

INDO-SOVIET TREATY OF 1971

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION



EMBASSY OF INDIA
MOSCOW

AUGUST 9, 2021

राजदूत
AMBASSADOR
ПОСОЛ



भारत का राजदूतावास, मॉस्को
EMBASSY OF INDIA
MOSCOW
ПОСОЛЬСТВО ИНДИИ
МОСКВА

9 August 2021

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR

It gives me great pleasure to mark the historic Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, concluded 50 years ago on 9 August 1971.

This Treaty symbolized the close partnership between India and the Soviet Union; for their bilateral relations it set the highest standards of cooperation, and on security matters, it symbolized an alignment of interests in the face of regional and international challenges. The Treaty symbolized an extraordinary convergence of national interest of both countries on the most critical issues of war and peace.

The 1971 Indo-Soviet Treaty was perhaps the most consequential international treaty entered into by India since Independence. It was not a military alliance. On the contrary, it strengthened the basis for India's strategic autonomy, and its capacity for independent action. The 1971 India-Pakistan War led to the creation of a new nation, Bangladesh.

While the Treaty is of historical importance, concluded for an era that has gone by, its geopolitical underpinnings remain of enduring value, reflected in the close partnership between India and Russia in the 21st Century, characterized as Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership.

We are pleased to bring out this commemorative collection of documents and photographs related to this historic Treaty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D.B. Venkatesh Varma'.

(D.B. Venkatesh Varma)

TREATY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

DESIROUS of expanding and consolidating the existing relations of sincere friendship between them,

BELIEVING that the further development of friendship and cooperation meets the basic national interests of both the States as well as the interests of lasting peace in Asia and the world,

DETERMINED to promote the consolidation of universal peace and security and to make steadfast efforts for the relaxation international tensions and the final elimination of the remnants of colonialism,

UPHOLDING their firm faith in the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between States with different political and social systems,

CONVINCED that in the world today international problems can only be solved by cooperation and not by conflict,

REAFFIRMING their determination to abide by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter,

The Republic of India on one side, and The Union of Soviet Socialist Republic on the other side,

HAVE decided to conclude the present Treaty, for which purposes the following Plenipotentiaries have been appointed:

On behalf of the Republic of India :

Sardar Swaran Singh,
Minister of External Affairs,

On behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic :

Mr. A.A. Gromyko,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Who, having each presented their Credentials, which are found to be in proper form and due order,

HAVE AGREED as follows :

ARTICLE I

The High Contracting Parties solemnly declare that enduring peace and friendship shall prevail between the two countries and their peoples. Each

Party shall respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other party and refrain from interfering in the other's internal affairs.

The High Contracting Parties shall continue to develop and consolidate the relations of sincere friendship, good neighbourliness and comprehensive cooperation existing between them on the biases of the aforesaid principles as well as those of equality and mutual benefit.

ARTICLE II

Guided by the desire to contribute in every possible way to ensure enduring peace and security of their people, the High Contracting Parties declare their determination to continue their efforts to preserve and to strengthen peace in Asia and throughout the world, to hard the arms race and to achieve general and complete disarmament, including both nuclear and conventional, under effective international control.

ARTICLE III

Guided by their loyalty to the lofty ideal of equality of all Peoples and Nations, irrespective of race or creed, the High Contracting Parties condemn colonialism and reclaims in all forms and manifestations, and reaffirm their determination to strive for their final and complete elimination.

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate with other States to achieve these aims and to support the just aspirations of the peoples in their struggle against colonialism and racial domination.

ARTICLE IV

The Republic of India respects the peace loving policy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics aimed at strengthening friendship and co-operation with all nations.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics respects India's policy of non-alignment and reaffirms that this policy constitutes an important factor in the maintenance of universal peace and international security and in the lessening of tensions in the world.

ARTICLE V

Deeply interested in ensuring universal peace and security attaching great importance to their mutual cooperation in the international field for achieving those aims, the High contracting Parties will maintain regular contracts with each other on major international problems affecting the interests of both of States by means of meetings and exchanges of views between their leading statesmen, visits by official delegations and special envoys of the two Governments, and through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE VI

Attaching great importance to economic, scientific and technological co-operation between them, the High Contracting Parties will continue to consolidate and expand mutually advantageous and comprehensive co-operation in these fields as well as expand trade, transport and communications between them on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and most-favoured-nation treatment, subject to the existing agreements and the special arrangements with contiguous countries as specified in the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement of December 26, 1970.

ARTICLE VII

The High Contracting Parties shall promote further development of ties and contacts between them in the fields of science, art, literature, education, public health, press, radio, television, cinema, tourism and sports.

