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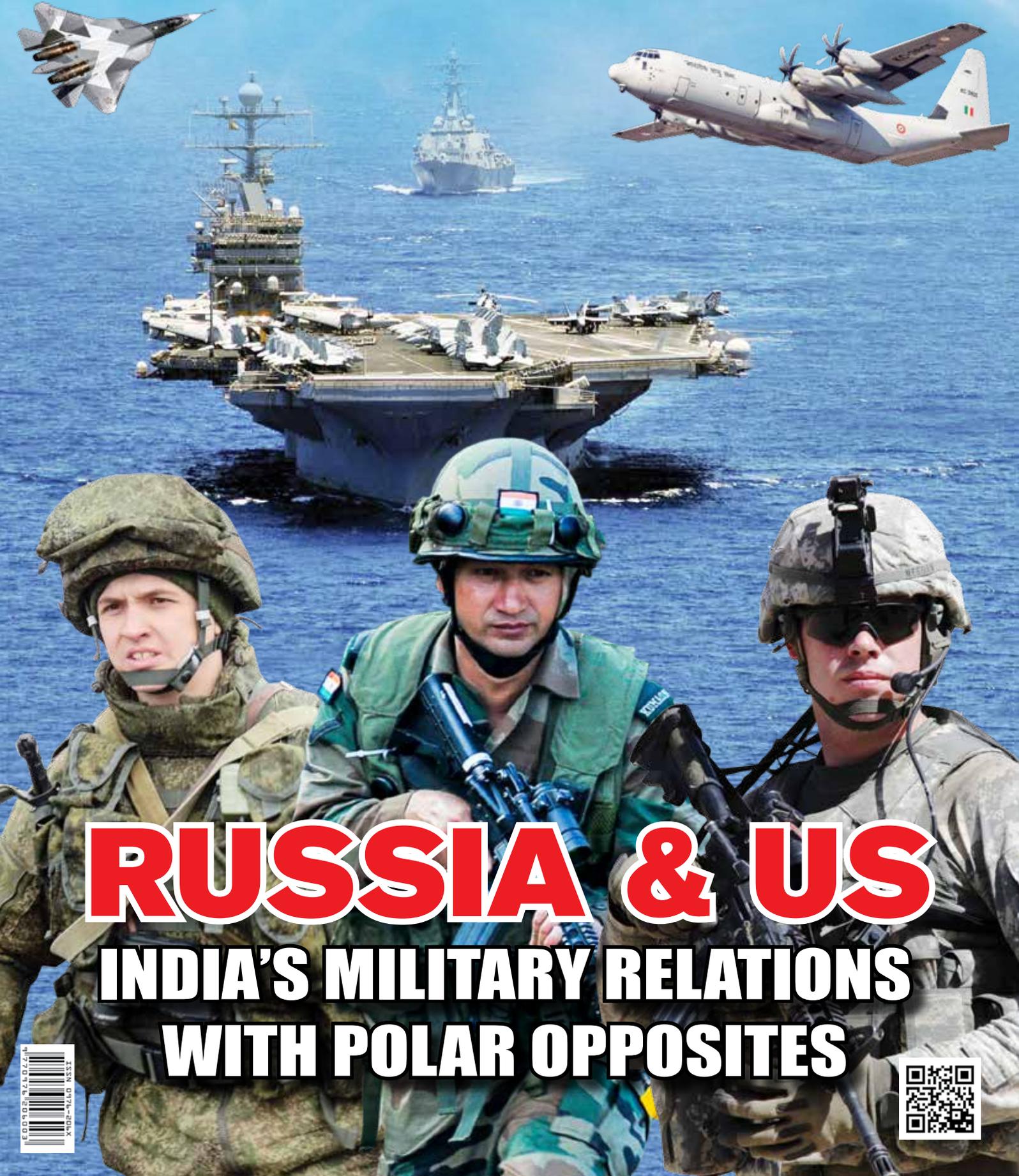
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# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT

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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 02



## RUSSIA & US

### INDIA'S MILITARY RELATIONS WITH POLAR OPPOSITES





## MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



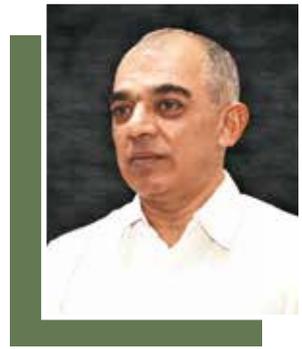
**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya



# DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



**T**he rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran has caused the most serious fissures within Islam than any other before in history. Both are almost physical neighbours, divided a gulf over who's name they dispute too. But it is the theological gulf, interlaced with ethnicity, that is the severest point of separation. It is important to highlight this division because it is one that confronts India too. Home to one of the largest Muslim populations in the world, India has to deal with the fallout of this divide, because Shia-Sunni schisms run in India too.

