



# Russia Foreign Policy and India's Relation After 1991

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## Article Info

Volume 4 Issue 5

Page Number : 109-120

## Publication Issue :

September-October-2021

## Article History

Accepted : 01 Sep 2021

Published : 15 Sep 2021

**Abstract :-** Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs, travelled to Russia to attend the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok from September 1–5, 2021. President Putin was present when the PM spoke to the EEF Plenary virtually. During his stay, he met with Mr. Nikolay Shulginov, Russia's Minister of Energy, and Mr. Alexei Chekunkov, Far Eastern and Arctic Development Minister for Russia. Alongside the EEF, he also co-chaired the India-Russia Business Dialogue with the Russian Minister of Energy. Along with Rosneft, GazpromNeft, and Sibur, he spoke with other influential Russian energy companies.

**Keywords:-** Russia, Foreign, Policy, India, Relation.

The Soviet Union was established on November 7, 1917. In 1921, Lenin announced the New Economic Policy and in 1922 Stalin was made the “General Secretary” of “Communist Party”. After that in 1956 Khrushchev and in 1964 Brezhnev became the “General Secretary” of party.

These days position of “General Secretary” of party was like that of a dictator. In 1985, Gorbachev became “General Secretary” of party. He applied the principles of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (reconstruction). The result was that the Soviet Union ceased to exist in December 1991. On 26 December 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, in its last session, passed a resolution to abolish the Soviet Union and also announced its dissolution. With this the 70 year old Soviet Union came to an end.

Certain events of 1991 are very notable from the point of view of leading the Soviet Union towards disintegration. On August 19, 1991, Gorbachev was removed from the presidency and Vice President Gennady Yanayev was given the presidency. On 22 August 1991, when Gorbachev returned after the failure of the rebellion, the Baltic Republic of Estonia declared independence. On August 25, 1991, when Gorbachev stepped down as the head of the Communist Party, Ukraine declared independence. On 29 August 1991, the Supreme Soviet banned the Communist Party.

Azerbaijan declared independence on 31 August 1991, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on 1 September 1991. On 7 September 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the three Baltic republics - Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. On 13 December 1991, Yeltsin and Gorbachev agreed to end the Soviet Union.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, the biggest republic, "Russia," emerged as a significant player in world politics. While the overall population of Soviet Union reached 28.77 million, Russia's population

stayed at 14.77 million (with the Russian Republic housing 52% of the Soviet Union's population), and it continues to be the world's largest nation in terms of land area. Russia possesses 75% of the area that once belonged to the Soviet Union, and it is estimated that it produced 70% of the industrial and agricultural output of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union produced 90 percent oil, 50 percent wheat, 50 percent textiles, 50 percent minerals in the Russian Republic. Russia's gold industry comes second in the world. Russia was also the largest republic of the Soviet Union in terms of area.

This republic has made a special contribution in strengthening the economy of the Soviet Union, as it is the most resource rich republic. Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia were given the old Soviet Union's seat on the UN Security Council and given the promise that it would uphold all of the former Soviet Union's international responsibilities. Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Russia emerged as superpower, as thousands of missiles were stationed far and wide, and President Gorbachev handed over the so-called 'nuclear button' or 'briefcase' to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Were given Russia's role in the world began to be determined by the personality of its hero, Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin's coming to power ended the Russian people's dilemma as to whether they were an Asian power or a European.

Dmitry Fyodorov, Professor of History at Moscow University, says the same thing - "We are sure that we will no longer waste our resources and energy fighting the American camp or running the Third World." We should introspect and work hard and join the European Community where we belong." On December 19, 1991, the Russian Federation of Boris Yeltsin took the traditional seat of the Soviet government of the Kremlin and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under its control.

On March 11, 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev, a member of the Politburo of "Communist Party" of Soviet Union, was unanimously elected general secretary of the party. As soon as he came to power, he announced revolutionary programs—perestroika and glasnost—for the reform of the Soviet Union's economy on June 11, 1985.

