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Putin to visit India for two-day annual summit next week

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a two-day visit to India from December 4 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Friday.

Mr. Putin will lead the Russian delegation in the 23rd India-Russia annual summit, the Ministry said. "The forthcoming state visit will provide an opportunity for the leadership of India and Russia to review progress in bilateral relations, set the vision for strengthening the 'special and privileged strategic partnership' and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," it added.

Mr. Putin will also meet President Droupadi Murmu, who will host a state banquet in his honour. He earlier visited India in 2021, for the 21st India-Russia annual summit.

Russia launched the "Special Military Operation" against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which attracted tough western sanctions on Russia, prompting a reorientation of India-Russia trade ties where energy became a major component for the first time.

Russian energy import to India has been a major issue in the India-U.S. relations since President Donald Trump imposed punitive

sanctions on India in August for purchasing Russian crude oil. India has been calling for an end to the Ukrainian conflict, with Mr. Modi saying "this is not the time for war". However, attacks continued from both sides in the Ukrainian battlefield.

The incoming visit is also significant as it will take place days after Mr. Trump issued a new 28-point Ukraine-Russia peace formula that will call upon Kyiv to cede territories to Russia and limit the size of the Ukrainian military.

Trade deficit

During Mr. Putin visit, New Delhi is expected to press for addressing the increasing trade deficit caused by India's procurement of large volumes of Russian crude oil.

The two sides are also likely to focus on deepening cooperation in areas of civil nuclear energy.

The Kremlin said Mr. Putin's visit carried "significant importance" as it offered an opportunity to review the entire spectrum of the special and privileged strategic partnership – from politics, trade and the economy to science, technology, and cultural and humanitarian ties.

"The current international and regional issues will also feature prominently in the talks with the Indian delegation led by Prime Minister Modi," it said.

Russia has been a time-tested partner for India and the country has been a key pillar of

New Delhi's foreign policy.
(With PTI inputs)



Russian President **Vladimir Putin** will visit India on **December 4–5** for the **23rd India–Russia Annual Summit**. The visit aims to allow the leadership of both countries—Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi—to review bilateral ties and strengthen the “**Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**.”

Key focus areas include:

- Trade deficit caused by India’s purchase of large volumes of Russian crude oil
- Deepening cooperation in **civil nuclear energy**
- Broader engagements in **politics, defence, economy, science & technology, and culture**

The visit is geopolitically significant as it comes amid:

- Western sanctions on Russia since the 2022 Ukraine war
- India’s increasing imports of discounted Russian oil
- A new U.S. proposal urging Ukraine to accept Russian territorial demands
- Renewed battlefield tensions in Ukraine

Russia stated the visit is crucial to review the full spectrum of ties. India reiterated its stance that “**this is not the time for war**” and has been urging for peace in the Ukraine conflict.

Russia remains a “time-tested partner” and a major pillar of India’s foreign policy.

हिंदी सारांश

रूस के राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमिर पुतिन** 4–5 दिसंबर को भारत की दो दिवसीय यात्रा पर आएंगे, जहाँ वे **23वें भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन** में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के साथ वार्ता करेंगे। इस यात्रा का उद्देश्य दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों की समीक्षा करना और “**विशेष एवं विशेषाधिकृत रणनीतिक साझेदारी**” को और मजबूत करना है।

मुख्य मुद्दे:

- भारत द्वारा बड़ी मात्रा में रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद से बढ़ा **व्यापार घाटा**
- **नाभिकीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र** में सहयोग का विस्तार
- राजनीति, रक्षा, अर्थव्यवस्था, विज्ञान-प्रौद्योगिकी और संस्कृति सहित व्यापक क्षेत्रों में सहयोग

यह यात्रा इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि:

- 2022 के यूक्रेन युद्ध के बाद रूस पर पश्चिमी प्रतिबंध जारी हैं
- भारत ने रूसी तेल आयात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि की है
- अमेरिका द्वारा यूक्रेन को रूस को कुछ क्षेत्र सौंपने का नया प्रस्ताव
- यूक्रेन युद्धक्षेत्र में लगातार हिंसा

रूस का कहना है कि यह यात्रा पूरे साझेदारी ढांचे की समीक्षा के लिए अहम है। भारत ने दोहराया कि “**यह युद्ध का समय नहीं है**” और संघर्ष को खत्म करने की अपील की है।

रूस भारत का ‘**समय-परीक्षित साझेदार**’ रहा है और भारतीय विदेश नीति का प्रमुख स्तंभ है।

GS Relevance (UPSC/BPSC/JPSC)

GS Paper-II (International Relations)

- India-Russia bilateral relations
- Strategic partnership and defence cooperation
- Impact of Russia–Ukraine war on India
- India’s stance on global conflicts
- Trade deficit, energy security, and sanctions
- Civil nuclear cooperation

GS Paper-III (Economy & Energy Security)

- Crude oil imports and trade imbalance
- Energy diversification
- Economic diplomacy

Essay / GS-II

- India’s role in a multipolar world
- Balancing major power relations (Russia–US–Europe)

India, Russia Defence Ministers to meet, S-500 acquisition on agenda

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministers of India and Russia are set to meet on December 4 in New Delhi on the sidelines of Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to India.

