

India joins forces with Mad Vlad

SENDING SOLDIERS 'CROSSES RED LINE'

■ by NADEEM BADSHAH

INDIA has joined forces with Mad Vlad Putin after sending troops to join 30,000 Russian and Belarusian soldiers for missile launch drills.

Indian defence chiefs said it dispatched 65 squaddies to the Mulino training ground, to the east of Moscow, to "further strengthen defence co-operation and foster camaraderie between India and Russia".

It added the troops would be involved in "joint training, tactical drills and special arms skills".

Mad Vlad wore combat fatigues yesterday to visit the drills and shook hands with Indian PM. He said about 100,000 troops took part in training exercises.

Ulrich Speck, a German foreign policy analyst, said India had "crossed a red line". It comes as Nato is beefing up its air defences after 21 Russian drones violated Polish airspace.

David Merkel, a former head of the Europe and Eurasia divisions of the US State Department, said: "[It] demonstrates the pri-



DRILL: Putin at training
ority New Delhi places on its relations with Moscow, something [PM Narendra] Modi is leaning on more given the uncertainty of his relationship with Trump."

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