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Putin hails successful BrahMos test by India

29/12

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, DEC. 23. Russia sets great value on its warm and trust-based relations with India and will work to upgrade strategic partnership between the two countries, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said.

"We value the traditionally warm and trustworthy relations with India. The political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries are steadily developing," Mr. Putin said after accepting the credentials of the Indian Ambassador, Kanwal Sibal, in the Kremlin on Wednesday. Mr. Sibal, who arrived in Russia in September, is India's 18th envoy to Russia since the two countries opened diplomatic relations in April 1947.

Strategic character

Mr. Putin specially stressed the strategic character of Indo-Russian partnership that gained new strength following his visit to India earlier this month.

"During the Russia-India summit in December we reaffirmed the course for upgrading and enriching our strategic partnership."

Reference to strategic partnership carried extra significance as it was made in front of



The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, listening with keen interest to the Indian Ambassador, Kanwal Sibal, after accepting his credentials. — Photo: V. Radyuhin

an international diplomatic audience. Along with Mr. Sibal, Ambassadors of seven other countries, including the United Kingdom, Iraq and Finland, presented their credentials to Mr. Putin.

Kremlin officials said Mr. Pu-

tin was particularly happy with the substance and atmosphere of his third visit to India in December.

They stressed that he had developed good personal chemistry with the new Indian leadership and was deeply

moved by the genuine warmth and regard showed to him during his stay in India.

Mr. Putin spent appreciably more time chatting informally over a glass of Champaign with the Indian Ambassador than with any of the other envoys after the official ceremony for presentation of credentials in the Kremlin's empirically-decorated Alexandrovsky Hall.

Energy cooperation

It is understood that Mr. Putin and Mr. Sibal discussed energy cooperation and expeditious implementation of the decisions taken at the New Delhi summit.

Mr. Putin also congratulated Mr. Sibal on the successful first test-launch of the land version of the Indo-Russian BrahMos cruise missile earlier this week.

Speaking at the ceremony, he criticised "double standards" in foreign policy. "We regard the policy based on ideological stereotypes (and) the inertia of on block-based approaches and double standards as counter-productive," Mr. Putin said. "Historical experience shows that such a policy has a most negative effect on the global system of international relations and the situation in separate countries."

INDO-RUSSIAN TIES-II

55-8 2/12

Defence And Political Cooperation Need To Be Assessed

By HARSH V PANT

The most challenging aspect of Indo-Russian relations today is, perhaps, the upgradation of bilateral economic and trade relations, which fails to reflect the potential that exists and is a major challenge that the two countries need to address on a priority basis. In fact, the trade between the countries has declined in the last three years and should be enhanced from its paltry level of just about over \$2 billion. In order to address this problem, Russia has not only been trying to woo Indian investors but has also agreed to use the amount that India owes it as debt from the past to fund joint ventures in the fields of telecommunications, aluminium, and information technology.

Common stand

During his recent visit to India, Putin spent a lot of time meeting the head honchos of the information technology sector and sent a clear message about improving Indo-Russian economic ties. But clearly Russia needs to do much more, especially with regard to its financial and banking arrangements. Energy being the life-line of modern economies around the world, it was heartening to note India and Russia going in for greater cooperation in the energy sector by focusing on joint explorations and joint investments.

However, on various regional and global issues, India and Russia find themselves on the same side. Both have made their position clear against what they see as unilateral tendencies in the US foreign policy and would like to see the UN as the proper forum for dealing with issues of international peace and security. Russia has also supported India's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council with a veto. Their geopolitical and security interests in the Central Asian region are also compatible in so far as religious extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling in small arms and organized

crime, emanating largely from Central Asia, threaten both India and Russia equally.

On the current global hot-button issues of Iraq, Afghanistan, and West Asia, India and Russia have much in common in their outlook. Therefore, on the face of it, there seems to be no reason to doubt that the Indo-Russian cooperation is steadily progres-

sioning on the basis of shared long-term national and geopolitical interests of two countries and common stand on key global and regional problems.



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Weak wicket

However, a closer examination of Indo-Russian bilateral ties does not present a very optimistic and promising picture despite all the hype and hoopla surrounding it. In bilateral terms, it is the nature and content of Indo-Russian economic and trade relations that would ultimately constitute the foundation and give substance to any so-called strategic partnership. However, despite sharing an extraordinary defence relationship, Indo-Russian trade rela-

tionship hardly inspires any confidence as their bilateral trade shows persistent decline for the last three years. Moreover, the momentum of Indo-Russian economic cooperation seems to be slackening on such crucial issues as civilian nuclear energy and other aspects of energy security as various opportunities in energy security

cooperation remain still unexploited. The success or otherwise of strategic partnership in future would be decided by the progress in trade and economic relations between the two nations. And as of now it seems to be on a rather weak wicket. And even the bilateral defence relationship is bound to come under pressure in the not too distant future as India adjusts to the changing nature of modern warfare and shifts its defence priorities to the purchase of smart weaponry, which Russia is ill-equipped to provide. Already, India's increasing defence ties with Israel and the gradual opening of the US arms market for India has made Russia relatively less exciting for India. The recent US offer to

India of F-16s, the Patriot anti-missile system, C-130 stretched medium lift transport aircraft, and P-3C Orion maritime surveillance plans may only be a reflection of what is still to come.

India should also be sensitive to the fact that Russia also enjoys an excellent defence relationship with China. It is the largest supplier of defence equipment to China with the result that the modernisation of Chinese military owes a lot to Russian supplies. Not only is this of direct strategic consequence for Indian security but it also creates a cascading effect whereby Russian military technology and know-how gets transferred to Pakistan via China. Therefore, the prospects of Indo-Russian defence and political cooperation need to be assessed by India in the light of Russia's defence supplies and cooperation arrangements with China.

US centrality

Finally, despite all the rhetoric of a multipolar world order, Russia and China are both aware that cultivating close ties with the US serves their interests and there is no replacing the global supremacy of the US at least in the near future. Putin's close relationship with Bush is well-known, despite recent attempts by Russia to exert its influence in its "near abroad". Indo-US relations are also evolving at a rapid rate and India would not like to jeopardize this upward trajectory, despite the whining from the Left parties. This centrality of the US in the foreign policies of Russia and India will also shape the Indo-Russian ties in the coming years.

It is through these contending forces that Russia and India will have to navigate their relationship in the coming years. Rather than giving in to any sort of hyperbole, both nations should make a serious effort at strengthening their bilateral relations further by focusing on economic trade ties. (many other trade ties included)

21 DEC 2004

THE STATESMAN

INDO-RUSSIAN TIES-I

SVR 8 20/12

Continued Convergence Of Interests

By HARSH V PANT

The present international system is defined by the phenomenal power that the United States enjoys relative to any other state in the system. This is so unprecedented in global politics that even Paul Kennedy, once a leading proponent of the theory of US decline, had to concede after the Afghan war that never before in history has such a disparity of power ever existed like the one between the US and the rest of major powers today.

Reactions

This is evoking different kinds of reactions from other major states in the system. While some states like France and Germany seem to be using international institutions and diplomatic manoeuvring to make it more difficult for the US to use its overwhelming power (with little visible effect so far), others like Russia and China are trying to forge closer ties with countries that share their worldview in the name of a "multipolar" world order. It is in this respect that one should view attempts by Russia, China and India to forge closer ties among themselves and even talk of a "strategic triangle" among the three. Though bilateral cooperation among the three nations has indeed increased in recent times, using "strategic triangle" or any other fancy phraseology to describe this relationship is nothing more than mere hyperbole.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India was a further consolidation of ties between two old friends. There are few examples of a relationship between countries that has been as stable as the one between India and Russia. Despite

The author is a research fellow at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana

the momentous changes in the international environment after the end of the Cold War, there remains a continued convergence of interests that makes it advantageous for both, India and Russia, to maintain close ties. Barring a fleeting hiccup in Boris Yeltsin's term as Russia's

define their relations with other major players on the global stage in a post-9/11 global context, where the rules of international politics are in a state of flux and where the terms of the economic interaction between nations are being re-set. Therefore, their continued affirmation of a long-



President, New Delhi and Moscow have been extraordinarily successful in nurturing a friction-free relationship that harks back to the Soviet era.

Summit meeting

This was the fifth summit meeting between the Russian President and the Indian Prime Minister in little more than three years. This is in sharp contrast to the erratic ties India had with Russia when Yeltsin was at the helm. While maintaining a continuity in ensuring a substantive and incremental pattern of relations with the US and Western Europe, Putin has revived equations with other major Asian nations like China, Japan, and India.

In their own ways, both India and Russia are struggling to

standing friendship assumes more than just a symbolic importance. There is a real convergence of perspectives on issues as wide-ranging as the promotion of multi-polarity in global politics, the phenomenon of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and security issues facing South, Central and West Asia.

During Putin's last visit to India in December 2002, India was able to receive Russian support on its position on Pakistan with Russia calling upon Pakistan to end its support for cross-border terrorism. The Russian endorsement of the Indian position on terrorism and Pakistan reflected the Russian desire to maintain the traditional goodwill in relations by politically genuflecting to India's deepest security concerns. This is in sharp contrast to

the US effectively glossing over India's major security concerns with respect to Pakistan sponsored terrorism in India.

The most important element of Indo-Russian bilateral relations is, perhaps, the defence ties between the two countries. Not only is Russia the biggest supplier of defence products to India but the India-Russia defence relationship also encompasses a wide-range of activity including joint research, design, development and co-production.

Defence supplies

Russia has agreed to further expand defence supplies ties with India, both in content and range, and has also agreed to give his nod to cooperation in sophisticated spheres of technology about which the US and other Western nations have seemed reticent. This includes technology related to the peaceful uses of space and atomic energy and the supply of the fifth generation of advance fighter aircraft and a whole range of military equipment. Indian and Russian defence companies are not only designing and developing but will also be jointly marketing the anti-ship missile, Brahmos, in other countries.

Russia has also made a proposal to India to jointly develop a next generation Advanced Jet Trainer with an eye on the global market. India and Russia have also decided to enhance cooperation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. This is significant because of recent American penchant for the militarisation of space. The Russian and Indian navies have been holding joint war games in the Indian Ocean annually as part of joint efforts to strengthen security in the region.

(To be concluded)

20 DEC 2004

THE STATESMAN

Putin drops by

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Indo-Russian ties on even keel

President Putin's visit to India did not depart significantly from the usual Indo-Russian script: smiles, defence deals and hardball beneath the apparent bonhomie. On defence there were the usual agreements on sales of military hardware, talk of joint export to third countries, and customary obeisance paid to BrahMos, a supersonic cruise missile supposed to be under joint development. Moscow did ask Delhi to sign on to intellectual property rights for its military technology, and Delhi complied.

This suggests that Moscow is concerned that India could use Russian technology to make weapons and sell them elsewhere — in other words, it means the same type of "leakage" concerns that crop up in Indo-US ties. The Russian President is clearly a man of *realpolitik*; the Volga and the Ganga do not flow in sync as much as they did during the Cold War.

The same was evident in Putin's comments on veto power for India in an expanded Security Council, although he sought to revise the import of what he said and put down to errors in translation. What Putin had said earlier was that he did not support the erosion of the Russian veto, or that the UN should turn into an ineffectual discussion club like the League of Nations. If the Security Council is expanded it is not just India who will benefit, there will be other players like Germany, Japan, Brazil, South Africa.

If everyone gets a veto, then it is likely that the UN Security Council will become, indeed, a talking shop, and little business will ever be concluded. The only solution for effective decision-making is erosion of the veto power itself to which Putin, as much as the United States (or, for that matter, other members of the P-5) will stand firmly opposed. Whatever the Russian President might say to mollify New Delhi, this logic stands, and it is likely that he may have advised the Indian government to accept permanent membership without vetoes, as the kind of reform that won't upset the applecart too much and, therefore, it will certainly have a chance of being acceptable.

Where Putin's visit to India this time did break new ground was the attention that was turned to economic matters, the neglected part of India's relationship with Russia. Russia has considerable depth of scientific talent, and just like India its scientists and engineers are used to work for low wages. Besides Russia has a large domestic software market. There is considerable scope for IT collaboration here, and Putin's visit to Bangalore should give it a boost.

There was a definite sign of forward movement on energy deals, eliminating the rupee-rouble debt, and easing visas for Indian businessmen in Russia. Trade in civilian goods with old friend Russia is rock-bottom - currently only one-third of that with new friend China. Given that relationships today are economics-driven, it is this aspect that needs to be addressed by Delhi and Moscow.

08 DEC 2004

THE STATESMAN

Russian fuel for Tarapur ruled out

By Amit Baruah and
R. Ramachandran

NEW DELHI, DEC. 5. Russia, which provided 50 tonnes of enriched uranium to keep the Tarapur nuclear power plant going in 2001, has expressed its inability to supply much-needed nuclear fuel again for the plant.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in New Delhi, Alexander Yuryevich Rummyantsev, Director of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency, pointed out that Russia was bound by the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which prevented it from providing the fuel.

He scotched speculation that Russia would be providing two additional 1,000 MW reactors for the Koodankulam nuclear plant that is under construction. Again, Mr. Rummyantsev said, it was Russia's NSG commitments that kept it from expanding nuclear cooperation with India.

On Tarapur, when reminded that the Russian side was able to supply fuel for the nuclear plant in 2001, despite the fact that it was bound by NSG guidelines, he said it was provided for "safety" reasons — in an extreme case — and could not form part of "usual cooperation."

And what was the extreme case then? "India at that time had no fuel. This was the extreme case," he replied. "You know there was a very negative reaction from the NSG."

Mr. Rummyantsev indicated that the 2001 action was part of

an understanding with the NSG that fuel would not be supplied again. Mr. Rummyantsev was aware that even now Tarapur was encountering the same problem it faced in 2001. "Yes, I know. This is the pain of my soul. But what can we do?"

He stated categorically that more enriched uranium would not be coming to India from Russia for Tarapur. According to him, 50 tonnes of enriched uranium were required to keep the power plant going.

Asked what was the response to Russia's 2000 proposal to allow India to enter the NSG as a nuclear weapons' state or an associate member, Mr. Rummyantsev answered that the Group came up with a very negative response.

Although India created its own nuclear weapons, Russia was following its international obligations. "But, I am sure this question will be solved — India will be a member of the nuclear club." If India were to bring all its nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that is, accept full-scope safeguards, "it will be all right," Mr. Rummyantsev said. "But, you know, India cannot show all facilities," he added.

A.Q. Khan case

Describing the A.Q. Khan-led smuggling ring as a "nuclear black market," Mr. Rummyantsev, however, said Dr. Khan was "no longer active." He said intelligence officers of several countries were involved in shutting

down the Khan operation.

Pointing out that the Khan ring was a violation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), he said the Russian reaction to this was extremely negative. "In reality, this is a black market of nuclear technology and, most probably, nuclear materials."

He stressed that Moscow was critical of the actions of Pakistan. "You know that [the] Pakistani Government took some action against Dr. Khan and stopped this activity and proliferation of centrifuge machines."