A senior official confirmed that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov to review ongoing defence cooperation and explore new avenues of partnership.

Acquiring S-500

According to the official, the agenda includes discussions on the timely delivery of remaining S-400 air defence systems. India is also likely to examine the possibility of acquiring additional S-400 units as well as Russia's next-generation S-500 system – capable of intercepting ballistic mis-



Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov, left, and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Moscow in 2024. AP

siles at ranges up to 600 km and airborne targets up to 400 km.

The meeting is also expected to take up cooperation in shipbuilding and jointly developed weapons systems, an area both sides are looking to strengthen further.

In June this year, Mr. Singh and Mr. Belousov met in Qingdao, China, where Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to timely

S-400 deliveries. India had placed an initial order for five S-400 units, of which three have been delivered. The remaining two are scheduled for delivery in 2026 and 2027.

The S-400 system has proved its strategic significance in recent Indian operations, including Operation Sindoor, and has been officially designated 'Sudarshan Chakra' in Indian service – after the mytho-

logical weapon of Lord Vishnu.

The Ministry of Defence has also identified an Indian firm to set up a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 system in the country.

Addressing a public gathering in Karnataka on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi elaborated on the vision of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, stating that it aims to build an impenetrable protective wall around key national, industrial and public sector assets. "If the enemy dares to show audacity, India's Sudarshan Chakra will destroy them," the Prime Minister said.

Earlier, during his Independence Day address, Mr. Modi had announced the ambitious 'Sudarshan Chakra Mission', a decade-long initiative to bolster India's national security architecture.

India and Russia's Defence Ministers — Rajnath Singh and Andrey Belousov — will meet on **December 4 in New Delhi** during President Putin's state visit. The meeting will review ongoing defence cooperation and explore new areas of partnership.

Key Agenda Points

1. S-400 Delivery Status

- India had ordered **five S-400 units**.
- **Three delivered**, two remaining to be supplied in **2026–27**.

2. Possible Acquisition of S-500

- India is examining the feasibility of purchasing **Russia's next-generation S-500 system**, capable of intercepting ballistic missiles up to **600 km** range and airborne targets up to **400 km**.

3. Shipbuilding & Joint Weapon Development

- Both sides plan to enhance cooperation in defence manufacturing.

4. MRO Facility for S-400 in India

- An Indian firm has been identified to establish a **Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO)** facility for S-400 systems.

Strategic Context

- The S-400 system has already proven valuable for Indian deployments, including **Operation**

Sindoor.

- It is being branded the '**Sudarshan Chakra**' in India, symbolising a protective shield like the mythological weapon of Vishnu.

PM Modi highlighted this vision as part of building a national strategic security wall. Earlier, the broader '**Sudarshan Chakra Mission**' was announced to enhance India's air-defence architecture.

हिंदी सारांश

भारत और रूस के रक्षा मंत्री — **राजनाथ सिंह** और **आंद्रे बेलोउसॉव** — 4 दिसंबर को नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रपति पुतिन की यात्रा के दौरान मुलाकात करेंगे। बैठक में चल रही रक्षा साझेदारी की समीक्षा होगी और नए सहयोग क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा होगी।

मुख्य एजेंडा

1. **S-400 की डिलीवरी**
 - भारत ने 5 S-400 यूनिट्स का ऑर्डर दिया था।
 - 3 मिल चुके हैं, शेष दो की डिलीवरी 2026-27 में होगी।
2. **S-500 खरीदने की संभावना**
 - भारत रूस की अगली पीढ़ी की S-500 प्रणाली खरीदने पर विचार कर रहा है —
 - बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों को 600 किमी दूर तक रोकने में सक्षम
 - एयरबोर्न लक्ष्यों को 400 किमी तक भेदने में सक्षम
3. **शिपबिल्डिंग व हथियार विकास में सहयोग**
 - दोनों देश संयुक्त उत्पादन और रक्षा निर्माण में सहयोग बढ़ाने को तैयार हैं।
4. **भारत में S-400 के लिए MRO सुविधा**
 - रक्षा मंत्रालय ने एक भारतीय कंपनी की पहचान की है जो S-400 सिस्टम के **मेंटेनेन्स-रिपेयर-ओवरहॉल (MRO)** केंद्र की स्थापना करेगी।

