

**PROTOCOL**  
**of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the**  
**India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific,**  
**Technical and Cultural Cooperation**

- I. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “Commission”) was held in Moscow on September 14, 2018.
- II. The Russian side was led by H.E. Mr. Yu.I. Borisov, the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Russian side of the Commission. The Indian side was led by H.E. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, the Chairperson of the Indian side of the Commission.
- III. The composition of the Indian and the Russian delegations (hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”) is in Annexure I. The discussions were held in the spirit of traditional friendship and mutual understanding and the Sides decided the following:

**Trade, Economic and Investment cooperation**

1. The Sides welcomed progress in implementing the objectives set out in the Joint Statement “Druzhba-Dosti” of the India-Russia Annual Summit in December 2014 in New Delhi for taking the bilateral trade & economic and investment cooperation to the new qualitative level.
2. The Sides agreed to accelerate the beginning of negotiations on the free-trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and the Republic of India.
3. The Sides stressed the need to create an effective mechanism to ensure comprehensive protection of investments in order to stimulate the growth of mutual investments as well as welcomed holding of the first technical consultations on determining the main parameters of the bilateral investment treaty in the near future.

4. The Sides noted that the negotiations on the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India are pending for long and should be started forthwith. The Russian Side also pointed out the issue of double taxation on dividends.
5. The Sides noted the need to develop bilateral cooperation in attracting companies to special economic zones (SEZs) of both countries. The Sides emphasized the importance of sharing experience between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India in the sphere of SEZ.
6. The Sides supported the initiative of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to prepare a Joint Action Strategy for enhancing Russian-Indian trade, economic and investment cooperation and expressed their intention to make the necessary efforts to present the architecture of the Strategy during the India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi in October 2018.
7. The Sides agreed to start the implementation of the "Green Corridor" project in test mode and agreed to make all efforts to roll out the "Green Corridor" project in a full-fledged manner.

The Russian Side requested the Indian side to accelerate the submission of a position regarding the draft multilateral protocol on mutual recognition of the results of customs control of the goods transported within the International North-South Transport Corridor. The Indian Side noted that the TIR Carnet already acts as a common customs document as well as guarantee for the duties involved in the goods in transit along the territories of the contracting parties creating a facilitative and non-intrusive environment. The Indian Side requested the Russian Side to provide additional reasons for developing a separate common customs document for INSTC.

8. The Russian Side announced its intention to open a representative office of Russian Export Center JSC in October 2018 in Mumbai, the main areas of activity of which would be providing comprehensive support to Russian exporters in entering the Indian market, organizing targeted activities,



advising in the field of logistics and customs regulation, providing information to Indian companies on Russian exporters to India as well as facilitation in obtaining financial support.

9. The Sides appreciated the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry and other business associations at the national and regional levels as well as the Business Council for Cooperation with India on development and strengthening of bilateral business cooperation.
10. The Russian Side, with the purpose of settlement of the situation in respect of the "titanium project" in Ganjam District, Orissa, suggested that the Indian side should return to the issue of taking upon itself from the Russian side all the rights of claims to the Saraf Group arising from arbitration and other proceedings in exchange for reimbursement of the amount of 2.5 billion Indian rupees on the bank account of Vnesheconombank with the Reserve Bank of India as a rupee debt. The Russian side is ready to consider the issue of usage of this amount after its reimbursement on the account for investing in projects on the territory of the Republic of India under the guarantees of the Government of India.

The Indian Side noted that this is a longstanding dispute of a commercial nature between the Russian and the Indian parties of the joint venture, which is already under Arbitration. The Government of India believes in settlement of this dispute amicably between the parties under the existing legal framework.

11. The Russian Side expressed interest in continuing cooperation with Indian partners in the construction of waste treatment facilities and in participating in tender procedures for the construction or modernization of waste treatment facilities in the Republic of India.