ARTICLE VIII

In accordance with the traditional friendship established between the two countries each of the High Contracting Parties solemnly declares that it shall not enter into or participate in any military alliance directed against the other party.

Each High Contracting Party under-takes to abstain from any aggression against the other Party and to prevent the use of its territory for the commission of any act which might inflict military damage on the other High contracting Party.

ARTICLE IX

Each High Contracting Party undertakes to abstain from providing any assistance to any third party that engages in armed conflict with the other Party. In the event of either Party being subjected to and attack or a threat thereof, the High Contracting Parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and the security of their countries.

ARTICLE X

Each High Contracting Party solemnly declares that it shall not enter into any obligations, secret or public, with one or more states, which is incompatible with this Treaty. Each high Contracting Party further declares that no obligation exists, nor shall any obligation be entered into, between itself and any other State or States, which might cause military damage to the other Party.

ARTICLE XI

This treaty is concluded for the duration of twenty years and will be automatically extended for each successive period of five years unless either

High Contracting Party declares its desire to terminate it by giving notice to the other High Contracting Party twelve months prior to the expiration of the Treaty. The Treaty will be subject to ratification and will come into force on the date of the exchange of Instruments of Ratification which will take place in Moscow within one month of the signing of this Treaty.

ARTICLE XII

Any difference of interpretation of any Article or Articles of this Treaty that may arise between the High Contracting Parties will be settled bilaterally by peaceful means in a spirit of mutual respect and understating.

The said Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty in Hindi, Russian and English, all texts being equally authentic and have affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in New Delhi on the ninth day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy one.

**On behalf of the Republic of India
(SD / -Sardar Swaran Singh)
Minister of External Affairs.**

**On behalf of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
(SD/-A.A.Gromyko)
Minister of Foreign Affairs.**

Statement by External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh in Lok Sabha

9 August 1971

I have the honour to lay on the table of the House a copy of Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, signed today by me on behalf of the Government of India with Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Foreign Minister of the USSR Government, who has signed it on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Government welcomes this Treaty as a further step towards strengthening friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. The Treaty will, we are convinced, provide a stabilising factor in favour of peace, security and development not only of our two countries, but the region as a whole. It is not aimed against any third country. In fact, we hope that this Treaty will provide a pattern for similar treaties between India and other countries in this region. Such treaties between countries of this region would stabilise peace and strengthen their independence and sovereignty.

I should like to emphasise in particular that this Treaty is, in its true sense, a treaty of peace. It strengthens our policy of non-alignment, respect for which is expressly mentioned in the Treaty. We sincerely hope that the policy of non-alignment will be further strengthened and will become an effective instrument for the safeguarding of our national interests as well as an important factor in the maintenance of universal peace and international security and in the lessening of tensions in the world.

It is a Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. It is also a treaty of non-aggression. It further provides a credible assurance that in the event of an attack or a threat thereof, the high contracting parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such a threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and the security of their countries. This should act as a deterrent to any Powers that may have aggressive designs on our territorial integrity and sovereignty. It is, therefore, in essence, a treaty of peace against war.

Sir, the world is presenting a rapidly changing and dynamic picture. There is a change in the configuration of various world forces. Our policy of non-alignment is a dynamic policy which can be adapted to these changing situations. I should like to assure the members that our policy of peace stands firm as ever. We have no designs on the territory of other countries. At the same time, we shall not tolerate aggression or threat of aggression from any country. We do not want to provoke war with any country. We shall do everything in our power to defend peace and prevent war.

Speech by Foreign Minister Gromyko at the Signing Ceremony

9 August 1971

There are momentous events in relations between States which come as fruits of dozens of years prepared by the previous development of these relations. The Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation which has just been signed is one such most important landmark for the Soviet Union and India.

The significance of this Treaty cannot be overestimated. It crowns the principles and consistent policy of our two countries aimed at cooperation and friendship. In India the basis of that policy was laid down by the outstanding national leader and statesman Jawaharlal Nehru. He found his true successor in the esteemed Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

The Soviet Union, on its part, following the Leninist foreign policy, has always, from the very first days of independence won by the great Indian people, set the firm and invariable course at achieving ever stronger and wider friendship with India. At all times, both in hardship and jubilation we have been together. It was so in the past, it is so at present for friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and India, far from being motivated by considerations of the moment, is firmly rooted in the long-standing vital interests of our peoples and States, in their concern for the preservation of peace. Our relationship rests on mutual trust, equality, respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. The conclusion of the Soviet-Indian Treaty provides an even stronger political and legal basis for these relations.

Alongside this the Treaty is a document of great international importance contributing to the consolidation of peace in Asia and elsewhere, peace which is needed by all nations, including those of the continent of Asia.

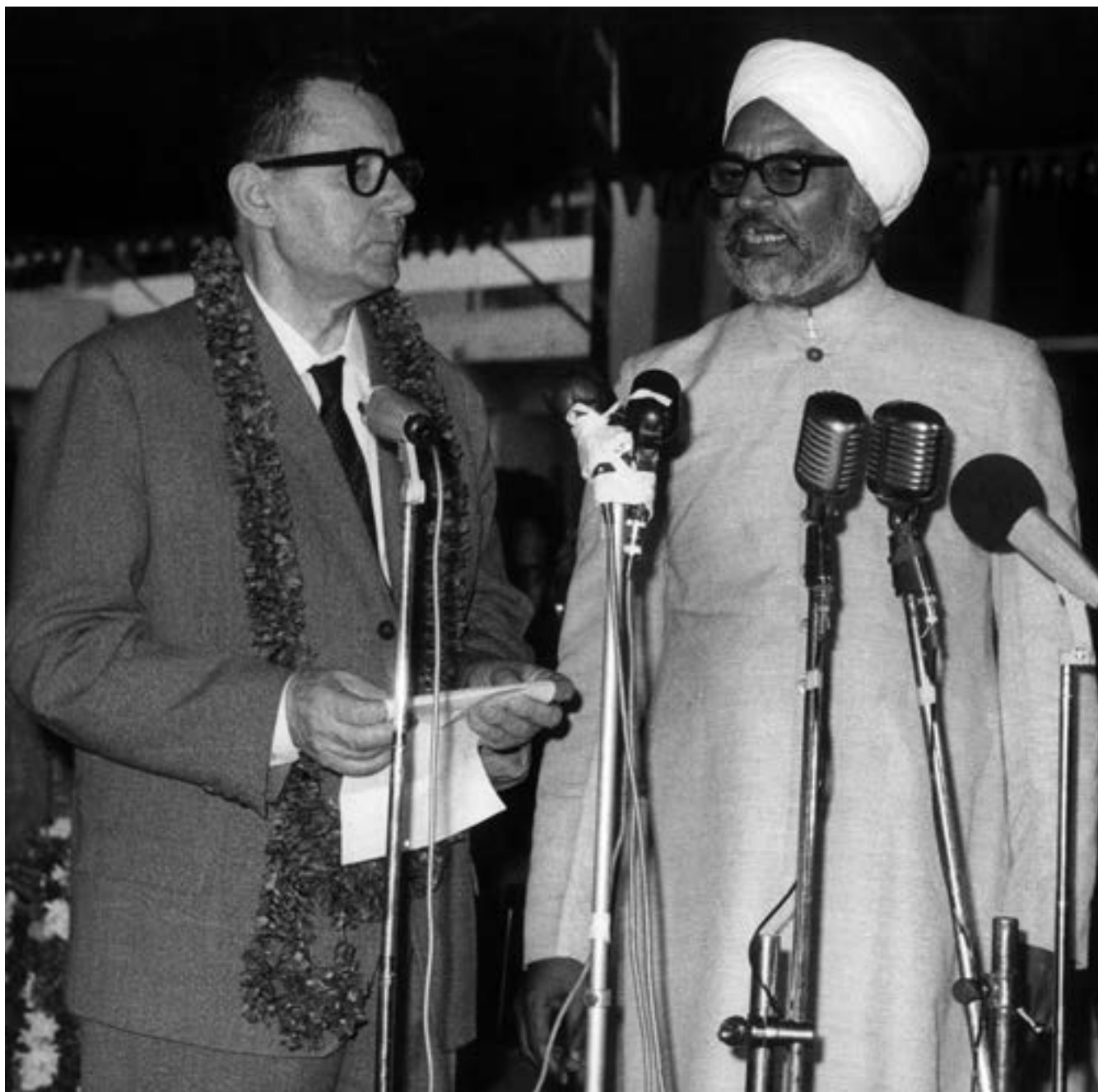
The Soviet Union comes out for strong peace in Asia, in Europe and in all other parts of the globe. Our programme of struggle for peace and the development of international cooperation and against aggression is a matter of common knowledge.

We are happy that in this noble work in defence of peace India and the Soviet Union are acting hand in hand and we are convinced that this will continue in future.

May I express the confidence that the Soviet-Indian Treaty will be met with satisfaction by all those who cherish the cause of peace and friendship among nations?

**Visit of Soviet Foreign Minister
Andrei Gromyko to New Delhi,
August 8–12, 1971**





8th August, 1971 - Welcome remarks by External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh



10 8th August, 1971 - Arrival of Foreign Minister Gromyko at Delhi Airport



8th August, 1971 - Call on External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh



12 8th August, 1971 - Call on External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh



9th August, 1971 - Signing of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation



14 9th August, 1971 - Signing of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation



9th August, 1971 - Call on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi 15



16 9th August, 1971 - At Dinner hosted by External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh



9th August, 1971 - At Dinner hosted by External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh 17



18 9th August, 1971 - At Dinner hosted by External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh



10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Rajghat 19



20 10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Rajghat



10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Shantivana



22 10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Shantivana



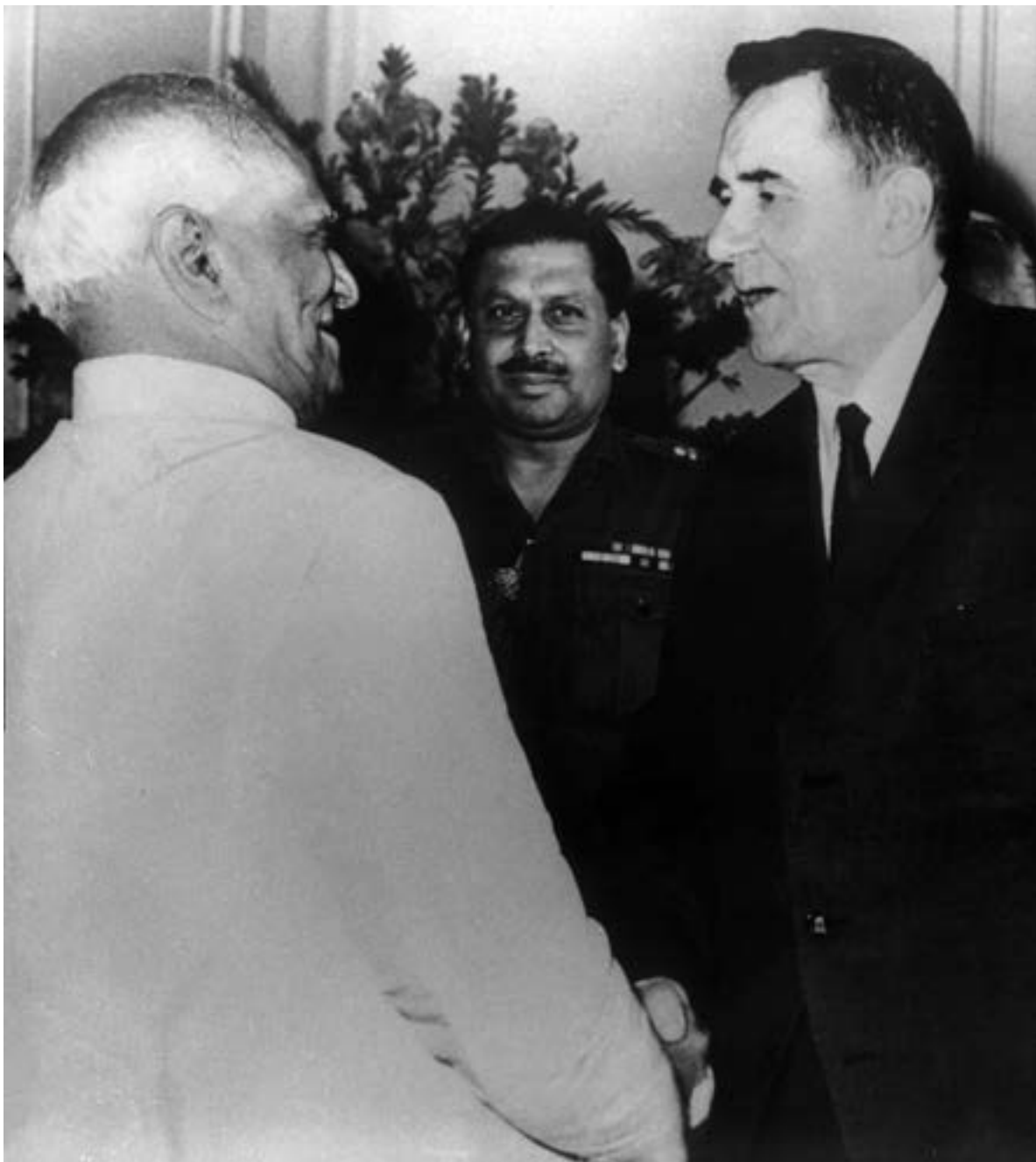
10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Vijayghat 23



24 10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Vijayghat



10th August, 1971 - Laying of Wreath at Vijayghat



26 10th August, 1971 - Call on President V. V. Giri



11th August, 1971 - Call on Finance Minister Yashwantrao Chavan 27



28 11th August, 1971 - Call on Agriculture Minister Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed



12th August, 1971 - Departure of Foreign Minister Gromyko from Delhi

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