Preface

India and Russia are the world’s preeminent examples of pluralistic, multi-denominational societies with a deeply rooted tradition of tolerance and constructive co-existence between different faiths and beliefs, of great internal diversity, combined with a strong sense of national and cultural unity, operating in a federal political framework. This makes for common elements in national ethos and perceptions and some common vulnerabilities as well. This dimension has also enriched the cultural heritage of both countries and helped cultural empathy. Another common element of fundamental importance is that both countries are democracies with a commitment to freedom of speech, assembly, free press and a strong Parliament and judiciary. Also of great relevance is the fact that both India and Russia have large and rapidly growing economies with very substantial human and natural resources, augmented by new strengths generated through reform and liberalisation, emergence of active entrepreneurship and strong science and technology traditions and capabilities. This creates large and significant possibilities for mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation.

The traditionally friendly and cooperative relations between India and Russia are marked by stability and continuity. The importance of India’s relations with Russia enjoys a consensus cutting across party lines both in India and Russia. Mutually beneficial Indo-Russian cooperation is. Multifaceted, encompassing areas such as trade and economic, culture, science and technology, defence and military-technical cooperation, peaceful uses of atomic energy and outer space, besides regular political interaction and consultations at the Foreign Office level. Mechanisms are also in place to have bilateral interaction between the Security Councils, Parliaments, Election Commissions, Accounts and Audit Chambers and judiciaries of the two countries.
The new Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation (approved by President Putin in 2000) expresses Russia's intention "to strengthen its traditional partnership with India, including in the area of international affairs, and to aid overcoming problems persisting in South Asia and strengthen stability in the region". Relations with India are regarded as a priority direction in the Russian foreign policy. This aspect comes out in the various important public comments made by the President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin. A composite review of Indo-Russian relations in the period between Putin's two visits to India highlights more continuity and less change.
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Indo-USSR relations have been studied by various academicians and scholars in a successful manner, but after the disintegration of USSR many scholars in a bid to find out what irritants exactly has been in the way of time tested relationship between India and the successor state of USSR, Russia, what is new that has not allowed these two great nations to come close to that extent level of Indo-USSR relationship, that enjoyed throughout the cold war, though even they share the common values and tradition from the past five decades.

My inspiration to take up this study came from the long discussions on various issues concerning the basic theme, with my learned guide Dr. Jageshwar Dayal Ji. I owe my grateful thanks and gratitude to him for his unflinching support, guidance and devotion of time to me since the idea of this relevant broad theme came to my mind, to the time it fructified and could finally be completed. I will be obliged for his extreme support, steady guidance, fruitful and valuable suggestions, without this the study could never have been completed. All the credit for completion this work goes to Dayal sir, his able supervision enabled me to sift chaff of the grain.

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So far as interpretations and conclusion in the study are concerned, I alone responsible for all the short comings or errors if found in this thesis.

I hope this study will serve as a source of information to the scholars, academies, researchers and policy makers.

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