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Dear friends,

It is my great pleasure and honor to greet you today on this remarkable occasion - the Day of Russia, which marks the renaissance of Russia as a sovereign country.

It is heartening to note that one of the first major international initiatives taken by the newly born Russia was the signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation with India on January 28, 1993. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the document, as well as the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries, which are one of a kind, rich in substance, and unique in terms of mutual respect, trust, and benefits!

Russia and India may proudly boast of their durable and multipronged ties, defining the true essence of a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership". Annual summits, held alternately in two countries, are key events of the year providing major boosts to further advance of bilateral cooperation. We have seen recently a new phenomenon – an informal summit – meeting between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Sochi last month, which I had a privilege to attend and witness; the next annual summit is set for this October in India.

While celebrating the Day of Russia, we can proudly note that it is people-to-people contacts and mutual affinity that really makes Russian-Indian friendship so strong. It comes as no surprise that it is our common goal to continue fulfilling the inexhaustible potential of Russia-India trade, investment, technological, scientific and cultural interaction as well as strengthening our cooperation multilaterally in the near future and beyond. Friendship and strategic partnership of Russia and India has all the prerequisites to thrive and blossom for the security and prosperity, of not only our nations, but also the world at large.

Jai Rus! Jai Hind!

- H.E. Mr. Nikolay Kudashev, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India
Congratulates the people of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of their National Day

We thank all the advertisers for supporting us in this initiative.
Celebrating 71 years of a “privileged and special” partnership between Russia and India, I present to everyone this special edition on Russia–India: further upward movement.

Hon. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Sochi in Russia in May 2018, which marked an attempt for revival from both sides and symbolized how such a bilateral relation can stand the test of time and never fade away.

Hon. Russian President Vladimir Putin has made continuous efforts to sustain this friendship with India through agreements, MoU and joint exercises. This comes with a vision of improving bilateral ties and increasing the number of fields for joint partnerships.

The trade and investment relations between Russia and India have reached the $7 billion mark and have been growing steadily. This special report skillfully focuses on each and every positive aspect of the Indo–Russian relationship. It can serve as a guide to anyone interested in knowing more about the developments regarding cultural exchanges, strategic partnerships, and the progress that has been made by India in its ties with Russia.

We are deeply obliged to the Ambassador of Russia to India, H.E Mr Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev for an exclusive interview where he shared his views on the various dimensions of the relationship between the two countries with us. We are also grateful to the Embassy of the Russian Federation, New Delhi for providing us with their valuable inputs. In addition, on behalf of our entire team, I convey sincere gratitude to all the contributors for their valuable contributions to Diplomacy and Beyond Plus.

Surya Prakash
Publisher
Interview with H.E. Mr Nikolay Kudashev, Ambassador of Russia to India

“Political ties between our countries are one of a kind, rich in substance, and unique in terms of mutual trust and affinity.”

Vladimir Putin has been Sworn in as President Of Russia

Vladimir Putin has been appointed as President of Russia in a ceremony that took place at the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Old Wine in a New Bottle

India and Russia have been amiable allies since the early 1950s when they had both recognized the mutual worth of their ties.

Peace, Friendship and Cooperation: The Foundation of Indo-Russian Ties

One of the necessities in the international arena has been the formation of allies and alliances.

Protectionism, Sanctions Not Good For Global Economy: Suresh Prabhu


Path-Dependence between Russia and India

India and Russia’s deep-rooted relationship has been constantly blossoming since India’s independence.

Indo-Russian Relationship in Changing Geopolitical Dynamics

We are witnessing a transformation in the world order in every aspect of human life—political, economic, and social.

The $30 Billion Mark: An Incredible Vision

Since independence, India has instituted one of the most crucial strategic ties with USSR.

71 Years Of Collaboration On The Frontiers Of Science And Technology

The genesis of India’s relations with Russia began with the latter’s predecessor state the Soviet Union on 13th of April 1947.
Indo-Russian Investments in Pharmaceuticals: A Way Forward

Indo-Russian relations are marked by mutual interests as both see each other as relevant to their respective national priorities.

Russia’s Epicurean History Garnished with Warmth

Contrary to Russia’s cold and wintry landscape, its food brings out a want for culinary pleasure.

The Russian Way for Indian Start-Ups

An upward trend has been taking place in the growth of start-ups and other ventures by young entrepreneurs in India.

The Trajectory of Bollywood’s Affair with Russia

During the 1940s and 50s, India was exploring its potential in every sector as an independent sovereign country.

