

Indian Diplomacy At Work

DRUZHBA-DOSTI



A VISION
FOR STRENGTHENING
THE INDO-RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP
OVER THE NEXT DECADE

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi , with President of Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on 11 Dec 2014

President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin paid an Official Visit to India on December 10th & 11th for the 15th India- Russia Annual Summit.

The India-Russia Annual Summit process was initiated under President Putin's leadership during his visit to India in October, 2000. It has proved a highly effective mechanism for both countries to take high-level stock of India-Russia relations and to impart direction and impetus to them. The last Summit was held in Moscow in October, 2013.

15th India- Russia Annual Summit was the first Annual Summit meeting between the President Putin and Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders had already met first on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Brazil in July 2014 and later on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Myanmar on November 13th and in Australia for the G20 Summit on November 15th -16th.



Russia is a long-standing and a steadfast partner for India. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi considers India's relation with Russia, a major foreign policy priority.

Bilateral economic, commercial and investment ties between India and Russia have been growing but are way below potential. Bilateral trade in 2013 stood at about US \$ 10 billion and is projected to stay at the same level in 2014. Strenuous efforts are being made to create conducive conditions for strengthening our economic linkages through trade & investment.

There has also been a substantial increase in tourist inflows between the two countries in recent years. The recently announced e-visa facility has also been extended to Russian nationals and this expected to boost tourist arrivals further.

Russia is also amongst India's most important interlocutors on regional, international and multilateral issues. The two countries work closely together in international fora, at the United Nations and other groupings such as the G20, BRICS, EAS and Russia-India-China (RIC). India has similarity of views with Russia on important global issues including on threats from terrorism, particularly in our shared neighbourhood, on multipolarity as an important element in the global architecture and the need to defuse the cold war-like tensions that are increasingly manifesting themselves in global relations. India has also said clearly that it cannot be party to any sanctions against Russia.



During the Summit, the leaders agreed on a vision for strengthening the India-Russia partnership over the next decade. Recognizing that the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia has been built on the strong foundation of mutual trust, bilateral understanding and unique people-to-people affinities, the leaders emphasized that the time has come for a significant broad-basing of bilateral cooperation to carry the friendship between the countries to a qualitatively new level. The salient points are set out as under :

Energy

- The bilateral program 'on enhanced cooperation in oil and gas sphere' underlines the serious commitments of the two sides to develop cooperation in this area of great promise.
- The two countries will promote natural gas utilization as an abundant and environmentally friendly source of energy for diverse purposes in their economies and will study the possibilities of building a hydrocarbon pipeline system, connecting the Russian Federation with India.
- India agreed to expeditiously identify a second site, in addition to Kudankulam, for the construction of the Russian-designed nuclear power units in India towards expanding cooperation in uranium mining, fabrication and supply of nuclear fuel, management of spent fuel and in other aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Technology and Innovation

- India and Russia will increase collaboration in joint design, development,

manufacturing and marketing of technology-driven products especially extending to space applications, defence technologies, aviation, new materials, communications and information technology.

- 2015, commemorates the 40th year of the launch of Indian satellite 'Aryabhata' using Soyuz launch vehicle. By 50th anniversary of the launch, the leaders of the two countries would expect significant collaboration between India and Russia on peaceful uses of outer space.
- India and Russia recognize the importance of the Arctic and have agreed to facilitate scientific cooperation to study the challenges (like melting ice, climate change, marine life and biodiversity), facing the rapidly-changing Arctic region.
- They will explore joint development of technologies for processing rare earth materials.

Expanded economic engagement

- It is expected that Russian companies will utilize the opportunities in a wide range of Indian sectors and will 'Make in India'.
- The initiative of a direct investment fund of US\$ 2 billion between Rosnano and suitable Indian Investment partners for implementation of high-tech projects was welcomed.
- The two sides agreed to finalize shortly a protocol on a "Green Corridor" project, on mutual trade facilitation measures, particularly with regards to simplified customs procedures.
- Promote further strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of our bilateral inter-regional cooperation. A web of linkages between these and other regions and cities will bring substantial benefits to these regions and cities and bolster India-Russia partnership further –

New Delhi-Moscow and St. Petersburg; Bangalore-Novosibirsk; Chandigarh-Ufa; Chennai-Volgograd; Hyderabad-Kazan; Kolkata-Vladivostok and Yaroslavl; Kochi-Pyatigorsk; Mumbai-St. Petersburg; Pune-Yekaterinburg; Panjim-Krasnodar; Thiruvananthapuram-Stavropol; Thrissur-Yessentuki. Regions: Andhra Pradesh-Tatarstan; Gujarat- Astrakhan and Tatarstan; Haryana-Bashkortostan; Karnataka-Irkutsk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra and Samara; Kerala-Irkutsk; Maharashtra-Siberia

Global order and World peace

The sides reaffirmed the need for UN Security Council reform in order to make it more representative and effective in dealing with emerging challenges.

Russia confirmed its support to India's intention to seek full membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its readiness to facilitate positive decision of the Group on this matter. Russia also supported India's interest in full membership in the MTCR and Wassenaar Arrangement.

People-to-people ties

Both sides agreed to further ease visa requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries, including business visas towards further enhancing the people-to-people contacts and boost tourism.
