

India's Russia-Ukraine Peace Proposal

Mains: GS II - International Relations

Why in News?

Recently, India has put forward a comprehensive and broad proposal to end the Russia-Ukraine war, moving beyond its traditional stance of diplomatic advocacy.

What is the core framework of India's peace proposal?

- **Black Sea Security** - Easing intense naval and aerial fighting in the critical Black Sea region to secure maritime shipping lanes for Ukrainian agricultural exports.
- **Energy Infrastructure Protection** - Mutual cessation of attacks on Ukrainian power grids and energy installations by Russia, alongside a commitment by Ukraine to halt strikes on Russian positions along the line of contact.



Why is the Black Sea region critical for global food security and supply chains?

- **Risk to Global Food Supplies** - Ongoing hostilities in the Black Sea put at least 400 million people across Africa, West Asia, and Asia at severe risk of food shortages, malnutrition, and hunger.
- **Disruption of Ukrainian Grain Exports** - Ukraine's three key deep-water ports in the Greater Odesa region (Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Pivdennyi) handle 90% of its agricultural exports. Amid escalating fighting, daily cargo handling plummeted from 215,300 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes.
- **Economic and Storage Bottlenecks** - Agri-food products account for over 56% of Ukraine's merchandise exports (USD 22.5 billion in revenue).
• With an expected harvest of 81 million tonnes of grain and oilseeds in the 2026-27 marketing year (requiring 64.4 million export tonnes), domestic storage deficits threaten to approach 11 million tonnes.
- **Russian Export Vulnerabilities** - Russia transports 42-44 million tonnes of grain (77-81% of its total exports) through the Azov-Black Sea region, which has faced reciprocal drone and missile strikes affecting ports, storage terminals, and the Kerch Strait.

How does this diplomatic manoeuvre intersect with US relations and energy imports?

- **Balancing Russian Crude Imports** - Despite Western sanctions, India remained a major buyer of discounted Russian crude, which surpassed USD 43 billion in 2025 and peaked at over 50% of India's total crude imports (2.47 million barrels per day) in July 2026 before moderating to 1.82 million barrels per day in September.
- **Navigating US Tariff Pressures** - With the US empowering to impose up to 100% tariffs on top buyers of Russian energy, India faces direct trade pressures.
- Simultaneously, unexpected developments such as US announcing a deal for Russia to supply diesel to global markets create a complex diplomatic landscape.
- **Strategic Space for Bilateral Trade** - By proactively driving a pragmatic peace proposal ahead of high-level multilateral summits (such as the G20 Leaders' Summit), India demonstrates strategic autonomy, mitigates tariff risks, and buys diplomatic space to advance long-pending bilateral trade negotiations with the US.

Reference

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