

# Balancing the Eagle and the Bear: On whose side will the Tiger leap

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**Abstract - Balancing the Eagle and the Bear : On whose side will the Tiger Leap, this study deals the Triangle relationships between India and Russia , India and US. Especially the issue concerned with Ukraine, if any coercive method of resolving conflict between Russia and Ukraine then what role India will Play and Where India will stand, weather support the age-old friend the Russia or Stand against to Russia, US observing very keenly this Putin visit to India, At the same time USA expect India's Stand . This study highlights the India's role and its responsibilities in international politics , its very great opportunity to demonstrate India's real position as well as its time to show the negotiation skills to the international communities. This is an excellent opportunity to India to show its capability to become next superpower.**

## INTRODUCTION

The recent one-day visit of Vladimir Putin, the president of the Russian Federation to India on 6th December 2021 . The motive of his visit was to attend the annual summit and its significant for several reasons. Indeed, his visit showed the significance and the deep relational ties, especially the friendship between the two nations. During his visit to Delhi, Putin and Modi signed an array of key agreements and pacts pertaining to Defence, economic, science and technology, space and other strategic areas and discussed about the jointness in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Putin's visit to India has created a buzz among the strategic community on the actual i.e, the hidden purpose of his visit to India. This article tries to reveal the hidden purpose and it briefs out the current situation of India and how it balances its relationship between Russia and the United States of America.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF INDO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

In the years following its independence, India received industrial benefits from the USSR which provided the basis for its future development. Since the 1950s, India has received considerable support from the Soviet Union through the establishment of factories. Its development in the areas of defense, space and nuclear power coincided with the Soviet capital and knowledge. India was in dire need of capital, foreign exchange and technology; The Soviet Union closed the gap in India's development by allowing India to pay for projects in rupees through a special program. The India-Russia strategic partnership is built on six key components: political, defense, trade, nuclear power, counter-terrorism cooperation and space. During the Cold War, India and the Soviet Union had strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic ties. , After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia inherited its close ties with India, which resulted in the two countries sharing a special Musso Treaty. The Indo-Russian Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) is the main body responsible for matters at the government level between the two countries. Both these countries are members of various international organizations and connectivity projects. These include BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

## PUTIN'S VISIT TO INDIA

Russia remains as a longstanding and time-tested friend for India. It was Russia which stood in support

of India during the 1971 India Pakistan (Bangladesh Liberation) War. Russia still stands as the primary exporter of defence and security armaments to India. It has been almost 2 decades since the signing of Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership in October 2000. Vladimir Putin's visit to India shows the significance of India at the global arena. In fact, this was his second visit to a foreign nation since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. This fact itself explains how significant India is to Russia. The last time Putin visited India was during the 19th annual meeting along with the 2+2 dialogue in 2019. Putin was a person who was not active in travelling during the Pandemic. Before his visit to India, he was at the Geneva and met the US president. His visit to Delhi was closely watched by the world. As per the official statements and media briefing of the Ministry of external affairs, the visit was to discuss the recent trends happening at the global level and to increase the ties by exchanging agreements. Cooperation in Covid-19 pandemic, Economy, Cooperation in the Russian Far-East, Energy, Transport and Connectivity, Civil Nuclear Energy and Space, Military and Military-Technical Cooperation, Science and Technology, Education, Culture and Tourism, Cooperation in UN and Multilateral Fora. The buzz among the strategic community was that the real motive of Putin's visit was to gain the support of India for Russia and not for the US in the Ukraine crisis and reaffirm the relationship with India.

#### RUSSIA - UKRAINE CRISIS

A couple of weeks back Russia has deployed more than 1,00,00 soldiers along with military installation for support in the Ukrainian borders. Russian military build-ups near Ukraine is one of the largest recent military mobilizations. Tensions erupted as Russia was against the decision of the west on including Ukraine as a member of NATO. Russia views Ukraine as a natural part of its own territory as it was under the Soviet Union previously and now as a nearest neighbour. Moreover, it never welcomes the actions of Ukraine joining the NATO. On the other side, the West and European Union views Ukraine as a key to Central Asia. The world is closely watching the conflict and the actions of Russia are seriously unfavourable. The moves of Russia have led to the raise of a million-dollar question 'Is Russia preparing

to invade Ukraine' among the global strategic community. The US has already made it clear to the world that any military actions by Russia in the Ukraine issue will lead to serious sanctions and retaliatory military actions on Russia. In this situation, an armed invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation will have severe implications for not only the region but for the whole world. This will eventually ensure a war between the US and the Russian and pave a way for the start of a new cold war between the Russia and the US. \

#### WHY IS INDIA IMPORTANT TO USA?

America Latest India is an essential partner. Geographically, is located in rapidly developing areas with nationwide hobbies. The unstable arc that developed in North Africa passes through the Middle East and continues into Pakistan and Afghanistan and ends in ultra-modern India on the western border. The Indian landmass enters the sea in the name of this. With the Asian economy on the cutting edge of development, the Indian Ocean is essential to verbal exchange channels around the world, about 50 percent of ultra-modern sector box merchandise and 70 percent of modern oil and gas distribution. India's developing countrywide power gives it more tools to pursue its countrywide hobby for the benefit of the modern-day United States. India has 0.33 largest navy, fourth in Air force and fifth largest army internationally.

