

Trump warns of 'substantial' hike in India tariff in 24 hrs

'Delhi Okay With 0% On US But It's Not Good Enough'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Ties between US and India are headed downhill on the slippery slope of Russian oil. Accusing New Delhi of "fuelling the (Russian) war machine", US President Donald Trump said he would, in the next 24 hours, raise tariffs on Indian exports "substantially" on top of the 25% he has already announced. In a phone-in interview on CNBC, Trump claimed that New Delhi had agreed to zero tariffs for US ex-

▶ **EDIT PAGE: No deal or temp deal?/From Russia...**

▶ **How much EU still loves Russian energy, P 15**

ports into India, but asserted that's not good enough because of the Russia issue.

"And if they're going to do that (fuel the war machine), then I'm not going to be happy," a peeved Trump said ho-

TRUMP TURBULENCE



▶ Trump says tariffs on semicon and pharma imports will be announced 'within next week or so'. 'In one year, 1.5 yrs maximum, it's going to go to 150% and then 250%'

▶ US should not burn its relationship with a 'strong ally like India' and give a pass to China, says Nikki Haley

▶ Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter and business

minister Guy Parmelin fly to DC in last-ditch effort to avoid 39% tariffs that have cast a pall over industries like chocolates, machinery and watchmaking

▶ Trump says US is close to a trade deal with China and that he would meet President Xi Jinping before the end of the year if an agreement is struck

▶ President says treasury secy Scott Bessent told him he didn't want to be nominated to replace Jerome Powell as Fed chief

INSIDE JACKET

India has right to pick trade partners: Russia

Russia said Tuesday that sovereign countries have the right to select their partners in trade and economic cooperation based on their interests, a day after Trump threatened to raise tariffs on India for buying Russian oil. "We believe sovereign countries must have and do have the right to choose their trade partners on their own and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. PTI

urs after New Delhi defiantly said it would continue to buy Russian oil, arguing that Washington had actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability.

The fact that former US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has confirmed this appears to have irked the Trump White House, which suggests that the Biden administration gave India a free pass. The rules have

Trump: 'Seriously woke' JLR in absolute turmoil

Shortly after Tata Motors group CFO P B Balaji was named the next CEO of Jaguar Land Rover, Donald Trump ripped into the company saying it was in "absolute turmoil" and its boss had left the firm "in disgrace".

The US president also slammed the British luxury automaker's recent rebranding campaign as "stupid" and "seriously woke", posting on Truth Social, "Who wants to buy a Jaguar after looking at that disgraceful ad?"

A video teaser released last year for the new branding featured expressionless models and bright colours — but no vehicles. AGENCIES

now changed, forcing New Delhi, and many other countries, to consider switching policy depending on which party comes to office in America.

▶ Continued on P 15

MoD clears big arms deals, including BrahMos, armed drones, worth ₹67,000cr

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New Delhi: The defence ministry on Tuesday gave the initial nod for the procurement of 87 new heavy-duty armed drones and over 110 more air-launched BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, which IAF used as the primary weapon to strike Pakistani airbases and radar sites in May, among several modernisation proposals collectively worth Rs 67,000 crore.

The acceptance of necessity (AoN) granted by the Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for the 87 armed medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) remotely-piloted aircraft will see an Indian company tying up with a foreign one to produce the drones with "an indigenous content of 60%". "The need for such MA-

'Psychological impact of long-range hits on Pak'

The long-range precision strikes during the cross-border hostilities in May caused "a huge psychological impact" in Pakistan, CDS General Anil Chauhan said on Tuesday. He emphasised the need to adapt swiftly to disruptive technologies, rethink legacy structures and prioritise synergy across the Army, Navy and IAF. **P 12**

LE drones, armed with air-to-ground missiles and laser-guided bombs as well as capable of operating at long ranges, was acutely felt for the three services during Operation Sindoor," a senior official told TOI.

► **Related report, P 26**

Nat'l election could be held in Feb, says Yunus

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Bangladesh interim govt chief **Muhammad Yunus** on Tuesday marked the one year anniversary since the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina govt by calling on people to build a 'New Bangladesh' as he said that the national election could be held before Ramadan in Feb.

In a televised speech in the evening, Yunus said, "We, on behalf of govt, will provide all kinds of help and cooperation so that this election can be conducted in a fair, peaceful and festive manner."