Proliferation cases

Asked about the "different" responses to nuclear proliferation charges relating to North Korea, Libya, Pakistan, and Iran, the Director, who came to India as part of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin's delegation, agreed that there were "hot questions" in North Korea and Libya.

"I did not notice any weapons' programme in Iran. I know Iranian facilities and we are building a nuclear power plant [in that country]. We are acquainted with the facilities of Iranian nuclear industry. We did not see the ... fingerprints of the nuclear programme."

Mr. Rummyantsev said the NPT was a formal document and "we have no right to decide in our mind that this country is good and this country is bad." The NPT rules are valid for all countries.

06 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

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IT mantra on Putin lips

Stresses joint venture in innovative technologies

HTC & Agencies
Bangalore, December 5

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin asserted the need for New Delhi and Moscow working together on innovative technologies as he visited the Infosys headquarters here today.

During an hour-long visit, accompanied by a business delegation and media personnel from Russia, Putin met the senior management of the company and addressed the employees. Putin was taken around the campus at Electronics City on the city outskirts and provided an overview on the IT industry and the company by Infosys managing director and CEO, Nandan M. Nilekani.

In his address to Infosys employees, Putin emphasised the need for India and Russia to work together on innovative technologies, a statement issued by the company said.

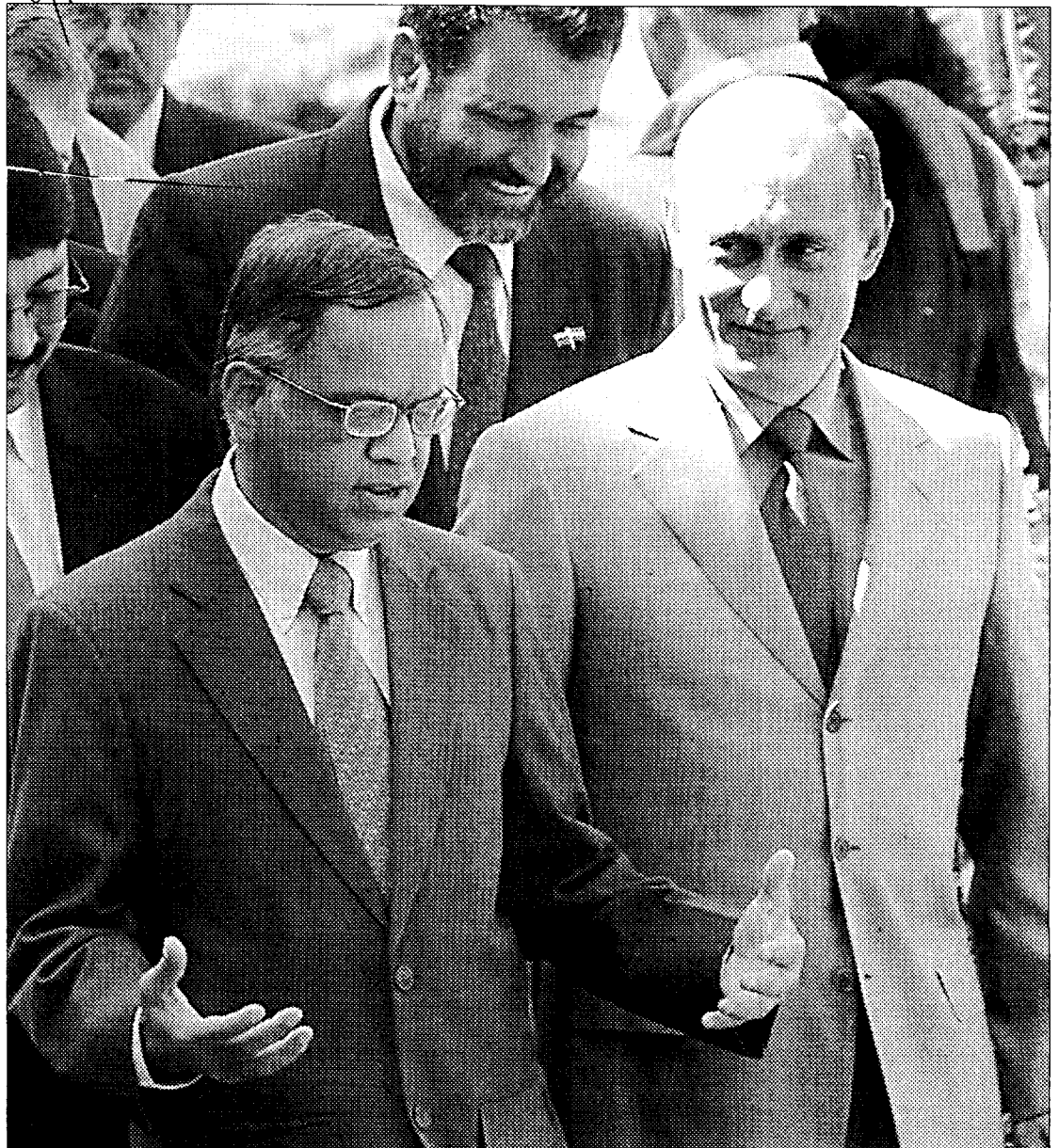
Welcoming Putin, Infosys chairman and chief mentor N.R. Narayana Murthy said his visit was an affirmation of the special relationship between the two countries.

Observing that the two countries had already successfully leveraged each other's strengths across various industry sectors, he said there were avenues that remained unexplored. "As our bilateral relations expand in scope and depth, surely, Information Technology will be one of the areas in which both countries can collaborate for talent and knowledge," he said.

On Friday, Russia and India had agreed to set up a working group to draw up an inter-governmental agreement on IT. Putin had pitched for stepping up Indo-Russian cooperation in IT.

Meanwhile, India's Ambassador to Russia Kanwal Sibal said today, Russian President's visit to India's infotech hub had sent a strong signal of Moscow's willingness to seriously engage India in improving the bilateral economic relations in the frontier sector.

"Putin, through his visit, has sent a powerful signal of Russia's willingness to seriously engage India in developing our economical relations in the frontier sector," Sibal told reporters, soon after Putin wound up his three-day visit to India.



Infosys chairman N.R. Narayana Murthy (left) with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bangalore on Sunday. PTI

HAL aircraft wows Prez

Agencies
Bangalore, December 5

SITTING ON the edge of his seat, Russian President Vladimir Putin today watched with awe as the home grown Tejas, the Light Combat Aircraft, swivelled and rolled to display India's prowess in building a supersonic fighter.

Piloted by Gp Capt. Rakesh Bhadhuria, the technology demonstrator (TD-2) of Tejas impressed the Russians with its manoeuvres in the brief sortie, organised by India's state-owned aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to show the country's strength in this hi-tech area.

“We explained to Putin on the cooperation between India and Russia in producing the Sukhoi-30 MKI, one of world's most advanced fighters, but also to show the very high capabilities of design and development of fighter aircraft in India,” HAL chairman Ashok K. Baweja told after Putin saw the flight display of LCA, the Intermediate Jet Trainer and Dhruv, the Advanced Light Helicopter.

The IJT, undergoing flight trials with a French Larzac engine, will eventually be powered with a Russian engine being built by Lyulka NPS Saturn, which also showed on HAL's design capabilities.

With an ability to carry over 1,000 kg of armament, the IJT, flown by Sq. Ldr Baldev Singh, went on a roll saluting Putin and the assembled team, while a fantastic display by Dhruv left everyone impressed with India's determined focus on building aircraft that is agile, light and impressive.

Putin, Baweja said, eagerly observed the details of the three aircraft in the static display, besides the Su-30MKI, built at the Nashik unit of HAL.

unit of HAL.

05 DEC 2004

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

India - Russia

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004

HD-10
8/12

FRIENDSHIP REAFFIRMED

RUSSIA AND INDIA used the opportunity presented by President Vladimir Putin's visit to sort out differences that could have damaged the time-tested and healthy relations between them. It is perhaps a reflection of the warm feelings the peoples of the two countries have towards each other that these irritants went largely unnoticed. In addressing these grievances, Mr. Putin and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh added strength to a partnership that can make a significant contribution in the international arena. Needless to say, the corrective measures must be implemented with sincerity. An objective study of the record suggests that India will need to put in greater effort to meet the grade. Apart from the specific issues, there is the question of according equitable treatment to a friendly power that has delivered unfailingly wherever it mattered. India has apparently dealt with Russia's concerns in a non-serious fashion even as it responded promptly to similar demands from the United States. Proposals made by Moscow for an accord to protect intellectual property rights relating to high-technology weapons, and for joint military exercises were shelved for an unconscionably long period. New Delhi has now promised to cooperate wholeheartedly in the effort to draw up a defence secrecy agreement so that it can be signed by the middle of 2005, and the special forces of the two countries will carry out joint exercises.

As for the programme for the joint development of the world class supersonic BrahMos cruise missile, India and Russia made a strategic shift from the buyer-seller equation that had characterised their relationship in the field of defence. They have now agreed to explore the scope for upgrading their economic relations in similar fashion so that the steep decline in bilateral trade can be reversed. The two

countries have indicated that they would try to use the joint venture set up to develop an oil field in the Sakhalin peninsula as the template for such enterprises in the territories they control as well as in third countries. India has also promised that it would treat Russia as a market economy and support its efforts to join the World Trade Organisation. These promises might go some way in satisfying a partner that is not happy about the large number of anti-dumping investigations instituted in respect of its exports to India. For its part, Moscow has agreed to strengthen the mechanisms to ensure that production schedules for military equipment are met and after-sales support is provided. The two countries resolved the differences over India's practice of sourcing Russian-patented spare parts from third countries by arriving at a sensible compromise. Russia is to set up maintenance and overhauling facilities on Indian territory.

India will be gratified that President Putin expressed his support for its bid to join the United Nations Security Council as a permanent member with veto powers. However, this endorsement cannot be counted as a decisive breakthrough. The high-powered panel constituted to consider reforms of the U.N. system recently submitted its report to the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. The panel has not recommended an expansion of the veto-wielding membership of the Security Council and has instead proposed the creation of a new category of permanent members. While India should continue to press for U. N. reforms, it must not ignore the broader diplomatic endeavour that could help in the creation of a more egalitarian global order. Above all, New Delhi must not waver in its efforts to expand and strengthen relations with Russia, China, and other powers that stand for a multi-polar world.

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THE HINDU

আই টি : যৌথ উদ্যোগ চায় ২০ রুশ সংস্থা রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের ভিটোর অধিকার ভারতের থাকা উচিত : পুটিন

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন: দিল্লি, ৪ ডিসেম্বর— নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হলে 'ভিটো' প্রয়োগের ক্ষমতাও ভারতের থাকা উচিত বলে রুশ প্রেসিডেন্ট ভ্লাদিমির পুটিন আজ মন্তব্য করেছেন। উপরাষ্ট্রপতি ভৈরৌ সিং শেখাওয়াত এবং বিরোধী দলনেতা আদবানির সঙ্গে বৈঠকের সময় পুটিন জানান, গতকাল তিনি যা বলেছিলেন বিভিন্ন দৈনিকে তার ভুল ব্যাখ্যা বেরিয়েছে। গতকাল পুটিন বলেছিলেন, নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হওয়ার যে দাবি ভারত জানিয়েছে, রাশিয়া তাকে সমর্থন করে, কিন্তু বর্তমানের ৫ স্থায়ী সদস্য-দেশ ছাড়া ভিটোর ক্ষমতা নতুন কোনও দেশকে দেওয়া যায় না। ভারত ছাড়াও জার্মানি, জাপান, ব্রাজিল এবং আরও কয়েকটি দেশ স্থায়ী সদস্যের স্বীকৃতিলাভের যে লড়াই চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে, রাশিয়া তার পাশে থাকবে। কারণ, আন্তর্জাতিক জনমত গড়তে এদের ভূমিকা দারুণ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। বিশ্বের বৃহত্তম গণতন্ত্র ও এশিয়ার বড় শক্তি ভারতের তাৎপর্য নিয়ে তো কোনও প্রশ্নই ওঠে না। কিন্তু ভিটো দিয়ে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের প্রস্তাব বাতিলের অধিকার নতুন কোনও সদস্যকে দিলে আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থার ভারসাম্য বিঘ্নিত হতে পারে। পুটিনের এই মন্তব্যে ভারত মর্মান্বিত হয়, কারণ ভিটোর অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত হয়ে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হতে চায় না ভারত। রুশ প্রেসিডেন্ট আজ দ্ব্যর্থহীন ভাষায় জানিয়েছেন, গতকাল তাঁর বক্তব্যের বিকৃতি ঘটিয়েছেন দোভাষী। রাশিয়া মনেপ্রাণে বিশ্বাস করে, নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের দ্বিতীয় সারির নাগরিক হওয়া ভারতের পক্ষে অমর্যাদার। স্থায়ী সদস্য এবং ভিটোর ক্ষমতা— দুটোই ভারতের ন্যায্য দাবি। উল্লেখ্য, পাঁচটি দেশের হাতেই এখন এই ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। রাশিয়া, চীন, আমেরিকা, ব্রিটেন এবং ফ্রান্স। আমেরিকা তো ভারতের স্থায়ী সদস্য হওয়ারই বিরোধী। রাশিয়া, চীন ও ফ্রান্স ভারতকে সহযোগিতার হাত

বাড়াচ্ছে। 'ব্রনাস' ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র তৈরির জন্য রাশিয়া ভারতে দু কোটি পঞ্চাশ লাখ ডলার বিনিয়োগ করবে। রুশ প্রেসিডেন্ট আজ এ কথা জানিয়ে গেলেন প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রী প্রণব মুখার্জিকে। প্রণববাবুর সঙ্গে আজ পুটিনের আলাদা করে বৈঠক হয়। প্রতিরক্ষা নিয়ে দুজনের মধ্যে বিভিন্ন আলোচনা হয়। ব্রনাস ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র প্রকল্পটি ঘুরে দেখেন পুটিন। আজ তিনি বাঙ্গালোরে গিয়ে প্রকল্পের খুঁটিনাটি পরিদর্শন করেন। প্রণববাবু বলেছেন ভারতও এই প্রকল্পের লগ্নি করবে বিভিন্ন পুরনো চুক্তি নিয়েও আজ প্রণববাবু পুটিনের সঙ্গে কথা বলেন। পুরনো সব চুক্তিই বহাল থাকবে। ব্রনাস প্রকল্পটি যৌথভাবে হবে। প্রতিরক্ষা সরঞ্জাম কেনার ক্ষেত্রে মেধা সম্পত্তি আইনের জটিলতা নিয়েও দুজনের মধ্যে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা হয়েছে। ভারতের অবস্থানটি ব্যাখ্যা করে প্রণববাবু জানিয়েছেন আগের চুক্তি অনুযায়ী যে সব সরঞ্জাম আসছে তার মেধা সম্পত্তি চুক্তি করা যাবে না। কিন্তু নতুন সব কিছু ক্ষেত্রেও এই আইন চালু হতে পারে। রুশ প্রেসিডেন্টও জানান, পুরনো সরঞ্জামের ক্ষেত্রে এই আইন চালু করার বিষয়ে পীড়াপীড়ি করছে না। মেধা সম্পত্তি চুক্তি হলে রাশিয়া থেকে আসা কোনও অস্ত্র বা সরঞ্জামের প্রযুক্তি ভারত তৃতীয় কোনও দেশকে দিতে পারবে না। আসলে ইজরামেলের সঙ্গে প্রতিরক্ষা সরঞ্জাম কেনায় ভারতের আগ্রহ বাড়তে থাকায় রাশিয়া এই চুক্তির ওপর জোর দিচ্ছে। দয়ানিধি মারানের সঙ্গে গতকাল বৈঠক করেছেন রুশ মন্ত্রী। তথ্য-প্রযুক্তির ক্ষেত্রে ভারতের সহযোগিতা চেয়েছেন। এ জন্য তৈরি হবে ওয়ার্কিং গ্রুপ। তথ্য-প্রযুক্তিতে ভারতের অগ্রগতি দেখে মুগ্ধ পুটিন। ২০টি রুশ সংস্থা যৌথ উদ্যোগে নামতে চাইছে। ইনফোসিস টেকনোলজিস লিমিটেডের সাহায্যে তথ্য-প্রযুক্তি পার্ক গড়তে চাইছে রুশ সরকার।