**The mechanism of elimination of barriers in trade, economic and investment spheres**

12. The Sides welcomed the holding of the first meetings of the Sub-Working Group on elimination of barriers in trade, economic and investment spheres and noted the positive contribution of the Sub-Group in increasing the level of mutual understanding between the Sides on elimination of existing barriers in trade, economic and investment spheres.

### **Priority Investment Projects**

13. The Sides noted the intensification of investment cooperation, emphasized the contribution of the Working Group on Priority Investment Projects and called on the Working Group to continue searching for the new investment projects.
14. The Sides expressed their readiness to provide the necessary non-financial governmental support for the implementation of the priority investment projects identified by the Working Group.
15. The Sides took note of the new projects discussed during the meeting of the Working Group co-chairs on March 19, 2018 in New Delhi, and approved the updated List of 23 joint priority investment projects. The renewed list of the projects is an annexure to this Protocol.

### **Industrial Cooperation**

16. The Sides confirmed their intention to develop cooperation in the field of civil aircraft manufacture.
17. The Sides underpinned the expansion of collaboration in aluminium sector under the aegis of Subgroup on Mining of the Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation.
18. The Indian Side proposed to develop collaboration between Geological Survey of India (GSI) with its Russian counterpart to explore deep seated/ or concealed mineral deposits (at more than 400 meters depth) in India.



19. The Russian Side has informed the Indian Side about the importance of equalizing the volume of subsidies for purchase of fertilizers of various types.
20. The Russian Side requested the Indian Side to explore the possibility of expanding the Subgroup on fertilizers into the Subgroup on chemical industry. The Indian Side noted that the issues of cooperation in chemical industry is already being discussed under the Subgroup on Modernization. The Indian Side will further examine the feasibility of the Russian proposal.
21. The Sides welcomed the successful cooperation between PJSC SIBUR Holding and Reliance Industries Ltd. on the construction of butyl rubber and halobutyl rubber production facilities in Gujarat. The Russian Side requested the Indian Side to explore the possibility of providing governmental support for the project.
22. The Russian Side expressed its interest in developing cooperation between Sinara - Transport Machines JSC and Indian Railways in the field of supplying track equipment for the construction, repair and maintenance of railways, as well as other projects in the field of railway engineering.

**Cooperation in Diamond Sector:**

23. The Sides expressed appreciation of the level of the bilateral cooperation in the diamond sector, including:
  - Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between PJSC ALROSA and the Gem& Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC) on the margins of the Russia-India summit on 1 June 2017 in Saint Petersburg in the presence of the leaders of the two states;
  - Conclusion of the long-term contracts for rough diamond supplies between ALROSA and Indian companies within the new contract period 2018-2020;
  - Opening of ALROSA's Representative Office in Mumbai in January 2018;

- Regular tenders of rough diamonds organized by ALROSA in the Special Notified Zone (SNZ) at Bharat Diamond Bourse;

With the aim to uphold and promote the diamond consumer equity and sustainable growth of the market, both India and Russia are cooperating on the development of diamond generic marketing campaigns by the Diamond Producers Association (DPA).

24. To further promote the cooperation in the diamond sector the Russian Side called on the Indian Side:

- To work together for a comprehensive differentiation between diamond and synthetic diamond markets at the national level, including adoption and application of the unified Diamond Terminology Guideline, developed with the participation of the DPA and the GJEPC and promoted within the International Diamond Monitoring Committee (IDMC), as well as the further work for legislative regulation on disclosure of information concerning the origin of synthetic diamond products;
- To promote a speedy resolution of the pending difficulties arising due to taxation of diamond sales within the territory of India. The Indian Side informed that the Ministry of Finance of India is exploring feasible solutions to this matter in consultation with GJEPC to enable direct trading of rough diamonds.

25. Within the framework of the multilateral international cooperation in the diamond sector the Sides expressed mutual interest in establishing a permanent secretariat of the Kimberley Process (KP) and improving its peer review mechanism within the discussions that are still ongoing in the KP.

