to India's Foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi government

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Strong hold past friendship:

- 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 such as Goa.
- The Soviet Union's strong relations with India had a negative impact upon both Soviet relations with the People's Republic of China, including 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 October 1962, although the Chinese strongly objected
 - In 1965 the Soviet Union served successfully as peace broker between India and Pakistan after an Indian-Pakistani border war. The Soviet Chairman of the Council of Ministers, literally Premier of the Soviet Union, Alexei Kosygin, met with representatives of India and Pakistan and helped them negotiate an end to the military conflict over Kashmir.
 - Mikhail 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 Leonid 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.

India USA Trade relations:

The trade and economic partnership between USA and India has been a key component of the bilateral relationship and important to each other as India is now one of the fastest growing economies in the world and USA is the world's largest economy. During 2000-2010, the value of all bilateral trade (goods and services) increased fourfold amounting to US\$73.1 billion in 2010. India is a net exporter to USA, with exports amounting to US\$43.4 billion as against imports of US\$29.7 billion. The US merchandise trade totalled US\$48.75 billion in 2010 making India the 12th largest trading partner of USA. Exports to USA constitute 11 per cent, India-US bilateral trade in goods and services increased from \$104 billion in 2014 to \$114 billion in 2016. Two-way merchandise trade stood at \$66.7 billion. Of this, India's exports of goods to the US were valued at \$46 billion and India's imports of goods from US were valued at \$21.7 billion. India-US trade in services stood at \$47.2 billion. Of this, India's exports of services to the US were valued at \$26.8 billion and India's imports of services from US were valued at \$20.3 billion. Both countries have made a commitment to facilitate actions necessary for increasing the bilateral trade to \$500 billion. The bilateral merchandise trade is showing an encouraging growth trajectory in 2017. During the first three months, bilateral merchandise trade stood at \$17.2 billion as compared to \$16.2 billion during the corresponding period in 2016. Of this, India's exports to the US were \$11.4 billion and India's imports from the US were \$5.8 billion. The trade deficit during Jan-Mar 2017 also declined from \$6.4 billion in 2016 to \$5.6 billion in Jan-Mar 2017. By this we can clearly say that USA AND INDIA Relations can never be forbidden or

the trade relation between these two countries is a must no one can decide the other country in which the trade must be taken up Even USA cannot decide the trade and all types of relation between INDIA and Russia .

India-Russia Trade in Last Ten Years :

Historically, India and Russia have been strong trading partners. However, over the last five years, India's total trade with Russia remained fairly constant at around US\$ 6 billion. In 2016-17, total trade went up to US\$ 7.5 billion, registering an impressive growth rate of 22 per cent.

India's exports to Russia have increased from US\$ 0.94 billion in 2007-08 to US\$ 1.9 billion in 2016-17 (Figure 1). Indian exports peaked during 2012-13, with total value of exports at US\$ 2.3 billion. On the other hand, Indian imports from Russia increased from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2007-08 to US\$ 5.7 billion in 2016-17. India's trade basket with Russia is well diversified. In April-Feb 2016-17, among India's top imports from Russia, gems and jewellery (HS Code 71) occupied the leading position, accounting for 45.4 per cent of the total. The other major imports included petroleum products, fertilisers, iron and steel and paper products.

Why Russia needs India :

- It can meet its abundant energy requirements at a cost-effective price.
- Despite expanding its defence purchases from the US, Israel and Europe, India still needs to collaborate with Russia to master future technology including for space.
- It improves India's bargaining power when it negotiates arms sales with the West.
- Russia can be a major market for Indian industry such as pharmaceuticals, manufactured goods, dairy
- Products, bovine meat and frozen seafood.
- Geopolitically, Russia continues to be a balancing force against any designs China and Pakistan may have in our region.

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Deal with pros and cons S-400 missile defence system :

As India and Russia prepare to sign a deal for S-400 missile defence system on today(5/10/2018), New Delhi is playing the greatest balancing act of all — its defence needs and a strategic relationship with Russia with sanctions and a growing strategic relationship with US. It wasn't this bad even during the Cold War, when despite cries of non-alignment, India was squarely on the Russian side of the field. All eyes will be on the defence agreements for the S-400 missile defence system, frigates and assault rifles. USA set all ready to throw on sanctions on India to the core recently China bought same S-400 missile and as a result USA slapped sanctions on China for buying the same S-400s. India made it clear it needed the S-400 and had a long legacy of sourcing defence equipment from Russia, which New Delhi was unwilling to compromise. The US side reassured New Delhi that the CAATSA law (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act) would not apply to legacy platforms or spares, but new buys could be impacted.

India Reducing Imports the so called 'Defence deals' from Russia :

India has been reducing its weapons buys from Russia. But India does not want to ditch the deep partnership with Russia. In fact, India has increased its investments in Russia's energy sector, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan officially asking Russia to partner in India's effort to gasify its economy. Because of some stress from the USA India in future might also reduce its defence imports from Russia but what is unturn is The great friendship relation between India and Russia can never be an End .

Conclusion :

There is no end to the friendship between India and Russia but there might be a temporary secret friendship between both because of sanctions thrown by USA . No one can ever stop the deep inbuilt relations between India and Russia even in future .There might be temporary **stumbling block between India and Russia but in future the Friendship will prevail without any hurdles** .A sharp rise in Russia-China defense ties, the assertive foreign policy of a rising China in the IndoPacific, and the China-Pakistan nexus will all encourage India to continue to strengthen ties with Russia. It is clear that India-Russia relations remain vital for both countries amid a changing regional and global security environment. More will need to be done if the relationship is to play the role both countries clearly expect. With more emphasis on defence deals as well as energy ties in recent times, India tried to ward off the impression that it is tilting towards the United States of America.

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