

## India-Russia Diplomacy: Unpacking Dr. Jaishankar's Key Moscow Visit

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's recent five-day visit to Moscow marks a significant stride in fortifying India-Russia Economic And Defense Ties. This diplomatic endeavor by him is a testament to India's pursuit of an inclusive and equitable international system, focusing on regional interests without undue external influences. Notably, Western nations, including the US, have implicitly recognized the logic behind India's continuous engagement with Russia.

- **Bolstering India-Russia Trade:** Since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, India-Russia trade has surged, surpassing \$50 billion. This expansion encompasses traditional sectors like energy and extends into high-tech areas. As President Putin noted, this significant trade advancement reflects deepening bilateral economic relations.
- **Shift Towards New Multilateralism:** The global focus is transitioning towards an eastward and southward direction, heralding a new era of new multilateralism. During the visit, discussions on BRICS, with Russia's upcoming 2024 presidency, and SCO, reinforced the crucial roles of India and Russia in Eurasian cooperation. The potential EEU-India FTA signifies growing economic collaboration between the two nations.
- **Defense and Military Cooperation:** A key topic was the joint production of advanced weaponry, considering India's gradual decrease in reliance on Russian defense imports since the Cold War. This military-technical cooperation indicates a shift towards strategic defense diversification for India.
- **Nuclear Energy and Trade Corridors:** The agreement on the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant symbolizes the deep trust in nuclear energy cooperation between India and Russia. The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is set to enhance economic resilience by offering a stable trade route connecting India, Russia, Iran, and Central Asia, bypassing the volatile Middle East and reshaping regional trade and transportation networks.

Such strategic engagements are transformative, reshaping regional and global power dynamics, and demand close analysis due to their far-reaching implications.