### **Agriculture cooperation**

26. The Sides noted the successful holding of the first session of the Russian-Indian Working Group on Cooperation in Agriculture under the Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission, established in accordance with the decision of the Co-Chairs of the Commission. Particular attention during the



meeting of the Working Group was paid to the issues of mutual market access of agricultural products and ensuring security of supply.

27. The Indian side confirmed its readiness to approve by the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 the model veterinary certificates for poultry meat and poultry products (by-products), raw leather materials as well as fish and fish products exported from Russia to India. The list which is received by the Indian side by the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.
28. The Indian side informed the Russian side that they would consider to reduce the number of marine produce exporters to Russia included in the official publication of FSVPS. The Indian side will send the new list of exporters approved by the Indian phytosanitary bodies to be included in the list on the official web-site of FSVPS.
29. The Indian side confirmed its willingness to forward to the Russian side by the first week of December 2018 veterinary and sanitary requirements for import of sheep wool as well as fodder and feed additives from the Russia to India. The Indian side had sought request from the Russian side on the regulatory procedure for the export of pet foods, the Russian side confirms its willingness to provide the regulatory mechanism to the Indian side by the first week of December 2018.
30. The Russian side noted the importance of finalizing and signing a draft Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, on ensuring phytosanitary requirements for the export of grain.
31. The Indian side notes the importance of finalizing and resolving the phytosanitary issues in the sphere of agriculture products which exist between both countries.
32. The Indian side discussed ways of ensuring mutual recognition of standards through greater cooperation and exchange between the scientific and regulatory bodies dealing with health of animal species. The Russian side had nominated the Federal Centre for Animal Health Protection as the nodal

agency, whereas the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) was nominated from the Indian side.

33. The Indian side has conveyed to the Russian side the information about the steps taken to gain access to the Russian market for agricultural products and requests the Russian side to study the Indian side's requests.

### **Transport cooperation**

34. The Russian side informed about the interest of the State Company "Russian Highways" for attracting participation of Indian companies in implementation of projects of the Company on the basis of public-private partnership and will forward detailed material on the projects to the Indian Side.
35. The Sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of work under the Agreement for the Nagpur-Secunderabad Semi High Speed execution study. The Russian Side expressed its desire for the joint implementation of the project. Both Sides agreed to continue cooperation in respect of project implementation keeping in view the prevailing rules/procedures of both sides.
36. The Sides noted the interest shown by RZD Holding in its participation in railways infrastructure projects in India, including electrification, increase of speed of trains, construction and design of heavy railways, tunnels and high-mountain railways, as well as a pilot project for the modernization of automation and telemechanics.
37. The Sides expressed satisfaction with the positive dynamics of the air transportation between the two countries in 2017.
38. The Sides agreed to continue cooperation in the field of air transport in the framework of consultations between the Russian and Indian Aviation Authorities.



39. The Sides agreed to consider the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian University of Transport (MIIT) and the National Rail and Transportation Institute (Gujarat).
40. The Russian Side invited the Indian Side to study the experience of implementation of electronic toll collection systems based on satellite navigation technologies. The electronic toll collection systems for heavy vehicles implemented in the territory of the Russian Federation is the largest in the world in terms of the number of connected vehicles and coverage of the network of highways. Taking into account the "Make in India" program being implemented in India, the Russian side is ready to organize the assembly of on-board navigation devices in India.