रणनीतिक महत्व

- S-400 सिस्टम पहले ही भारतीय अभियानों—जैसे **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर**—में प्रभावी साबित हुआ है।
- इसे भारत में '**सुदर्शन चक्र**' नाम दिया जा रहा है, जो विष्णु के दिव्य अस्त्र की तरह देश की सुरक्षा शील्ड का प्रतीक है।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने इसे भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा दीवार के निर्माण का हिस्सा बताया।

पहले भी उन्होंने बड़ा '**सुदर्शन चक्र मिशन**' घोषित किया था, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत की वायु-रक्षा संरचना को मजबूत बनाना है।

GS Relevance (UPSC/BPSC/JPSC)

GS Paper-II (International Relations)

- India-Russia defence cooperation
- Geopolitical implications of S-400 and S-500
- Key strategic partnerships
- Technology transfer & defence diplomacy

GS Paper-III (Internal Security & Defence)

- India's air-defence architecture
- Missile defence systems
- Defence production, Make in India, MRO ecosystem
- Strategic deterrence & national security infrastructure

Prelims Themes

- S-400 and S-500 features
- India-Russia military agreements
- Defence procurement timelines
- Mission Sudarshan Chakra

India launches 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to provide relief supplies to Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Friday delivered essential relief supplies to cyclone-battered Sri Lanka with Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying to the island nation that New Delhi stands ready provide more aid to it to deal with the situation.

New Delhi launched "Operation Sagar Bandhu" to assist Sri Lanka in its hour of crisis and the first tranche of relief materials were handed after the consignments were transported by Indian Navy's aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* and frontline ship *INS Udaygiri*.

"My heartfelt condolences to the people of Sri Lanka who have lost their loved ones due to Cyclone Ditrwah. I pray for the safety, comfort and swift recovery of all affected families," Mr. Modi said on social media. "Guided by India's



Navy officers handing over humanitarian aid from India to Sri Lanka as part of 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' in Colombo. PTI

Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India continues to stand firmly with Sri Lanka in its hour of need," he added.

Mr. Modi announced the MAHASAGAR (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision for India's engagement with the Global South during his visit to Mauritius in March.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that Op-

eration Sagar Bandhu had commenced and further steps were under way.

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, and latest indigenous stealth frigate *INS Udaygiri* are in Sri Lanka to participate at a three-day International Fleet Review (IFR) that began on Thursday.

Sri Lankan defence officials said *INS Vikrant* was formally requested for use of its aircraft for relief operations.

India has launched 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to deliver humanitarian assistance to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, which is facing a severe crisis after Cyclone Ditrwah. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed

condolences and assured full support.

Key Features of Operation Sagar Bandhu

- India delivered the **first tranche** of relief supplies through:
 - **INS Vikrant** (India's first indigenous aircraft carrier)
 - **INS Udaygiri** (latest indigenous stealth frigate)
- Supplies include essential humanitarian aid for affected families.
- More consignments are scheduled to follow.

Strategic Context

- India's response aligns with its **Neighbourhood First Policy** and **Vision MAHASAGAR** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- MAHASAGAR was articulated during PM Modi's visit to Mauritius in March.
- India reaffirmed its commitment to support Sri Lanka "in its hour of need."
- INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri are also in Sri Lanka for the **International Fleet Review (IFR)**.

Sri Lankan officials reportedly requested the use of **INS Vikrant** for relief operations.

हिंदी सारांश

भारत ने 'ऑपरेशन सागर बंधु' शुरू किया है ताकि **चक्रवात डिटवा** से प्रभावित **श्रीलंका** को त्वरित मानवीय सहायता पहुंचाई जा सके। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शोक संवेदनाएँ व्यक्त कीं और पूर्ण सहयोग का आश्वासन दिया।

ऑपरेशन सागर बंधु की मुख्य बातें

- राहत सामग्री का पहला बैच भारत से भेजा गया, जिसमें शामिल थे:
 - **INS विक्रान्त** (भारत का पहला स्वदेशी विमानवाहक पोत)
 - **INS उदयगिरि** (नवीनतम स्वदेशी स्टेल्थ फ्रिगेट)
- सामग्री में आवश्यक मानवतावादी आपूर्ति शामिल हैं।
- आगे और भी सहायता भेजी जाएगी।

