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Russia Proffers Joint Helicopter Assembly in India

By The Moscow Times

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SEVERODVINSK — Moscow suggests that New Delhi should consider a possibility of setting up a joint venture to assemble Russia's Kamov helicopters in India, Russia's deputy prime minister said.

"We have a serious proposal for India which refers not only to purchases of Russian helicopters. Russia as India's strategic partner proposes setting up a joint venture, including on India's territory," Dmitry Rogozin said Saturday.

Rogozin said the agreement was reached after talks between India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Vladimir Putin last month.

"We are ready to make such a proposal on the Kamov helicopters," he said.

India is now the world's largest arms importer and Russian-made military equipment makes

up some 70 percent of India's arms purchases.

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