

India-Russia Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 08.04.2026 depicting the Embassy of Russia.

2. Russia has been a longstanding and time-tested partner for India. Development of India-Russia relations has been a key pillar of India's foreign policy. Since the signing of the “Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership” in October 2000, India-Russia ties have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas, including political, security, defense, trade and economy, science & technology, culture, and people-to-people ties. During the visit of the Russian President to India in December 2010, the Strategic Partnership was elevated to the level of “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.”

3. Under the Strategic Partnership, several institutionalized dialogue mechanisms operate at both political and official levels to ensure regular interaction and follow-up on cooperation activities. The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) has two divisions – the Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) from India and First Deputy Prime Minister (First DPM) Mr. Denis Manturov from Russia; and the Military & Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) headed by the Defence Ministers of the two countries. In December 2021, a new dimension to the bilateral cooperation was added with the first 2+2 Dialogue (Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries) taking place alongside the Summit-level talks between PM & President Putin.

B. Political relations

4. The Annual Summit between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation is the highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism in the strategic partnership between India and Russia. So far, 22 Annual Summits have taken place alternatively in India and Russia. Following the last Summit, a Joint Statement titled “*India-Russia: Enduring and Expanding Partnership*” was released. A separate leaders’ Joint Statement on the development of strategic areas of India-Russia economic cooperation for the period up to 2030 was also released apart from the signing of 9 MoUs/Agreements. During the visit, Prime Minister was conferred on Russia’s highest state decoration, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, for Prime Minister's outstanding contribution to India- Russia ties. Later in the year, Prime Minister met President Putin on 22 October 2024 on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in Russia. The leaders met recently on 01 September 2025 on the sidelines of SCO Heads of States meeting in Tianjin, China and discussed ways to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the countries.

5. The leaders also maintain regular contact through telephone conversations. On 17 September 2025, President Putin had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Modi on his 75th birthday and emphasized that under Prime Minister's leadership India is pursuing an independent, sovereign policy while demonstrating impressive economic results. On 07 October 2025, PM spoke with President Putin and warmly congratulated him on his 73rd birthday and conveyed that he looked forward to welcoming him for the 23rd Annual Summit in December. Previously, on 08 and 18 August 2025, President Putin spoke with Prime Minister and briefed him on the latest developments concerning Ukraine in the context of US-Russia Alaska Summit. Both leaders also spoke on 05 May 2025 in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen cooperation in the fight against all forms and manifestations of terrorism. In August 2025, EAM visited Moscow and called on President Putin and co-chaired the 26th session of the IRIGC-TEC with First DPM Denis Manturov and met with FM Lavrov.

6. Raksha Mantri (RM) Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with the Russian Defence Minister Mr. Andrey Belousov on the margins of the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao, China on 26 June 2025. RM had previously visited Russia from 08-10 December 2024 to co-chair the 21st Session of the IRIGC-MMTC meeting in Moscow. RM also called on President Putin during the visit. Raksha Rajya Mantri (RRM) Shri Sanjay Seth represented India for the 09 May 2025 Victory Day celebrations in Moscow on the occasion of 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War (1941-45).

7. NSA Shri Ajit Doval visited Moscow on 07-08 August 2025 for the India- Russia NSA-level Strategic Dialogue. During the visit, NSA called on President Putin and held meetings with Secretary of the Russian Security Council Mr. Sergei Shoigu, Aide to President Putin Mr. Niokolai Patrushev and First DPM Mr. Denis Manturov. In September 2024, NSA visited St. Petersburg to attend the BRICS NSAs meeting during which he called on President Putin and met his counterpart Mr. Sergei Shoigu. Aide to President Putin Mr. Nikolai Patrushev visited India from 17-19 November 2025 for Russia-India consultations on maritime cooperation and on naval cooperation. During the visit, he called on PM Modi, met with NSA Ajit Doval, Minister of Ports, Shipping & waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal and other senior officials.

8. Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri held bilateral Foreign Office Consultations with his Russian counterpart Deputy Foreign Minister (DFM) Andrey Rudenko on 07 March 2025 in Moscow. In December 2024, Secretary (West) Shri Tanmaya Lal had visited Moscow and met his counterpart DFM Sergey Vershinin for the sixth India-Russia Consultations on UN Matters and 13th India- Russia Working Group meeting on Counter Terrorism.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

9. The primary mechanism at the government level for enhancing trade and economic cooperation is the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific & Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by EAM from the Indian side and First DPM Mr. Denis Manturov from the Russian side. The 26th session of the IRIGC-TEC was held on 20 August 2025 in Moscow and focused on addressing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, effecting payment mechanisms smoothly, timely finalization

and execution of the Program of Economic Cooperation till 2030, the early conclusion of the India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA, whose terms of reference were finalized, and regular interaction between the businesses of the two countries, for timely achievement of the revised bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.

