



NATO-Russia Council Talks

For Prelims: NATO , NATO-Russia Council, European Union (EU), Rome Declaration.

For Mains: Russia-Ukraine Crisis, NATO, NATO-Russia Dynamics.

Why in News

Recently, the [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#) and Russia discussed the ongoing [situation in Ukraine](#) and its implications for security in Europe at the **NATO-Russia Council (NRC)** in Brussels.

- Talks between representatives of NATO and Russia **concluded without a clear outcome.**

Key Points

- **NATO-Russia Council:**
 - NRC was established at the **NATO-Russia Summit in Rome (Rome Declaration) on 28 May 2002.**
 - It replaced the **Permanent Joint Council (PJC)**, a forum for consultation and cooperation **created by the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act** on Mutual Relations.
 - The NRC is a mechanism for **consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action, in which the individual NATO member states and Russia work as equal partners** on a wide spectrum of security issues of common interest.
- **Highlights of the Meet:**
 - NATO **rejected Russia's demand for a new security settlement** in Europe, challenging Russia to **withdraw troops deployed near Ukraine and join talks** on reducing the threat of open conflict.
 - For the US and EU, **Ukraine acts as a significant buffer with Russia.** Ukraine is also building a naval base in Ochakiv and another in Berdyansk, which Russia is not happy about.
 - The **Western allies received no promise that Russia will stand down its forces** — which Moscow insists pose no threat to its already partially occupied neighbour — despite the threat of economic sanctions.
 - Russia demanded not to admit any more members into NATO and to withdraw western forces from its Eastern Allies. It also warned that the **continued deterioration could lead to the "most unpredictable and most dire consequences for European security."**
 - There are significant **differences between NATO allies and Russia** which will not be easy to bridge.
- **India's Stance over Russia Ukraine Crisis:**
 - India did not join the **Western powers' condemnation of Russia's intervention in Crimea and kept a low profile** on the issue.
 - In November 2020, **India voted against a Ukraine-sponsored resolution** in the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) that condemned alleged human rights violations in Crimea thereby

backing old ally Russia on the issue.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

- It is a **military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949**, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to **provide collective security against the Soviet Union**.
- A key provision of the treaty, the **so-called Article 5**, states that **if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members**. That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.
- As of 2019, there **are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017**.

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Way Forward

- A practical solution for the situation is **to revive the Minsk peace process**. Therefore the **West (US and Other western Countries) should push both sides to resume talks and live up to their commitments** as per the Minsk agreement to restore relative peace on the border.
- The **US should also seek agreement from all parties** to engage more directly in an **OSCE-mediated process to stem the ongoing damage** to European security, the deepening human and economic costs, and the threat to Ukraine's sovereignty.

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