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**DAILY EDITORIAL
ANALYSIS**

TOPIC

**INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP IN
UPCOMING YEARS**

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Context

- The India-Russia relationship has been a cornerstone of international diplomacy for decades, and its impact is set to grow even more significant in upcoming years.
- However, the evolving geopolitical landscape and the influence of Western countries have had a significant impact on this partnership.

About the India-Russia Relationship

- The India-Russia relationship dates back to the Cold War era, with both countries collaborating on various fronts, including defense, technology, and space exploration.
- It has evolved significantly since the signing of the **Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership in October 2000**, and was elevated to the **level of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership** during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in December 2010.

Key Areas of Cooperation That Will Shape the World in Upcoming Years

- **Strategic Partnership:** The India-Russia relationship is built on mutual respect and trust, with both countries actively cooperating in various international organizations such as the **United Nations, BRICS, and SCO**.
 - ♦ Russia has been a steadfast supporter of **India's aspiration to become a permanent member** of the **UN Security Council**.
 - ♦ The two nations have held **21 Annual Summits since 2000**, with the most recent one held in Moscow in July 2024.
- **Political and Security Cooperation:** The two countries engage in regular high-level dialogues, including the **2+2 Dialogue** involving their **Foreign and Defence Ministers**.
 - ♦ These dialogues ensure regular interaction and follow-up on cooperation activities.
- **Economic Ties:** India and Russia have strong economic ties, with significant cooperation in energy, engineering, agriculture, and high technology.
 - ♦ Both countries have set **ambitious targets to boost bilateral trade** to over **\$100 billion by 2030**.
 - ♦ Russia is one of the largest suppliers of oil and gas to India, and they are exploring new avenues for trade and investment. The focus on sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals, and technology will drive economic growth and create job opportunities in both nations.
 - ♦ This economic partnership will encourage other countries to engage more deeply with India and Russia.
- **Military-Technical Cooperation:** Russia supplies India with modern weapons and military equipment and assists in training Indian military specialists.
 - ♦ The induction of advanced warships like the **INS Tushil** and the ongoing development of the **BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile System** highlight the depth of this cooperation.
 - ♦ **Joint exercises and exchange** of experience further strengthen the defense potential of both countries.
 - ♦ It not only strengthens India's defence capabilities but also contributes to regional stability and security.
- **Technological Innovation:** India and Russia are collaborating on cutting-edge technologies, including quantum computing, cyber-physical systems, and biotechnology.
 - ♦ These joint efforts will lead to breakthrough innovations that can address global challenges such as climate change, healthcare, and sustainable development.
 - ♦ The **BioE3 Policy 2024** is a prime example of this collaboration, aiming to leverage biotechnology for economic, environmental, and employment benefits.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** As both countries navigate complex international relations, their partnership will provide a counterbalance to other global powers.
 - ♦ This influence will be particularly significant in regions such as South Asia and the Indo-Pacific, where strategic interests converge.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:** Both nations have a rich cultural heritage and regularly organize joint cultural events such as festivals, exhibitions, and concerts.
 - ♦ Educational programs, tourism, and cultural festivals will foster mutual understanding and goodwill.

- ◆ These ties will not only enhance bilateral relations but also contribute to global cultural diversity and cooperation.

Balancing Act of India: Western Influences on India-Russia Relationship

- **Diplomatic Balancing:** While India seeks to strengthen its ties with Western countries, it also values its long-standing relationship with Russia.
 - ◆ It allows India to maintain its **strategic autonomy** and pursue its national interests without alienating either side.
- **Geopolitical Dynamics:** The West's stance on Russia, especially following the **annexation of Crimea in 2014** and the **invasion of Ukraine in 2022**, has created a complex geopolitical environment.
 - ◆ While many Western countries have imposed sanctions on Russia, India has maintained a neutral position.
 - ◆ It has allowed India to continue its energy trade and defense cooperation with Russia, despite Western pressure.
- **Defense Cooperation:** India's defense ties with the West have deepened in recent years, with increased cooperation with NATO partners and the United States.
 - ◆ It has led to a diversification of India's defense procurement, reducing its dependence on Russian military equipment.
 - ◆ However, Russia remains a significant supplier of arms to India, and the two countries continue to collaborate on defense projects.
- **Economic Relations:** Western sanctions on Russia have impacted global trade, but India has managed to navigate these challenges by increasing its trade with Russia.
 - ◆ India's purchase of discounted Russian crude oil and exports of food and pharmaceuticals to Russia have strengthened bilateral trade.
 - ◆ This trade boom has helped India maintain its energy security and economic stability.

Conclusion

- The India-Russia relationship is poised to have a profound impact on the world in upcoming years, shaping strategic, economic, technological, geopolitical, and cultural landscapes.
- As India and Russia continue to deepen their partnership, the global community will witness the benefits of this enduring and expanding collaboration.
- India's growing ties with the United States and other Western countries may lead to further diversification of its defense and economic partnerships.

Source: IE

Mains Practice Question

Given the evolving geopolitical landscape, critically analyze key ways in which the India-Russia relationship is likely to shape the global order in upcoming years.

