



India-Russia Cooperation at the UNSC

For Prelims: UN Security Council, Minsk Agreement, Normandy Process, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), G20, New Development Bank (NDB).

For Mains: Issues Associated with the Functioning of UNSC, Need to bring reforms in the UN Security Council, Importance of India-Russia Cooperation in UN and Multilateral Fora, India-Russia Relations, India's stand on Russia-Ukraine Tensions.

Why in News?

Recently, the **Bilateral consultations on United Nations related issues** were held between India and Russia in New Delhi.

- Russia is set to **assume the presidency** of the [UN Security Council](#) in February, 2022.
- The discussion came in the backdrop of [tensions between Russia and Ukraine](#) over possible eastward expansion by **NATO**.
- Earlier, the [21st India-Russia annual summit](#) took place at New Delhi which also included the **first 2+2 ministerial dialogue** of India's foreign and defence ministers with their Russian counterparts.



What is the importance of Cooperation in UN and Multilateral Fora?

- Both Sides stresses the **importance of reinvigorating multilateralism**, with the central coordinating role played by the United Nations in world affairs.
 - Russia welcomed [India's election as a non-permanent member](#) of the **UN Security**

Council with an overwhelming majority for a two-year term.

- Russia **supports India's candidacy for permanent membership** of a reformed United Nations Security Council and of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
- Both Sides support the **comprehensive reform of the UNSC** to reflect contemporary global realities and to make it more representative, effective and efficient in dealing with issues of international peace and security.
- Both Sides are **committed to enhanced cooperation within BRICS**.
 - Russia congratulates India on its successful BRICS Chairmanship in 2021, including hosting of the XIII **BRICS Summit** on 9th September 2021 and adopting the **New Delhi Declaration**.
- The role of the **New Development Bank (NDB)** is recognised by both sides as vital to **addressing development challenges**, including health and economic impact of the **covid-19 pandemic** and encouraged the NDB to explore the possibility of financing more social infrastructure projects, including those that use digital technologies.
- India and Russia recognise the achievements of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in the last two decades of its operation and believe that it has the great potential for further interaction among the SCO Member States.
- They intend to **focus particularly on increasing** the effectiveness of countering **terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, cross-border organized crime**, and information security threats, in particular by improving the functionality of the **SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure**.
- They are also determined to cooperate within the **G20 format** and intensify the same on issues of global and mutual interest, keeping in view India's presidency of the G20 in 2023.
- Both sides agree that **safeguarding of global commons** including our oceans, outer space and information space **should be based on the principles of transparency, accessibility** and upholding international law.

What stand India has taken in UNSC on Russia-Ukraine Tensions?

- At the **UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting on Ukraine**, India also called for the **immediate de-escalation of the situation** while taking into account the security interests of all.
- India called for **quiet diplomacy and the peaceful resolution** of the Russia-Ukraine tensions.
 - **"Quiet diplomacy"** refers to one state's efforts to influence the behavior of another state through discreet negotiations or actions.
- India was **one of three countries** (Kenya and Gabon were the others) that **abstained from a procedural vote** on whether or not Ukraine would be discussed. China and Russia voted against the move.
 - The US, which initiated the meeting, and nine other countries voted to hold the discussion.
- India reiterated its support for a **July 2020 ceasefire, the 2014 Minsk Agreement and the Normandy Process**.
 - The Normandy Format refers to **discussions held between Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France**, who have met since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea.
- India also called for **quiet diplomacy** as both the West, led by the US, and Russia have been talking tough publicly.
 - India is concerned about the security of the more than 20,000 Indian nationals — including students — living in Ukraine.

Way Forward

- Although India and Russia **cannot do much about each other engaging with their rivals**, they have no reason to be satisfied with the poor state of their commercial ties.
- To give a start to the revival of their ties, India and Russia **shall focus on laying a clear path for expansive economic cooperation and generating a better understanding** of each other's imperatives on the Indo-Pacific.

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