These policies of economic reconstruction and opening up began to free the Soviet Union from the tight grip of radical communism. Soon the Soviet people, like the American people, started becoming democratic lovers. With this, demands for some form of autonomy began by the fifteen republics of the Union and these demands became more vocal than the Baltic republics. Not only had this, as a result of the openness, fierce communal conflicts also started in many republics. Moreover, the sudden transition of the Soviet Union from closed economy to open market economy also cost it dearly. There was a shortage of things of everyday use in the country.

Other countries started sending aid in the form of food items on humanitarian basis, keeping in mind the indifference of food in the Soviet Union. That is, in 5-6 years, till yesterday, the world's superpower country reached the brink of collapse and helplessness. On August 18, 1991, Communist Party, Army, K.G.B. and the radical faction of the bureaucracy colluded and attacked the Soviet Union. He declared his occupation

and placed Mikhail Gorbachev under house arrest, who was vacationing in Crimea. The whole world was shocked at this coup.

The Indian communists even welcomed the ouster of Gorbachev. Countries like America, Japan, Britain, Germany, France etc. openly condemned the coup and announced to stop the financial aid to the Soviet Union. The president of the largest republic of the Soviet Union, Russia, Boris Yeltsin, waged a struggle against this coup. As a result, people in Moscow came out on the streets shouting slogans for the return of Gorbachev. The leaders of the Soviet parliament demanded the return of Gorbachev, and on 21 August Gorbachev regained control of the country.

While the whole world breathed a sigh of relief on the return of Mikhail Gorbachev, the name of Boris Yeltsin rose on everyone's tongue. All major politicians—US President “George Bush” or British Prime Minister “John Major”, French President Francois “Mittra” or Germany's Chancellor “Helmut Kohl”—have all credited Boris Yeltsin for Gorbachev's return. The situation was such that until yesterday, Boris Yeltsin, who was in the news as an opponent of Gorbachev, dominated the world scene. He was considered synonymous with democracy, individual liberty and liberalism.

Boris Yeltsin became “first President” of “Russian Republic” who was elected on 10 July 1991 by direct election by democratic method. This happened for first time in Russian history of last 1000 years. After taking the oath of office, Yeltsin's personality emerged as a strong President at the international level. Yeltsin, the president of the largest republic of the Soviet Union, grew in stature to such an extent that he himself dwarfed the stature of Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of perestroika and glasnost.

**Russian President Vladimir Putin:** In Russia's elections held on March 26, 2000, Acting President Vladimir Putin was victorious. On May 5, 2000, he took the oath of office and formed the new government. Putin is one of those who feel pain about the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As soon as he became prime minister, he took drastic measures against separatist Chechnya and ended his military campaign only by forcing the Chechen rebels to surrender. Putin has declared his priority - “making Russia a powerful nation”.

Since Putin does not have a sense of respect and attraction for ‘foreign investment’, perhaps in his view ‘powerful Russia’ can also mean an economically ‘self-supporting Russia’. His attitude towards India seemed quite favourable. In his fiction, Putin wrote that if he had a lot of money, he would definitely visit India. On May 7, 2008, Dmitry Medvedev was sworn in as the President of Russia. 42-year-old Medvedev is Russia's youngest leader in the history of the past century. Medvedev may have formal power, but the real power lies with Putin, who was sworn in on May 8. Medvedev was the deputy prime minister in President Putin's cabinet. Russia's per capita income grew nearly eight times and gross domestic product six times during Putin's eight-year term in office. Following the collapse of soviet Union, Russia, which bowed before Western countries, has now started showing eyes to America.

**Formulation of “Russian Foreign Policy”:** Following the collapse of Soviet Union on December 26, 1991, Russia has emerged as an independent-sovereign state, so it is very difficult to analyze its foreign policy on the basis of its existence of only ten years. We have two perspectives about Russia's foreign policy.