"On behalf of the govt, we will send a letter to the chief election commissioner, so that the election commission organises the national election before the next Ramadan, in Feb 2026," he said, adding "for many years, none of us could vote, but this time, we will all vote", a reference to alleged irregularities during polls held under the Hasina govt.

Earlier in the day, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who is

leading the interim govt as its chief adviser until the national election is held, also unveiled the 'July Declaration' to mark the "uprising" that led to the Hasina govt's fall on Aug 5.

"The 'July Declaration' will feature in the schedule of the reformed Constitution as framed by govt formed through the next national elec-

tion," he said, while reading out the 28-point declaration in presence of top political leaders representing BNP, Jamaat, National Citizen Party and

others at an event here.

"The people express a strong desire to bring under trial crimes involving all kinds of oppression, violence and looting of state property and also crimes of enforced disappearance and murder, individual and mass killings, and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the fascist Awami League govt during the 16-year-long anti-fascist agitation of the people of Bangladesh and during the July mass uprising of 2024," the declaration said.



Deadly flash flood flattens village near Gangotri; 4 dead, 50+ missing

Over 130 Rescued,
9 Armymen
Among Missing

Gaurav Talwar & Kautilya Singh

Dehradun: Four people died, more than 50 are feared missing and over three dozen buildings were destroyed after a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst or a glacial burst hit Dharali village near Gangotri in Uttarkashi district around 1.50pm on Tuesday.

The flood, which flattened homes, hotels, homestays and the market area, injured several others and later struck

► **EDIT: Angry clouds, rivers**

Harsil. District officials said over 130 people were rescued from the village by late evening. Preliminary estimates suggest over 100 families, along with around 45 hotels, homestays and houses, were hit by the flash flood, though the administration is yet to

MORE THAN 3 DOZEN BLDGS GONE IN 20 SECS



This sequence of videographs shows a massive mass of water and slush approaching Dharali village and then hitting structures in the hamlet with a force that flattened multistorey houses within a span of 20 seconds. The mudslide also hit an Army unit around 7km downstream at Harsil

confirm the exact figures.

The first flood wave was channelled through the Kheer Gad ghadera (stream) into the Bhagirathi river, causing widespread damage. By 4pm, it had hit an Army camp at Harsil, running through buildings and the helipad. At least

nine Army personnel were missing following the deluge.

The floodwaters, laden with debris, carried sludge and boulders into the Kheer Gad river catchment area, burying homes and businesses.

► **Continued on P 22**

Cause: Glacial burst?

The flash flood that ravaged Dharali was likely caused by a glacier collapse or glacial lake breach upstream, rather than a cloudburst, several experts said after studying weather and satellite data. **P 22**

Eye on Beijing, Delhi & Manila unite in strategic partnership

China Objects To Joint Patrol In South China Sea

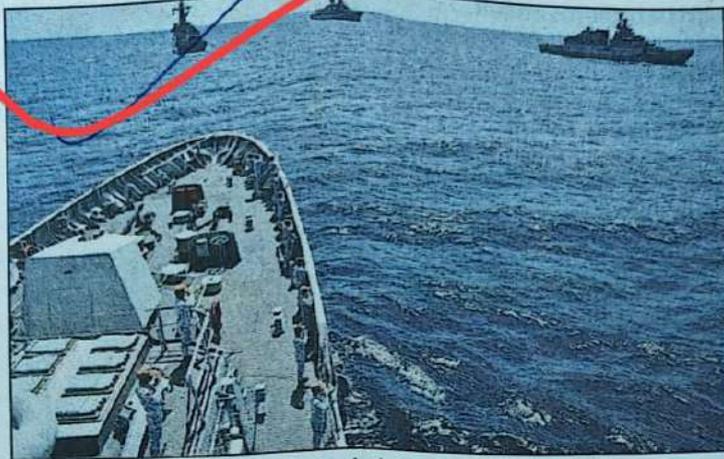
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New Delhi: India and the Philippines upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership with focus on expanding defence, security and maritime cooperation, as PM Modi on Tuesday hosted President Ferdinand Marcos Jr for bilateral talks.

The two sides signed 13 agreements and MoUs, which included finalisation of terms of reference for cooperation between all three wings of the armed forces, as Modi expressed support for freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific in line with international laws.

Amid protests by China against joint patrolling by India and the Philippines in the South China Sea (SCS), both sides expressed concern over "coercive and aggressive actions" there that impact regional peace and stability and called upon relevant parties to exercise self-restraint and commit to peaceful and constructive means to resolve and manage disputes.

According to a joint statement, the leaders underscored



While Indian Navy ships undertook their first joint patrol of South China Sea with the Philippines, Beijing accused Manila of 'rallying an external country to interfere in SCS'. China did not name India

that the final and binding 2016 arbitral award on the SCS was a significant milestone and the basis for peacefully resolving disputes in accordance with international law. The award had refuted China's expansive claims on SCS waters in its dispute with Manila. In 2023, India had for the first time explicitly called upon China to abide by the ruling and followed it up with a similar assertion in a joint statement with Quad a year later.

Among other key takeaways from the meeting was adoption of terms of reference for negotiations for a preferential trade agreement and signing of an agreement for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The leaders

also adopted a plan of action (2025-2029) for implementation of the strategic partnership. India also announced a gratis e-tourist visa facility for Filipino nationals for a period of one year.

Modi also thanked Marcos, who has been looking to ramp up defence and security cooperation with countries like India and Japan amid increasing tensions with China in the SCS, for a strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

"As maritime nations, maritime cooperation between the two countries is both natural and necessary. Today, when the President is in India, three ships of the Indian Navy are participating

in a naval exercise in the Philippines for the first time. India's hydrography ship is also involved in this," Modi said, adding that India and Philippines are friends by choice, and partners by destiny.

The leaders called for expeditious conclusion of negotiations for the preferential trade agreement (PTA) for promotion of mutual trade and Manila expressed interest in procuring more defence equipment from India, apart from the BrahMos missile defence systems India is already supplying to it. For India, helping Manila build up its defence capabilities is also a way of getting back at Beijing, a major defence supplier to Pakistan.

The visit by Marcos, who backed interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries, coincided with India's first joint patrol of the SCS with the Philippines. The PLA accused the Philippines of "rallying an external country to interfere in the SCS by organising so-called joint patrols which undermine regional peace and stability". It did not name India.

The visit by Marcos also took place ahead of a likely visit to China by Modi later this month for the SCO summit. Talks are also on for a possible visit by Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi to India this month.

Armed forces hope to induct 87 new MALE drones, which are faster than 'Predator' HALE

► Continued from P1

The 87 drones, with ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) and weapon-carrying capability, will cost around Rs 20,000 crore. Another Rs 11,000 crore will be for logistical and other support by the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) for 10 years," the senior official added.

India, of course, had used Israeli-origin Harop and Harpy kamikaze drones, which act as cruise missiles by exploding into enemy assets and radars, to hit targets deep inside Pakistan during the May 7-10 hostilities.

The armed forces hope to induct the 87 new MALE drones, which return to their bases after strike missions, faster than the 31-armed MQ-9B 'Predator' HALE (high-altitude, long endurance) drones ordered from the US for Rs 32,350 crore in Oct last year, which will be de-



File photo

The total value of deals inked for BrahMos has crossed Rs 58,000 crore over the years

livered only in the 2029-30 timeframe.

The over 110 air-launched BrahMos missiles, which are jointly manufactured by India and Russia, in turn, will cost around Rs 10,800 crore.

These 450-km range missiles, which fly almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, combined with Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, with a combat radius of about 1,500-km, constitute a deadly weapons package, as was witnessed during Operation Sindoor.

The DAC also accorded AoN for

eight BrahMos fire control systems and vertical launchers for older Indian warships for Rs 650 crore.

Around 20 frontline warships, including the latest destroyers and frigates, are already armed with the BrahMos missiles. In March last year, the defence ministry had inked a Rs 19,519 crore deal for procurement of over 220 BrahMos missiles for frontline warships with the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace. The total value of deals inked for BrahMos has crossed Rs 58,000 crore over the years, with the missiles becoming the "prime conventional (non-nuclear) precision strike weapons" for the armed forces.

For the Army, the DAC gave the nod for new thermal imager-based driver night-sights for infantry combat vehicles (BMPs). "This would provide higher mobility and operational advantage," another official said.