

# "Prefer consultation to confrontation on Iran"

India, Russia will rely on dialogue and diplomacy



**STRENGTHENING THE BOND:** Russian President Vladimir Putin with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at New York on Thursday. — PHOTO: AP

Harish Khare

**NEW YORK:** India and Russia have agreed that the international community should rely on consultation rather than confrontation in sorting out doubts over Iran's nuclear ambitions. The two countries will rely on dialogue and diplomacy to avert confrontation in this matter.

This understanding emerged at a brief meeting between

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session on Thursday, according to Indian diplomats.

#### NSG norms relaxation

Dr. Singh gave Mr. Putin an account of his July visit to Washington and outlined the agreement on civilian nuclear energy with the United States. He said

the agreement would pave the way for "greater relaxation" in the Nuclear Supply Group (NSG), making it easier for India to gain access to nuclear technology, fuel and reactors.

Mr. Putin congratulated Dr. Singh and expressed Moscow's willingness to work with New Delhi once the NSG norms were relaxed.

The two leaders agreed to deepen India-Russia economic ties,

which would reflect the depth of strategic relationship between the countries.

The Russian Defence Minister would visit New Delhi for talks on defence ties.

#### Community reception

Later in the evening, the Prime Minister attended a community reception at Hilton New York and saluted overseas Indians for their contributions.

# Russia to field nuke-capable MiG-35 for India



MiG-29 fighters and Sukhoi Su-27s fly in formation during an air show near Moscow, on Sunday. Reuters

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
ZHUKOVSKY (RUSSIA),  
AUGUST 21

RUSSIA is to field its latest nuclear capable MiG-35 fighter against US F-16 and French Mirage 2000 in the tender to be floated for the acquisition of 125 aircraft for the Indian Air Force to replace its ageing MiG-21 fleet, a top Russian official said.

"We will offer our MiG-35 multi-role fighters with thrust vectoring control along with transfer of technology for indigenous production in India," Director General and Chief Designer of Russian Aircraft Corporation (RAC) 'MiG', Alexei Fedorov, said after a display of its capabilities by MiG-29OVT at the air show here.

Speaking on the sidelines of the international aerospace show MAKS-2005, Fedorov said it has been decided to market the MiG-29OVT with Thrust Vectoring Control (TVC) under the MiG-35 brand. "It has

incorporated all the features of MiG-29M/M2 fighters developed on the basis of MiG-29 frontline fighter, and today, we can offer top-of-the-line multi-role combat aircraft with in-flight refuelling," Fedorov said.

Fedorov was appointed RAC MiG Director General by the Russian Government last year after he successfully executed the Sukhoi SU-30MKI deal with India as the President of Irkut Corporation, the manufacturer of SU-30MKI. According to MiG Deputy Chief Designer Andrei Karasyov, MiG-35 is capable of delivering all present and future weapons, since it has universal open architecture.

"It would take not more than 60 flights for Indian pilots to master the new fighter with thrust vectoring," Chief Test Pilot of RAC MiG Pavel Vlasov said. "The new MiG fighter has the super-maneuvrability similar to Sukhoi 30MKI," he underscored.

# Sonia outing gives wrong signals to the Opposition

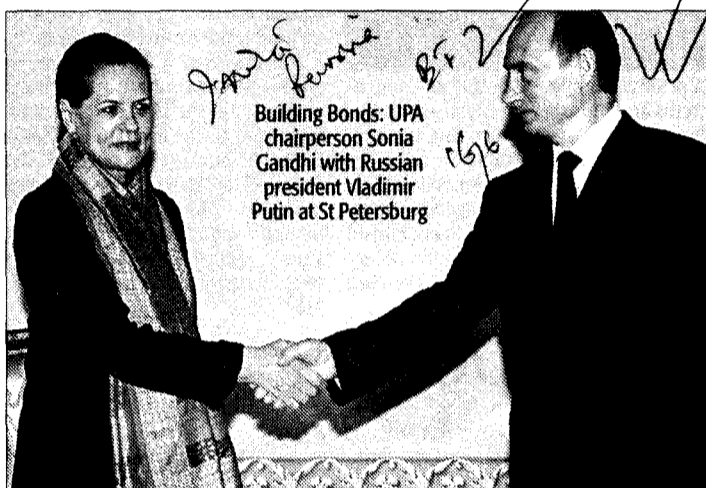
Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 15 JUNE

**S**ONIA Gandhi's four-day trip to Russia has triggered a major domestic row. The Opposition charged the Manmohan Singh government of committing a serious breach of protocol by attaching external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh to her during the visit and by allowing her use a private jet, owned by a prominent business family, for the trip.

The Prime Minister's decision to undertake a midnight visit, albeit discreetly, to the technical area of the Palam airport to see her off has given the Opposition with further ammunition.

Ms Gandhi's decision to use the Bombardier Jet, owned by the Reliance Industries for her foreign trip, dubbed as "official" by the government officials, threatens to entrap the UPA regime in a major row. It will resurrect, as a BJP leader put it, the decades-old question about the extent of business-politics nexus in the country and, more seriously, about the government's "neutrality" in the ongoing battle between the two Ambani brothers — Mukesh and Anil.