India is a major US partner. Similar current guns are prevalent in international efforts to prevent modern mass destruction. India's important worldwide ties (particularly the Middle East), its aspirations to modernize the United Nations (UN) Security Council, and its role in global corporations, including a worldwide nuclear power company, make New Delhi a powerful voice growth. India's position against fundamentalism and terrorism is in line with that of the state-of-the-art America. English-speaking and Western-speaking medium-peace Indians co-exist easily with their counterparts in American factories and institutions, along with more than 2.8 million American Indians. American Better Training Gadget is an incubator of Today's Fortune collaborations with over one hundred Indian college students in American universities. As India modernizes and develops, it will spend billions of rupees on infrastructure,

transportation, power generation and distribution, and defense infrastructure. American companies can benefit greatly from introducing the generation and India would like to understand this new business. India-US cooperation is essential for global action towards climate change. India is fully committed to the contemporary cooperation and emergence of the world for an international machine based on multilateral establishments and on common practices that lead to worldwide accepted law.

#### THE AMERICAN VIEW ON PUTIN'S VISIT

The India - US relationship is a global strategic partnership. And not a mundane bilateral relation. The relations of Washington and Delhi started as just bilateral relations and by time it has evolved and shaped into this stage. Thanks to the shared democratic values and rising convergence of interests on bilateral, regional & global issues. The mottos such as namely and "SanjhaPrayas, Sab ka Vikas" (Shared Effort, Progress for All) and likewise "ChaleinSaathSaath: Forward Together We Go" are the best instance for the robustness of India - US relations.

The Indian Government's emphasis on development and good governance has created an opportunity to revitalize bilateral relations and develop cooperation under the motto adopted during the first two summits of Prime Minister Modi and President Obama in September 2014 and January 2015 respectively. The joint statement level conference released in June 2016 was called India-U.S. Relationship "With Enduring Global Partners in the 21st Century".

#### RUSSIA CRISES AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

In a worse - case scenario, if Russia initiates the invasion of Ukraine through mobilization of its military forces and annexes it. Then that will be the ignition of the actual, serious tension in the Eurasian region and will have serious repercussions across the globe. According to one of the experts, Tanvi Madan "It would make India's constant efforts to prevent the deepening of Sino - Russian relations to go in vein. Impede India's suggested approach for stalling the Sino - Russian ties or fueling friction between them. It would complicate India's efforts to maintain at delicate balance between partnership with the US, Europe and

Russia. It would also bring India - US and India - Europe contradictions to the fore. It will affect the India us cooperation in the Indo Pacific and China's challenge. And it will also shape a way headline for India's move to deepen security and economic ties with European partners.

#### AVERTING AN INVASION

Nobody wants war or aspires for the escalation of conflict between two actors. Russian invading Ukraine will have unimaginable implications to the region as well as at the global level. Especially, it will have dire effects & consequences for India. Hence, in order to reduce and avert the chances of an invasion. The world nations have to find viable solutions to address the issue, avert a Russian invasion and deescalate the tensions at the region.

#### WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

The Even if it is an annexation of Ukraine by Russia or a deal between the US and Russian in both of this scenarios the one which will have serious implications will be India. In the first scenario of an invasion by Russia, the post invasion period will witness the pre assured retaliatory military actions by the US on Russia and it will eventually lead to a situation in which the world will be waiting for India's response to Russia's action . Delhi will be left with only two options; one is to support the Russia for its friendship and support or to join with the West and initiate actions against Russia. However, if India supports Russia, then India has to face serious consequences, the US will impose pressure and sanctions against India. Without a doubt, it will lead to CAATSA sanction on India for its acquisition of S - 400 Missiles from Russia. In the other scenario, if India condemns Russia for its invasion and joins hand with the West, then India will be forced to cease its Defence deals with Russia. Ceasing and calling off the defense ties will impact the Indian armed forces mainly in managing their weapons and meeting their Defence requirements.

#### WHAT MOSCOW WANTS?

The Kremlin wants an assurance from the West, the NATO that it will never ever include Ukraine as

partner in the NATO / security alliance. Moscow is very particular about this; they have openly revealed that it needs the assurance from the West in order to not annex Ukraine. This is because, Moscow doesn't want to have a foreign enemy at its border. The Bear believes firmly that the Ukraine joining NATO will facilitate the West to mobilize and deploy their military might at the Russian border. The Russian never wants this to happen; it never wants such a complex threat.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

The million-dollar question at the moment is "What Should India Do in this Russia – Ukraine Crisis? Who should India support? The Delhi's calculations are unknown. However, it's primary focus should be on averting an invasion and initiating best possible efforts to deescalate the tensions at the European region. India should take up the role of a peaceful resolver for the issue and should try to solve the issue amicably. It has to balance its relations with both the US and Russia. India's action will be closely watched by the world. In 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, it had a serious implication for India. India was not raising its voice against Russia's action nor supported its annexation. It kept silent in Russian's annexation of Crimea and this silence of India was interpreted as a support by most of the scholars within the strategic community. Hence, this time India should give a firm attention and should raise its voice in the Russia – Ukraine conflict. India's role will help to ensure the Europe's security and will also shape its relations with Europe in the future. If again Russia initiates military actions against Ukraine, it will significantly complicate India's objectives of countering China and affect its smooth and cordial relations with the US and the Europe. India should ensure that its two key partners are not at loggerhead.

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