



Russia Suspends New START

Why in News?

Recently, Russia has announced to suspend its participation in the [New START](#), the last remaining major military agreement with the United States.



What is the New START?

- **Background:**
 - The name START comes from the original “**Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty**”, known as START-I, which was signed between the US and the erstwhile [USSR](#) in 1991, and came into force in 1994.
 - START-I, which capped the numbers of nuclear warheads and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that each side could deploy at 6,000 and 1,600 respectively, lapsed in 2009, and was replaced first by the SORT, also known as the Treaty of Moscow), and then by the **New START treaty**.
- **New START:**
 - The New START, the “Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms”, entered into force on 5th February 2011, and placed **new verifiable limits on intercontinental-range** nuclear weapons.
 - The two countries had to meet the treaty’s central limits on strategic offensive arms by February 2018, and to then stay within those limits for the period the treaty remained in force. The US and Russia Federation subsequently **agreed to extend the treaty through February 2026**.

What are the Implications of the Suspension?

- A suspension of the treaty may mean that **it will be harder for the US to monitor compliance**.
- Since Russia has already suspended mutual inspections of nuclear weapons sites and participation in a bilateral consultative commission, it would be **a serious blow if Putin went further and**

stopped routine reporting and data exchange on nuclear weapon movements and other related developments.

- The move is "entirely symbolic" and most probably Russia made the announcement to pressure US into approaching Russia about ending the war, so Russia can dictate the terms under which that would happen.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. The "New START" treaty was in the news. What is this treaty? (2011)

- (a) It is a bilateral strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the USA and the Russian Federation.
- (b) It is multilateral energy security cooperation treaty among the members of the East Asia Summit.
- (c) It is a treaty between the Russian Federation and the European Union for the energy security cooperation.
- (d) It is a multilateral cooperation treaty among the BRICS countries for the promotion of trade

Ans: (a)

Source: IE

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