



Ukraine “Path to Peace” Summit

For Prelims: [Russia-Ukraine Conflict](#), Regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, Black Sea, Cold War, [NATO](#), Minsk Protocols, Warsaw Pact.

For Mains: Ukraine-Russia Conflict and India’s Interests in Ukraine and Russia, Implications of Conflict on India.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

- Recently, the two-day **Summit on Peace in Ukraine** titled “**Path To Peace Summit**”, held in Switzerland, ended on 16th June 2024.
- Through this summit, participants hoped for an end to the **war between Russia and Ukraine**.

What were the Key Highlights of the Summit?

- **Call for Territorial Integrity of Ukraine:**
 - 80 countries have called for the “**territorial integrity**” of Ukraine to be the basis for any peace agreement to end the **Russia-Ukraine war**.
 - They supported the final joint communiqué that outlined a “**Path to Peace**” and focused on 3 agendas: **nuclear safety, global food security, and humanitarian issues**.
- **Release of Prisoners of War:**
 - The declaration emphasised the release of all prisoners of war and the return of all deported and unlawfully displaced Ukrainian children and civilians.
- **Absence of Russia from Peace Summit:**
 - Russia, the primary party to the conflict, was not invited by the host, Switzerland, due to the [International Criminal Court's](#) indictment of President Vladimir Putin.
- **India’s Refusal to Endorse Ukraine Meet Statement:**
 - **India** along with **Saudi Arabia, South Africa**, and the **United Arab Emirates** refused to sign onto the final document released at the conclusion of a Peace Summit.
 - India emphasised that only proposals acceptable to **both Russia and Ukraine** can lead to peace.

What is India’s Stand in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict?

- **Commitment to Non-Alignment:**
 - India's non-aligned foreign policy, with its origins in the [Bandung Conference of 1955](#), has been a central tenet of its approach to international conflicts.
 - India has opted to abstain on [UN Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) resolutions regarding Russia's actions in Ukraine. This aligns with their established policy of neutrality in major power disputes.
- **Preserving Strategic Partnership with Russia:**
 - India regards Russia as a crucial strategic partner, with Russia being a significant **supplier**

of **military hardware** and **energy resources** to India.

- According to data from the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#), Russia accounted for approximately 46% of India's total arms imports between 2017-2021.

▪ **Humanitarian Assistance and Diplomatic Efforts:**

- India has taken various steps to address the humanitarian aspects of the conflict by providing **humanitarian aid to Ukraine**, including **medical supplies and relief materials**.
- Furthermore, India emphasised the need for a **diplomatic solution to the conflict** and has urged both Russia and Ukraine to engage in dialogue in various international forums, reflecting India's efforts to promote a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

▪ **Balancing Ties with the West:**

- While maintaining its strategic partnership with Russia, India has also tried to balance its ties with the US and the [European Union \(EU\)](#), which are India's largest trading partners.
 - This is aimed at protecting India's economic and geopolitical interests in the face of the evolving international landscape.

What are the Areas of Cooperation between India and Russia?

▪ **Trade and Economic Cooperation:**

- India-Russia relations have been a key pillar of India's foreign policy since the signing of the "**Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership**" in 2000, which was further elevated to a "**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**" in 2010.
- In 2021, the two countries held their first [2+2 Dialogue](#) (**Foreign and Defence Ministers** of both countries), highlighting the deeper collaboration.
- India has announced a USD 1 billion **line of credit** for the development of Russia's Far East.

▪ **Defence and Security:**

- It is guided by the **Agreement on the Programme for Military Technical Cooperation** signed between the two countries.
- The **Agreement on Program of Military-Technical Cooperation from 2021-2031** was signed during the inaugural meeting of the **India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue** held in Delhi in December 2021.
- India is the top purchaser of Russian military equipment, including the [S-400 Triumf Missile system](#), [Kamov 226 helicopters](#), and [T-90S tanks](#).
- Both countries are also collaborating on developing defence technologies such as the [BrahMos supersonic cruise missile](#) and conducting **joint military exercises like [INDRA & Avialndra](#)**.

