

**BOND GOING STRONG** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin give final touches to the Kundankulam nuclear deal and highlight key areas ranging from defence to counter-terrorism where the two sides look to work together



**OLD FRIENDS:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted that its close friendship with India can't be diluted and ties with Pakistan will have no bearing on their relationship—AP

## Vision to Boost Economic, Trade Relations Unveiled

New Delhi, Moscow to collaborate in areas of defence manufacturing, connectivity initiatives

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**New Delhi:** Strategic partners India and Russia on Thursday unveiled a grand vision for bilateral partnership in the 21st century that traverses cooperation in all possible areas, including defence, counter-terror, intelligence sharing, connectivity initiatives, trade, state-of-the-art technological innovations, railways, fossil fuel and nuclear energy and ventures in Arctic and Russian Far-East.

A vision statement released after the annual summit in St Petersburg between president Vladimir Putin and prime minister Narendra Modi elaborated on a slew of areas of economic partnership from space to ocean, Delhi and Moscow have decided to work towards a qualitatively higher level of military-to-military

cooperation. Both sides decided to upgrade and intensify this cooperation, through joint manufacture, co-production and co-development of military hardware and military spares, with increasing reliance on the adoption and sharing of future technologies. The two sides signed five agreements including nuclear power, railways, jewellery, culture and IPR.

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guided by the principles of transparency, sustainability and responsibility, reiterate their commitment to build effective infrastructure for the International North South Transport Corridor and implementation of the Green Corridor," the vision statement said.

The PM thanked Putin for his stand

on cross-border terror. Russia, hoping to strengthen strategic partnership, announced its unequivocal support to India's NSG and Wassenaar Arrangement membership.

This is first time that India's application at Wassenaar Arrangement was publicly acknowledged. Putin also announced that India will enter SCO next week fulfilling a long cherished dream of Delhi that will enhance its presence in the Central Asian region. "In a week, we will formalise India's full-fledged accession to the SCO. This process began in 2015 in Russia's Ufa. Russia has always backed this process and encouraged it."

ET was the first to report that India and Russia will announce a vision statement at St Petersburg at the annual summit outlining vision for cooperation in the coming decades.

The vision statement which focussed on pushing economic envelope of the partnership decided on an ambitious agenda of joint cooperation across sectors. This includes energy corridor, deep sea technology, agriculture, metallurgy, ship-building thermal power stations and inland navigation in India, a credit rating agency and India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA.



Normally, in international relations there are ups and downs. But history is witness, there have been no ups and downs in Indo-Russia relations. We have always moved forward

**NARENDRA MODI**  
Prime Minister



The most important thing is the trust and friendship in our relationship, between our countries and our people

**VLADIMIR PUTIN**  
President, Russia