



23rd India–Russia Annual Summit Held in New Delhi

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Context: The 23rd Annual Summit between India and Russia was held in New Delhi and carried special significance as it coincided with the **25th anniversary of the 2000 Declaration on Strategic Partnership**. The partnership, elevated in **2010** to a “**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**”, continues to remain a key pillar of India's foreign policy.

Key Outcomes of the Summit

1. Economic & Trade Cooperation

- **Programme for Economic Cooperation till 2030:** Both countries adopted a long-term roadmap titled “*Programme for the Development of Strategic Areas of India–Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030*”, aimed at diversifying engagement beyond the traditional domains of defence and energy.
- **Trade Targets:** A new bilateral trade goal of **USD 100 billion by 2030** was announced (trade stood at USD 68.7 billion in 2024–25).
- **FTA Negotiations:** Leaders agreed to accelerate talks on a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAU) to improve the movement of goods and services.
- **Payment Mechanisms:** The two sides committed to expanding **settlements in national currencies** and working toward interoperability of **payment systems and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs)** to reduce dependence on Western financial systems.

2. Energy Security

- **Uninterrupted Energy Supplies:** Russia reaffirmed long-term supply of oil and gas to India.
- **Civil Nuclear Cooperation:** Continued collaboration on civil nuclear projects, including **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** and future technologies like **small modular reactors (SMRs)**.

3. Defence and Security Partnership

- Reiterated focus on **joint research and development, co-production, and technology transfer**, aligning with the *Make in India* initiative.
- Commitment to regular **military exercises**, high-level exchanges, and enhanced security cooperation.

4. Connectivity and Logistics

- Strengthened cooperation on major connectivity initiatives:

◦ **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**

◦ **Chennai–Vladivostok Maritime Corridor**

◦ **Northern Sea Route**

- A dedicated **MoU on training specialists for ships operating in polar waters** was signed, deepening Arctic collaboration.

5. Global & Multilateral Cooperation

- Russia officially joined India's flagship conservation initiative, the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.
- The two countries reaffirmed coordination in multilateral platforms including the **UN, SCO, BRICS, and G20**.

6. People-to-People Engagement

- Agreements signed on **migration and mobility**, enabling easier movement for skilled Indian workers.
- Russia announced a **30-day visa-free e-tourist facility** for Indian travellers, boosting cultural and tourism ties.