The controversies generated by her tour has had the Congress running for cover. Party spokesperson Jayanthi Natarajan refused to comment on the charge that Ms Gandhi used a private jet owned by the Mumbai-based industrial house, saying the party had to



first verify the facts before commenting on it.

However, another senior AICC functionary tried to underplay the issue; "So what if it is true? Whenever political leaders travel by hired private aircraft, the respective political parties pay for it from its funds. That has been the practice and there is nothing new about for anyone to get worked up," he said. Meanwhile, Ms Natarajan preferred to be evasive on the BJP query about the propriety of the external affairs minister accompanying the Congress chief even by skipping his engagement at the G-77 meet. "Mr Natwar Singh is both the external affairs minister and a senior Congress leader.

He will answer in which capacity he travelled this time," she commented.

The BJP, however, plans to go the full length to highlight the goof-up, asking the government to come out with an explanation.

"External affairs minister Natwar Singh's decision to forego the G-77 summit to accompany Ms Gandhi on her trip to Russia sets a wrong diplomatic precedence," party spokesperson Prakash Javadekar said here on Wednesday afternoon. He questioned: "The government should clarify in what capacity has Ms Gandhi undertaken the visit — as the UPA chairperson, NAC head or as the Congress president?"

# Sonia arrives in Moscow to a grand reception

10-13 14/6  
In India - London  
Visit hailed as "fresh proof of the strengthening of strategic partnership"

Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW:** United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi arrived here on Monday on a four-day visit as Russian President Vladimir Putin's personal guest.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltanov and Deputy Railway Minister Vladimir Yakunin gave her a red-carpet reception at the VVIP Vnukovo-2 airport. External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh is accompanying her.

Ms. Gandhi will meet Mr. Putin in St. Petersburg on Wednesday. In Moscow, she will interact with Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and address a function at the elite "Centre of National Glory of Russia."

India's Ambassador to Russia Kanwal Sibal described the visit as "an exceptional gesture of friendship on the part of President Putin that reflects the high importance both sides attach to their relations." The level of reception is the highest Ms. Gandhi has been given abroad.

On Monday Ms. Gandhi paid a visit to a place in Vladimir Region east of Moscow where her father had been kept as POW during World War II.



**SPECIAL GUEST:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi being received by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltanov on her arrival at the Moscow airport on Monday. PHOTO: PTI

# Delhi, Moscow and Beijing in terror war

Vladivostok, June 2

WITH THE much-hyped power triangle finally switching to active mode, India, Russia and China on Thursday decided to extend full cooperation to each other while combating terrorism. The trio also agreed on the "objective requirement" for comprehensive United Nations reforms — covering the expansion of the security council.

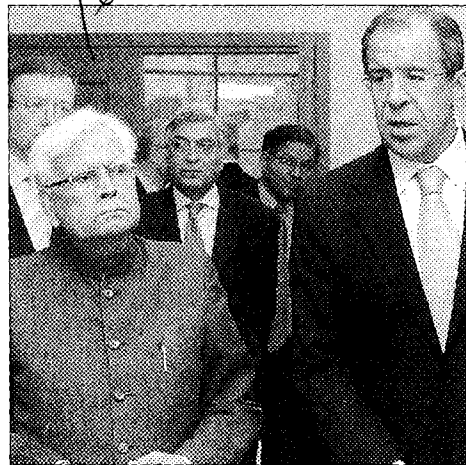
At the over two-hour tripartite meeting of external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing, they agreed to intensify efforts to step up economic cooperation in the trilateral format, particularly in the fields of transport, agriculture, energy and high technologies.

A two-page joint communique issued at the end of the talks said the ministers expressed satisfaction at the "dynamic development" of bilateral relations between India and Russia, Russia and China and India and China. "This opens up possibilities for India, Russia and China to raise their trilateral cooperation to a qualitatively new level," it said, adding, "The three ministers declared the intention of India, Russia and China to cooperate in combating new threats and challenges."

The ministers stressed that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations and irrespective of its origins and motivations, posed one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The three sides agreed that the scourge of terrorism should be combated in a "consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner without any double standards."

They underlined the need for coordinated action between the law enforcement authorities of the three countries to act against illegal drug trafficking and other manifestations of the trans-border crimes.

Addressing a joint press conference, Natwar said it was decided that India would host the first trilateral business meeting in New Delhi early next year. Experts and officials



Natwar Singh with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov after Saturday's meeting.

from the three countries would meet to examine concrete possibilities in transport, agriculture, energy, high technologies and other sectors and make specific recommendations. The ministers also stressed on the important role of direct business-to-business contacts.

Natwar & Co underlined that the UN, as the most universal international organisation, should play the central role in realising this goal. They also agreed on the objective requirement for comprehensive reforms in the UN, including that of the security council, so that the organisation becomes more reflective of contemporary global realities and more effective in discharging its functions.

Recalling the considerable efforts made by the three countries in alleviating the suffering of the victims of the recent tsunami, the three ministers underscored the need for coordination of trilateral efforts in their joint fight against natural disasters and their consequences in the Asia Pacific region.