The first view is that Russia is the successor state of the old Soviet Union, so in international politics, it will adopt the same foreign policy as that of the old Soviet Union. The second point of view is that today Russia is in a very different position from the old Soviet Union, where neither the Communist Party is in power nor the republics of Central Asia are part of its territory. Russia is now a country of European land, so its thinking and attitude in the field of foreign policy will be like that of a European continent. A radical change in his foreign policy is inevitable. The second point of view seems more logical in this regard. There is a wide difference between the international scenario during the 75-year existence of the old Soviet Union and the international scenario after the formation of Russia.

Where the western countries are engaged in disintegrating “communist system” of “Soviet Union” they are following policy of providing financial assistance to strengthen democracy and free market system in Russia. The old Soviet Union spent the post-1945 period in the atmosphere of Cold War, where today the Cold War has ended even before the existence of Russia. Therefore, in the changed international scenario, it is natural for a radical change in the foreign policy of Russia. The following features of Russian foreign policy have emerged in the last 18–19 years: cooperation with the United Nations, general cooperative relations with “United States” close economic relation with European nations, especially Germany, sharing for peace with NATO, cooperation between China and Japan policy to resolve disputes with trying to build closer relations with India.

The manner in which Russia has started relations with various countries in the last years is clear from the direction of its foreign policy. Therefore, here a brief discussion of Russia’s relations with other countries is indispensable.

**Russia and the Commonwealth:** The Presidents of 11 of the 12 republics that separated from the Soviet Union in Almata, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, signed an agreement on December 21, 1991, giving their approval for the establishment of “Commonwealth” of “Independent States” (CIS). All 11 republics, except Georgia, signed three agreements. Georgia only participated as an observer.

The salient features of the agreements that were signed are:

- i. The 11 republics recommended the place of the Soviet Union in “United Nations Security Council” for Russian Republic.
- ii. All the 11 republics shall be deemed to be co-founding members of “Commonwealth” of Nations & shall have equal rights. The 11 republics will be independent sovereign republics and their current borders will be recognized.
- iii. There will be a joint military command till December 31, after which a permanent command will be formed. Nuclear weapons will be controlled by heads of state of member states.

At Commonwealth Conference held in Minsk on 30 December 1991, it was agreed that the current system of control of nuclear weapons should be continued. In this system, there is a provision that the nuclear button will remain with Russian President Boris Yeltsin but it will be used with the consent of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine. These are the four republics that have nuclear weapons on their soil. But

differences remained on many important questions, such as economic policy, the control of the traditional combined armed forces and the acceptance of the Royal Charter. Russia, the largest republic, demanded complete control of the Black Sea fleet, which has traditionally been associated with it.

Because of Yeltsin's authoritarian personality, Ukraine fears that Russia will dominate Ukraine. Therefore, Ukraine says that it is aware of its power that it is a prosperous territory of former "Soviet Union" Ukraine has a large part of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons, so any decision about it should be taken only with its consent. can. In February 1992, the senior leaders of Rael of the newly independent countries met in Milk. A serious issue before Rael was how to develop a uniform policy in the control and management of nuclear weapons located in different republics so as to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons of former "Soviet Union".

Commonwealth of newly "independent countries" has been going through crises since its inception. At its first summit in Kyiv (Ukraine), serious differences emerged between Ukraine and Russia; these differences were mainly related to the creation of peacekeeping forces. Differences also arose over the sharing of the assets of the Kalasagar Fleet and the former Soviet Union. Ukrainian President Kravchuk accused Russian President Yeltsin of "dominant" and said that "Unless Russia pays attention to the consensus; Rael's future will be in the dark."