रणनीतिक संदर्भ

- यह कदम भारत की **Neighbourhood First नीति** और **विजन MAHASAGAR** के अनुरूप है — **Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**.
- यह दृष्टि प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने इस वर्ष मॉरीशस यात्रा के दौरान प्रस्तुत की थी।
- भारत ने दोहराया कि वह "श्रीलंका के संकट समय में दृढ़ता से उसके साथ खड़ा है।"
- INS विक्रान्त और INS उदयगिरि श्रीलंका में **International Fleet Review (IFR)** में भी भाग ले रहे हैं।

श्रीलंकाई रक्षा अधिकारियों ने राहत कार्यों के लिए **INS Vikrant** की सेवाएँ विशेष रूप से मांगी थीं।

GS Relevance (UPSC/BPSC/JPSC)

GS Paper-II (International Relations)

- India-Sri Lanka relations
- Humanitarian assistance & disaster relief (HADR) diplomacy
- Neighbourhood First Policy
- SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision
- Maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean

GS Paper-III (Security & Disaster Management)

- Role of Indian Navy in HADR
- Cyclone response logistics
- Maritime security architecture

Important Prelims Themes

- Operation Sagar Bandhu
- INS Vikrant & INS Udaygiri features
- Vision SAGAR vs Vision MAHASAGAR
- International Fleet Review (IFR)

India seals deal with U.S. on support for Seahawks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India on Friday sealed a ₹7,995 crore deal with the U.S. as part of “follow on support” package for Indian Navy’s fleet of 24 Seahawk helicopters for five years. The signing of the contract came amid strain in ties between the two countries after U.S. President Donald Trump slapped a whopping 50% tariff on Indian goods in late August.

The Defence Ministry said it signed Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOAs) with the U.S. for sustained support of the MH-60R helicopter fleet through follow-on support and supply for five years.

The sustainment support is a comprehensive package which includes provisioning of spares, support equipment, product support, training and technical support, repair and replenishment of components, the Ministry said.

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India has finalized a **₹7,995 crore (approx. \$960 million)** deal with the United States for a **five-year “follow-on support” package** for the **Indian Navy’s fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters**. This agreement was signed despite recent tensions in India–U.S. trade ties following the U.S. decision to impose a **50% tariff on Indian goods** in late August.

Key Points of the Agreement

- India signed **Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOAs)** with the U.S. Government.
 - The support package includes:
 - Provision of **spares and support equipment**
 - **Product support**
 - **Training and technical support**
 - **Repair and replenishment** of components
 - The contract ensures the long-term sustainment and operational readiness of the MH-60R fleet.
- The MH-60R Seahawks are multi-role naval helicopters used for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue, and maritime surveillance.

हिंदी सारांश

भारत ने **₹7,995 करोड़** की एक महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा डील अमेरिका के साथ की है, जो भारतीय नौसेना के **24 MH-60R सीहॉक हेलीकॉप्टरों** के लिए **पांच वर्ष का “फॉलो-ऑन सपोर्ट पैकेज”** प्रदान करेगी। यह समझौता उस समय हुआ है जब अमेरिका ने अगस्त के अंत में भारतीय वस्तुओं पर **50% आयात शुल्क** लगाकर व्यापारिक संबंधों में तनाव पैदा कर दिया था।

समझौते की मुख्य बातें

- भारत ने अमेरिका के साथ **LOA (Letter of Offer and Acceptance)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
 - पैकेज में शामिल हैं:
 - **स्पेयर्स और सपोर्ट उपकरण**
 - **उत्पाद सहायता**
 - **प्रशिक्षण एवं तकनीकी सहायता**
 - **घटकों की मरम्मत और पुनःपूर्ति**
 - यह पैकेज सीहॉक बेड़े की दीर्घकालिक परिचालन क्षमता सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- MH-60R सीहॉक एक बहु-भूमिका वाला नौसैनिक हेलीकॉप्टर है, जो पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध, सतह रोधी युद्ध, खोज-और-बचाव तथा समुद्री निगरानी के लिए उपयोग होता है।

GS Relevance (UPSC/BPSC/JPSC)

GS Paper-II (International Relations)

- India–U.S. defence cooperation
- Impact of trade tensions on strategic ties
- Defence agreements: LOA, FMS framework

GS Paper-III (Security / Defence Technology)

- MH-60R Seahawk: capabilities & strategic role
- Maritime security, ASW capability
- Sustainment logistics in defence procurement

Prelims Themes

- MH-60R helicopter features
- Follow-on support vs procurement
- LOA under U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS)