

# Side by side India renews ties to Russia

Vladimir Putin, left, is picked up in a limousine by Narendra Modi after arriving at Palam air base in New Delhi yesterday.

Russia's president was greeted warmly at the airport by India's prime minister at the start of a two-day state visit aimed at boosting economic co-operation between the two nations.

Modi called the friendship between India and Russia "a time tested one that has greatly benefited our people". Posters of Putin were on prominent display around New Delhi, with Russian and Indian flags draped along main roads.

The two countries share close relations stretching back to the cold war.

Putin referred to Modi as a friend, as he told Indian media group Today in an interview: "India is a great power, not a British colony. And everyone will have to accept that."

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Grigory Sislyev/Sputnik/Kremlin via AP