05 DEC 2004

AAJKAL

ভারতকে ভেটোর অধিকার নিয়ে সুর বদল পুতিনের

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ৪ ডিসেম্বর: চব্বিশ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে নিজেদের অবস্থান সম্পূর্ণ বদলে ফেলে কূটনৈতিক ডিগবাজি খেল রাশিয়া। দিল্লি ছেড়ে যাওয়ার আগে রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট দ্বাদশমির পুতিন জানিয়ে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে ভারতকে ভেটো ক্ষমতা-সহ সদস্য করার প্রস্তাবে রাশিয়ার সমর্থন রয়েছে। পুতিন স্পষ্ট জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, ভারত পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদের যোগ্য দাবিদার, এবং সেই সদস্যপদ কখনওই 'দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি'-র হতে পারে না।

কূটনৈতিক সূত্রের খবর, গতকাল পুতিনের বক্তব্যের পরেই আলোড়ন শুরু হয় ভারতীয় শিবিরে। একটা কূটনৈতিক চাপ তৈরি হতে থাকে পুতিনের উপরে। আজ সকালে প্রতিরক্ষামন্ত্রী গ্রনব মুখোপাধ্যায়ও বিষয়টি নিয়ে তাঁর সঙ্গে বিশদ আলোচনা করেন। ভারতই ফলস্বরূপ

রাশিয়ার শিবির থেকে বলা হয়, আসলে 'ভুল বোঝা' হয়েছে। রাশিয়ার ভাষা থেকে ইংরেজিতে বক্তব্য অনুবাদের সময় গোলমাল হয়েছে। এরই পাশাপাশি, আজ 'ব্রহ্মস' ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র প্রকল্পে ১১২ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েও পুতিন বৃষ্টিয়ে দিলেন, কূটনৈতিক বোকাপড়ায় নয়াদিল্লির পাশেই থাকতে চায় মস্কো।

গত কাল সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনে ভারতের ভেটোদানের অধিকারকে রাশিয়া সমর্থন করে কি না, এই প্রশ্নের উত্তরে রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট পুতিনের বক্তব্য তাঁর দোভাষী ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করে বলেছিলেন, "রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের যে চালা আইন রয়েছে তা বদল করা একেবারেই সমর্থনযোগ্য নয়। তাহলে সংস্কারিত চুক্তি এবং মর্যাদা নষ্ট হবে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদ আলোচনার ক্রমে পরিণত হবে।" পুতিনের বক্তব্য ছিল, নতুন সদস্যদের ভেটো দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা দেওয়া হল একটি ধ্বংসাত্মক প্রক্রিয়া।

পরিষদের কার্যকারিতা বহাল রাখতে ভেটো একটি অনিবার্য অবলম্বন এবং তার শক্ততা রক্ষা করা দরকার।

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের কলেবর বাড়ানোর সুপারিশকে 'প্রথম ভাল পদক্ষেপ' বলে স্বাগত জানিয়েছিল নয়াদিল্লি। কিন্তু ভেটো-ক্ষমতাহীন স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ পাওয়ার অর্থ যে চাল তলোয়ারহীন নির্ধরাম সর্দারের পর্যায়ভুক্ত হওয়া, সেটা বুঝেই তৎপরতা বাড়ানো হয়েছিল। কাল পুতিনের সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনের পরে হতাশা তৈরি হয়েছিল কূটনৈতিক শিবিরে। আজ 'ভুলবোঝাবুঝি' মিটে যাওয়ার পর চিঠিটা বিপরীত।

গ্রনব মুখোপাধ্যায় আজ বলেন, "উনি আমায় বলেছেন, সংবাদমাধ্যমে যা বেরিয়েছে, তা ঠিক নয়। ভারত

যাতে পরিষদের পূর্ণাঙ্গ সদস্য হতে পারে, সেটাই তাঁরা চাইছেন। ভারত কখনওই দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির সদস্য হতে পারেনা।" প্রতিরক্ষা কেন্দ্রবোর্ড

ক্ষেত্রে মেধাসম্পন্ন বিষয়টি নিয়ে গ্রনববাবু বলেন, "আমি পুতিনকে জানিয়েছি, এই সম্বন্ধে দিতে আমাদের কোনও আপত্তিই ছিল না। কিন্তু আগে যে চুক্তিগুলি হয়ে গিয়েছে, সেগুলির ক্ষেত্রেও এই সম্বন্ধে আরোপ করাটা সমস্যার ছিল বলে বিষয়টিতে সম্মত লাগল। পুতিন জানিয়েছেন, তাঁরা নতুন চুক্তির ক্ষেত্রেই কেবল এই সম্বন্ধে আরোপ করতে চাইছেন।"

রাশিয়ার বিনিয়োগ: ব্রহ্মস ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র প্রকল্পে ১১২ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ করা হবে বলে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছে রাশিয়া। আজ সকালে প্রতিরক্ষামন্ত্রী গ্রনব মুখোপাধ্যায়ের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে এ কথা জানিয়েছেন রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট দ্বাদশমির পুতিন।

গ্রনববাবু বলেন, "যুক্তবিমান-সহ বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প নিয়ে আমাদের কথা হয়েছে। ব্রহ্মস ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র প্রকল্পে রাশিয়া ১১২ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ করবে বলে পুতিন জানিয়েছেন।"

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নকশাল-বৈঠকে
ফল মিলছে, মত
স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ৪
ডিসেম্বর: জনযুদ্ধের সঙ্গে আলোচনা
পরে অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশে শান্তি ফিরছে বলে
মনে করছে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক
আজ নকশাল-অধ্যুষিত মোট ১৩টি
রাজ্যের (পুরনো ৯টি এবং নতুন ৪টি
পুলিশের ডিজি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট
অফিসারেরা নিজেদের মধ্যে সমন্বয়
বৈঠকে বসেন। দু'টি পর্যায়
আলোচনা হয়েছে বলে স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক
সূত্রের খবর। বৈঠকের পরে স্বরাষ্ট্র
মন্ত্রকের বিশেষ সচিব অনিল চৌধুরী
জানিয়েছেন, অন্ধ্র সরকার নকশালে
সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষবিহীন ঘোষণার পর
কোনও রাজ্য থেকেই হিংসার ঘটনা
বেড়েছে বলে অভিযোগ আসেনি।

বৈঠকের প্রথম পর্যায়ে পুলিস
অভিযান ও দ্বিতীয় পর্যায়ে নকশাল
অধ্যুষিত রাজ্যগুলিতে আর্থ-সামাজিক
উন্নয়ন নিয়ে কথা হয়। চারটি বিষয়ে
দিকে বিশেষ ভাবে নজর রাখা হবে
বলে স্থির হয়েছে: ১) সি পি এম এল
এবং জনযুদ্ধ গোষ্ঠীর সংযুক্তীকরণ, ২)
উন্নত মানের বিশ্লেষণক (আই ই ডি)
ব্যবহারের বাড়বাড়ন্ত, ৩) অন্ধ্র
নকশাল সংগঠনগুলির সঙ্গে
আলোচনার প্রক্রিয়া এবং ৪) নেপাল
সীমান্তে জঙ্গি শিবিরের বাড়বাড়ন্ত।

বৈঠকের পরে স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের এক
কর্তা জানান, আলোচনার প্রক্রিয়া শুরু
করার পরে অন্ধ্র হিংসা কমেছে বলে
খবর। নতুন চারটি রাজ্য উত্তরাঞ্চল,
তামিলনাড়ু, কেরল এবং কর্ণাটকের
প্রতিনিধিদের সঙ্গেই আজকের বৈঠকে
উপস্থিত ছিলেন পশ্চিমবঙ্গ পুলিশের
ডি জি শ্যামল গুপ্ত।

05 DEC 2004

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Handwritten notes: "India's future" and "40-1"

India should have veto power: Putin

Handwritten number: "9/12"

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4. Russia wants India to enter the United Nations Security Council in the permanent category with veto power, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said here today before leaving for Bangalore on the second leg of his three-day visit to India.

Mr. Putin, who gave a nuanced response yesterday to a question on whether or not Russia supported India's entry on a par with the existing five members of the Council, gave a direct answer today.

Referring to the "absolutely incorrect" interpretation of his remarks by some newspapers, Mr. Putin said: "I saw what the Indian press is saying about this [his remarks on the veto issue on Friday]. All decisions to reform the U.N. Security Council should be taken by consensus

..." Explaining his personal stand on the issue, Mr. Putin, who met the Vice-President, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Defence Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, and the Leader of the Opposition, L.K. Advani, said: "I am convinced that India should have veto power, otherwise it will be a one-sided reform of the United Nations."

Speaking to the press after inaugurating the BrahMos office complex at the Delhi cantonment, Mr. Putin pointed to "another factor" — if future permanent members of the Security Council were not given the veto, the next step would be the abolition of the power itself.

In his view, the absence of this power would undermine the U.N.'s credibility. "I would like to reiterate that all these decisions should be taken on the basis of consensus," he said.

Earlier, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that Mr. Putin at meetings with Mr. Shekhawat and Mr. Advani, "categorically rejected the interpretation given by some newspaper reports on his remarks yesterday about veto powers in an expanded Security Council."

Mr. Putin said he had emphasised the need to retain the instrument of veto as a means of ensuring the effectiveness of the Council.

The spokesman said that in extending full support to India's candidature, Mr. Putin felt that India as a new member should have the full rights of permanent membership, including the right of veto.

"If India achieves a permanent seat in the Security Council, it cannot be a permanent member of a second rank," he quoted Mr. Putin as saying.

See also Page 8

05 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

Putin on damage-control mission

Russian Leader Now Says India Must Have Veto Rights As UNSC Member

New Delhi: In an apparent damage-control exercise, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday said he favoured veto rights for India as a new permanent member of the UN Security Council.

"If the issue of expanding permanent members of the UN Security Council is resolved, my view is that they all should be given veto rights," Putin was quoted as saying by a Russian news agency. "Otherwise it will not be a wholesome reform of the UN, the initial aim of which is to assign this organisation and its decisions an effective character," Putin, who is on a three-day visit to India, said.

At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday Putin had said that it would be "absolutely unacceptable to erode the existing tools of the UN (on veto powers) because the UN as an organisation will lose its weight and its role, changing into some discussion club."

Justifying his stand on giving veto rights to the new permanent members— among whom he considers India the most deserving



President Abdul Kalam has a chat with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and his wife Lyudmila at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday evening

candidate—Putin said depriving them of such rights could lead to their abolition as an instrument of the UN's effective functioning.

"The loss of such an instrument (on veto powers) will mean a decline in the influence and significance of the UN in the world,"

Putin said. External affairs ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said the Russian President, in his meetings on Saturday with vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and opposition leader L.K. Advani, had "categorically rejected the interpretation of some newspaper reports on his remarks about veto powers in an expanded Security Council". Sarna said Putin had emphasised the need to retain the instrument of veto as a means of ensuring the effectiveness of the UN Security Council.

"In extending full support to India's candidature, Putin felt that India, as a new member, should have the full rights of permanent membership, including the right of veto," he said, adding that the Russian President had said that if India does get a permanent seat in the Security Council it could not be a permanent member of "second rank".

External affairs minister K Natwar Singh had recently made it clear in Parliament that permanent membership without veto rights was not acceptable to India. PTI

05 DEC 2004

THE TIMES OF INDIA

ভেটোর প্রশ্নে রাশিয়ার সমর্থন পাচ্ছে না ভারত

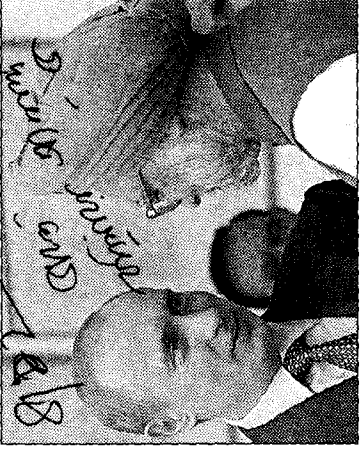
স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ৩ ডিসেম্বর: বিশ্বসম্ভ্রাসবাসের মোকাবিলা, বিদ্যুৎ-সহ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে বাণিজ্যিক সমঝোতা, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে ভারতের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ— সব ক্ষেত্রেই দিল্লির পাশে দাঁড়াতে রাজি মস্কো। তবে রুশ প্রেসিডেন্ট পুতিনের ভারত সফরে পুরোপুরি খুশি হতে পারছে না ভারত।

আজ দুপুরে প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহের সঙ্গে দীর্ঘ বৈঠকের পর পুতিন সাফ জানিয়ে দিলেন, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সম্ভারিত পরিষদে নতুন সদস্যদের ভেটো দেওয়ার অধিকারের বিরোধী তাঁর দেশ।

কূটনৈতিক সূত্রের খবর, ভেটো-সহ স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ পাওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে মরিয়্য দিল্লি পুতিনের এই মন্তব্যে বেশ হতাশ। ভেটো-ক্ষমতাহীন স্থায়ী সদস্যের পদ পেয়ে যে বিশেষ লাভ নেই সেটা বুকে ভারত কিছু দিন ধরেই তৎপরতা বাড়িয়েছে। এই বিষয়ে ভারতকে সমর্থন করার জন্য রাশিয়ার উপরেও কূটনৈতিক চাপ তৈরি করা হয়েছিল। বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিংহ জানিয়েছেন, “ভেটো ছাড়া স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ আমাদের কাছে গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে বলে মনে হয় না।”

আজ হায়দরাবাদ হাউসে মনমোহন সিংহকে পাশে বসিয়ে যে সাংবাদিক বৈঠক পুতিন করেন, সেখানেই এই বিষয়ে রাশিয়ার মনোভাব তিনি প্রসঙ্গে তাঁর বক্তব্য, “রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের যে চালু আইন রয়েছে তা বেড়ে ফেলা একেবারেই সমর্থনযোগ্য নয়। তা হলে সংস্কারের ওজন এবং মান্যতা নষ্ট হবে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদ বদলে যাবে আলোচনার রুটবে।” পুতিনের কথায়, নতুন সদস্যদের ভেটো দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা দেওয়া একটি ‘ধ্বংসাত্মক প্রক্রিয়া’।

