

POSITION PAPER

Name of delegate: Amarnath Annadurai

Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Topic:

Ukraine Russian Crisis

Country of state: India

Location: India

Capital: New Delhi

Population: 2022 {1,405,606,396}

Form of government: Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Parliament of India: 245 Members of Rajya Sabha, 543 Members of Lok Sabha

An economy based on: Agriculture, Industrial, Oil source and Revenue, Service, Tourism, and forestry.

The Russia-Ukrainian war is an ongoing war that began in February 2014 between Russia (together with pro-Russian separatist forces) and Ukraine both nations are former members of the now-dissolved communist soviet union (USSR) before its dissolution in 1991. Various agreements were made when they separated in 1991 and each started transitioning towards market-oriented economies. By 2013 much of Ukraine and its national parliament wanted closer ties with Western Europe. Major parties involved were France, Germany, the United States of America United Kingdom, and NATO. On the other hand, others including the then-president Victor Yanukovich and his cabinet wanted closer ties with Russia, before this was resolved though, a series of large-scale, mostly peaceful protests began, and soon violence broke out, especially on February 14, resulting in the overthrow of pro-Russian Yanukovich, as a result of this, parliament appointed an interim government seeking greater ties with the western union. Russia, to protect its interest initiated a military action to secure Crimea which is an important seaport, first eight years of the conflict included the Russian annexation of Crimea (2014). With the military build-up on the Russian Ukraine border from late 2021, the conflict expanded significantly when Russia resolved in liberating the Donbas (pro-Russians) for his interests and launched a n invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022.

Russian troops were stationed in Hungary, intervening at the time of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 but India did not condemn it. In 1957, a year after the intervention in Hungary, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru explained in Parliament why India took a non-condemnatory approach. "Many things are happening in the world from year to year and day to day, which we have disliked intensely. We have not condemned them because when one is trying to solve a problem, it doesn't help to call names and condemn." Jawahar Lal Nehru's axiom has continued to guide India's approach to conflicts, especially those involving its partners. Be it the Soviet interventions in Hungary (1956), Czechoslovakia (1968) or Afghanistan (1979), or the American invasion of Iraq (2003), India has more or less followed this line. India's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine condemnation of the civilian killings without any name-calling, and abstention from UN votes are not fundamentally different from this historically cautious neutrality. India abstained on a US-sponsored United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution that deplores in the strongest terms Russia's aggression against Ukraine. India abstained from a United Nations General Assembly resolution that censured Russia for its military actions in Ukraine. India also abstained from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution that was related to safety at four nuclear power stations and several nuclear waste sites including Chornobyl as the Russians seized control of them.

India's position on the Ukraine crisis is not an isolated one. South Africa, another major democracy, abstained from the UN votes that sought to condemn Russia. The United Arab Emirates, a close American ally in the Gulf that hosts thousands of U.S. troops, abstained from a vote in the UN Security Council. Israel, the U.S.'s closest ally in West Asia, condemned the Russian attack but refused to join the sanctions regime and said no to sending its defense systems to Ukraine. Turkey, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member, is the same and is mediating between Ukraine and Russia. But none of these countries has come under the kind of pressure and public criticism from the West that India has. U.S. President Joe Biden said India's position was "somewhat shaky". His Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics warned India of "consequences" if it conducts trade with Russia circumventing American sanctions. The Annual Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation is the highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism. Since the Declaration of Strategic Partnership, twelve Summit meetings have taken place alternatively in India and Russia. The last (12th) Summit meeting was held in Moscow, on December 16, 2011, between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The two Governments have also established two Inter-Governmental Commissions - one on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister and the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, and another on Military-Technical Cooperation co-chaired by the two Defence Ministers, both of which meet annually. Indo-Russian cooperation in the military-technical cooperation sphere has evolved from a simple buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research & development, joint production, and marketing of advanced defense technologies and systems. The Brah Mos missile system is an example of this type of cooperation. Joint development of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft and the Multi Transport Aircraft, as well as the licensed production in India of SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks, are other examples of flagship cooperation programs presently underway in this area. Russia has been a long-standing partner of India in nuclear energy and recognizes India as a country with advanced nuclear technology and an impeccable non-proliferation record. The construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) is a good example of ongoing cooperation in this area. Unit 1&2 of the KKNPP (VVER 1000 MW units) is being built with Russian collaboration. Unit 1 is due to be commissioned soon, while Unit 2 is at an advanced stage of construction. Discussions on the construction of two additional NPPs at Kudankulam (Units 3&4) are at an advanced stage. India and Russia have also been collaborating on several high-technology space projects. Under the 2004 Inter-Governmental Agreement on "Cooperation in the area of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes", Russia and India are cooperating on projects such as the Moon mission Chandrayan 2, and the Human Space Flight Project. On 20th April 2011, the jointly developed Indian-Russian Student Satellite "Youthsat" was successfully launched by India on a PSLV rocket.

Conclusion:

India is not a client state of any great power (even client states have not joined the sanctions regime). It is not a member of any alliance system the Quad (India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.) is not an alliance. Like any other country, India also retains the right to take policies based on pragmatic realism and its core national interests. And India thinks that a neutral position anchored in strategic autonomy which keeps channels open with both sides is what serves its interests. It does not mean that India supports the war. It has not. The U.S., India's most important strategic partner, does not seem to appreciate these nuances.