India, however, has thought it prudent to maintain relations with both the countries. Relations not as equal as they ought to be or should be. But relations nevertheless, and it bodes well for Indian diplomacy that this virtually impossible balancing act can be maintained and has been maintained rather deftly. But then India is India and there is none like it in the world. So, it can do what most others cannot even dream of. Treading a fine line between the doable and disaster.

Which is how it has maintained a fine balance between the United States of America and Russia. The origins of both relationships couldn't have been more different. One began with much hope the USA and then fell prey to emerging military camps during the Cold War. The other began in a completely different political and ideological context – Soviet Russia, and then emerged as an enduring feature of India's foreign and security policies. It is a forgotten footnote of history that India's first Prime Minister Nehru had a terrific relationship with the then US President Eisenhower. But as military pacts came to appear across the world, the relationship faded on account of India not taking sides.

Which is how the Indo-Soviet relationship began, normal until the camps appeared and ideological conflict became an integral part of the world game. It was not until the final split between the two communist neighbours, Soviet Union and China, that India began to be taken seriously by Moscow. By then, the disastrous 1962 war had already taken place. And advanced

American combat aircrafts were arriving in Pakistan.

Once the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, a lot else then slowly began to be erased around the world. Divisions of the past became things of the past too. Technological and political changes around the world were so rapid that those that didn't keep pace were under threat of becoming irrelevant. On the verge of that junction, India did well to engage in course correction. And that has paid serious dividends. Even as it maintains a good relationship with Russia, India is regarded as one of the closest of America's friends. The word ally is commonly used, once anathema to Indian sensibilities. But that is the nature of the world now, India would do well to maintain both as friends, for each has much to help and benefit too in reverse. For after all, that is what a sustainable relationship is about, benefitting both.

**Manvendra Singh**



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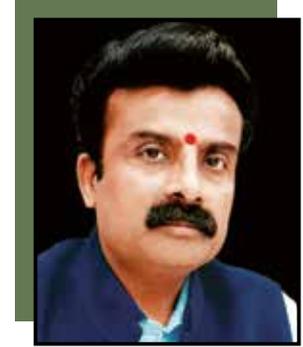
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# DIWALI SPIRIT

It was heart-warming to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi among soldiers guarding the very difficult Himalayan frontiers on Diwali day. He put on record the sentiments of a nation of 125 crore Indians of appreciation and total support for the men (and an increasing number of women) who lay their lives on the line to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a nation that has been a target of external aggression from the very moment of its creation in 1947. How many national leaders have ever done this during the entire tenure as a free nation? But PM Modi made it a point to do what he has been doing since his years as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He has stood with them for one big reason and the reason is that he being the leader of the whole nation, he was with them in the task of national defence and is very appreciative of the sacrifices the men and women of the Armed Forces have to make to defend the nation.

Team **DSA** is delighted to see some very calculated stepping stones by the current government under the leadership of our Prime Minister Modi. Notable was the simultaneous visit of new Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to the Tri-Service Andaman and Nicobar Command based in Port Blair. At the same time, Home Minister Rajnath Singh spent time with the paramilitary forces and the Central Armed Police Forces under his jurisdiction.

Diwali marks a turning point in the solstice. From now on, the Himalayas will see temperatures falling below freezing and avalanches and snowdrifts will add new dangers for the personnel guarding the frontiers. The nation is totally united on issues of national security and territorial defence. In our overview of the global scenario on the defence and security front, we see that the bullying by China has abated somewhat after the Doklam confrontation; but North Korea is becoming a nuisance for the whole humanity. Thus, India has decided to strike a balance with the US and Russia and our subject experts have shared their sophisticated views on this balancing factor in this edition.

*Jai Hind!*

**Pawan Agrawal**



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**Pursuing Strategic Partnership With The Opposites**

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Onkar Abhishek Tiwari



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