10. Intensifying the trade and economic relations has been identified as a priority area by both the leaders who had set the targets of increasing bilateral investment to \$50 billion (by 2025) and bilateral trade to \$100 billion (by 2030). Bilateral trade between India and Russia reached a record high of USD 68.7 billion in FY 2024-25. It comprises India's exports worth USD 4.9 billion and imports from Russia amounting to USD 63.8 billion. Major items of export from India include pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals, iron & steel and marine products, while major items of import from Russia include oil and petroleum products, vegetable oil (particularly sunflower oil), fertilizers, coking coal, precious stones and metals. From 13-14 November, Commerce Secretary, Mr. Rajesh Agarwal visited Moscow to co-chair the 26th session of India-Russia Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation along with Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Vladimir Ilichev. On 1-3 October 2025, Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita visited Moscow to address the Indian Apparels and Textile Fair organised by Handloom Export Promotion Council in Moscow. Union Minister of Railways, Electronics and Information Technology, and Information and Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr. Suman Bery visited Russia from 18-21 June 2025 participating in the 28th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (upto January'26) are as follows :

Export-Import statistics from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (upto January'26)

(US Dollar Billion)

Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2021-22	13.12	9.87	3.25
2022-23	49.36	46.21	3.15
2023-24	65.42	61.16	4.26
2024-25	68.72	63.84	4.88
2025-26 (up to Jan'26)	51.52	47.83	3.69

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

11. High level visits from Russian side include, DPM Dmitry Patrushev's visit during World Food India 2025 (25-28 September) to New Delhi. During his visit, DPM called on PM Narendra Modi, met with Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, JP Nadda, Minister of Agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of Commerce, Piyush Goyal to discuss avenues of cooperation in agriculture, food security, trade, industrial cooperation and sustainable farming initiatives. Russia's Minister of Energy Mr. Sergey Tsivilyov visited India in February 2025 and met Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri; and Russian side led by Deputy Minister of Energy Mr. Pavel Sorokin participated in the India Energy Week 2025 held from 11-

14 February 2025.

12. Bilateral trade in services has remained stable during the last few years. It amounted to \$1.021 billion for the year 2021. Bilateral investments between the two countries remain strong with a target of \$50 billion investment by 2025. The major bilateral investments by Russia in India are in the oil and gas, petrochemicals, banking, railways and steel sectors, while Indian investments in Russia are mainly in oil and gas and pharmaceuticals sectors.

Defence cooperation:

13. The longstanding and wide-ranging military technical cooperation between India and Russia has evolved from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of advanced defence technologies and systems. Russia is also an important source for the supply of defence equipment, engines, spare parts and components. Several defence platforms are also assembled/produced in India such as T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI aircraft. Both sides have also been exploring co-development and co-production of defence equipment and platforms, including the possibility of export to other countries such as the Brahmos system. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Russia in December 2024 and Co-Chaired the 21st IRIGC – M&MTC meeting apart from participating in the commissioning a frigate “INS Tushil” at Kaliningrad. On 01 July 2025, INS Tamal, the latest stealth multi-role frigate, was commissioned in Kaliningrad.

14. On October 28-29, 2025 the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) took place in New Delhi. On 29 October 2025, Indian delegation led by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) participated in the 23rd Working Group Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and Defence Industry in Moscow.

15. The 14th edition of India-Russia joint training exercise INDRA-2025 was held in Bikaner, Rajasthan from 6-15 October, 2025 with the participation of more than 250 servicemen from each side. On 10-16 September 2025, a contingent of 65 Indian Armed Forces personnel from the Army, Air Force, and Navy, took part in Zapad-2025 military exercise at Nizhny Novgorod in Russia. On 28 Mar-02 Apr 2025, the bilateral Naval Exercise INDRA 2025 between Indian and Russian navies was conducted in two phases – Harbour phase at Chennai and Sea phase in Bay of Bengal.

Parliamentary Cooperation:

16. Chairman of the State Duma (Russia’s lower house of Parliament) Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin paid an official visit to India from 02-04 Feb 2025. During the visit, Volodin called on President and Vice President and had bilateral meeting with the Lok Sabha Speaker. The Russian delegation attended the then ongoing 2025 budget session of both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. In July 2024, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla led the Indian delegation for the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Saint Petersburg and also had bilateral meetings with Chairman Volodin and Speaker of the Russian Federation Council (Upper House of Parliament) Ms. Valentina Matvienko.

17. In the context of Pahalgam terror attack and India's Operation Sindoor, an all-party delegation led by Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi comprising 5 MPs and senior diplomat Ambassador Manjeev Puri visited Russia from 22-24 May 2025 to project India's united resolve and zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. From 21-26 June 2025, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP Lok Sabha who was on his personal visit held meetings with Mr. Konstantin Kosachev (Deputy Chairman of Federal Council) and Mr. Leonid Slutsky (Chairman of State Duma Committee on International Affairs). From 29-30 October, Indian parliamentary delegation including Hon'ble MPs Shri Rajkumar Chahar, Dr. C.N. Manjunath from Lok Sabha and Dr. V. Sivadasan from Rajya Sabha participated in the meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Moscow.