আজ প্রায় তিন ঘণ্টাব্যাপী শীর্ষপর্ষদের বৈঠকের পর ভারত-রাশিয়া একটি যৌথ বিবৃতিতে সই করে। বিভিন্ন বাণিজ্য সংক্রান্ত সমঝোতা পত্রের পাশাপাশি মনমোহন সিংহ জানিয়ে দেন, ভবিষ্যতে



রুশ প্রেসিডেন্ট ব্লাদিমির পুতিন ও প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ। শুক্রবার নয়াদিল্লিতে। — পিটিআই

প্রতিরক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে কেনাবেচার জন্য আগামী চার মাসের মধ্যে মেঘাসম্মত (ইন্টেলেকুয়াল প্রপার্টি রাইট) আনা হবে। অসম্মত, এটি আনার জন্য দীর্ঘ দিন ধরেই রাশিয়া ভারতের উপর চাপ তৈরি করেছিল। এই সম্মতির ফলে রাশিয়া থেকে বিভিন্ন অস্ত্র প্রযুক্তি ভারত কোনও তৃতীয় পক্ষকে দিতে পারবে না বা নিজেও তৈরি করতে পারবে না। কূটনৈতিক সূত্রের খবর, ইজরায়েলের সঙ্গে প্রতিরক্ষা সংক্রান্ত কেনাবেচায় দিল্লির ঘনিষ্ঠতা বাড়তে দেখেই সন্দিহান রাশিয়া এই সম্মতি আনার জন্য চাপ দিয়েছে ভারতকে। আজ মনমোহন বলেছেন, এখন পর্যন্ত যে সব অস্ত্র চুক্তি হয়েছে, সেগুলির ক্ষেত্রে এই সম্মত কার্যকর হবে না।

মেঘাসম্মতের বিষয়টি আমদানি করে দিল্লি যেমন খুশি করেছে মস্কোকে, তেমনই রাশিয়ার পক্ষ থেকেও আজ স্বাগত জানানো হয়েছে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে ভারতের অন্তর্ভুক্তির বিষয়টি। পুতিন বলেছেন, “এই ব্যাপারে আমরা আমাদের দীর্ঘমেয়াদী সমর্থন জানিয়ে আসছি।” একই সঙ্গে, সন্ত্রাসের মোকাবিলায় দু’দেশ একত্রে সক্রিয় বিরোধী কর্মসূচি গভীর ইচ্ছাও প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে যৌথ ইংরেজিতে। সেই সঙ্গে বিদ্যুৎ-সহ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে এক গুচ্ছ সমঝোতা পত্রে সই হয়েছে। সেইলের সঙ্গে সমঝোতা পত্রে সই

করেছে বিভিন্ন রুশ তেল সংস্থা (গ্যাজপ্রোম, ব্রোইত্রাপগাজ এবং স্কচিনস্কি মাইনিং ইন্সটিটিউট)। এ ছাড়া, যে বিষয়গুলি নিয়ে যৌথ সমঝোতা পত্রে স্বাক্ষর হয়েছে, তার মধ্যে রয়েছে আসামারিক কারনে মহাকাশের ব্যবহার, কূটনৈতিক পাসপোর্টধারীদের রয়েছে রাশিয়া যাতায়াত সুগম করা, সেন্ট পিটার্সবার্গ এবং মুম্বইকে যমজ-শহর হিসাবে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়া। এ ছাড়া দু’দেশের ব্যাঙ্কের মধ্যে সমঝয় গড়ে তোলা হচ্ছে। সেন্ট ব্যাঙ্ক অব ইন্ডিয়া, কানাডা ব্যাঙ্কের সঙ্গে বেশ কিছু রাশিয়ান ব্যাঙ্কের (ভেসেকোলোম, সেবার ইত্যাদি) সঙ্গে ভারতীয় ব্যাঙ্কের বাণিজ্যিক ও পরিবেশগত যোগাযোগ থাকবে।

Joint declaration mentions cooperation with China

By Amit Baruah

190-11
2/12

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3. India and Russia today took the unusual step of referring to their trilateral cooperation with China in a joint declaration signed by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

While "joint declarations" are normally confined to bilateral dealings, the document said, "The sides note with satisfaction that trilateral meetings at the Foreign Ministers' level of India, China and Russia have been taking place regularly. These meetings have been useful in promoting understanding and exploring areas of possible cooperation at a trilateral and at an international level."

"The trilateral meetings have also reflected a strong concern against terrorism anywhere and in any form. The sides expressed their conviction in favour of progressive increase in trilateral cooperation, which could also result in social and economic development amongst the three countries," it added.

'Strengthens stability'

Coming out in favour of a more democratic world order, based on a multipolar world, the declaration stressed, "Both sides

recognise that their cooperation strengthens stability in Asia and the world as a whole."

Referring to energy as a key area of bilateral cooperation, the two countries said they would cooperate in the development of new oil and gas fields and the means of their transportation in Russia, India and other countries. "Both sides agree to encourage and assist investments in the energy sector by Indian companies in Russia and those by Russian companies in this sector in India," the declaration said.

Fight against terrorism

On the fight against terrorism, India and Russia emphasised the need to give substance and credibility to the global fight against terrorism and avoid selective approaches and political expediency.

"Both sides reaffirm that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction [WMD], their means of delivery and related materials, particularly the risk of their falling into the hands of terrorists constitutes a threat to international peace and security. They highlighted the need to prevent terrorists or those who harbour them from acquiring or developing WMD, their means of delivery and related materials," the

declaration said.

While calling for a central role for the United Nations in such efforts, India and Russia said they would cooperate bilaterally as well as through appropriate multilateral channels towards this objective.

'Intra-Iraqi dialogue'

The declaration said, "The [two] sides express their concern over continuing violence in Iraq and stressed the need for an intra-Iraqi dialogue aimed at building national consensus on a new Constitution and on restoring stability and security in the country.

"The sides advocate strict compliance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546, particularly with regard to the interim timetable of political process stipulated by it with a view to facilitating the formation of a new, democratic Iraq.

"The sides affirm their continuing interest in contributing to the reconstruction efforts in Iraq and urged a wider degree of international consultation in the ongoing peace efforts. The sides believe that it would be in the interest of the international community to restore the efficacy of multilateral approaches in addressing situations such as the war in Iraq," the declaration said.

04 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

Putin not for diluting veto powers of U.N. Security Council

● India, Russia sign joint declaration, key accords

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said today that there could be no erosion of the existing "veto tool" of the United Nations Security Council, but emphasised that Moscow would "show significant flexibility" in the process of negotiations that might add permanent members such as India to the Council.

Mr. Putin, who spoke in the presence of the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, held detailed discussions with Dr. Singh and signed a joint declaration on the future trajectory of bilateral relations. He also held talks with the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, in the evening.

Cooperation in gas sector, outer space

Nine agreements, including an accord for Indian use of the Russian global satellite navigation system (Glonass), peaceful cooperation in outer space and a strategic cooperation agreement in the gas sector, were signed between the two countries. Direct banking relations between Indian and Russian entities were also agreed upon.

The Prime Minister said that India would recognise Russia as a market economy in anti-dumping negotiations. It would work towards the speedy conclusion of a bilateral agreement leading to Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and also clinch an intellectual property rights (IPR) agreement to protect defence technology in the next four months.

Asked whether Russia would support India's entry into the Security Council with veto powers so as not to create a "second class" category, Mr. Putin gave a long reply, leaving some of his remarks open to interpretation.

Russia backs India's candidature

Favouring the reorganisation of the U.N., Mr. Putin said India was the largest democracy in the world and Russia's "strategic, privileged partner." India was "number one" in Russia's list to enter the Security Council in the permanent category. "We believe that it would be abso-



FOR CLOSER TIES: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: Anu Pushkarna

lutely unacceptable to erode such existing tools of the U.N. because otherwise the U.N. organisation will lose its weight, lose its role, changing into some discussion club — some new edition of the League of Nations."

"So, beyond any doubt, there should be no ... [inaudible] of the rights of the Security Council members. I think that would

be a destructive approach. I would like to underscore that we have to show flexibility taking into account the interests of all participants in this [Council expansion] process," he said.

Russia favoured preserving the universal character of the U.N. which was serving as a tool for the resolution of conflicts. "We are fully in favour of reorganising the U.N., including an

increase in the number of permanent members in the Security Council."

In his opening remarks, Dr. Singh said that defence cooperation was an "important pillar" of India-Russia relations, which had now moved beyond a traditional buyer-seller equation. Since bilateral trade was below potential, the joint commission would address the issue with a

new sense of urgency.

The Prime Minister said that he had assured Mr. Putin that India would support Russia's early entry into the WTO and said they also discussed further cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. He was "fully satisfied" with his discussions, Dr. Singh said and added that India was appreciative of Moscow's support to New Delhi on the issue of Security Council membership.

Mr. Putin said he was happy that the strategic relationship between the two countries was not influenced by political circumstances. He was grateful to Dr. Singh on two counts — for recognising Russia as a market economy and for supporting Russia's entry into the WTO.

Though he did not give any details, Mr. Putin said the two countries had now established a "real mechanism" for cooperation in full-scale space projects. "It is expanding and increasing," he said.

Asked about the early conclusion of the IPR agreement, Mr. Putin said this was an issue of interest to both sides. "I agree with what has been said," Mr. Putin said, echoing the point made by Dr. Singh that an accord would be reached in four months from January 1, 2005.

Joint Declaration: Page 3

Putin to watch Dhruv flight

BANGALORE, DEC. 3. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, who is arriving here tomorrow on a two-day visit, will witness the prowess of Dhruv (the Advanced Light Helicopter), Tejas (the Light Combat Aircraft) and the Intermediate Jet Trainer developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Sunday.

He will address the industry

captains of the country at a joint meeting organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and India (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Saturday evening.

Mr. Putin will visit to the Indian software export major, Infosys Technologies, at Electronic City on Sunday morning. He will address a

gathering of Infosys employees.

Mr. Putin will also visit the HAL, where he would go around the static display of LCA, ALH and the IJT, besides the Sukhoi-30 MKI bought by the Indian Air Force from Russia.

Later, he will witness the flight capability of the LCA, ALH and IJT. India and Russia are contemplating to produce an advanced jet trainer. — UNI

04 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

India, Russia ink space deal

Agencies
New Delhi, December 3

AWARE THAT the global environment has undergone a significant transformation, India and Russia on Friday signed accords on outer space, long-term cooperation in the field of joint development and use of the Russian Global Navigational Satellite System (GLONASS) for peaceful purposes.

The two countries signed four agreements including one on cooperation in the field of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and seven MoUs relating to tie ups in banking and exploration and delivery of natural gas in Russia, India and third countries.

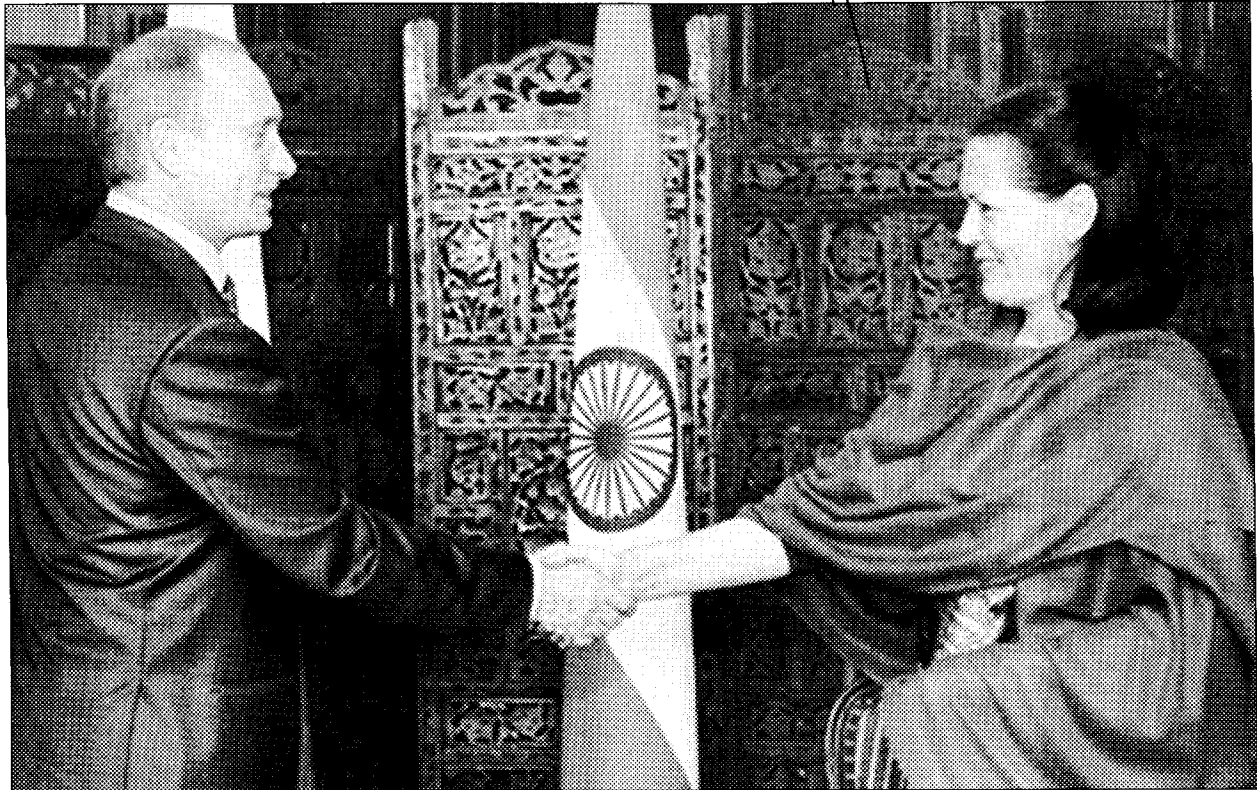
The agreement on outer space and GLONASS was signed by ISRO chairman G. Madhavan Nair and director, Russian Federal Space Agency A. Perminov.

India's Foreign Secretary Shyam Sharan inked the deal on visa-free travel with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeev. Mumbai Municipal Corporation Mayor Mahadev Deole signed an agreement for cooperation with Valentina Matvienko, Governor, St Petersburg.

The two sides agreed to continue cooperation in nuclear energy incorporating "innovative technologies" to ensure energy security, with due regard to their commitments to non-proliferation norms, a Joint Declaration signed by visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said.

At a joint press conference with Singh, Putin fully backed India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded United Nations Security Council, saying it was a "deserving and strong" candidate but did not favour veto rights for new members.

Apparently opposing any dilution of the rights of the current five permanent members, he felt veto for new members would be a "destructive approach." He, ho-



Sonia Gandhi with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in New Delhi on Friday.