#### **Energy cooperation**

41. The Sides welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Rosneft, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL) in various projects in Russia, including Vankorneft and Taas-Yuryah. The Sides noted with satisfaction the progress of the companies in the development of comprehensive cooperation and expressed the hope for the completion of negotiations between the companies on the Vankor cluster in the near future.
42. The Sides supported the interest of Russian and Indian companies in cooperation in the field of LNG supplies of Russian origin to India. The Sides welcomed successful development of Gazprom Group's cooperation with GAIL India Ltd. for LNG supplies to India.
43. The Russian side brought to the notice of the Indian Side certain difficulties being faced by PJSC Power Machines in payments for their ongoing projects in India. The Indian Side informed the Russian Side that NTPC Ltd./NHPC Ltd. have always been willing to settle the payments. The Sides encouraged both PJSC Power Machines and NTPC Ltd./NHPC Ltd. to remain engaged in discussions to find solutions to the technical difficulties being faced in the settlement of payments and bank guarantees. Some options have been

proposed by the Russian Side. Both Sides will consider various ways to address these issues.

44. The Sides supported the interest of PJSC Power Machines in expanding cooperation with Indian private and public companies in the field of electric power industry: upgrading of previously constructed and construction of new electric power facilities (TPPs, HPPs), supply of spare parts and equipment, as well as cooperation within the program "Make in India".
45. The Sides expressed their support for development of cooperation and continuation of discussions between PJSC Gazprom Neft and Indian oil and gas companies in exploring opportunities for joint development of oil fields on the land side and the Arctic shelf of Russia.
46. The Sides expressed interest in further developing the partnership between PJSC Gazprom Neft and ONGC Videsh and signing a final agreement on the joint development of projects on the shelf of the Pechora and Okhotsk Seas at an early date.
47. The Sides welcomed the cooperation between Joint-Stock Company United Engine-Building Corporation and EDAC Engineering Ltd. in supplying and promoting the Russian-made power equipment to the Indian market.
48. The Sides noted the interest of the Joint Stock Company United Engine Building Corporation in supplying gas turbine and gas-pumping equipment for energy-generating and hydrocarbon companies of the Republic of India.
49. The Sides noted the interest of Institute Hydroproject JSC in the joint participation with Indian companies in the program for development of infrastructure facilities in India.
50. The Sides welcomed the joint study conducted in 2017 on the gas pipeline supply routes from Russia and other countries to India.
51. The Sides agreed to continue to consult each other on the possible conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments to explore possibilities of constructing the gas pipeline to India.



52. The Sides expressed their support for continuing the expansion of the dialogue between PJSC NOVATEK and the energy companies of India and welcomed the joint intention to develop cooperation in the field of LNG.
53. The Russian Side expressed its interest in participation of Russian companies JSC Rusatom Service, JSC ROTEC and PJSC Power Machines in the projects of modernization and construction of power facilities in the Republic of India. In this regard, the Russian Side requested for the support of the Indian Side and is prepared to send further proposals.

#### **Nuclear Energy cooperation**

54. The Sides emphasized the importance of the cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of the atomic energy and resolved to continue to work in the areas of mutual interest.
55. The Sides noted the progress in the implementation of Kudankulam NPP and agreed to work together to achieve expected operational performances and scheduled completion of the project construction.
56. The Sides acknowledged the importance of the technical visit on the 1-5 July 2018 of the Indian delegation to Novovoronezh NPP-2 and will further hold technical consultations on VVER-1200.
57. The Sides agreed to work towards finalization of an Action Plan for prioritization and implementation of cooperation areas in the nuclear field identified jointly by India and Russia between Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation (“Rosatom”) and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India (the “DAE”) in a follow-up to the development of the Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy Between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation dated 11.12.2014 and the Programme of Action between Rosatom and the DAE for Localization of Manufacturing in India for Russian Designed NPPs dated 24.12.2015