Agencies

03 JUN 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# India, China & Russia in standalone meet

**NILOVA Roy Chaudhury**  
New Delhi, May 30

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS minister Natwar Singh leaves for Vladivostok on Tuesday for the first ever standalone meeting of foreign ministers of India, China and Russia.

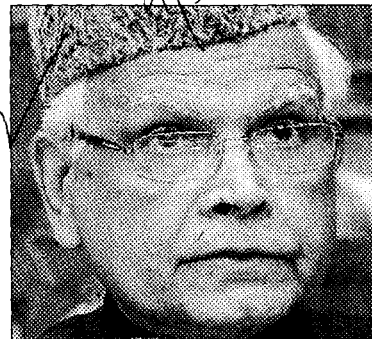
The focus will be on cooperation in carrying forward the development agenda, with particular focus on energy security and high-tech cooperation, in areas like IT and even space. However, defence cooperation is not on the agenda, sources said.

Firming up collective approaches to bolster cooperation in energy, trade and economic relations will be high on the trilateral agenda at the

far-eastern Russian port city on June 2. Also due to be discussed is the issue of UN reform, sources said. Singh will interact trilaterally with his counterparts from Russia and China, Sergei Lavrov and Li Zhaoxing, to discuss ways of "building on convergences" among the three countries, officials said. He will also meet Lavrov and Li bilaterally.

For India, energy cooperation is an area of special significance. It has invested one billion dollars in the Sakhalin-I oil and gas mega Russian project and was "looking at further investments in this area".

While the gas component is expected to be on stream by the end of this year, oil production is likely from the



**Natwar Singh**

middle of next year.

The foreign ministers will also discuss "practical" areas of cooperation on the economic side. New Delhi has proposed a trilateral business meet to take economic cooperation ahead.

Indian, Chinese and Russian foreign ministers have met thrice previously — twice on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2002 and 2003, and in Almaty (Kazakhstan) in October 2004.

31 MAY 2004 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Russian fillip to India's UN quest

Moscow, May 26

IT'S A friendship that is permanent, perhaps the only one of its kind India has in the world and one President APJ Abdul Kalam wouldn't vacillate before terming as 'invaluable', especially after his recent visit to the home of communism. In a major boost to the chances of its old ally — after a series of setbacks (read US) — Russia on Thursday sutured India's wounds and fully backed its quest for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), saying it was a "deserving and strong" candidate.

A joint statement issued at the end of President Kalam's visit to Russia said, "Assessing India as an important member of the international community, the Russian Federation reaffirms its support to India as a deserving and strong candidate for permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council."

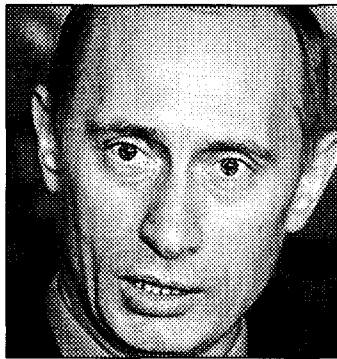
Kalam was on an official visit to Russia from May 23-25, the first by an Indian President since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Kalam held detailed discussions with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on May 24 during which they expressed satisfaction that Indo-Russian relationship had "successfully withstood the test of time."

At their Kremlin talks, the two presidents discussed a broad range of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest.

"The two leaders emphasised that the traditionally close and friendly relations between India and the Russian Federation were characterised by stability and continuity, based on deep mutual trust, understanding and warmth," the Indo-Russian joint statement underlined.

Both sides noted that the strategic partnership between them "served their long-term national interests", provided the impetus to enhance their multifaceted cooperation, and contributed to regional and international peace and security.

PTI



**Vladimir Putin**

*Friend in deed and need*

27 MAY 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Kalam, Putin push to cement bilateral ties

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW, May 24. — Cementing their bilateral ties, India and Russia today agreed to enhance cooperation in power generation, outer space and economic spheres.

This was discussed during an hour-long meeting between President APJ Abdul Kalam and his Russian counterpart, Mr Vladimir Putin, at the Kremlin here and later at the delegation-level talks between the two sides.

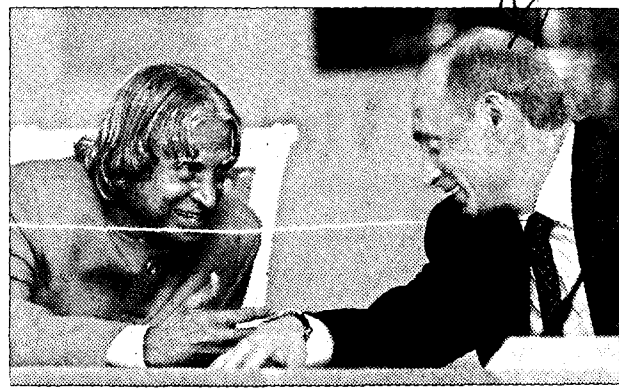
"We have agreed to increase cooperation in power generation through nuclear reactors supplied by Russia," Dr Kalam told reporters after the meeting.