REUTERS

wever, felt flexibility has to be shown taking into account the interest of all the participants in the process.

Acceding to Moscow's request, India assured its full support for Russia's early entry into WTO and promised to work towards early conclusion of bilateral negotiations in this regard.

Observing that bilateral defence cooperation had gone beyond buyer-seller relationship, Singh said it now incorporated joint research, development and production. Acknowledging that the current volume of bilateral trade was much below the potential, the two sides decided intensify cooperation in diversified areas.

Putin termed the discussions as "trustworthy and very substantial".

Affirming their resolve to fight global terrorism, New Delhi and Moscow stressed that this has to be long-term, sustained and comprehensive.

On the proliferation of

Dharam sees proud moment for Bangalore

KARNATAKA CHIEF minister Dharam Singh perceives Putin's visit as a proud moment for Karnataka, as the Russian leader will be spending around 24 hours of his two-day visit to India in and around Bangalore.

Dharam reportedly gave details of Putin's scheduled visit to Bangalore when he met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his 7 Race Course Road residence here on Friday af-

ternoon. He is understood to have discussed the fate of several state projects to be kickstarted in the state.

Dispelling fears of inordinate delay in clearance for work on the proposed Greenfield airport in Bangalore, he reportedly assured the Prime Minister of speedy action on this count. Sources close to Dharam Singh said the state Cabinet was scheduled to meet early next week to give all the neces-

sary clearances to the proposed Greenfield airport project. Work on the project is expected to start by January end.

As regards expansion of his ministry, Dharam Singh held a series of meetings with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

But names of Congress nominees to be inducted into the coalition ministry are reported to have been finalised.

HTC, New Delhi

WMDs and the risk of their falling into the hands of terrorists, the two sides emphasised the necessity to address the threat on national basis as well as through forward-looking, multilateral and long-term efforts against them. Voicing concern over

the continuing violence in Iraq, both sides stressed the need for an intra-Iraqi dialogue aimed at building national consensus on a new constitution and on restoring stability and security in Iraq.

Backing a lasting and comprehensive settlement

of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the two countries encouraged resumption of peaceful negotiations as soon as possible in accordance with the roadmap worked by the Quartet of international intermediaries and approved by the UN Security Council.

04 DEC 2004

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Indo-Russian ties on a new high

SR 1
9/12
Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Dec. 3. — After what the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, termed a “very important meeting” that lasted well beyond the allocated one hour, India and Russia today gave a new thrust to their relations when they signed a joint declaration emphasising the strategic nature of the bilateral relationship.

Other than agreeing to collaborate against international terrorism, and eliminate double standards in combating the menace, the joint declaration stresses the need for a new “international architecture based on a multi-polar world,” giving primacy to the United Nations.

Giving concrete shape to the “substantial and new emphasis on economic relations” outlined in the joint declaration, signed by Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and Dr Singh, 11 other agreements and MoUs were signed in their presence at Hyderabad House today, to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the banking, energy, space exploration, navigation and visa sectors.

At a joint media interaction, Dr Singh said India would fully support Russia’s entry into the World Trade Organisation and fulfil the commitment made by Mr Vajpayee, designating Russia as a market economy. Mr Putin thanked India.

The “new dynamics” to the Indo-Russian relationship was visible in the assurance by Dr Singh that the umbrella agreement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regarding defence supplies and the patenting of joint weapons systems would be “resolved” in the next four



Dr Manmohan Singh with Mr Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

months (beginning in January). The resolution would pave the way for enhanced defence cooperation, moving away from a ‘buyer-seller’ relationship to a joint venture relationship, encompassing R&D and joint projects like the *Brahmos*.

Mr Putin had a meeting with President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and discussed matters of bilateral cooperation. The meeting was followed by a banquet hosted by Dr Kalam in honour of the visiting foreign dignitary. Russia welcomed Indian firms bidding for assets of embattled Russian oil major Yukos, petroleum minister Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar said.

Putin stand on India’s veto claim

NEW DELHI, Dec. 3. — Mr Putin remained non-committal today on the issue of prospective new entrants to the Security Council, like India, getting the veto. While describing India as “Number One” on Moscow’s list of countries eligible for permanent seats in the UNSC, Mr Putin said all countries needed to be “flexible” on the issue of the UN’s expansion. He said he was convinced beyond doubt that there should be no impact on the rights of the existing members of the Security Council in the event of its expansion. — SNS

04 DEC 2004

THE STATESMAN

Kremlin Connectivity

India and Russia should move

from guns to butter 4/12

It's about time Indo-Russian trade concerns shifted from armaments to goods and services. Both Vladimir Putin and Manmohan Singh should appreciate that their ties are trapped in the staleness of the past, confined to MiGs and BrahMos even as economic possibilities have opened up like never before. India has evolved over the 90s as a services powerhouse, even as Russia struggles to redefine itself as a country of consequence in the post-Cold War world. With its military apparatus stripped of both market and hegemonic value, Russia seeks to modernise and grow as an energy giant. Its economic ties with India are still governed by a Cold War curiosity called rupee-rouble trade that should be scrapped at the earliest. In those days, the rouble was at par with the dollar and helped dollar-starved India negotiate its military and other requirements with the world. Today, India has a stockpile of dollar reserves that would be Russia's envy, while the rouble is in a sorry state after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. While rupee-rouble rates were renegotiated in the 90s, they still act as a disincentive for genuine exporters who cannot realise tax benefits in the absence of hard currency earnings. As a result, dubious concerns have dominated consumer goods export to Russia, giving Indian products a bad reputation in that country.

The rupee-rouble mechanism can be laid to rest only when the two countries agree on a method to deal with India's Rs 15,500 crore debt. The principal sum of Rs 12,000 crore can be transformed into Russian investment in India or in that country. For instance, the Indian Iron and Steel Company should be handed over to the Russians so that it becomes a running concern. Russia wants India to help it gain entry into the World Trade Organisation. But India should drive a hard bargain, as it stands to gain in oil, diamonds, software and financial services sectors. India is going the right way by acquiring oil facilities abroad; Russia, as the largest non-OPEC producer, must emerge as a major destination. Russia plans to sell a share of its rough diamonds at a discount, outside the regular commercial circuit. India, with the largest diamond polishing enterprise in the world, should stake a major claim on this share. Russia has missed the software bus in a decade of turbulence, for which it would be looking towards India for help. In sum, the two should connect the Kremlin to Bangalore and Gurgaon rather than the Army Hq.

04 DEC 2004

THE TIMES OF INDIA

ভারত-রুশ উদ্যোগে অত্যাধুনিক যুদ্ধবিমান

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ২ ডিসেম্বর: ভারতের সঙ্গে হাত মিলিয়ে আধুনিকতম যুদ্ধবিমান বানাতে রাশিয়া। সের্গেই ইভানভ এবং প্রণব মুখোপাধ্যায়, দুই প্রতিরক্ষামন্ত্রী আজ ঘোষণা করেছেন, এই বিমান হবে 'পঞ্চম প্রজন্মের'। এফ ১৬ বা সুখই ৩০ যেখানে তৃতীয় প্রজন্মের যন্ত্র হিসাবে চিহ্নিত, সেখানে দুই পুরনো বন্ধু হাত মিলিয়ে যুদ্ধবিমানকে নতুন দিগন্তে নিয়ে যেতে চাইছে। এ ছাড়া, 'ব্রহ্মস' ক্ষেপনাস্ত্র প্রকল্পে বৃহত্তর অংশীদার করে বাড়তি টাকা ঢালবে রাশিয়া। বাড়তি তিনটি যুদ্ধজাহাজও নয়াদিল্লিকে দেবে রাশিয়া।

এই বিমান তৈরি করতে হয়তো দশ বছর অপেক্ষা করতে হবে। কিন্তু আজকের ঘোষণার উল্লেখযোগ্য দিক এটাই, মস্কো নয়াদিল্লিকে আর নিছক 'ক্রেতা' হিসাবে দেখছে না। বরং প্রযুক্তির ক্ষেত্রে সহযোগী মর্যাদা দিতে শুরু করেছে। সামরিক বিষয়ে দুই দেশের যৌথ কমিশনের বৈঠকের পরে ইভানভও এই বার্তা শুনিতে বলেছেন, "আমরা যুদ্ধের সাজসরঞ্জাম নিয়ে যৌথ উন্নয়ন বা গবেষণা বাড়াব। দু'জন মিলে এর প্রসারেও নামব।" এই বিষয়ে প্রণব জানান, "কী ধরনের বিমানের ভাবনাচিন্তা রয়েছে, তা নিয়ে কিছু দিন আগে মন্ত্রকে আলোচনা হয়েছে। এ বার দুই দেশের প্রতিনিধিরা বাকি খুঁটিনাটি ঠিক করবে।"

ভারতীয় বিমানবাহিনীর সেরা অস্ত্র সুখই ৩০ এম কে আই ছাড়াও বেশির ভাগ যুদ্ধবিমানই রাশিয়া থেকে পাওয়া। রবিবার দেশে তৈরি প্রথম সুখই বিমানবাহিনীর হাতে তুলে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। কিন্তু তার প্রযুক্তি, যন্ত্রাংশ সবকিছুই আমদানি করা। সুখই ৩০ কে তৃতীয় প্রজন্মের বিমান হিসাবেই চিহ্নিত। মার্কিন এফ ১৬-ও সমপর্যায়ের। তবে পেণ্টাগন নতুন এফ ২২ নামে যে বিমান বানানোর কথা ঘোষণা করেছে, তা পঞ্চম প্রজন্মের। সে দিক দিয়ে দেখলে, আমেরিকার সঙ্গে প্রযুক্তিগত পালা দেওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে রাশিয়া এখন ভারতকেই সেরা মিত্র বলে মনে করছে। অত্যাধুনিক যুদ্ধবিমান কী? প্রাক্তন সেনাপ্রধান ও প্রতিরক্ষা বিষয়ক সংসদীয় কমিটির সদস্য শঙ্কর রায়চৌধুরীর মতে, "শব্দে চেয়েও দ্রুতগামী। বড় আকারের হলেও ক্ষিপ্ত। অল্প জায়গায় উঠতে নামতে পারবে।"

প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে বাড়তি সমন্বয়ের কথা বললেও রাশিয়া কিন্তু অন্য কিছু ক্ষেত্রে পেটেন্ট নিয়ে দৃঢ় অবস্থান গ্রহণ করেছে। কিছু যন্ত্রাংশ তৈরির বিষয়ে তারা পেটেন্ট বজায় রাখতে চায়। প্রণববাবু বলেন, "উভয় পক্ষে গ্রহণযোগ্য উপায়ে কী ভাবে এই ব্যবস্থা চালু করা যায়, তা নিয়ে দ্রুত আলোচনা হবে।"

দুই লক্ষ্য নিয়ে পুতিন ভারতে

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ২ ডিসেম্বর: এক দিকে ইসলামিক মৌলবাদ ও সন্ত্রাসবাদের মোকাবিলা আর অন্য দিকে দু'দেশের মধ্যে বিভিন্ন বাণিজ্যচুক্তি—মূলত এই দুই লক্ষ্যকে সামনে রেখে আজ গভীর রাতে নয়াদিল্লিতে পা দিচ্ছেন রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট ব্লাদিমির পুতিন। তিন দিনের সফরে প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ-সহ সরকারের বিভিন্ন শীর্ষ সরকারি ও বাণিজ্য প্রতিনিধির সঙ্গে কথা বলবেন তিনি। আগামী কাল একটি যৌথ বিবৃতি ছাড়াও বেশ কয়েকটি সমঝোতাপত্র (মউ) সই করবে ভারত ও রাশিয়া।

পূর্বে মৈত্রী ও অর্থনৈতিক সংহতির বার্তা পৌঁছে দিয়ে সদ্য আসিয়ান সম্মেলন থেকে ফিরেছেন মনমোহন। সামনে ভারত ও পাকিস্তানের জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টার বৈঠক। আর তারই মাঝে রাশিয়ার সঙ্গে বিভিন্ন দ্বিপাক্ষিক বিষয়ে সহযোগিতার মাধ্যমে কূটনৈতিক সম্পর্ককে ঝালিয়ে নিতে চলেছে ভারত। দু'দেশের মধ্যে বিভিন্ন চলতি প্রক্রিয়াকে আনুষ্ঠানিক রূপ দেওয়া হবে সমঝোতাপত্রে স্বাক্ষরের মাধ্যমে। বিদেশ মন্ত্রক সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, কাল যে সব বিষয়ে সমঝোতাপত্র সই হতে চলেছে, তার মধ্যে রয়েছে: ● অসামরিক প্রয়োজনে মহাকাশ ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে সমঝোতা ● কূটনৈতিক পাসপোর্ট থাকলে রাশিয়া যাতায়াতের জন্য ভিসার প্রয়োজন প্রত্যাহার ● সেন্ট পিটার্সবার্গ ও মুম্বইকে যমজ-শহর হিসাবে স্বীকৃতি ● দু'দেশের ব্যাঙ্কের মধ্যে সমন্বয় গড়া। স্টেট ব্যাঙ্ক, কানাডা ব্যাঙ্ক, আই সি আই সি আই-সহ কয়েকটি ব্যাঙ্ক রাশিয়ায় শাখা খুলবে। কিছু রুশ ব্যাঙ্কের সঙ্গে ভারতীয় ব্যাঙ্কের বাণিজ্যিক ও পরিষেবাগত যোগাযোগ থাকবে।

India, Russia plan fresh investment for developing BrahMos missile

By Sandeep Dikshit

NEW DELHI, DEC. 2. A day ahead of the visit by the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, the Defence Ministers of India and Russia today said they had ironed out the irritants in their military ties. Both sides conceded each other's demands and resolved to evolve their military partnership from that of a buyer-seller to active R & D and joint export of armaments to third countries.

Speaking at a joint press conference, the Defence Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, announced that India had decided to concede Russia's two-year-old request for a defence secrecy agreement that would ensure that the country receiving high-end defence technology would not sell or transfer it to another country. "The sooner the better," interjected the Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, when Mr. Mukherjee was asked about the timeframe within which the pact would be finalised. Mr. Mukherjee said the

first meeting on the draft of the defence secrecy agreement would be held in January and work would be completed in another four to five months.

'Comfort letter'

Russia also partly conceded India's request for bank guarantees against items ordered from the Russian military industrial complex. The Russian Ministry of Finance will give a "comfort letter" to New Delhi in place of bank guarantees. India had been insisting on such an arrangement because Russian military factories had sometimes failed to meet the production schedule or after sales agreement. India would have encashed the bank guarantees as a sort of penalty in case Russia reneged on the delivery schedule. "The letter of comfort is adequate," said Mr. Mukherjee.

Military exercises

India also addressed Russia's grouse of bilateral military exercises not being held despite the

latter enjoying close military ties with India for several decades. It was decided today that Special Forces of both sides would hold a joint exercise next year. While India has held several army-level exercises with the United States, it had tended to ignore Russia despite the commonality of equipment. The ice was broken for the first time when India and Russia held naval exercises off the eastern coast this year.

