



India-Russia Summit

Why in News

Recently, the **Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India**. At the meeting, India signed many agreements with Russia. The meeting is significant as it was the **first 2+2 meeting between the foreign and defense ministers** of the two countries.

- In April 2021, to build on the common “resilient” ground, [Indian and Russian Foreign Ministers addressed each other’s concerns](#) on a wide range of issues.



Key Points

- **First Indo-Russia 2+2 Dialogue:** It is the first 2+2 meeting between the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries.
 - India has held a 2+2 format of meetings with member nations of the [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue \(Quad\)](#) — the US, Japan and Australia.
- **Agreement for Kalashnikov Rifles:** The two sides signed two contracts for the manufacture of nearly **600,000 AK-203 rifles** under a joint venture in **Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Agreement for Military Cooperation:** The two countries also signed an agreement for military technology cooperation for the next decade, from **2021 to 2031**.
 - India underlined its goal of becoming Russia’s defense development and production partner from just a buyer.
 - The two sides are now looking at expanding the format of exercises to make them more complex as well as Ideas for **expanding India-Russia cooperation In Central Asia**.
- **Moving Ahead on Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement:** Beyond defense sales, a

Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), as well as a Navy to Navy cooperation MoU are at advanced stages of conclusion.

- **Singing of Military Protocol:** The two countries also signed the Protocol of the 20th **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC)**.
 - The IRIGC-M&MTC “is a well-established mechanism since last two decades” and provides “**a platform to discuss and implement mutually agreed agenda for defense cooperation**”.
- **Go Ahead With S-400 Air Defense System Deal:** India asserted that it follows an “independent foreign policy”, hinting at the US’ [Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act \(CAATSA\)](#).
 - This is referred to in the context of supply of [S-400 air defence missile](#) systems which began this month and will continue to happen.
- **Discussion on Geopolitical Hotspots:** The situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East has wider repercussions including for Central Asia.
 - Maritime security and safety is another domain of shared concern.
 - The issue of [China’s aggressive posture along the northern border](#) was also brought up at the meeting.
 - Both the countries proposed greater engagements in Central Asia and the [Indian Ocean Region](#).

Importance of Russia for India

- **Balancing China:** The Chinese aggression in the border areas of eastern Ladakh, brought India-China relations to an inflection point, but also demonstrated that **Russia is capable of contributing to defusing tensions with China**.
 - Russia **organized a trilateral meeting among the foreign ministers of Russia, India, and China** following deadly clashes in the [Galwan Valley in the disputed territory of Ladakh](#).
- **Emerging New Sectors of Economic Engagement:** Apart from traditional areas of cooperation such as weapons, hydrocarbons, nuclear energy, and diamonds, new sectors of economic engagement are likely to emerge — **mining, agro-industrial, and high technology, including robotics, nanotech, and biotech**.
 - India’s footprint in the **Russian Far East and in the Arctic** is set to expand. Connectivity projects may get a boost too.
- **Combating Terrorism:** India and Russia are working to close the gap on Afghanistan and are calling for early finalization of the [Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism](#).
- **Support At Multilateral Forums:** Additionally, Russia supports India’s candidacy for permanent membership of a reformed [United Nations Security Council](#) and of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- **Russia’s Military Exports:** Russia has been **one of the largest arms exporters to India**. Even as Russia’s share in India’s arms imports fell by over 50% in the last five-year period compared to the previous five years (2011-2015).
 - In the last 20 years, India imported arms and weapons worth USD 35 billion from Russia, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute which tracks global arms trade.

Way Forward

- **Russia To Provide Timely Maintenance Support:** Timely supply of spares and support to the large inventory of Russian hardware in service with the Indian military has been a major issue from India.
 - To address this, Russia has made legislative changes allowing its companies to set up joint

ventures in India to address it following an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in 2019.

- This agreement **needs to be implemented in a time bound manner.**
- **Acknowledging Importance of Each Other:** Russia will remain a key defense partner for India for decades to come.
 - On the other hand, Russia and China are currently in a quasi-alliance setup. Russia repeatedly reiterates that it does not see itself as anybody's junior partner. That's why **Russia wants India to act as a balancer.**
- **Joint Military Production:** The two countries have been discussing how they can cooperate in using India as a production base for exporting to third countries Russian-origin equipment and services.

[Source: IE](#)

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