**Healthcare cooperation**

58. The Sides confirmed their interest in continuing bilateral cooperation in the health sector.
59. The Sides agreed to actively cooperate in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Service for Surveillance in Healthcare and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, including the implementation of regular bilateral exchange of information on the detection of poor-quality and falsified medicines and pharmaceutical substances in their respective territories, including in the case of emergency.
60. The Russian side suggested considering a possibility of attracting Indian investments in chemical synthesis and production of pharmaceutical substances on the territory of the Russian Federation.
61. The Indian side suggested that keeping in view the liberalized FDI Policy & Ease of doing business under Make in India programme for Pharmaceuticals Sector as well as of Medical Devices, the Russian companies may be requested to explore the possibilities of investment in Pharma and Medical Devices Sectors. This will help the Russian companies to access the relatively low-cost skilled manpower. Moreover, local production facilities in Pharma and Medical Device Sectors will also provide a big marketing opportunity to the Russian companies in India, besides substantial import opportunity.
62. The Indian side requested clarifications concerning the limitation of validity period of registration approvals up to five years and requested that the practice of open-ended registration certificates may be continued, and an open-ended registration certificate be issued in the event of a subsequent successful state re-registration.
63. The Indian side requested the Russian side to consider the possibility of further extension of the concessions which were given till 2016 in Tender applications and bidding procedure for enabling Indian Drug manufacturers participate in the tendering process and by relaxing relevant provisions;



manufacturers may be allowed to produce in India and market the products in Russia. This could at least be considered in case of products which may not be locally manufactured by Russian or any other foreign manufacturers. Russian authorities are also requested to share the list of such products.

64. The Indian Side expressed interest that Russia may consider recognizing the clinical trials and evaluation of BEs done in India for drugs and medical devices. The Indian side requested the Russian side to consider the possibility of avoiding the necessity of conducting the second round of clinical trials. The Indian Side also expressed its desire that Regulators of both sides may explore the possibility of mutual recognition treaty.
65. Within the framework of cooperation in the field of medical education the Russian side, taking into account a high demand for medical specialists in India, considered it expedient to increase the number of Indian students studying in the Russian higher educational institutions and scientific organizations under the programs of higher medical and pharmaceutical education, the annual quota for training foreign citizens allocated by the Government of the Russian Federation at the expense of budget allocations of the Federal budget as well as on a contract basis.
66. The Sides confirmed their interest in continuing work on the draft Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Education and Academic Degrees for Medical Professions and agreed to facilitate the meetings of the Joint Working Group on Education, including visits to institutions where Indian students study.

#### **Science and Higher Education cooperation**

67. The Sides noted common approaches in the field of scientific research in Russia and India and confirmed the correspondence of state priorities in a number of areas of science and technology, which created favorable prerequisites for the further development of mutually beneficial scientific and technical cooperation.

68. The Sides gave a positive assessment of the implementation of joint projects between the Ministry of Science and High Education of the Russian Federation, the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, the Russian Science Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India and the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India.
69. The Sides stressed the need to ensure coherent terms of funding the joint activities within projects from the Russian and Indian sides, as well as informing in due course each other about changes in conditions, budgets and timing of joint projects.
70. The Sides appreciated the establishment of partnerships between Russian and Indian scientific and educational organizations for the implementation of joint research projects within the framework of various research programs.
71. The Sides expressed interest in developing direct partnerships between Russian and Indian organizations, carrying out educational activities on higher education programs, on the basis of bilateral cooperation agreements.
72. The Sides expressed their support for further expansion of the legal base of cooperation and agreed to accelerate the preparation of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India on the mutual recognition of education and academic degrees.
73. The Sides acknowledged the importance of the further implementation of the Integrated Long-Term Program of scientific and technical cooperation involving Russian and Indian chambers of commerce and industry and the Business Council for Cooperation with India and Russian Academy of Science. At the same time the Sides noted the necessity to start preparing a new roadmap for bilateral cooperation.
74. The Sides expressed support for organizing Russian-Indian round tables, seminars, conferences in the field of science and higher education aimed at promoting bilateral scientific and educational ties.



75. The Russian Side proposed to the Indian Side to jointly develop an action plan for the use of WorldSkills standards in the training system, including the human resources potential development measures in high-tech industries of both countries.