**Russia and India:** India had close relations with the Soviet Union, so it was natural for India to be worried about the collapse of "Soviet Union". Like former "Soviet Union" Russia is keen to have close relations with India. On January 31, 1991, President Yeltsin met the Prime Minister of India in New York. In January 1992, a high level team of officials led by the Foreign Secretary visited Russia and Ukraine. A new friendly and cooperation treaty was finalized with Russia. India provided the Russian Federation with \$15 billion worth of humanitarian aid. The goal of this offer is to help a segment of the Union's population that is struggling and has been significantly impacted by the collapse of economic activity as a result of recent political developments in the soviet Union. The purchase of necessities like child meals, rice, and common medicines will be paid for using this money. Russian Foreign Affairs minister Gennady Babulis stated that his nation would uphold the Indo-Soviet deal on cryogenic engines during his visit to India in April 1992. The strengthening of ties between India . as a result of mutual advantage with respect for the economic and political systems of a two nations is something that Russia, according to its foreign minister, firmly supports. The first trade protocol between India and Russia was completed and was effective for 1992.

**Visit of Russian President Yeltsin to India:** Russian President Yeltsin visited India in January 1993. The Russian President was along with a high ranking delegation. At this time India & Russia had a number of outstanding issues, including the rupee-ruble exchange rate and the rescheduling of the Russian debt, the supply of cryogenic engines for India's space programme. Where the issue of rupee-ruble parity was resolved by this visit, the Russian President assured the supply of cryogenic engines and other spare parts. The previous Indo-Soviet relationship will be replaced by the new friendship and cooperation pact that the two nations have inked.

This fourteen-point treaty is largely similar to the former Indo-Soviet treaty, the only difference is that it does not have security related provisions. Apart from this, nine other agreements were also signed, the main among them were Defence Supplies Science and Technology and Agreement on combating terrorism and prevention of drug trafficking. One of the highlights of Mr. Yeltsin's visit to India was that he announced at a press conference that he "received Kashmir as an integral part of India and made a commitment to support India at the United Nations or elsewhere."

Mr. Yeltsin assured India that he would vote in its favor if a proposal to make him a permanent member of the "UN Security Council" came up. Thus Yeltsin's visit to India, as he himself said, not only removed unnecessary impediments to India-Russia relations, but also ushered in a new era of bilateral harmony, cooperation and friendship. The Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between India and Russia was ratified on 11 October 1993 in Moscow. The Rupee-Ruble Agreement was also ratified between the two Governments in April 1993 by exchange of comments. The visit of Indian Prime Minister "PV Narasimha Rao" to Russia in July 1994 removed many obstacles to the defence strategic and trade relations. Two important announcements and nine agreements were signed in various fields including mutual military interests, defence trade and technology.

The agreement on the establishment of 'Indo-Russian Aviation Private Limited' is very important from India's point of view. It will not only develop and expand the program of MiG aircraft in India, but will also meet the needs of other countries. On March 30, 1996, three agreements on mutual cooperation between India and Russia were signed by Foreign Indian Minister Pranab Mukherjee & Russian Foreign Minister Primakov in New Delhi. One of these agreements is related to the establishment of a hot line between the office of the P. M. of India & President of Russia. On November 30, 1996, India and Russia signed a contract for the procurement of advanced Sukhoi-30 MK-1 aeroplanes.

In March 1997, the Prime Minister of India, H.D. Deve Gowda visited Russia. After the Yeltsin-Deve Gowda summit, India and Russia signed six agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation. Russia, ignoring US opposition, announced that it would not back down from plans to build two nuclear reactors in India. Russian Prime Minister Primakov paid a state visit to India from 20-22 December 1998. During his visit, seven bilateral documents were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. During the Kargil crisis, Russia advised to withdraw the infiltrators from Pakistan and respect the Line of Control.

**President "Putin's" visit India in October, 2000:** Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, spent four days in India in October 2000. During this visit, four significant agreements that will improve India and Russia's military cooperation were signed. The creation of a Cross Commission for Military-Technical Collaboration between the two nations is the most significant of these accords. In addition, three other agreements were signed by Russia. To give 'Admiral Gorshkov Air Craft Carrier' to India, S.U. 30 MKI Fighter aircraft and T-90 tanks. India's defence loopholes can be expected to be bridged with the Rs 3 billion defence deal with Russia, which is the biggest deal since independence.