Dr Kalam, who is on a four-day visit to Russia, said that a lot was needed to be done in the energy sector. He also said that

the two sides would be working towards boosting trade and hi-tech cooperation to touch 25 billion dollars over the next decade.

"I am absolutely sure this visit will give another major boost to the development of our cooperation," Mr Putin said. "India is one of the key partners of Russia in the Asia-Pacific region."

Dr Kalam underscored India's hopes of consolidating cooperation with Russia in the areas of nuclear and fossil fuel. "Russia and India are unique nations. In difficult times for India and happy times for India, you are our close friend," Dr Kalam told the Russian President. Dr Kalam was also of the view that the two countries should now broaden their cooperation in outer space.



MONEY MATTERS! Dr APJ Abdul Kalam discusses economic issues with Mr Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday. — AFP

25 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN



# স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ নিয়ে ভারতকে আশ্বাস পুতিনের

জয়ন্ত ঘোষাল • মুন্সে

৯ মে: দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধে বিজয়ের ৬০তম বার্ষিকী উৎসব দেখার ফাঁকে 'কলা বেচাটা' দিবি সেরে ফেললেন মনমোহন সিংহ।

প্রেসিডেন্ট পুতিনের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে, পরমাণু বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রে জ্বালানি পাওয়ার ব্যাপারে জট কাটাতে পারলেন। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে ভারতের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ পাওয়ার ব্যাপারে সক্রিয় সমর্থন করবেন, জানিয়ে দিলেন দ্বাদিমির পুতিন। ভারত-রাশিয়া-ইরান পরিবহণ করিডোর গড়ে তোলার বিষয়ে দ্রুত এগোনোর প্রতিশ্রুতিও দিলেন রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট। আমেরিকা-কেন্দ্রিক কূটনীতি থেকে বেরোতে চাওয়া ভারতের কাছে তাই প্রাপ্তি কম নয়। দ্বিপাক্ষিক বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে জয়েন্ট স্টাডি গ্রুপ গঠনের সিদ্ধান্তও এ দিনই হয়েছে।

আবার এ দিন ভোজসভায় আমেরিকার এবং ফ্রান্সের প্রেসিডেন্টের সঙ্গে কথাবার্তার সময়ে স্থায়ী সদস্যপদের প্রসঙ্গ ছুঁয়ে যেতে ভোলেননি মনমোহন। আমেরিকার আগ্রহেই জুলাইতে সে দেশে যাচ্ছেন মনমোহন। তখনই তাঁর সঙ্গে যাবতীয় কথাবার্তা হবে, অন্তরঙ্গ সুরে বলেছেন জর্জ বুশ।

এ দিনের বৈঠকে দু'পক্ষই বিশেষ বহুমেরুর (মাল্টিপোলার) প্রাসঙ্গিকতার কথা বলেছে। বহুমেরু তৈরির অর্থ স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই আমেরিকার একচেটিয়া আধিপত্য খর্বের চেষ্টা। সে দিক থেকে পরমাণু বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রে সহযোগিতার আশ্বাস এবং পরিবহণ করিডোরের বিষয়ে অগ্রগতির আলাদা তাৎপর্য রয়েছে।

কেরলের কুডানকুলামে বেশ কয়েকটি পরমাণুবিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রে রাশিয়ার কাছ থেকে জ্বালানি সরবরাহ পাওয়া নিয়ে ভারতের এত মাথাব্যথা কেন? বহু দিন আগেই সাহায্যের প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও পুরোপুরি এগোতে রাশিয়ার কিছু দ্বিধা ছিল। কারণ, আন্তর্জাতিক পরমাণু শক্তি সরবরাহকারী গোষ্ঠীর সদস্য রাশিয়ার কিছু বাধ্যবাধকতা আছে, নিরাপত্তার কথা মাথায় রেখে। আর পরমাণু শক্তির বিষয়ে আমেরিকার রক্তচক্ষু তো সদাজাগ্রত। সেই বাধা পেরোতে ভারতের প্রধানমন্ত্রী এ দিন জানিয়ে দেন, পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রসার রোধ সংক্রান্ত নিরাপত্তা বিধি নিয়ে বিল শিগগিরই পেশ করা হবে। সুতরাং চিন্তার কোনও কারণ নেই। তাতেই দ্বিধা কিছুটা কেটেছে রাশিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্টের। পুতিন মনমোহনকে আশ্বাস দিয়েছেন যে রাশিয়া বিষয়টি বিবেচনা করবে। আজ ভারতের জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টা রাষ্ট্রদূতকে পাশে নিয়ে যে ভাবে তার সর্গর্ষ ঘোষণা করলেন, তাতে ইঙ্গিত, এ বিষয়ে অনেকটাই এগোতে পেরেছেন মনমোহন।

রাশিয়া আজ ভারতকে এ-ও জানিয়ে দিয়েছে, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে স্থায়ী সদস্যপদের বিষয়ে পুতিন আন্তর্জাতিক দরবারে ভারতকে সক্রিয় সমর্থন করবেন। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সংস্কার বিষয়ক আলোচনায় স্থায়ী সদস্যের ভেটো-অধিকার দেওয়া নিয়ে বিতর্ক দেখা দিয়েছে। ভারত এই শর্তে নরম হলে সদস্যপদ পাওয়া সহজ হয়ে যেতে পারে। এ ব্যাপারে এখনও কোনও চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত না হলেও পুতিনের আশ্বাস ভারতকে অনেকটাই নিশ্চিত করছে।

ইরান-ভারত-রাশিয়ার উত্তর-দক্ষিণ পরিবহণ করিডোর চুক্তিও তো খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। ইরানের সঙ্গে আমেরিকার সম্পর্ক এখন সংঘাতের। সম্প্রতি কেন্দ্রীয় পেট্রোলিয়ামমন্ত্রী মণিশঙ্কর আইয়ার ইরান থেকে পাইপ লাইন বসিয়ে ভারতে গ্যাস আনার প্রকল্প চালু করতে চাইলেও আমেরিকা প্রবল বাধা দিচ্ছে। নিরাপত্তার প্রশ্ন তুলে আমেরিকা ইরানের সঙ্গে ভারতের ব্যবসায়িক সম্পর্কে আপত্তি জানিয়েছে। ভারত, ইরান ও রাশিয়ার মধ্যে পরিবহণ করিডোর গড়ে তোলার ব্যাপারেও আমেরিকার আপত্তি প্রবল। ২০০২ সালের ১৬ মে এই চুক্তি হয়েছে আর তা রূপায়িত হলে ভারত-রাশিয়া-সহ বহু দেশের পণ্য পরিবহণের খরচ কমবে। পুতিন-মনমোহনের সিদ্ধান্ত, এই কাজেও দ্রুত এগনো হবে।

এই সফরে স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই বাদ নেই ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্য। কারণ, সেটাই এখন কূটনীতির সবচেয়ে বড় অস্ত্র। এত দিন ভারতে বিদেশি লগ্নি হয়েছে। এ বার মনমোহন বিদেশে ভারতের লগ্নিতে জোর দিয়েছেন। রাশিয়ার বিশ্ব্যাত তেল ও গ্যাস প্রকল্প 'সাখালিন-১'-এর ২০ শতাংশ ওএনজিসি এবং বিদেশ লিমিটেড কিনে নিয়েছে। এ প্রকল্পে ভারত ২১০ কোটি ডলার বিনিয়োগ করেছে। বিদেশে এটাই ভারতের বৃহত্তম বিনিয়োগ। বঙ্গোপসাগরে গ্যাস অথরিটি অফ ইন্ডিয়া এবং রুশ সংস্থা গাজপ্রম যৌথ ভাবে কাজ করবে। পেট্রোলিয়াম মন্ত্রী এই বিষয় দু'টি চূড়ান্ত করতে এই মাসের শেষে মুন্সে আসছেন।

এর পর ছয়ের পাতায়

# স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ নিয়ে

প্রথম পাতার পর

ভারত রাশিয়ার সঙ্গে এই সম্পর্কের মাধ্যমে আমেরিকার সঙ্গে কূটনৈতিক দর কষাকষির ক্ষমতা রাখতে চায়। কাশ্মীর-প্রশ্নেও ভারতকে অনেকটাই খোলাখুলি সমর্থন করছে রাশিয়া। ভারত-পাক দ্বিপাক্ষিক আলোচনায় কোনও তৃতীয় পক্ষের মধ্যস্থতা যে কাঙ্ক্ষিত নয়, তা রাশিয়া বেশ জোর গলায় বলছে। শুধু তা-ই নয়, রাশিয়া জানিয়েছিল, শিমলা ও লাহোর চুক্তির ভিত্তিতেই সমাধান খোঁজা উচিত, কিন্তু ভারতের ভৌগোলিক অখণ্ডতাকে ক্ষুণ্ণ না করেই। রাশিয়ার সঙ্গে প্রত্যেক বছরই ভারতের দ্বিপাক্ষিক বৈঠক হয়। ২০০৩ সালের নভেম্বরে তৎকালীন প্রধানমন্ত্রী অটলবিহারী বাজপেয়ী রাশিয়া সফর করেন। পুতিন ২০০৪ সালের ডিসেম্বরে ভারতে যান। সেই সফরে মোট ১১টি নথিতে স্বাক্ষর হয়, মহাকাশ ও আঞ্চলিক সহযোগিতার প্রশ্নে যৌথ ঘোষণা হয়। প্রতিরক্ষা

ক্ষেত্রে দু'দেশের সম্পর্ক বহু দিনের। 'অ্যাডমিরাল গর্শকভ' কেনার বিষয়টিও ২০০৪ সালের জানুয়ারি মাসে চূড়ান্ত করে ফেলেন দু'দেশের প্রতিরক্ষামন্ত্রী। সন্ত্রাসরোধেও দু'দেশের মধ্যে বোঝাপড়া আগের তুলনায় অনেক বেড়েছে। সংসদে হামলার পরে রাশিয়া প্রতিবাদে অনেক বেশি সরব হয়েছিল। তার পরে আন্তর্জাতিক সন্ত্রাসের সুসংহত কনভেনশনের ব্যাপারে ভারতের তৈরি খসড়াতে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ সমর্থন করে রাশিয়া।