### **Banking and Finance cooperation**

76. The Russian side remains concerned with the arrears on the state loans provided to the Republic of India by the former USSR. As of July 25, 2018, according to the data of the Russian Side, these arrears amounted to USD 68.1 million. According to the Indian Side, the data remains in dispute due to reconciliation not being finalized of the documents concerning the matter. Both Sides agreed to make their best efforts to resolve this long-standing matter.
77. The Russian Side awaits the official response to the proposal of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation sent to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India in April 2017 to use the amount of the existing arrears on the state loans provided to the Republic of India by the former USSR to finance the increase of the Russian share in the authorized capital of the Russian-Indian joint venture "BrahMos Aerospace Limited", within the framework of debt-for-investment swap operation.
78. The Sides expressed their satisfaction with the 24th session of the Russian-Indian Working Group on Banking and Financial matters held on August 23-24, 2018 in Tula. During the session, the Sides agreed to continue joint efforts to strengthen interbank and insurance cooperation, as well as welcomed the proposal of the Russian side to expand the agenda by including the issue of cooperation in the sphere of financial markets of both countries.
79. The Sides expressed their commitment to supporting interbank cooperation including expansion of the correspondent relationship network and increasing the share of national currencies in bilateral contracts.

80. The Russian side noted the concern of Russian banks with broad interpretation of the third countries' restrictive measures imposed against Russian financial institutions by Indian banks.

The Russian side also noted the VTB's interest in continuing and intensifying cooperation with Indian banks and financial institutions in the areas of credit and financial cooperation, including opening of correspondent accounts in national currencies. The Indian Side expressed its willingness to support Indian banks for cooperation with VTB and other Russian banks.

The Russian Side proposed to consider suitable established financial transactions communication channels between Russian financial institutions and Indian financial institutions.

#### **Information and Communication Technologies cooperation**

81. The Sides agreed to accelerate consideration of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on International Roaming Tariffs Reduction between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India.
82. The Sides agreed to facilitate cooperation of relevant departments, associations and companies of Russia and India in the field of information and communication technologies, in particular in the sphere of introduction and use of technologies for automating public administration (e-government) as well as joint development of software, including operating systems and specialized industrial software.

#### **Culture and Tourism cooperation**

83. The Sides appreciated the existing level of interaction in the field of culture and art and expressed their readiness to take further measures to expand contacts and deepen cultural cooperation.
84. The Sides noted with satisfaction the agreements and protocols signed between the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry



of Culture and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations under the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India.

85. The Sides welcomed the dynamism in tourist exchanges between Russia and India and expressed their intention to enhance their growth further.

### **Space cooperation**

86. The Sides reaffirmed their interest in further development and intensification of bilateral cooperation in the field of joint scientific research and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, in particular, human space programme including life support system, crew module and astronaut training; advanced technologies in remote sensing of earth; ground stations for satellite navigation systems (GLONASS and NavIC); and space solar power systems.

### **Labour cooperation**

87. The Sides recognized the importance of having an Agreement on the subject of social security. The Sides agreed to exchange the respective drafts of the Agreement on Social Security between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India in order to start negotiations on this issue.

### **Urban Development cooperation**

88. The Russian side requested the Indian side to consider the possibility of establishing a Working Group on Urban Development, in particular to discuss matters in the area of construction, housing, urban environment and smart cities.
89. The Sides expressed their intention to develop cooperation in implementation of smart city projects, the introduction of modern information and innovative technologies and infrastructure solutions within these projects.

**Discussion on issues related to the properties located in the Russian Federation and in the Republic of India**

90. The Russian side expressed its concern about the incompleteness of formalities for registering the Russian Federation property rights for immovable property in India, located in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and called on the Indian Side to facilitate the early completion of registration of the rights of the Russian Federation.
91. The Indian side expressed its concern on the delay in finalizing its property issues in the Russian Federation. The final acceptability of the revised price for the Vladivostok property located at Ubovich street, 25, has been conveyed by the Indian side and awaits early conclusion of the deal. The Indian side also awaits Russian response to their proposals for allocation of suitable properties in St. Petersburg.
92. The Sides agreed to hold an initial meeting in New Delhi to discuss these issues in detail before the end of 2018.