Addressing a joint meeting of the Indian Parliament, Putin said that foreign interference in Jammu and Kashmir should stop. He supported India's proposal to create a united front to fight terrorism. He also

supported India's demand that the UN Security Council should be expanded. It was agreed to set up an India-Russia Joint Working Group to counter the terrorist threat emanating from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism (November 2001):** In November 2001, the Prime Minister of India, Vajpayee visited Russia. He had a summit with Russian President Putin on 6 November. After the summit, the two leaders signed the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism. This manifesto is actually a document focused on the concerns of India and Russia in the matters of Kashmir and Chechnya respectively.

**President Putin's endorsement of India's candidature for "Security Council":** President "Putin" visited India from 3-5 December 2002. During the visit, Russia reaffirmed Russia's support for India's strong and just claim to the expanded UN Security Council. The signed documents endorsed India's stand on terrorism especially along the border and the dismantling of terrorism infrastructure in Pakistan.

**Visit of President Putin to India (December 3-5, 2004):** Russian President "Putin" visited India in December 2004. He had detailed talks with the Indian Prime Minister "Dr. Manmohan Singh". After this talks, in addition to a Joint Declaration of strategic importance to deal with terrorism in a more cohesive manner and to enhance economic-trade cooperation, nine other agreements / letters of intent were signed. These included agreements on use of Russia's Global Navigation "Satellite System" by India for peaceful purposes and agreements on cooperation in space, energy communication and economic fields. These included agreements on visa-free travel of diplomats and granting twin city status to Mumbai and St. Petersburg. India and Russia agreed to remove barriers to intellectual property rights in the supply of defence equipment.

**Visit of Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russia (December 5-7, 2005):** Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Russia on December 5-7, 2005. On behalf of Russia, India was assured that it would fully cooperate in meeting all the energy requirements of India including civil nuclear energy.

**Uranium Supply from Russia:** In March 2006, Russia agreed to supply 60 metric tonnes of uranium to two units of India's Tarapur plant. By deciding to take uranium from Russia, India has sent a message that despite the civil nuclear deal with America, its options are open for strategic needs and it is not completely dependent on America.

**Russian Prime Minister Putin's visit to India:** Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Russia on 6-8 December 2009 for the India-Russia Annual Summit and three months before that in September 2009, President Pratibha Patil visited Russia. On March 11, 2010, Russian Prime Minister Putin visited India and on March 12, several agreements and MOUS were signed between two countries, including the much-awaited agreement on the final price of the Russian aircraft carrier Gorshkov. After three years of protracted negotiations, the value was fixed at \$2.35 billion.

**Visit of Russian President Medvedev to India:** Russian President Medvedev visited India on 20-22 December 2010 on a three-day visit to attend the 11th India-Russia Annual Summit. He signed 30 agreements with Dr. Manmohan Singh, which pertain to several important areas including civil nuclear cooperation and defence. Among these agreements is the agreement to develop the fifth generation fighter aircraft to increase the

military strength of the two countries, which is expected to join the Russian Army in 2015 and the Indian Air Force in 2017 and 25- There will be an investment of 30 billion dollars.

**Visit of Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russia (December, 2011):** In December 2011, Dr. Manmohan visited Russia. He assured Russia that the Russian-built Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu would be commissioned soon. India's bid for permanent membership in the UN Security Council and its desire to join the Association Of southeast asian nations Organization were both supported by Russia. Russia agreed to give India the Nerpa nuclear submarine soon. This submarine is capable of staying underwater for months. India and Russia also signed five bilateral agreements. One of these agreements is related to Sukhoi fighter planes. In 2012, India and Russia celebrated 65 years since their political ties first began. The two nations kept up their efforts to deepen their cooperation in areas like hydrocarbons, civil nuclear energy, science and technology, and counterterrorism as well as in defence. 2012 had a 30% growth in business level, representing an increase of over one hundred. India's foreign policy places a great importance on relations with Russia, and high-level meetings between the two nations continue to be a tradition with unique elements and strategic linkages. During his trip to New India for the 4th Summit Held in March 2012, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev met privately with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

**Visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India (December 2012 and December 2014):** During the brief visit of Russian President Putin, the two countries took steps towards resolving the dispute and also started new relations with several agreements. In this, an important agreement was signed between the Russian Sovereign Wealth Fund (RDFI) and the State Bank of India, under which an investment fund of \$ 200 million will be created to promote investment. This investment fund will be used to increase investment between the two countries. Apart from this, there was an agreement to purchase helicopters and aircraft in the defence sector. Ten agreements worth about \$4 billion were signed in this annual summit. The system of yearly summit meetings between the presidents of India and Russia was established by the Declaration of Strategic Partnership, which was signed in the year 2000. From December 10–11, 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin was in India for the 15th Annual Summit. On July 16, 2014, in Fortaleza, Brazil, during the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. On November 15–16, 2014, in Brisbane, Australia, at the G-20 Summit.

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit was a huge success. Both countries emphasize the special and privileged nature of their strategic partnership. The summit produced excellent results in the strategic and economic fields and at least 20 bilateral documents and commercial documents were signed. These include agreements on nuclear, defence, energy, science and technology and investment sectors. Released a joint document named 'Drusva-Dosti' in which bilateral cooperation was talked about 'Broad-Basing' and it will take these relations to a new qualitative level. Russia reiterated its political support for India's permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and both nations swore an oath to work together to combat terrorism in areas where they had equal jurisdiction.



Strategic nuclear cooperation was given a defined vision that called for the development of at least 12 nuclear reactors over the following two decades, along with increasing knowledge transfer and localization of materials.

**Visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia in December 2015:** The Indian prime Minister “Narendra Modi” visited Russia on 23-24 December 2015. Modi went to Russia to attend the 16th India-Russia summit. Several agreements were signed during the Modi-Putin summit after discussions in nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, and defence and trade matters. Emphasis was placed on strengthening economic ties during the visit. The target is to increase trade between the two countries from \$10 billion to \$30 billion in the next 10 years.

**Russia and the United Nations:** The importance of the United Nations declined during the Cold War because there was mutual competition between the US and the Soviet Union and both these superpowers were inhibited. This prohibition had restricted the functioning of the Security Council itself.

The greatest achievement of the special meeting of the Security Council in the Park, held on 31 January 1992, was the declaration that that period of the Cold War was now completely over. Boris Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Republic, successor state of the Soviet Union, participated in this international organization for the first time. Yeltsin said that the western world is not our enemy, but we ourselves are part of the western world. Now Russia will not put obstacles in the way of Security Council by veto. That is why on March 31, 1992, the Security Council passed a resolution imposing sanctions on Libya. In July 1993, the International Monetary Fund accepted a loan of \$1 billion, 500 million to Russia. This aid was seen as vital to Russian President Yeltsin’s reform programs. Expressing concern over the militarization of space, President Putin in his address to the United Nations Millennium Summit held in September 2000 offered to hold an international conference in Russia in 2001 to consider measures to prevent it.

**Russia and G-7 (now G-8):** The 3-day summit of developed countries included in the G-7 was held in Munich on July 8, 1992. Russian President Boris Yeltsin was also present in the banquet held on the last day, but the rich countries could not take any unanimous decision regarding the inclusion of Russia in this group.

Japan and Germany strongly opposed the inclusion of Russia in the G-7 group. Anyway, the general impression was that there was still much to do in terms of industrial development, liberalization and privatization to qualify Russia to be among the ‘Elected Seven’. A dismayed Yeltsin said before leaving for Moscow that although the Cold War was over, economic issues remained unchanged. East and West are still divided. Developed countries assured Russia a loan of one billion dollars and loan assistance of 25 billion dollars and also expected Russia to withdraw one lakh soldiers from the Baltic states soon.

