Chapter – I

Introduction
Introduction

Russia is one of the important countries of the world. It influences other countries which are against USA. It leads communist countries. It is against capitalist and imperialist countries. It supported movements against imperialism. Russia supported Indian Independence movement. So that is why it needs to study Indo-USSR relations historically.

Since time immemorial India has cultural and commercial ties with the peoples of Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Evidences, available in the rich literature of Russia and India, dating back to the early twelfth century, bear testimony to the existence of commercial transactions and cultural contacts between the peoples of these neighbourly countries.

Relations between Russia and India took a better turn in the beginning of the twentieth century. Events like Russo – Japanese war (1904-1905) and the First Russian Revolution (1905) exploded the myth of the invincibility and durability of the European powers in general and of Czarist Russia in particular.

India and Soviet Union are members of many international bodies where they jointly collaborate closely on matters of shared national interest. Important examples include the UN, BRICS, G20 and SCO where India has observer status and has been asked by Russia to become a full member. Russia has stated publicly that it supports India receiving a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. In addition, Russia has expressed interest in joining SAARC with observer status in which India is a founding member.

A cordial relationship with India that began in the 1950s represented the most successful of the Soviet attempts to foster closer relations with Third World countries. The relationship began with a visit by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the Soviet Union in June 1955 and Khrushchev’s return trip to India in the fall of 1955. While in India, Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union supported Indian sovereignty over the disputed territory of the Kashmir region and over Portuguese coastal enclaves such as Goa.

In 1965 the Soviet Union served successfully as peace broker between India and Pakistan after an Indian-Pakistani border war. The Soviet Chairman of the Council of
Ministers, literally Premier of the Soviet Union, Alexei Kosygin, met with representatives of India and Pakistan and helped them negotiate an end to the military conflict over Kashmir.

In 1971 the former East Pakistan region initiated an effort to secede from its political union with West Pakistan. India supported the secession and, as a guarantee against possible Chinese entrance into the conflict on the side of West Pakistan, it signed with the Soviet Union the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in August 1971. In December, India entered the conflict and ensured the victory of the secessionists and the establishment of the new state of Bangladesh.

Relations between the Soviet Union and India did not suffer much during the rightist Janata Party’s coalition government in the late 1970s, although India did move to establish better economic and military relations with Western countries. To counter these efforts by India to diversify its relations, the Soviet Union proffered additional weaponry and economic assistance.

We are confident that India lives in the hearts of every Russian. In the same way, I can assure you that Russia also lives in our souls as a Homeland, as people who share our emotions, our feelings of mutual respect and constant friendship. Long live our friendship.

India-Russia relationship is one of deep friendship and mutual confidence that would not be affected by transient political trends. Russia has been a pillar of strength at difficult moments in India's history. India will always reciprocate this support. Russia is and will remain our most important defence partner and a key partner for our energy security, both on nuclear energy and hydrocarbons.

In view of the ever-growing friendly relations between India and the USSR, the governments of both these countries considered it fit to cement their already existing ties in the form diplomatic relationship on 14 April 1947. Laying stress on the importance of this event, New Times wrote that India was “moving towards independence.

From the foregoing account of the historical development to Indo-Soviet relations, it is evident that the seeds of mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation between these two countries were lying somewhat deep in the hoary past. Thanks to the achievement of independence by the country on 15 August 1947, the political dimensions of India-USSR
relation assumed wider significance and, with the passage of time, they started influencing international relations in an impressive way.

**Objectives**

- To present the detailed relationship historically between India and USSR.
- To present the needs which made them to develop relations with each other.
- To assess and the estimate benefits of both countries in various fields.
- To anticipate future relationship of India and USSR.

**Methodology**

It is based on historical method. It is descriptive and analytical one. Primary secondary and published sources are utilized.

**Chapterization**

For the purpose of analysis, the thesis is designed into seven chapters including introduction and conclusion.

Chapter – I : Introduction

Chapter – II : Early relations between India and Soviet Union.

Chapter – III : Soviet Union as real friend of India.

Chapter – IV : Indo – Soviet relations after Nehru.

Chapter – V : Towards greater understanding.

Chapter – VI : Dimensions of Indo – USSR relations.

Chapter – VII : Conclusion