Science & Technology Cooperation:

18. Science & Technology has played a key role in the bilateral India-Russia partnership, especially in the early days after India's independence. Today, India & Russia work together on basic sciences, materials science, mathematics and cutting-edge areas like India's manned spaceflight program (Gaganyaan), nanotechnologies etc. India's only nuclear power plant established with another country is in Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu which was established in collaboration with Russia. The bilateral cooperation is guided by the new roadmap for Science, Technology & Innovation signed during the 21st Annual Summit in New Delhi in December 2021. It is expected to boost innovation-related engagements between the two countries and focus on commercialization of technologies and full-cycle support for joint projects of economic and societal impact. Meetings of the Russia- India Working Group on Science and Technology, with representatives of the relevant ministries, universities and scientists of both countries, take place regularly under the IRIGC-TEC mechanism.

Education:

19. Cooperation between India and Russia in the field of education is multifaceted and longstanding in nature. One of the most visible aspects of this cooperation is the presence of about 20,000 Indian students in institutes in Russia for courses in disciplines such as medicine, engineering, economics, sciences and other subjects. Medical students comprise the largest group among Indian students studying in Russia. Separately, Indology is taught in several Russian universities apart from Indian languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit & Pali. At the school-level, the Atal Innovation Mission of India and SIRIUS Center work together as part of an initiative envisioned by Prime Minister and President Putin. In context of collaboration in higher education including between universities/institutes, then the following main mechanisms are playing an active role - Educational Exchange Program (EEP) between the two governments, Network of Higher Education Institutions of India and Russia (known as the RIN), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), and the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) program.

20. Russia has been an active partner country for ITEC scholarship. In 2024- 25 around 17 Russian nationals took part in ITEC while in 2023-24, around 23 Russian nationals took the ITEC scholarship when compared to 100+ number during pre-Covid years. On 19 September, Embassy celebrated ITEC Day 2025.

Cultural Cooperation:

21. India and Russia have deep and historic cultural linkages. Various writers, philosophers, thinkers and artists have exercised mutual influence on each other's art, culture and societies. The Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC), Moscow, maintains close cooperation with leading Russian institutions. A number of Russian universities and institutions, teach Indian languages. Indian cinema was especially popular in the Soviet period with screenings in most major cities and urban centers. Yoga is also immensely popular across Russia.

22. The Second Indian Film Festival was held from 04-15 October 2025 across five Russian cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Yakutsk and Vladivostok. A 9-day cultural festival 'Bharat Utsav-Festival of India' was held for the first time in the central area of Moscow city from 5-13 July 2025. The festival with 120+ events bringing in 100+ artists and craftsmen from India was a huge success witnessing a footfall of 8,50,000 Muscovites. The XIth International Day of Yoga (2025) was celebrated in 60+ regions of Russia. In Moscow's VDNKH complex (June 21) more than 1000 people participated in Yoga demonstration and master classes on Ayurveda and meditation.

23. From 3-7 September 2025, Moscow International Book Fair was conducted and India was the Guest of Honor country for 2025. Ambassador inaugurated the India Pavilion and the Fair was attended by senior Indian and Russian officials and distinguished literary figures. On 11 October, the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha arrived in Elista, Republic of Kalmykia, for exposition. The relics were accompanied to Russia by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and were accompanied back to India by Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha.

24. Russia's Minister of Culture Ms. Olga Lyubimova visited India for the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025 (WAVES 2025) in Mumbai in May 2025 and had a meeting with Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw discussing bilateral cooperation in cinematography.

Diaspora & people-to-people ties:

25. The people-to-people ties remain strong with gradual increase in bilateral tourism. The facility of e-visas for both countries has helped accelerate this process. Prominent Indians have been conferred Russian state awards for their contribution to building and strengthening Russia-India political, scientific and cultural ties.

Multilateral cooperation:

26. India and Russia cooperate closely at several multilateral platforms such as the UN, G20, BRICS & SCO. This cooperation has been strengthened further through regular exchanges and mutual support during India's Presidencies of the G20 and SCO in 2023 and Russia's BRICS Presidency in 2024. Russia has consistently expressed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat the in UN Security

Council. PM led the Indian delegation at the XVII BRICS Summit held in Rio-de-Janerio (Brazil), 2025, G20 Summit held in Johannesburg (South Africa) and 2025 SCO Summit held in Tainjin (China).

Conclusion:

27. The bilateral relationship has remained strong and stable over the past 78 years. The India-Russia partnership has been among the steadiest in the contemporary era with a shared commitment to a multipolar world as well to expand the engagement beyond the traditional military, nuclear and space cooperation. In the past two years, the bilateral trade has expanded significantly. There are discussions on ways to increase exports from India as well developing new models of cooperation. Both countries are also looking to strengthen inter- regional cooperation, especially with the Russian Far East and promote connectivity initiatives like the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor and the Northern Sea Route. There is a synergy between Russia's pivot to the East, its resources and technology and India's own flagship initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

Source: www.mea.gov.in