একই সঙ্গে চিনের সঙ্গেও যোগাযোগ বাড়িয়ে ভারত আন্তর্জাতিক রাজনীতিতে এক নতুন কূটনৈতিক অক্ষ রচনা করতে চায়। চিন-ভারত-রাশিয়ার বিদেশসচিবেরা বাজপেয়ী জমানায় নিউ ইয়র্কে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের অধিবেশনের সময়ে বৈঠক করে এই নতুন অক্ষ রচনা করেন। রাশিয়ার সঙ্গে দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্কে ভারত এই প্রেক্ষিতেই বিশেষ তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ বলে মনে করছে।

10 MAY 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

# India, Russia to boost N-ties

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW, May 9. — Russia today expressed its readiness to expand further cooperation with India in civilian nuclear energy, defence and space as the two countries decided to set up a study group to examine the feasibility of a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, which lasted more than the scheduled 30 minutes, President Vladimir Putin said that cooperation with India was based on a high level of trust.

Indian Ambassador Mr Kanwal Sibal said: "The agenda and the quality of the meeting was same as in a full-fledged bilateral summit."

National security adviser Mr MK Narayanan said Mr Putin was particularly positive in regard to his government's support to Indian companies investing in the Russian energy sector and building up on the investment that the ONGC's foreign operations arm, OVL, has made in the Sakhalin-I project. UN reforms were not discussed.

Dr Singh apprised Mr Putin of India's non-proliferation efforts and its plans for adoption of the non-proliferation Bill. He appreciated the support given by Russia for the Kudankulam nuclear power plant.

# Mammohan likely to raise nuclear cooperation issue with Russia

9<sup>th</sup> June 2005 1913

Amit Baruah

**MOSCOW:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to raise the issue of civilian nuclear energy cooperation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday given the Indian decision to move a Bill in Parliament next week to tighten export controls.

Dr. Singh, who arrived in Moscow on Sunday evening, will attend the Victory Day military parade at Red Square on Monday morning along with 56 heads of State/Governments.

President Putin, who will have a bilateral meeting with Dr. Singh on Monday afternoon, is scheduled to have one-on-one talks only with U.S. President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Senior officials told correspondents accompanying Dr. Singh that India expected friendly governments to take a more sympathetic view of New Delhi's nuclear energy requirements following the introduction of the export control Bill in Parliament.

They said the two leaders could also discuss the issue of United Nations reforms — an issue of considerable interest to India given its quest for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Increasingly, it looks as if New Delhi is coming to terms with the fact that even if the expansion happens to include India, it is going to be "veto less."

Indian Ambassador to Russia Kanwal Sibal said on Sunday evening that New Delhi was planning investments worth a "few billion dollars" in Russia's energy sector. He said that India and

Russia were looking at their energy relationship in a "strategic context."

Referring to the decision taken by President Putin and Prime Minister Singh to conclude an intellectual property agreement (IPR) on defence technology transfers, Mr. Sibal said the Russian side had given up its insistence on "retrospective application" of the IPR agreement. This would make it possible to conclude the document in the next couple of months. The agreement is expected to give Indian access to Russia's high-end

defence technologies.

On the all-important issue of spares for Russian-supplied defence equipment, the Ambassador said the two sides had set up a joint company recently in India to supply spares. "The issue of product support is critical to our relationship," he felt.

Referring to another major issue of Russian concern — Moscow's accession to the World Trade Organisation — he said the accord was ready to be signed. Mr. Putin had raised the issue during his meeting with Dr. Singh in December 2004.

# India, Russia agree to talk defence

JK  
9/22/05  
9/5

## Countries will go beyond buyer-seller relationship

**NILOVA Roy Chaudhury**  
Moscow, May 8

HITCHES IN Russian and Indian defence collaboration have been overcome after Moscow agreed to forego the clause 'with retrospective effect' on protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

Russia had sought this agreement on IPRs before it agreed to raise the level of bilateral defence collaboration from a "mere buyer and seller relationship" to that of technology transfers and joint research and development of weapons systems.

Russia, which has been India's largest supplier of defence supplies, has broadly agreed to a draft agreement India submitted last month, Indian Ambassador to Russia, Kanwal Sibal said, and the two countries are likely to sign the agreement shortly, "significantly upgrading the level of defence collaboration."

Raising the level of defence collaboration is among the key issues likely to come up when Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday.

Also on the agenda are talks on the IT sector, particularly providing software for the oil and gas sector, increasing Indian investment in the oil sector and banking matters, Sibal said. Singh's meeting with Putin is scheduled to be held immediately after the ceremonial lunch Putin will host for 56 heads of state and government visiting Moscow to commemorate 60 years of the end of World War II and the "victory

### SEEN AND HEARD

What officials on board the PM's plane said:

#### ON NEPAL

India expects Nepal King to move towards democracy

#### ON NAGA IMPASSE

The problem cannot be sorted out in a few meetings

#### ON N-PROLIFERATION

A new legislation on export controls norms will be introduced in Parliament next week

#### ON SIACHEN

India is keen to settle the issue as it can't afford to maintain troops on the glacier

over fascism", as Russians are calling it. "The Indian PM is attending the event to show solidarity with the enormous sacrifices Russia made in the Second World War," a senior official said.

"The timing" of the meeting is "significant," officials said, and indicative of the close bilateral ties and "lack of any real contentious issues" between India and Russia. Singh is among a "handful" of leaders, including George W Bush, Jacques Chirac and Hu Jintao, whom Putin will meet bilaterally.

Ahead of the bilateral talks with Putin, Singh described Russia as a "tried and tested friend" that has always stood by India in "times of need". "We attach the highest importance to our relations with Russia, which has been a tried and tested friend and has stood by us in times of need", he said on Sunday before leaving New Delhi.

# India, Russia to sign defence secrecy agreement

Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW:** India and Russia have reached a broad agreement on an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) pact to protect their defence secrets.

"The text has been drafted and accepted," the Defence Secretary, Ajay Vikram Singh, said on Tuesday.

He is leading an inter-agency delegation of the Defence Ministry, the armed forces and research and development officials to discuss some outstanding issues in the agreement.

The absence of an IPR accord threatened to become a major irritant in bilateral relations. Last November, Russia's Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, accused India of dragging its feet over the pact and warned of stopping transfer of cutting-edge defence technologies unless the agreement was signed early.

"Now that we are moving from the buyer-seller relationship to joint development and production of weapon systems, it becomes important to properly protect the high-end defence technologies against any leakage," Mr. Singh told the Indian media. He cited the Brahmos anti-ship missile as an example of jointly developed technologies, and said more such projects were on the anvil.

◆ **The accord will apply only to new deals**

◆ **Preference to Russian suppliers**

◆ **More joint exercises planned**

Though all recent defence deals contained IPR provisions, Russia wanted the Indian Government, rather than the defence companies, to provide IPR guarantees, the Defence Secretary said.

During the visit of the President, Vladimir Putin, to India in December 2004, the two sides undertook to sign the agreement within four months, but the timeframe has been extended to six months.

## Sticky issue

It has been agreed that the accord will apply only to new deals, and will not have a retrospective effect. However, it will define principles for procuring spares for and upgrading the Soviet-made hardware still in service of the Indian armed forces. This is understood to be a sticky issue. Rus-

sia, which has been objecting to India buying spares and modernisation technologies from third countries, would like the accord to ban India from turning to other suppliers when the original Russian manufacturers can provide support.

India agrees to give preference to Russian suppliers, but on condition that they make deliveries within reasonable time and price. India also suggests that Russia sort out the IPR issue with former Soviet countries, which claim they have as much right to make Soviet-era weapons and spares as Russia has.

Besides the delegation-level talks on the agreement, the Defence Secretary had a 100-minute meeting with Mr. Ivanov to discuss his proposal for rationalising the structure of Indo-Russian Inter-Government Commission on Defence Cooperation. India proposed more frequent meetings of the IGC sub-groups on specific subjects.

Mr. Singh also proposed that military-to-military cooperation be intensified through more joint exercises and by enlarging their scope to cover all three services. Later this year, India and Russia would stage joint naval and paratrooper war games.

27 APR 2005

THE HINDU

India  
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# Russia invites India to invest in energy sector

FEB-18  
23/2

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, FEB. 22.** Russia is keen to have India invest in its energy sector and is ready to discuss various options, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Alexander Zhukov, said.

"We regard India as our strategic partner, including in the sphere of energy cooperation," Mr. Zhukov told the visiting Petroleum Minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar, on Tuesday. "Russia is interested in getting Indian investment in energy projects and is willing to discuss different forms for this cooperation."

Mr. Aiyar said India was prepared to invest billions of dollars in the Russian oil and gas industry and was interested in getting stakes in Yuganskneftegaz, the former Yukos' main oil production unit confiscated by the Russian Government, as well as in Sakhalin-3, Vankor and Northern Oil.

"ONGC has sufficient funds to

buy a stake in Yuganskneftegaz, and its OVL subsidiary for overseas operations can raise up to \$25 billion," the Petroleum Minister told reporters on Monday.

ONGC and Russia's natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday pledging to explore possibilities for joint ventures in India, Russia and third countries to produce oil and gas and to build trunk pipelines.

Presenting a roadshow for India's 2005 oil and gas exploration round on Monday Mr. Aiyar urged Russian energy companies to heavily invest in India and to jointly build an Asian oil and gas community that would be stronger than the European Union.

"The oil industry of India is your child — you created it," the Petroleum Minister said recalling that the British had been telling India for 150 years that it had no oil, but then Russians came and helped India find oil and

build its production from zero to 33 million tonnes a year.

"Yesterday we were your baby and you were our Mom. Now we have grown up and become your sister and partner," Mr. Aiyar told a packed hall of Russian oil officials in the posh Balchug-Kempinski Hotel in Moscow.

"Even as the Soviet Union played a major role in protecting our territorial integrity during the first 50 years of our independence, so I am sure its successor state, the Russian Federation, will play a critical role in ensuring our energy security during our second 50 years," the Petroleum Minister said.

Asia being the fastest growing energy market, Russia and India should jointly build an Asian oil and gas community, similar to Europe's steel and coal union which has led to the European Union, and in case of Asia may lead to a much closer alliance between Asian nations, Mr. Aiyar said.

# India, Russia to have simplified visa regime

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, FEB. 11. India and the Russian Federation have "practically completed" negotiations on the introduction of a simplified regime for grant of visas, according to the Russian Ambassador, Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov.

"The talks are aimed at introducing a visa processing regime similar to what we (Russian Federation) have with respect to France, Germany and Italy. As far as I am aware, India is satisfied with the proposed agreement," which is likely to be signed this year, the Ambassador said.

Addressing a meeting organised by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) here today, Mr. Trubnikov said Russia was drawing on India's experience in legislating the introduction of special economic zones.

He emphasised the need to promote business-to-business contacts between the two countries, fill the "awareness gap" in both countries about the enormous opportunities for cooperation and focus on developing interaction between small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to raise bilateral trade from the present level of \$2 billion to at least \$8 billion. A "substantial role" in bilateral cooperation was to be given to the development of regional contacts, particularly with South Indian States. Hyderabad and Kazan, Karnataka and the Samara Region, Andhra Pradesh and the Republic of Tatarstan and Kerala and the Kaliningrad Region had already established partnership rela-



The Ambassador of the Russian Federation, New Delhi, Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov (left), greeting the President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry, R. Veeramani (centre), at a function in Chennai on Friday. The Trade Representative, Russian Federation, New Delhi, Andrey N. Chernyshev, looks on. — Photo: K. V. Srinivasan

tions. Now Tamil Nadu and the Nizhny Novgorod Region were exploring the possibilities of starting such kind of interaction.

The Ambassador indicated that Russia was not happy with the level of support extended by India to the Russian Federation's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Asked about cooperation between the two countries in the WTO, he said, "India should do more to help Russia join the WTO, keeping in mind that we are strategic partners. Even those countries

which are not Russia's strategic partners, are supporting us," he said. The issue was important not merely from the point of view of trade, finance or economy but also because it involved "political relations", he added.

Andrei N. Chernyshev, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in New Delhi, detailed the ongoing bilateral cooperation, including in the establishment of IT (information technology) parks, supercomputing and research in biotechnology, besides oil and natural

gas and nuclear and hydel power. He said the "artificial subsidy" given to Indian enterprises under the programme for conversion of India's rupee debt into investment had created dissatisfaction in Russia.

In the field of trade, there was a need to diversify the basket, and Sri Lanka was fast replacing India as a leading supplier of tea to Russia.

Mr. Chernyshev said Russia had amended its tax code and was introducing new legislation for making the rouble convertible by the year 2007.

R. Veeramani, President, SICCI, called for examination of the feasibility of a preferential or free trade agreement between the two countries, whose level of economic cooperation remained low despite their historic friendship and the size of their economies. He suggested the setting up of a bilateral working group to promote cooperation in the southern region of India.

# Russian hard sell

Time to rewrite the script

Continuing "difficulties" in concluding military contracts with Russia ought to cause some fresh thinking in South Block. The haggling over the leasing of the TU-22 dual-use long range aircraft is not a case in isolation. There has been more than acceptable levels of turbulence over the Gorshkov aircraft-carrier, the T-90 tanks and so on. There were delays in the construction of the Krivak destroyers as well, complications over the SU-30 fighter and modernisation of the MiG-21.

When our forces were crippled by the shortage of spares soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union we explained it away politically. We next put it down to "commercial inexperience" the myriad hassles involved in working out fresh contracts, obtaining detailed manuals arrangements for components of non-Russian origin and other forms of back-up. But some 15 years have elapsed since the old Soviet military/industry complex disintegrated and if its new incarnation is still to function on professional commercial lines we must consider taking the hard decision of looking to other sources for military hardware.

While it is true that Russian weaponry is comparatively less-expensive, rugged, and our forces are familiar with their design-philosophy, it should not deter us from testing fresh waters in a more serious manner than our limited dealings with Israel and South Africa.

It would appear that the agencies through which Russian producers have to canalise their commercial transactions suffer from a hangover of the Soviet era in that they still believe that a massive favour is being done to the entity to whom the weapon systems are being sold — even when payments are made in hard currency. Not that Indian officials are terribly clear-headed, they too seem to wary of hard bargaining with the Russians, perhaps apprehending that the door to sales is slammed. Our version of a lament at the passing of the USSR.

While some occasional purchases have been made from European countries, there has been only one deal worth the name with the USA (for weapons-locating radar systems) though its industry has a lot to offer. Traditional taboos on military relations with the USA still prevail, as do American restrictions on arms sales to India.

Yet should we make bold to wave our greenbacks the arms producers could be tempted to pressure their government to scrap the embargo, more so when the US economy is not doing terribly well. To put it bluntly, being one of the world's leading importers of military equipment we must learn to use the clout of our purchasing power.