

ANNUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION BETWEEN CLAWS & IMEMO

CONCEPT NOTE

The strategic partnership between India and Russia, characterised by decades of cooperation across defence, energy, and cultural exchanges, faces a critical juncture in the wake of Russia's Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine initiated on February 24, 2022. This relationship is under scrutiny due to two significant developments: Russia's deepening ties with China and India's enhanced security collaboration with the United States.

The round table discussion by IMEMO and CLAWS will delve into these dynamics, examining their implications for global geopolitics, regional stability, and bilateral relations.

The round table discussion will also look into the following areas of concern:

1. Ukraine Situation: Trends and Military Conflicts

Current Trends and Prospects. Analysis of the ongoing military conflicts in Ukraine, with a focus on future trajectories and the broader implications for international security.

Russia's Media Narrative. Examination of Russia's perspective on international media portrayals and its strategies to counteract divergent narratives regarding its actions in Ukraine.

2. Relations with India

Strategic Military Relations. Discussion on the strategic recalibration of India's military alliances with the US/EU in light of the historical Indo-Russian partnership and the current geopolitical climate shaped by Russia-China engagements.

Regional Equilibrium. Exploration of the potential regional spillover effects stemming from evolving military alliances in South Asia, considering historical precedents and the rise of

Chinese assertiveness in key areas such as the South China Sea, Taiwan Straits, and the Sino-Indian borders.

3. Taliban Governance

Evaluation of Governance Structure. Critical assessment of the Taliban's governance model post-U.S. withdrawal, taking into account Russia's historical interactions with Afghanistan and the implications for regional security.

Future Approach Toward Afghanistan. Discussion on Russia's prospective diplomatic, economic, and security roles in Afghanistan, and how these align with or diverge from broader international efforts for stability in the region.

4. Defence Industry Challenges

Impact of Sanctions and SMO. Analysis of the challenges facing Russia's defence military-industrial complex in light of sanctions, perceived workforce reductions, and the ongoing Special Military Operation in Ukraine. Discussion on strategies for innovation and continuity, with a special focus on drones, ammunition production, and tech-intensive products amid tech and chip sanctions.

Policy Initiatives and Technology Advancements. Examination of the implications of tech and skilled workforce scarcity on Russia's defence production, and the exploration of policy initiatives, technological advancements, and international collaborations to overcome these hurdles.

5. Situation in West Asia

Russian Perspective on West Asia Alliances. Insight into Russia's viewpoint regarding the evolving political landscape in the Middle East, focusing on the roles and alliances of key countries like Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey.

Israel-Hamas Conflict. Discussion on Russia's position and efforts toward fostering lasting peace in the Israel-Hamas conflict, evaluating Russia's diplomatic engagements and contributions to peace processes in the region.

About IMEMO



The Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) is a prominent non-profit research institution under the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dedicated to crafting a solid analytical foundation for political decision-making, IMEMO conducts both fundamental and applied research. Its focus areas include theories of world economy and international relations, global economic-political models, Russia's role in global processes, social factors in world development, globalisation, innovation trends, and international security. IMEMO actively collaborates with government bodies, media, and private companies, offering expert consulting, world market analysis, and organising international scholarly events, maintaining an independent stance in its research.

About Delegation



Dr. Feodor Voitlovsky is the Director of the Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO), holding an MA in History from Moscow State Lomonosov University (2001) and a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from IMEMO (2004). A full professor since 2013 and a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences since 2016, Voitlovsky's expertise spans international security, US foreign policy, transatlantic relations, and arms control. With over 75 academic publications, he is a key figure in Russian and international policy discussions, serving on advisory boards related to national security and science education in Russia.



Konstantin Bogdanov is a distinguished Senior Researcher at the Center for International Security, part of the Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. An alumnus of St. Petersburg ITMO University, Bogdanov earned his PhD in Technical Science in 2002. With over a decade of experience, he has established himself as a respected voice in Russian media, focusing on arms control and military-political and military-technical issues. His expertise encompasses military and strategic studies, nuclear strategy, strategic stability, nuclear arms control, and the impact of emerging technologies on security dynamics.



Sergey Lukonin holds a PhD in World Economy and is a recognized authority on the economic dynamics of the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular focus on China, the Russian Far East, and Sino-Russian relations. He serves as the Head of the Department of Economy and Politics of China and is a distinguished member of the Academic Council at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations, under the auspices of the Russian Academy of Sciences. His expertise extends to academia as a Visiting Professor at the School of Northeast Asian Studies at Shandong University. Additionally, Lukonin contributes his knowledge and insights as a member of the Expert Council for the Committee on Education and Science of the Federal Assembly (State Duma) of Russia. His work and insights are instrumental in shaping understanding and policy in the areas of his expertise.



Dr. Alexey Kupriyanov is the esteemed Head of the Centre for the Indo-Pacific Region at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations, IMEMO. With a rich background in Anglo-Saxon History from the Moscow City Teacher Training University and further studies in Ireland, he holds a master's degree in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. An author of over 50 scientific articles and book chapters,

Dr. Kupriyanov's research spans South, Southeast, and East Asia, with a focus on Indian external policy, Indo-Pacific relations, and naval history. His contributions to the study of Russia-India relations were recognized with a medal from the Indian Embassy.



Dr. Sergey Kislitsyn, with a profound expertise in forecasting international trends and strategic planning, currently leads as the Acting Director of the Arbatov U.S. and Canada Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences (ISKRAN) and heads the Center for Strategic Planning Studies at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). Since joining IMEMO in 2015, he has advanced from a junior research fellow in the Center for North American Studies to leading positions, focusing his research on the US-China strategic competition, US foreign economic policy, and Transatlantic relations. Appointed head of the Center for Strategic Planning Studies in 2021, Kislitsyn took on the role of Acting Director of ISKRAN in 2023, marking significant contributions to the field.



Gleb Makarevich is a promising Junior Research Fellow at the Centre on the Indian Ocean Region within the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russia's foremost academic institute and think tank in International Relations. He is currently pursuing his PhD at IMEMO, focusing on a critical analysis of "The Role of Pakistan's Armed Forces in the Nation's Foreign Policy." Makarevich's research interests span a broad spectrum, including Russian Foreign Policy towards South Asia, the Indo-Pakistani rivalry, and a deep dive into Pakistan's external and internal dynamics, its strategic culture, and the intricate interplay among the nation's elites—political, business, military—and the subaltern communities. His work contributes valuable insights into the complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia.