

Stronger ties will greatly benefit us: PM in Russia

Kremlin says Modi, Putin will hold both private, extended talks today

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In his first trip since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday travelled to Russia to hold summit talks with President Vladimir Putin — a visit that is being seen as having a wider geopolitical context and signalling.

Shortly after landing in Moscow, Modi said he is looking forward to deepening bilateral partnership in futuristic areas and that stronger ties between India and Russia will “greatly benefit our people”.

India seeks to play a “supportive role” for a peaceful and stable region, the prime minister said in his departure statement.

President Vladimir Putin will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, both one-on-one and with delegations, a top Russian official said on Monday.

“Around noon, Putin and Modi will start talking. We expect that there will be a private conversation, as well as Russian-Indian talks over an official breakfast,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by the state-owned TASS news agency.

“No joint communication with the media is foreseen,” he said. “But we expect an extended exchange of views at both the private and extended sessions, which will largely compensate for the lack of statements to the media.”

Modi was received at the Vnukovo-II airport by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. The Russian first deputy minister also accompanied the Indian prime minister to his hotel from the airport, officials said.



PHOTO: PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Indian diaspora in Moscow on Monday

Manturov had received Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Russia as well. On Tuesday, Modi will co-chair the 22nd India-Russia annual summit with President Putin, interact with the members of the Indian community and visit the Rosatom pavilion at an exhibition. The prime minister is also scheduled to lay a wreath at the ‘Tomb of the Unknown Soldier’.

The focus of the 22nd India-Russia annual summit is likely to be boosting bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, security, trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges. The Ukraine conflict is set to figure in the discussions.

In the talks, Modi is expected to urge

the Russian side to end recruitment of Indians as support staff to the Russian military and ensure the return of those still operating in the force.

“Landed in Moscow. Looking forward to further deepening the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between our nations, especially in futuristic areas of cooperation,” Modi said on X. Modi was accorded a guard of honour at the airport. He was given a warm welcome outside The Carlton Hotel in Moscow by members of the Indian diaspora and a group of Russian artists who danced to the tune of Hindi songs. “A memorable welcome in Moscow! I thank the Indian community for their affection,” Modi said in another post.