▪ **Energy Cooperation:**

- Russia has vast **natural gas** reserves and India is shifting towards using more natural gas, actively importing from the Russian Far East.
- India and Russia signed their **first nuclear cooperation agreement** in 1963. It led to construction of reactors at [Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant](#) commissioned in 2016.
- Both are working on the [Rooppur Nuclear Power Project](#) in Bangladesh.
- In 2018, they agreed to jointly develop [Small Modular Reactors \(SMRs\)](#), which are small, efficient nuclear reactors used for electricity generation or industrial heat production.

▪ **International Cooperation:**

- India and Russia are members of various multilateral organisations, such as [BRICS](#), [Russia-India-China Grouping \(RIC\)](#), [G20](#), [East Asia Summit](#), and [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#), which provide opportunities for cooperation on mutual issues.
- Russia supports India's aspiration for a permanent seat in the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**.
- Russia has endorsed India's membership in the [Nuclear Suppliers Group \(NSG\)](#) and [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)](#).
- Russia is **considerate of India's stance on the Jammu and Kashmir issue** in relation to Pakistan.

- The two countries are involved in connectivity projects like the International [North-South Transport Corridor \(INSTC\)](#).

▪ **Cyber Security:**

- India and Russia have an "**Agreement on Cooperation in International Information Security**" to work together in cyber security.
- They are also collaborating to combat **radicalization and cyberterrorism**. Additionally, India plans to work with the **Russian Quantum Center** to utilise **quantum cryptography** for enhanced information security in various sectors.

What are the Global Implications of the Russia-Ukraine War?

- **Geopolitical Implications:** War has led countries to **align with Russia, Ukraine, or remain non-aligned**. The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia, while the UK supports Ukraine. Many **developing countries prioritise pragmatic relationships, staying non-aligned**.
 - The war has driven **increases in European defence budgets, strengthening partnerships like NATO**, shifting the global balance of power.
 - Turkey doesn't fully align with all NATO proposals, particularly on economic sanctions.
- **Strained Global Institutions:** The war has exposed **limitations of international institutions like the UN to prevent major conflicts**. Countries may question the effectiveness of these bodies, potentially leading to a shift in how international disputes are addressed.
- **Massive Displacement:** The UN estimates over **11 million Ukrainians have fled their homes**, creating a significant refugee crisis in Europe and internally displaced populations within Ukraine. This has placed immense strain on neighbouring countries and international aid organisations.
 - [UNICEF](#) reports that two-thirds of Ukrainian children have been negatively impacted by the war, facing displacement, psychological trauma, and disruptions to education.
- **Threatened Food Security:** Ukraine is a major **agricultural producer**, supplying a significant portion of the **world's wheat, corn, and sunflower oil**. The war has disrupted planting, harvesting, and exports exacerbating existing food insecurity issues and potentially leading to shortages in vulnerable regions.
- **Disruption in Global Energy Market:** Russia's role as a **major energy exporter has caused disruptions in global energy markets**. Sanctions and boycotts have led to price hikes for oil and gas, impacting energy security and inflation worldwide.

What are the International Efforts to Establish Peace between Russia and Ukraine?

- **Ukrainian 10-Point Peace Plan:** It was promoted by the President of Ukraine since the 2023 [G-20 Summit](#) and outlined key demands.
 - Withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory.
 - Restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity as per its internationally recognised borders established in 1991.
 - Prosecution of war crimes committed by Russia.
- **Minsk Agreements, 2015:**
 - [Minsk Agreements](#) were signed in 2014 and 2015 in the Belarusian capital Minsk.
 - The Minsk agreements were discussed and agreed upon with the involvement and support of **France, Germany**, and the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#). These agreements were signed by Ukraine, Russia, and the representative of the OSCE. It aimed to **end the initial phase of the conflict in eastern Ukraine**. It included:
 - A **ceasefire** between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists.
 - **Withdrawal of heavy weaponry** from the conflict zone.
 - **Full Ukrainian government control** over the eastern **Donbas region**.
- **United Nations Efforts:** UN experts have consistently called for intensified efforts by the international community to achieve peace in line with the **UN Charter**. This includes respecting Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity as outlined by the UN Secretary-General.



Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the geopolitical and economic implications of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Analyse the appropriate approach need to be adopted in this complex scenario.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question:

Q. Consider the following countries: (2023)

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) Only five