On the question of giving financial aid to Russia, Japan said that it will give financial assistance to Russia only when it returns the Kuril Islands to it. These islands were occupied by Russia in the last days of World War II. Signs of a change in Group-7’s policy towards Russia are traced to the conference held in Tokyo on April 15-16, 1993. In the conference, the countries of Group-7 together decided to give assistance of about \$ 43 billion to Russia. During the conference, the United States assured of \$3 billion, 600 million and

Japan \$1 billion, 800 million dollars in bilateral aid to Russia. Group-7 is providing assistance to Russia's economic reform programs. Most of the assistance will be spent in key economic sectors such as energy and agriculture, small business, privatization and housing construction. All seven industrialized countries of Group-7 also agreed to open their markets to Russian products.

Russia's active participation in the Group-7 conference held in Naples (Italy) on July 10, 1994 was successful in attracting attention and it is now becoming clear that soon the name of this group will be G-8 instead of G-7. Will go Due to the weak economic system of Russia, although it could not be made a full member of the G-7, it was given the status of a half-member. Russia was also included as a full participant for the first time in the G-7 summit held in the mountain city of Denver, USA on 20-22 June 1997. Due to the ongoing dispute with Russia over the Kuril Islands, there was some resistance by Japan to Russia's inclusion in the summit.

**New development between Indian and Russia-** On April 12, 2019, President Putin issued the Executive Order on Granting PM, which designates recipients of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostles The First Called, the country's highest state honour. The PM received the award for his outstanding contribution to the growth of the Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership among India and Russia and the cordial relations between the peoples of the two nations.

The Indian Prime minister and the Presidency of the Russian Federation meet at an annual summit, which is the highest level of structured dialogue in the two countries' strategic alliance. 21 Yearly Summits have already alternately taken place in India & Russia. The last Summit took place in New Delhi on December 6, 2021. The Prime Minister and President of Russia had three phone conversations in 2021. On April 28, 2021, the PM thanked President Putin for Russia's support in the fight against the pandemic and also decided to set up a 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between both the foreign and military ministers of the two nations. The two parties agreed to open a continuous line of contact on the subject during their phone call on August 24 after exchanging opinions on the state of affairs in Afghanistan. On Dec 20, the two leaders spoke by phone to follow up on a number of topics covered during President Putin's recent trip to India.

In 2021, EAM and FM Lavrov have four encounters: I During FM Lavrov's visit to New Delhi on April 5-6, 2021, where the two sides discussed the Annual Summit's planning as well as other bilateral cooperation-related matters, including collaboration in the Covid-19 pandemic battle. (ii) From July 7 to 9, 2021, EAM travelled to Moscow and held meetings with Leonid Slutsky, the head of the State Duma's committee on international affairs, FM Lavrov, and Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov. Additionally, he spoke on "India-Russia ties in a changing world" at the Primakov Institute of International Economy and Foreign Affairs Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). (iii) The Minister Meeting of the Conferences on Interaction and Especially True with regard Measures in Asia (CICA), which was held in Nursultan on October 11 and 12, 2021, was also where EAM and FM Lavrov met. On December 6, FM Lavrov returned to New Delhi together with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu to take part in the inaugural India-Russia 2+2 Structured Meeting. A separate bilateral meeting between EAM and FM Lavrov was also held off-site.

Before meeting in the 2+2 Format on December 6, 2021, RM and Defence Minister Shoigu co-chaired the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) in New Delhi. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs, travelled to Russia to attend the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok from September 1–5, 2021. President Putin was present when the PM spoke to the EEF Plenary virtually. During his stay, he met with Mr. Nikolay Shulginov, Russia's Minister of Energy, and Mr. Alexei Chekunkov,

Far Eastern and Arctic Development Minister for Russia. Alongside the EEF, he also co-chaired the India-Russia Business Dialogue with the Russian Minister of Energy. Along with Rosneft, GazpromNeft, and Sibur, he spoke with other influential Russian energy companies. On the invitation of Mr. Nikolay Shulginov, the Russian Energy Minister, the Minister of Steel led a delegation of Indian steel industries to Moscow on October 14–15, 2021, to take part in the Russian Energy Week. The two parties signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the supply of coking coal from Russia to India and cooperation in the steel sector on October 14.

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