A Guide to the Cities of 2018 Fifa World Cup

2018 FIFA World Cup will be hosted by 11 cities and 12 stadiums all around Russia. It is easy to get lost in abundance of beautiful places.
71 Years of Collaboration on the Frontiers of Science and Technology

“There is an underlying trust in our relations and they have grown stronger and deeper with time”.

(Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to St. Petersburg in June 2017)

The genesis of India’s relations with Russia began with the latter’s predecessor state the Soviet Union on 13th of April 1947, even before India had become independent. Relations were eventually cemented on 9th of August 1971 through the Indo–Soviet Peace, Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. It was during this era, that the Soviet Union provided India with much needed assistance for the latter’s take-off in industrialization as well as for harnessing its potential in areas of science and technology.

Current Indo–Russian relations are helmed by the IRIGC (Indo–Russian Inter-Governmental Commission) which acts as a steering committee in the relations between both. The IRIGC comprises of two major components that meet annually, the first covers economic, trade, cultural, and scientific and technological cooperation, while the second works on military and technical cooperation.

Since 1992, post the collapse of USSR, more than 60 agreements have been signed between India and Russia that form the crux politico-legal basis of this long relationship. In fact, the current Indo–Russian relationship is by far one of the most comprehensive ones globally, covering a number of areas including...
politics, economics, social, cultural, security, and defense as well as science and technology. Broadly speaking, cooperation in the area of science and technology between both include, amongst others, collaboration in defense, nuclear energy and space. Cooperation in the area of science and technology between India and Russia is being undertaken through the ILTP (Integrated Long Term Program for Cooperation in Science and Technology) signed in July 1987 between the two countries.

To begin with, the very foundation of India's industrial awakening in the 1960s and 1970s was the contribution of the Soviet Union. By generously providing credit, machinery, and technical assistance, the Soviet Union led India on its path towards economic self-reliance. Noteworthy of mention is the fact that India's first steel factory—the Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), was established with Soviet assistance. In fact, some of India's currently well-known corporations were products of Indo-Soviet cooperation, including Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) to mention a few.

The Soviet Union, and now Russia, both have assisted India immensely in the work towards modernization of its armed forces. In fact, it is often said that defense cooperation is one of the most solid links in the relations between the two countries. What started as a one-sided arms procurement plan from India's end has today evolved to a joint arms production program. The genesis of joint arms production and transfer of defense technology between both began in 1962 when the Soviet Union made the decision to co-manufacture the Mikoyan–Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets with India in the latter's territory.

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Russia’s ROSATOM. Under this deal, Russia is currently assisting India in the serial construction of 16 to 18 nuclear power plants until the year 2030. In 2013 and 2016 alone, two nuclear plants had been constructed in Kudankulam, South India, while another two are underway. Cooperation with Russia in this sector is immensely important for India as a means to overcome its acute shortage of energy and maintain sufficient levels of energy security.

The two countries have been working on cooperating in the space sector for some 43 years since 1975; activity began with the launch of India’s first two satellites—the Aryabhatta and the Bhaskar. This too was done with the assistance of the Soviet Union. Notably, it was with Soviet assistance that Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to have travelled in space aboard the Soyuz T-11.

A number of bilateral agreements between Russia and India currently form the framework for collaboration in the space sector. The basis for the first exchange was laid in 2004 through two integral agreements—

- **Intergovernmental Umbrella Agreement on Cooperation in Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes**
- **Inter Space Agency Agreement on Cooperation in the Russian Satellite System GLONASS.**

Based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2015, the space agencies for Russia and India—Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian Federal Space Agency (ROSATOM) currently collaborate in a number of areas that include satellite navigation, remote sensing of earth, space science and planetary exploration, critical technologies for human space flight program, exchange of scientists, etc. In short, India’s indigenous space program has come a long way due to support and assistance and has greatly benefitted from collaboration with first the Soviet Union and now Russia. As a result, there have been two notable Indian achievements in the area of space—first the 2008 Chandrayaan-1 lunar mission which gave way to the hoisting of India’s flag on the moon, thus making it the fourth country, after the United States, Russia, and Japan to do so, and secondly the 2017 record launching of 104 satellites in a single mission.

Lastly, it can be concluded that earlier the Soviet Union, and now Russia, have and continue to provide India with valuable political, strategic, and diplomatic assistance both bilaterally and multilaterally, such that it has made the latter more self-reliant. At times, labeled as a relationship akin to the phrase ‘diamonds are forever’, Indo–Russian relations not only date back to around seven decades now but are, in fact, a time-tested relationship built on equality, trust, stability, and continuity.