The two sides also signed three protocols for fresh investments (estimated at Rs. 250 crores) for the development of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The Russian Government plans to issue an executive order to scale up Russian investment in the joint venture. India too has agreed to make fresh investments in the venture for making supersonic missiles with an official range of just under 300 km. The influx of funds would help produce nearly 400 missiles that will be fitted on military platforms of both countries. The two countries also de-

cidated to work out "mutually acceptable" conditions on leasing of long-range (and possibly nuclear-capable) TU-22 bombers. On being asked whether the discussions covered leasing of Russian nuclear submarines, Mr. Ivanov said the two sides had talked of a package deal that would involve "appropriate projects" for the Navy.

Discussion held on the previous two days saw officials focussing on the need for steady supply of spares. Taking note of complaints by all the three Indian armed services of tardy supplies of spares, Russia agreed to provide maintenance and overhauling facilities in India. In order to ensure economies of scale, military hardware of friendly countries could also be refurbished at these places.

Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. Ivanov signed the protocol of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission while different working groups pertaining to military and technical cooperation signed two other protocols.

03 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

India, Russia ink fresh defence deals

IPR, cruise missiles key areas of cooperation

HTC & Agencies
New Delhi, December 2

INDIA AND Russia today signed three protocols for fresh investments in joint development of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile and agreed to draft an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) accord in four to five months for patenting weapons systems made in collaborative efforts.

The two countries also decided to work out "mutually acceptable" conditions on leasing of long-range TU-22 bombers.

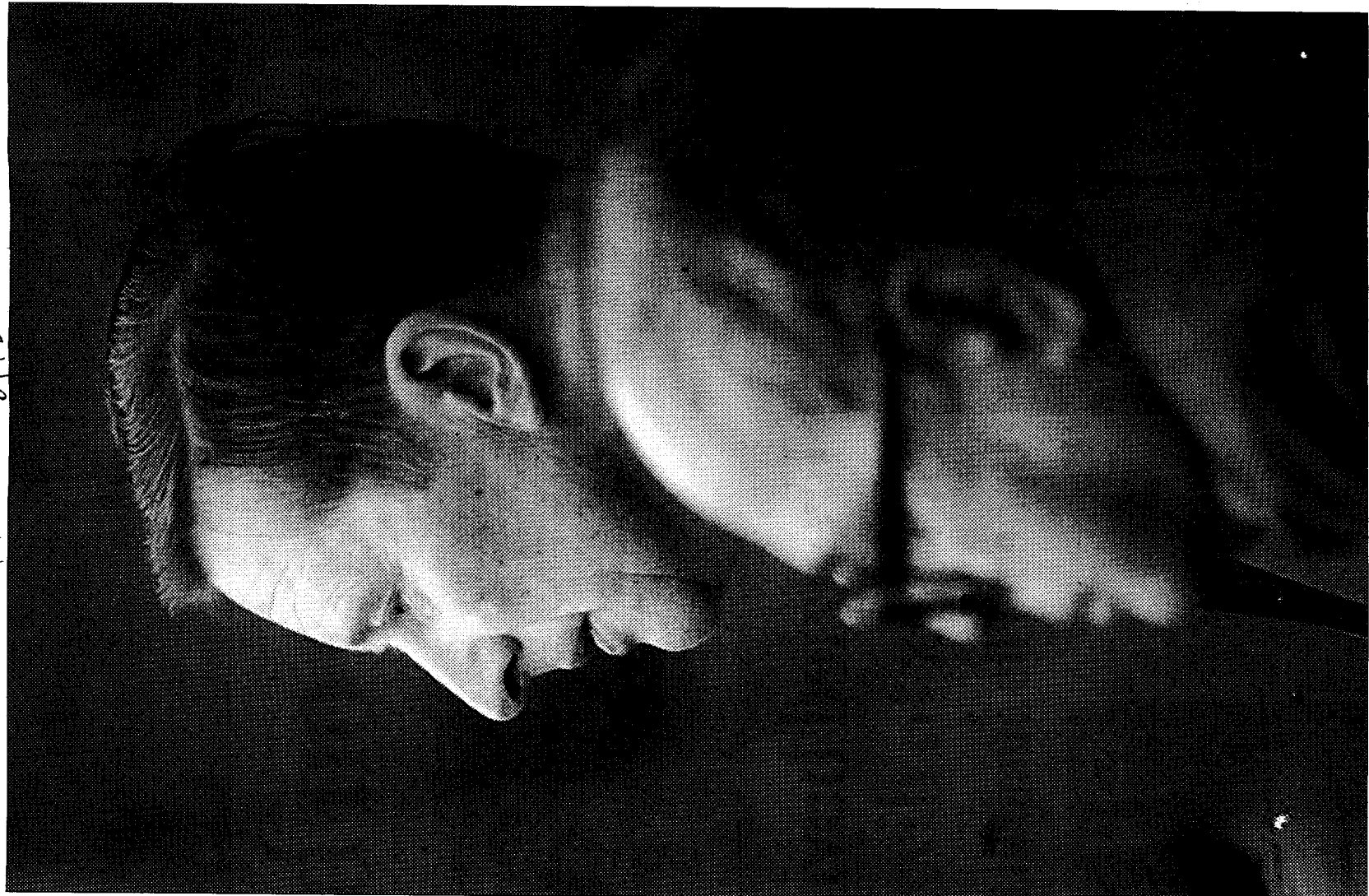
After three days of negotiations, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Ivanov, announced the decision to pump in investments in the Brahmos Aerospace joint venture, paving the way for commercial production of the 290-km range sea-based supersonic cruise missiles.

However, the two ministers were silent on the question of reported moves to acquire two Russian nuclear submarines. Ivanov said the two sides had discussed a package deal that also involved "appropriate projects" for the Navy. Under the agreement, the Russians would up the stake in the project from 50 to 60 per cent and, according to experts, it would enable the project to shore up \$50 million (about Rs 250 crore) to produce the missile and export them to third countries.

With the step-up in investments, Russians officials said it was proposed to produce 360-370 missiles a year. India has already announced its intention to induct the missiles for its warships.

The two sides, Mukherjee said, had also decided to draft an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreement in four to five months. Ivanov, upon his arrival here yesterday, had said Russia favoured an IPR agreement in order to further expand defence cooperation.

The two countries announced far-reaching measures to streamline upgrades and supply of spares for the Russian frontline equipment used by Indian armed forces, with Moscow agreeing to provide maintenance service and overhauling facilities on Indian soil for use by nearby countries. Russia renewed its offer for joint investment in its Sukhoi design



Defence minister Pranab Mukherjee with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Ivanov, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Putin to lease out N-subs, bombers

Agencies
Moscow, December 2

INDIA IS expected to sign major defence deals with Russia — including the lease of two nuclear submarines and long-range strategic bombers — during President Vladimir Putin's three-day visit to New Delhi beginning tomorrow, a local daily here reported today.

"Agreements on leasing two atomic submarines of 09710E 'Shchuka-B' project, three long-range strategic bombers, TU-22M3, and one reconnaissance aircraft, TU-22MR, are ready for signing by the two countries", the well-informed "Kommersant" daily said, commenting on Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov's deliberations with his Indian counterpart, Pranab Mukherjee, ahead of the Indo-Russian summit.

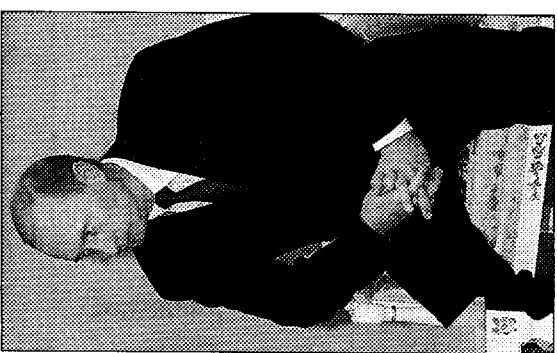
Besides, contracts on upgrading the first set of 300 tanks T-72 of the Indian army, on purchase of three more "Talwar" class frigates of project 11356, naval anti-aircraft missile complexes "Shtil-1", anti-aircraft gun-missile complexes "Tunguska-M1" and multi-barrel rocket launchers "Smerch" are ready for inking, the daily said.

It said the agreement on establishing an Indo-Russian joint consortium aimed at designing and manufacturing multi-role transport aircraft and on joint development of global navigation satellite system, GLONASS, were also ready for signing, besides inter-government agreement on cooperation and use of peaceful space.

The two sides will sign an agreement under which India will join the Global Satellite Navigation System promoted by Russia. The hallmark of this visit will be on concrete things as also on how to remove "roadblocks" coming in the way of further consolidating bilateral ties, the sources said.

An agreement exempting holders of diplomatic and official passports from visa requirements will also be inked, sources said, adding that the two sides were in the final stages of working out an accord for liberalising and facilitating business and tourist visas. Indian businessmen have been complaining of long delays in getting visas for travel to Russia.

Three MoUs will be signed on banking arrangements in either country. Eight Russian banks have been identified which will have linkages with Indian banks. These include SBI, Canara Bank and ICICI. At Moscow's behest, India has agreed to ink an agreement on in-



Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Thursday. Stuck over the Ukraine impasse, Putin will arrive in India on Friday, a few hours later than scheduled.

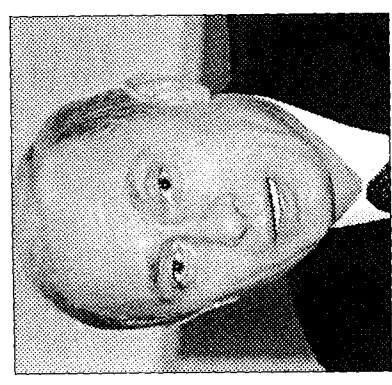
tellectual property rights under which technology and products will not be transferred to third parties. While this clause already existed, in defence contracts between the two countries and India has an impeccable record of not having violated it, Russia felt an umbrella country-to-country agreement would facilitate defence cooperation. Details of this agreement are being worked out, the sources said.

Observing that defence cooperation between Russia, the world's second-largest exporter of armaments after the US, and India was not one of supplier and client, the sources said the two sides had agreed to consider joint ventures also envisaging sale to third countries.

The sources said the two sides were looking at the possibility of setting up further units at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu, in addition to the two 1,000 MW water-cooled and water-moderated reactors. The project began in March 2002, and both reactors are planned to be put into operation in 2007 and 2008. Being a signatory to the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), Russia finds it difficult to develop cooperation in this field.

The two sides will also discuss ways to overcome the rupee-rouble issue by investing the earmarked amounts in joint ventures in both countries. The sources said.

Putin to strengthen all-weather partnership



Vladimir Putin

Saurabh Shukla
New Delhi, December 1

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin's visit to India will aim at strengthening India's strategic relationship with Russia, besides sending a message that Indo-Russian relationship is an all-weather strategic partnership.

High on the agenda will be a joint political declaration that stresses their resolve to multilateralism and UN reforms on the world body's 60th birthday. The declaration also reiterates Russia's support for India's candidature to the

UN Security Council, besides enhanced cooperation at the UN and other multilateral forums.

The declaration strongly supports the Indo-Pak composite dialogue process under the framework of the Shimla and Lahore agreements and January 6 statement in an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence.

The two sides are also expected to reiterate their resolve to fight terrorism at all places and stress that there should be no double-standards in curbing terrorism. Significantly, while the two sides are expected to reflect a specific focus on

Central Asia — which lies in their strategic neighbourhood — on the bilateral front, the two sides are expected to stress enhancing economic cooperation with a target to expand bilateral trade to \$5 billion.

The two sides are also expected to voice their concern at the resurgence of the Taliban while supporting the Karzai regime in Afghanistan. Also expected to figure on the declaration will be their support to the West Asia peace process. Besides the political declaration, the two sides are expected to ink around 10 agreements on outer space, energy between GAIL and Gas-

prom and an agreement on banking, besides cultural exchange.

Sources say that, during Putin's visit, the Russian side will be keen to renew its traditional links with the Congress-led government in Delhi. "Indo-Russian friendship bloomed during the previous Congress regimes and that will be a common point", a diplomatic source remarked.

The Russian President will lead a jumbo delegation. He will meet the Indian leadership on December 3, followed by a day of brainstorming in Bangalore on IT with the top IT czars.

Russia arms ties crack

11/26

India
Russia

OUR BUREAU AND AGENCIES

New Delhi/Moscow, Nov. 30: A chill threatens to set in between India and its largest supplier of military hardware, Russia, even as Russian defence minister Sergei Ivanov and Indian defence minister Pranab Mukherjee begin talks that will last through tomorrow.

Shortly before leaving Moscow, Ivanov said Delhi's reluctance to sign an agreement on intellectual property rights was making it difficult for Russia to continue with its large military supplies to India.

"In our military-technical cooperation, we have come to a stage when, without signing of the agreement on the protection of intellectual property rights, we cannot look ahead," Ivanov said. The minister is in Delhi three days ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit. Talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Putin are scheduled for December 3.

Indian defence sources said the talks at the official level were on projects that India had either contracted or was negotiating but refused to comment on the Russian insistence on signing an intellectual property rights agreement.

Russian representatives at the official-level talks of the Indo-Russia Inter-Governmental Committee on Military-Technical Cooperation are understood to have conveyed their displeasure with Delhi for not having responded to an agreement on intellectual property rights and secrecy presented two years ago.

They are particularly miffed that India has signed two secrecy agreements with the

US in the last two years even though India's military cooperation with the US is minuscule compared to Russia's. An estimated 65 per cent of India's military hardware is of Russian or former-USSR origin.

India has signed the General Secrecy of Military Information Agreement with the US and also another agreement guaranteeing confidentiality in high-technology cooperation. India has also given secrecy guarantees to Israel on military cooperation.

Despite an agreement not being signed, Moscow continued to grant access to Indian defence officials to their ports and military manufacturing facilities, it has been pointed out.

Ivanov, a close confidant and personal friend of Putin and seen by many as his possible successor, underscored that the absence of an agreement on protection of intellectual property rights had become an "obstacle" in the development of defence cooperation involving cutting-edge technology.

"It has become something of an obstacle if we think of the future. We can fulfil our previous obligations without this, but we cannot move ahead in high-technology cooperation," Ivanov said.

"We will not give away such high technology without signing an IPR (intellectual property rights) agreement for free. India is a priority and a strategic partner of Russia. It was also a strategic partner of Soviet Union, which used to give many things for free, but things have changed. Russia is a different country and there is a need for taking cognisance of this reality," Ivanov said



Pranab, Ivanov (below)

Ivanov for defence secrecy pact

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, NOV. 30. The absence of a defence secrecy pact between India and Russia may hamper further defence cooperation, the Russian military chief said here today.

"We will find it difficult to move forward in high-end defence technologies without an agreement on the protection of intellectual property," Russia's Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, said. "This is becoming something of a problem."

He said that the Russian draft of a defence secrecy accord had been lying with the Indian side for two years and New Delhi had not made any substantive objectives or suggestions.

"We will not hand over technologies for nothing," Mr. Ivanov warned. "Russia is not the Soviet Union."

Speaking to the Indian media before leaving for New Delhi to prepare for a visit by the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, later this week, he said the two countries would

soon launch cooperation in high-end space technologies for possible civil and defence applications.