**Interregional cooperation**

93. The Sides agreed to continue work on expanding direct trade and economic relations between regions of the Russian Federation and states of the Republic of India, establishing direct ties between economic entities through mutual participation in exhibitions and fairs, business missions, exchanges of information on products with export potential as well as on economic entities interested in establishing commercial contacts.
94. The Sides expressed their intention to continue work on establishing and developing partnership relations between the regions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of India, including partnership through signing of relevant agreements.
95. The Sides agreed to consider the possibility of organizing and holding in 2019 the First Russian-Indian Forum for Interregional Cooperation.
96. The Russian side informed the Indian side about the interest of the Astrakhan Region to invite Indian pharmaceutical companies to localize production in



the Special Economic Zone SEZ "Lotus", as well as Indian shipbuilding companies, machine and equipment manufacturers and companies from other related industries.

97. The Russian side proposed to the Indian side to consider the possibility of participation of Indian investors in the implementation of projects in the Sakhalin Region in the coal sector, production of building materials, fuel pallets from wood waste as well as construction of tourist infrastructure facilities.
98. The Russian side informed the Indian side about preparation of a business mission of the Sakhalin Region to India later this year. The business mission will be held as part of the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Sakhalin Region (Russian Federation) and the Government of the State of Assam (Republic of India) on trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation, concluded on May 25, 2018 at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.
99. The Sides noted the positive experience of companies with Indian investments in the territory of Primorsky Region.
100. The Sides agreed to actively consider the establishment of sister-city relations between Vladivostok (Russia) and Visakhapatnam (India).
101. The Russian side expressed its interest in attracting Indian companies to participate in joint production within the Titan Valley Special Economic Zone (Sverdlovsk Region), focusing on the development and manufacture of aviation equipment and aviation components. In this connection, the Indian Side encouraged the Russian Side to conduct roadshows in India and approach various chambers of commerce and industries in India.
102. The Russian side informed the Indian Side of commercial proposals of Russian companies (JSC Uralkhimmash, JSC Reagents of Vodokanal, LLC Scientific and Innovative Center UNITOK, LLC Krasnaya Zvezda, St. Petersburg State Unitary Enterprise "Vodokanal"). The Sides agreed to consider the possibility of including those projects into the list of Priority

Investment Projects. The Indian Side requested the Russian Side to share the detailed information on these projects.

103. The Russian side informed the Indian Side about the interest of Nonprofit Partnership "RUSSOFT" in organizing in India a part production and devices assembly for development of the system of quantum communications using Russian technology. The Russian Side will forward details of the proposal to the Indian Side.

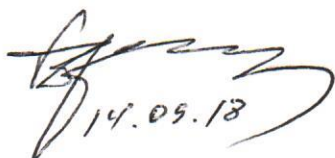
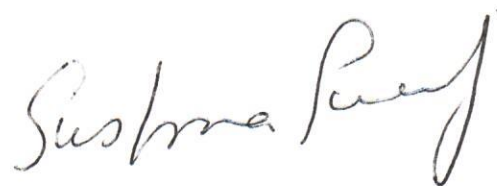
**Next meeting of the Commission**

104. The Sides agreed to hold the 24th Session of the Commission in 2019 in India. The date and agenda of the Session will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

105. This Protocol was signed on September 14, 2018 in Moscow in two originals in the English languages.

**For the Russian Side**

**For the Indian Side**

**Yuriy BORISOV**

**Sushma SWARAJ**

**Deputy Chairman  
Government of the Russian Federation,**

**Minister of External Affairs  
Government of India,**

**Chair of the Russian Side of the  
Commission**

**Chair of the Indian Side of the  
Commission**



**Annex I**

**Composition of the Russian delegation**

**Composition of the Indian delegation**

**Annex II**

**List of Russian-Indian priority investment projects**