



Victory Day Parade

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Why in News

India has decided to send a contingent of 75 personnel from its three armed forces to participate in Russia's **75th World War II Victory Day Parade** on 24 June, 2020.

Key Points

- The Russian parade is held every year on **Victory Day (May 9)**, which marks the **surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945**.
This year it was delayed because of the **Covid-19**.
- The victory day parade honours the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people.
- India's participation in the parade will be a mark of tribute and solidarity with the people of Russia.
- Earlier in January 2020, Russia had invited India to take part in the victory day parade.

India-Russia Defence Cooperation

- Defence remains the most significant aspect of India's relations with Russia with both sides looking to **encourage joint manufacturing of equipment** under India's **Make-in-India programme** and **through transfer of technology**.
- After the **Vladivostok summit in 2019**, both the countries had recognized the requirement of an institutional arrangement for **reciprocal provision of logistic support and services for the armed forces**.
They had also agreed to prepare a framework for cooperation on it.
- During the **5th India Russia military industry conference** held during the **Defexpo 2020 in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**, companies from both the countries signed various Memorandum of Understanding(MoUs) to develop a range of defence equipment.

- In 2019, despite the threat of U.S. sanctions, India went ahead with the decision to purchase the **S-400 missile defence system**, worth over \$5 billion.
- Both the countries continue to **encourage military to military cooperation** through **military political dialogue and joint military exercises**.
 - In 2019, India and Russia carried out a second **joint tri-service exercise INDRA**.
 - In 2019, India also took part in **Exercise TSENTR 2019** of the Russian Armed Force.
- Despite Russia's deep military and political ties with China, and its own relations with the U.S., India continues to look at Russia as a key partner.

World War II

- World War II, started in **Europe in 1939** and assumed the character of a world war. It was fought between **Allied and Axis powers**.
- The **Allied powers** were represented by Great Britain, USA, France etc. While the **Axis powers were led by Germany, Italy and Japan**.
- The war came to an end in **September 1945**.
- **Cause of War:**
 - Treaty of Versailles of 1920.
 - Aggressive Policy of expansion by the fascist powers (Germany and Italy).
 - Appeasement policy by Western powers towards fascist powers to fight against Communist Soviet Union.
 - Rise of Japan as imperialist power.
Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis.
- **Consequences of the War:**
 - **Killing of Jews** in concentration camps.
 - **Atomic attacks** on the Japanese cities of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945**.
 - Division of the world into **two power blocs** – the Communist Bloc headed by Soviet Union and the Western Bloc headed by the USA.
 - Beginning of the **Cold War** which continued till the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991.
 - Foundation of **United Nation Organisations** in 1945.

Source: PIB