Advanced technologies

"We are going to embark on cooperation in advanced technologies for use in space in the next few years," Mr. Ivanov said. Asked to clarify whether this cooperation would be for peaceful or defence purposes, he said: "Any purposes, they may be peaceful or not so peaceful."

Interestingly, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy, had said last year that India had begun developing space-based weapon platforms. India and Russia are expected to sign two space cooperation accords during Mr. Putin's visit on December 3-5.

Mr. Ivanov denied reports that Chinese F-1 multi-role fighter planes, equipped with Russian RD-93 engines, might be supplied to Pakistan.

"There have been no talks to supply the engines to Chi-

na," he said, adding that even if the engines were supplied, the combat planes that they may power would not go to a third country.

"Before any defence deal is finalised, we ask the buyer to sign an end-user certificate that blocks re-export of hardware with Russian parts to any other country," Mr. Ivanov said, reiterating that no aircraft with Russian engines would end up in Pakistan.

Joint exercises

Mr. Ivanov said that a Indo-Russian joint exercise by airborne troops would be held for the first time in India next year. Such war games would be all the more opportune as India's airborne troops are "100 per cent equipped with Russian arms and hardware." Last year, the Indian and Russian navies held the first-ever joint manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean. "This adds a new dimension to our strategic cooperation," Mr. Ivanov stressed.

0 1 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

Defence deals: India, Russia to take fresh look

96-3 29/9

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 28

INDO-Russian defence deals are going to be subjected to a little hammering out. A high-level defence contingent — including Defence Secretary Ajai Vikram Singh and naval vice-chief, Vice-Admiral Yashwant Prasad — is in Moscow to hold discussions with the Russian government on defence deals, ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in December.

The team's visit comes immediately after Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov sacked MiG Corporation chief Valery Toryanin and replaced him with Alexei Fyodorov, president of IRKUT

Corporation which has a supply deal for Su-30MKI fighters with India.

The Indian team may also attempt to make headway in the stalled talks with Russia to enter into a tripartite agreement with Israel to upgrade India's Tu-142 maritime surveillance fleet with new avionics and maritime air defence systems. Russia delivered the fleet of Tu-142s to India in 1988. Sources said the deal ran into rough weather when Russia, which had quoted too high a price

to upgrade the fleet in 2003, was indecisive about a tripartite upgradation understanding with Israel.

With MiG Corporation's huge debt jeopardising its \$700 million contract to supply 16 MiG-29K ship-borne fighters to the Indian Navy as part of the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier acquisition, the company's head was ousted a few days ago.

Under the Gorshkov deal closed in January 2003, MiG Corporation is to supply 16 MiG-29K multi-role aircraft to the Indian Navy — the Indian team will be reviewing the progress of this deal. MiG's \$300 million debt makes the supply contract with India virtually impossible to service, according to reports. It is also un-

derstood that the new MiG chief has close relations with Sergei Chemezov, the head of Rosoboronexport, Russia's major arms exporting organisation — and that Chemezov may agree to fund the MiG-India contract in exchange for marketing rights of all MiG aircraft.

After delivering a fleet of MiG-29s to Malaysia in 1995, MiG's finances dipped sharply until its new chief Nikolai Nikitin brought it back from the brink by getting deals worth \$1 billion signed in 2001. Nikitin was ousted in 2003 under a cloud of controversy and replaced by Toryanin, a former top manager at Sukhoi Corporation, until he was fired earlier this week to be replaced by Fyodorov.

High-level defence contingent in Moscow for talks



Air Force officials inspect the wreckage of the MiG-21 which crashed in Chour Mastpur village near Ambala early this month.
File photo

MOSCOW AND DELHI

Partners Or Rivals In South-East Asia?

By DMITRY KOSYREV

Natwar Singh and Sergei Lavrov, the new foreign ministers of India and Russia respectively, will for the first time participate in the Asean Regional Forum meetings due on 1 and 2 July. The newcomers could acknowledge that India and Russia have been pursuing similar policies in South-east Asia and they have achieved similar results. It is probably time for them to join efforts in third countries that are new markets for them.

The Asean Regional Forum is an annual event designed to promote cooperation between the 10 member-states of the Association of the South East Asian Nations and other countries. The forum is expected to focus on security issues. However, the participants do not usually confine themselves to these issues discussing politics in the Asia Pacific region in general.

Observers

All countries that play more or less significant roles in South-east Asia ranging from the United States to North Korea will take part in the Jakarta forum as Asean Partners in Dialogue or observers, which is always the case at ARF forums. The majority of the Asean members' partners are large and influential countries. Asean, therefore, tries to attract as many of them as possible so that they counterbalance each other in influence. This is the Asean countries' common political concept. However, some of these big partners are closer to Asean than others — India and Russia, for example.

Indeed, they can be qualified as relative newcomers, their commodity turnover with the region being ten times as little as Asean's turnover with Japan or

The author is a political analyst associated with Ria Novosti

the USA. Yet, these countries' political affinity to the region is incomparable to their economic ties.

Russia is expected to catch up with India in terms of relationships with Asean this year. Russian government sources hint there is talk about a new

sheel, also known as Pancha Shila, the five principles of peaceful co-existence, the 50th anniversary of which will be marked this year. It is not that all Russian political leaders have a clear idea of those principles. Anyway, the Russian government apparently adheres to



negotiating mechanism — Russia-Asean summits. Indian prime ministers have been holding summit meetings with Asean leaders since 2002. Mr Lavrov will probably sign an act marking Russia's accession to the principles of the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia.

Principles

Russia will not thereby join the association but demonstrate its approval of the treaty's political principles. China and India have to date been the only non-members that have achieved such a degree of political affinity to Asean, which gives them a chance of joining the treaty.

The political principles in question take root in Panch-

them in its foreign policy. This will be reflected in the documents the ARF is expected to adopt in Jakarta. The Russian delegation was one of those who took active part in drafting the documents that will address the problem of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region and efforts against terrorism in transport.

However, the communion of principles and approaches to foreign policy is not enough. The picture of relations between the great Eurasian power and Asia's economic and political centre is incomplete without economic cooperation. However, the economic aspect of relations between Russia and Asean is somewhat uneven.

Whereas there is a bright

outlook for tourist exchange and Asian students' study in Russia, the commodity turnover has reached \$2 billion, which is totally unimpressive figure. Russian weaponry exports to the region are rather brisk. The situation is not clear as far as energy cooperation goes. Cooperation in the hi-tech sector that Russia experts have pinned much hope on has stalled. South-east Asia is a lucrative market for Russian technology. However, hi-tech projects require time and funding. This is similar to what is going on between Russia and India in the technology sphere although here Russia and India have achieved greater progress

Business

India is only beginning to step up trade with Asean, and it is also seen as above all a supplier of, although different, technologies. Does this mean that Russia and India can promote each other's business in South East Asia that is friendly to both of them? Can they, for example, join efforts in the projects for the development of the Asean poorer members in Indochina.

While seeking to promote their interests in the region, the two countries can theoretically complement each other. Russia has advantages as an exporter of diverse technologies, whereas India is closer to Asia in terms of origin.

An Indian does not look like a stranger in Bangkok for example, which was true even before India adopted its Look East policy. Russians in Bangkok, on the contrary, are immediately attributed to the category of farangs or total strangers, usually Caucasians.

There are a lot of lofty words of friendship and cooperation in various declarations and communiques issued by Russia and India. Such words sometimes have to stand trial.

Russian N-sub by 2006 likely

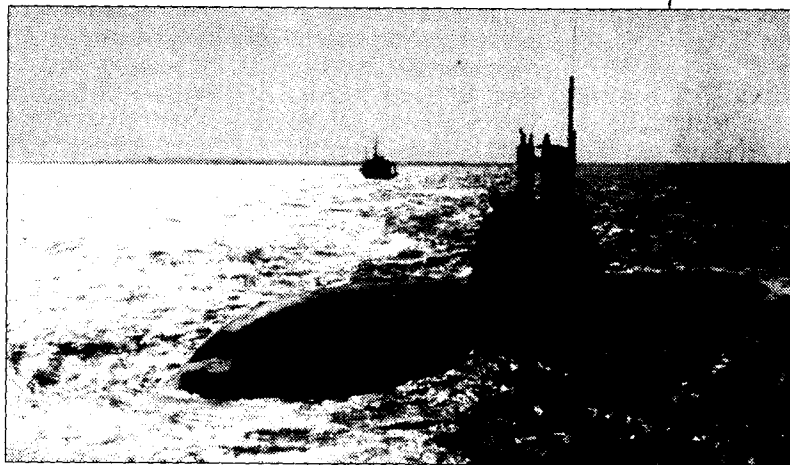
Srinjoy Chowdhury
in New Delhi

May 31. — The Indian Navy is likely to acquire a Russian nuclear-submarine in two years with the final decision on the deal, being negotiated for the last four years, having been taken earlier this year.

The Akula class nuclear-powered submarine is a high-performance vessel and having one will give the Navy an incredible boost, taking it into the big league. The Russians have agreed to give India one of the newly-commissioned N-submarines for about a decade.

Asked about the acquisition of the nuclear-submarine, the defence ministry today declined to comment. High-level defence sources separately confirmed that the decision was taken at around the same time the deal on the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier, also acquired from the Russians, early this year. No announcement was made and an official said the Russians wanted India to be quiet about it.

Initially, the Russians were keen on giving India an earlier vessel, but later it was decided that the Navy would get a newer submarine. The inter-governmental agree-



An Akula class N-submarine. — File photograph

ment for the Akula was signed about four years ago. Officials are tight-lipped about the price of the lease (a N-submarine cannot be bought or sold), but according to sources, the initial offer was for about Rs 1,700 crore.

For the Russians, the three deals — for the Gorshkov, the Akula and the lease on four Tu-22 long-range reconnaissance aircraft — were in a sense part of a package. The deal for the aircraft is yet to through.

India had leased a N-powered submarine from Russia — the INS Chakra — in the Eighties, but now the crew would have to be trained

on this vessel. Naval officers are tight-lipped about training schedules.

In Russia, the Akula-class submarines are called the Bars Class. In India, it could be called the Project I. The first Akulas were built in the mid-Eighties but the newer ones have a more silent signature, meaning they are more difficult to track down. India has started work on a N-submarine in a Larsen and Toubro yard. They could be ready in four-five years. The Akula can carry deadly long-range cruise missiles. They are accurate and have strategic value. They also have anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.

THE STATESMAN

JUN 2006

Forget traditional ties. India must nurture relations with Russia for mutual benefit

Moscow on the line

BY J.N. DIXIT

✓
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Indo Russia ✓

VLADIMIR PUTIN won a resounding victory in the presidential election in March, consolidating his position in power as well as indicating a continuity in Russia's domestic and foreign policies. Russia has not been fashionable in the Indian discourse on international relations and strategic affairs. This phenomenon, however, should not blind us to the reality and importance of India's relations with Russia. This assertion is particularly relevant in the context of Putin having revived the centrality of India in his Asian policies since he came to power.

The geo-territorial identity of the Soviet Union was destroyed. But it did not diminish the range and content of India-Russia relations despite the initial hiccups which these relations had between 1990 and 1993. Indo-Russian relations maintain a basic continuity from the accumulated inheritance of relations between India and the former Soviet Union stretching back to nearly 40 years after this country gained independence. But the Yeltsin era was a period of exploratory interaction given the context of the Russian Federation engaged in structuring new global equations in the post-Soviet era.

Whatever the new orientations in India's foreign policy may be in developing relations with the US and other important powers, there is a clear acknowledgement in Delhi of the importance of Indo-Russian relations based on deep-rooted tradition and a mutuality of substantive interests.

✓ India is a large and long-term market for Russia's defence exports and exports of oil and hydrocarbons. Russia has security and trading interests in the northern reaches of the Indian Ocean. A friendly India straddling the Indian Ocean rim is — and will be — a strategic asset to the Russian leadership. Russia, like India, has a plural civil society. It is, therefore, concerned about preserving its multi-dimensional national identity, an interest which India shares in terms of its national consolidation. While Russia has adjusted to its diminished international stature, it believes in the creation of a multi-polar world order.

✓ Russia has proved to be a reliable partner in the transfer of sophisticated technologies of use to India —



YOU REMEMBER NON-ALIGNMENT? Vladimir Putin and Atal Bihari Vajpayee

despite the expanding restrictive regimes sought to be imposed on transfer of such technologies. Russia is not only a large expanding market for Indian exports across the board — from raw materials to finished products — but is also a market for Indian investment and joint collaboration projects.

There is also a progressive concretisation of these interests in bilateral relations. Russia and India have managed the transition from economic and technological interaction conducted under governmental arrangements to the conduct of these relations by private sectors. A wide range of inter-State and inter-departmental agreements have been put in place over the last four years in a number of specialised spheres. These are implemented and monitored by a Russia India inter-governmental commission on trade, economics, scientific and technological cooperation.

Russian companies are now participating in the construction of nuclear and hydel-power plants, highways, modernisation and construction of steel plants, mining, oil and gas exploration in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, as well as in the North-eastern states. Russian companies are also involved in aluminium production, modernisation of railways, construction of water desalination plants and subways in India. The largest foreign investment of an Indian company has been made in Russia: ONGC Videsh Limited has invested \$ 1.7 billion for the development of oil and gas supplies at the Sakhalin-I Project in the Russian far east.

✓ There has been a qualitative

change in terms of reference of Russia-India military and technical cooperation. During the Soviet era, this cooperation was characterised by a cash-and-carry procedure catalysed through concessional credit arrangements. A smooth transition has taken place and now, military and technological cooperation is rooted in joint long-term programmes of research and development and joint production projects between the military and industrial organisations of the two countries. Transfer of technologies and licences for the production of sophisticated military equipment like the T-90 main battle tank and the SU-30 MK-I fighters are examples of this transition. Such cooperation extends to supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles like the Brahmos.

The purpose of detailing specifics of bilateral cooperation is to underline that Indo-Russian relations are substantive. This phenomenon is backed up by a broad convergence of interests in foreign policy orientations. Russia and India have a shared and uncompromising commitment against terrorism in all forms. The two countries are strong advocates of reviving the centrality of the UN in managing challenges to international peace and stability and the resolution of conflicts.

✓ Though Russia has reservations about India's nuclear weaponisation, both the countries believe that the disarmament process should be continued to achieve non-discriminatory and equitable arrangements in the management of their nuclear weaponisation. These joint orientations towards significant international issues have found expression

in the Declaration on Strategic Partnership signed in 2000 during Putin's visit to India. During his second visit to India in 2002, a further MoU was signed, creating a joint Indo-Russian Working Group on dealing with global challenges. This is apart from the institutionalised and regular consultations between officials of the security councils of the two countries.

✓ Russia and India have a common approach to drafting an international anti-terrorism convention and also a comprehensive convention against acts of nuclear terrorism. And this commonality of approach has resulted in a close and effective cooperation between India and Russia at the UN and its relevant specialised agencies.

There are also possibilities of structuring equations between India, China, Russia and Iran, to strengthen regional security arrangements and to augment economic cooperation. Negotiations on specific projects are in the pipeline for such cooperation with positive potentialities.

One Cassandra-like question remains: since Russia is no longer a Great Power and it has its own interests and resulting equations with China and the United States, what is the need for India to continue giving importance to relations with Russia? Leaving aside the convergence of interests and attitudes described above, the fundamental reality is that though Russia may have lost its superpower position, it is still a Great Power in terms of the ingredients of such power. It is territorially large, strategically abutts on Central Asia, China and Iran — an area of political, security and economic interest to India.

Russia is endowed with enormous natural resources, technological capacities, trade potential and, over and above all, a highly talented reservoir of human resources. It still is the most important military power in the world after the US. Most importantly, Russia perhaps gives a higher priority to India in its foreign policy and strategic calculations than the US or other power centres of the world. It is logical, therefore, for India to cultivate and nurture relationship with Russia in the context of historical experience, current policy orientations, tangible mutuality of interests and mutual benefits.

India, Russia to discuss terrorism

By Vladimir Radyuhin

100-19
7/19
S. Subramanian

MOSCOW, APRIL 6. The security situation in Afghanistan and Central Asia will be high on the agenda of the high-level India-Russia consultations on terrorism in Delhi this week.

This issue "gains special importance in the light of the recent terrorist attacks in Uzbekistan," said Mr. Anatoly Safonov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia.

At least 22 persons were killed and dozens wounded in a series of bomb attacks in Uzbekistan last week. The Uzbek authorities blamed the attacks on radical Islamists linked to the Al-Qaeda.

Mr. Safonov will arrive in Delhi on Wednesday at the head of an inter-agency Russian delegation for an annual session of the 'India-Russia Working Group for Countering International Terrorism.' Apart from Central Asia and Afghanistan the group will also discuss South Asia, Iraq and West Asia.

Mr. Safonov described the resumed political dialogue and other links between India and Pakistan, as well as the recent SAARC summit, as "very significant positive shifts" that pave the way to reducing the terrorist threat in the region.

"It is important to use this unique opportunity to resolve the problems between India and Pakistan," Mr. Safonov told *The Hindu* before leaving Moscow for Delhi. India had the political will necessary to achieve full normalisation, and Pakistan had also taken "some important steps" along this road as reflected by reports on declining infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir.

"At the same time we believe that Pakistan must continue to take further measures to stop infiltration of terrorists across the LoC and eliminate the entire terrorist infrastructure on the territory under its control," said the Russian Minister, who, in February, was in Islamabad for a meeting of the Russia-Pakistan working group on terrorism.

Mr. Safonov arrives in Delhi less than a week after attending a Russia-United States working group meet in Washington on new threats and challenges as the co-chairman of a sub-group on weapons of mass destruction. Russia was "actively discussing" possible multilateral action to combat terrorism with India, China and the United States.

"This problem is taken up at annual trilateral meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York," he said, adding that the three nations were now discussing possibilities for interaction at other international fora.

Mr. Safonov voiced concern over the terrorist threat that still emanates from Afghanistan despite the U.S.-led anti-terror campaign.

The Russian Minister called for tackling the problem of drug production in Afghanistan as a key to solving its other problems.

THE HINDU
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Russia invites Indian traders

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, March 29. — The Russian ambassador to India, Mr Alexander M Kadakin, today asked Indian traders and merchants to be "brave" and establish links with Russia following a "new and matured" relationship between the two countries.

He said Russia was doing a "roaring" business with China with a yearly turnover of \$20 billion and \$10 billion with Italy but with India the trade turnover remains stagnant for the past three years at



Mr Alexander M Kadakin

\$1.5-1.7 billion.

"We call upon your businessmen to go to Russia and do not be afraid, you will reap benefit, before it is too late," the ambassador said at a Press con-

ference here.

He cited examples of some Indian businessmen who braved the Russian mafia at that time and have reaped benefit at present. He said at present hard currency such as the US dollar or Euro are used for trade. However, he said that Indian traders should focus more on quality of their products. For example, consumers in Russia are reluctant to accept Darjeeling tea because of its falling quality over the years.

Asked about the rupee-debt policy, Mr Kadakin said: "It is not possible to

drink the \$2.7 billion rupee-debt in tea or coffee. So both the countries have decided to invest this fund in profitable joint ventures."

A sub-committee was formed to identify the sectors, Mr Kadakin said, adding "I'm happy that ties between the two countries have strengthened over the past four years of Mr Vladimir Putin's Presidentship and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's Premiership. Both the countries have developed some strategic relationship on Defence, trade, economics and culture."

THE STATESMAN

MAR 2004

'India-Russia-China triangle has good prospects'

By Vladimir Radyuhin

HD 9
22/2

MOSCOW, FEB. 21. Trilateral interaction among Russia, India and China has "very good prospects," according to the Indian Ambassador to Russia, Krishnan Raghunath.

"Moscow, Delhi and Beijing are moving from non-governmental contacts in a triangular format to discussing issues of common concern at a high official level," he told Itar-Tass news agency here.

The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the three countries on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last year made an important contribution to deepening trilateral discussion, he said. Another meeting was being planned in New York for autumn.

The process will "move forward," Mr. Raghunath said.

The Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, told *The Hindu* last month that he would host a trilateral meeting with the Foreign Ministers of India and China here "in the near future."

According to the Indian envoy "the range of issues of common concern is broad enough."

These include "global and regional security, in-

ternational terrorism and narcotics, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear materials, as well as multilateral economic partnership in major regional projects."

This year will see Indo-Russian bilateral exchanges, including a series of Minister-level meetings, to prepare an annual summit.

The External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, plans to visit Russia mid-year ahead of a scheduled meeting of the Indo-Russian Intergovernmental Commission.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Manohar Joshi, is to pay a visit shortly to discuss "further upgrading of cooperation in science and technology, energy and space."

Early next month, India and Russia will hold Foreign Secretaries-level consultations.

"Important work lies ahead to implement major defence deals signed in recent years, including the refit of the Gorshkov aircraft carrier," Mr. Raghunath said.

"The Indian Navy will soon take delivery of a third frigate built by Russia; more projects are in the pipeline."

THE HINDU 22 FEB 2004

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THE GORSHKOV PACKAGE *grd fumi*

IT MAY SEEM something of an irony that a 29-year-old vessel — which was decommissioned as an aircraft carrier in 1994 — has become the subject of a gargantuan Rs.7,000-crore defence deal. But the 40,000-tonne Admiral Gorshkov, that will be refurbished, retrofitted and delivered to India in 2008, will bear no resemblance to the ageing Soviet-era hulk that has been idly berthed in a Russian shipyard for a decade. Apart from a complete overhaul, the aircraft carrier will come with an entire package of complements, the details of which both India and Russia have been tight-lipped about. What is clear though is that the deal includes the purchase of at least 28 MiG-29Ks, the maritime equivalent of the fighter aircraft, and six Kamov-31 attack and reconnaissance helicopters. The Admiral Gorshkov deal has been clinched after negotiations that lasted a decade, interminable rounds of haggling over prices and some sudden hitches that threatened to derail the acquisition recently.

The Indian Navy had been casting about for an aircraft carrier even before that old warhorse, the INS Vikrant, was decommissioned in 1997. The serviceability of its only other aircraft carrier, the ageing INS Viraat, is also unlikely to extend beyond 2010, and even this was made possible by a major life-extension refit conducted in 1999. As things stand, it is not clear when the project to build an indigenous Air Defence Ship (read: small aircraft carrier) will see fruition. According to conservative estimates, it will take at least a decade to put together a fully operational ADS. Anxiety that the expertise acquired in handling aircraft carriers may be lost if the Navy waited indefinitely for the ADS was one of the reasons it pushed hard for the Gorshkov acquisition. Another reason, of course, relates to the Navy's increasing role as a

“sea-guardian”. India has already begun policing sea-lanes and would like to maintain a strong presence in the Indian Ocean from the Malacca Straits in the east to Cape Town in the west. While an extra aircraft carrier would help to maintain a somewhat stronger presence on both the eastern and western seaboard, India's massive naval ambitions are hardly going to be fulfilled by the addition of the Gorshkov alone.

There has been considerable speculation about two “side deals” being covertly negotiated along with the Admiral Gorshkov package, both of which are probably related to New Delhi's ambitions as a nuclear power. India has shown considerable interest in leasing Akula-II class nuclear powered submarines from the Russians as well as four TU-22 long-range bombers. While both these pieces of hardware are capable of carrying and delivering nuclear weapons, New Delhi appears far more interested in the submarines. These highly sophisticated machines are difficult to detect, can remain under water for extended periods and — in the eyes of some members of the defence establishment — will enable India to have an effective sea-based nuclear deterrent. Both India and Russia claim that leasing Akulas would not violate the provisions of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which they interpret as covering only nuclear weapons technology and not nuclear-powered submarines. Both Governments, however, have preferred to keep any information related to negotiations about the Akula-class submarines under strict wraps, aware of its likely repercussions among Western Governments. According to the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, the Akula-class submarines were not even discussed during his recent talks with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Ivanov — a claim that throws absolutely no additional light on this sensitive subject.

Gorshkov deal cleared

Statesman News Service

TIME LINE

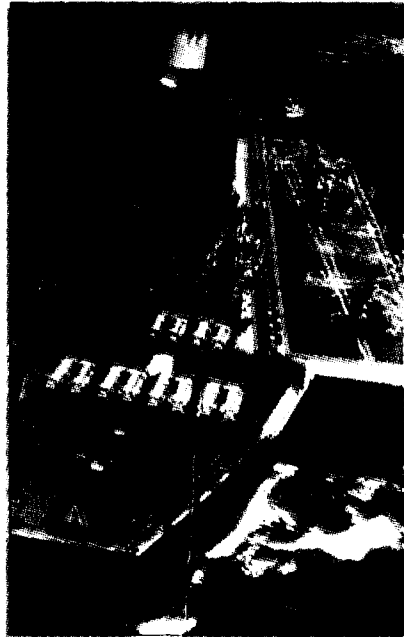
NEW DELHI, Jan. 20. — India and Russia today signed the deal for the Soviet-era aircraft-carrier, *Admiral Gorshkov*, and 16 MiG-29K aircraft, but there is still silence on the leasing of Akula-class nuclear submarines.

India has been looking for the *Gorshkov*, a 44,000-tonne carrier for the past six-seven years and the deal for it and the planes, four of which are two-seater trainers, was \$1.5 billion. Two other deals — for the leasing of the Tu-22 long-range aircraft and the nuclear submarines remains to be signed.

On the nuclear submarine deal, defence minister Mr George Fernandes said: "We have signed the *Gorshkov* contract and for the MiG-29K aircraft. Outside of that, there was no other agreement. There was no occasion to look at the submarine."

The Russian defence minister, Mr Sergei Ivanov, did not mention nuclear submarines either but confirmed that there have been discussions about the Tu-22 aircraft. He said other versions of the plane would participate in the Indo-Russian naval exercises in the Arabian Sea in the future.

The *Gorshkov*, naval officials said, will allow the Navy enormous reach in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.



- 1996 — The Navy, looking for an aircraft-carrier, expresses interest in the *Admiral Gorshkov*
- 1997 — First offer from the Russians. Take it free but pay \$1 billion for refurbishing.
- 2000-01 — Russians bring down prices to \$742 million. India agrees in principle to buy.
- 2003 — Price negotiations begin in earnest. Hard bargaining goes on.
- 2004 — Deal signed. — SNS

On to the Gorshkov

The Cabinet nod to the aircraft carrier ensures the continuity of air power at sea

THE Cabinet decision to proceed with the acquisition of an aircraft carrier for the Navy has not come too soon. Most experts would argue that we should have started building an aircraft carrier more than 15 years ago, when we bought the last aircraft carrier, the Viraat, second-hand, as an "interim" solution. Unfortunately, not only the resource crunch, but the "Bofors Syndrome" even more so, simply derailed the process. We need to reflect on the realities that have slowed down defence modernisation for so long, and which in turn demand of our fighting men a price far higher than what they should be paying.

Partly because of the long delays in taking a decision on a major weapons system like the Gorshkov, it was inevitable that a debate would rage in the country — both among military professionals as well as within the strategic community. This is a welcome development since no democracy can afford to take major decisions concerning its defence without a level of informed public debate. The important point is that the debate about the Gorshkov has revolved around two issues. The first is about the need for a carrier, while the other is about the cost and wisdom of buying an old carrier. Yet, both sides of the debate have been ar-

guing strongly in favour of providing adequate and capable air cover for the navy at sea. We can easily be misled by esoteric arguments for a blue or brown water navy. But we must recognise that any country that possesses legitimate naval interests away from its land, and can afford it, would need air power integral to the fleet.

Interestingly, the bipartisan Standing Committee on Defence has been pressing the government over the years to ensure that not only should no gap in the air cover for the Indian Navy be allowed to develop, but the country should move expeditiously toward ensuring adequate force levels. The present aircraft carrier would soon complete its usable life — numerous refits and upgrades notwithstanding. The Gorshkov would be ready to join the fleet on operational service only by that point. We need to remember that the cost factors are related to the systems that go on board, including two squadrons of MiG-29 multi-role combat aircraft similar to the three squadrons of MiG-29 operated by the IAF, providing a level of inter-operability in operational and maintenance terms. There is no point in not getting the best on an aircraft carrier that is expected to defend the navy for the next two decades under highly demanding situations.

India, Russia to jointly develop weapon systems

Press Trust of India
Moscow, January 18

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ENCOURAGED BY successful cooperation in developing a "unique" Brahmos cruise missile for the Navy, India and Russia are set to move towards developing new weapon systems jointly from R&D stage to production.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said the Indo-Russian accord on the development of a fifth generation fighter was one of such example and that the Gorshkov deal would be a major defence deal between India and Russia.

Responding to a question about the growing presence of foreign players in the Indian arms market, Ivanov, talking to Moscow-based Indian journalists ahead of his India visit, said Russia was not afraid of losing its place.

"We had never planned to monopolise the Indian (arms) market. Depending only on one source is bad for any armed forces, it leads to their degradation," Ivanov said

Russia understands India's desire to get the best available technology and welcomes it, and has to compete by offering the best technology. He said that Moscow was not averse to ties with third parties while working on Indian defence orders.

"In one such case Russia has a share with Israel," Ivanov said referring to Phalcon radar deal with Jerusalem.

Referring to the spate of articles in the Indian media critical of the Russian supply of spares and contractual problems in Su-30MKI, Ivanov said all necessary infrastructure and measures have been taken for the supply of spares and after-sales service.

Regarding transfer of nuclear technology by Pakistan to other countries, Ivanov said Moscow would closely interact with New Delhi to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their falling in the wrong hands.

On Saturday, India's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) discussed the acquisition of the 44,500-tonne Russian aircraft carrier, *Admiral Gorshkov*, for the Navy.

The *Gorshkov* deal, reportedly negotiated at \$1.6 billion, is slated to be signed during the three-day visit of Russian defence minister Sergei Ivanov to New Delhi starting Monday. Price negotiations have been concluded.