

# Dates for Putin's India visit 'almost' finalised, says Doval

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India and Russia have "almost" finalised the date for President Vladimir Putin's visit to India for the annual India-Russia summit, said NSA Ajit Doval during his visit to Moscow. Both sides had said last year Putin would travel to India in 2025 for the annual summit but they have not been able to confirm a date till now for what would be the president's first visit to India since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Official sources later said no specific time or date had been indicated by the NSA in his engagements. They also denied Russian media reports that Putin is coming in Aug. The leaders are likely to meet in any case this month on the margins of the SCO summit in Tianjin. Doval also called on Putin during his visit.

"We are very excited to learn about the visit of President Putin to India. I think the dates are almost finalised. Summit-level meetings have always been watershed points that have given direction to the relationship," said Doval in a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu in which they discussed energy and defence cooperation. Underscoring time-tested ties with India, the Russian official said Moscow is ready to work with India to form



File photo of PM Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Brics Summit in Kazan, Russia, in Oct 2024

a just and sustainable world order and ensure the supremacy of international law.

Putin's visit will also follow a US-India trade war that has been exacerbated further by US President Trump's efforts to force India to cut down energy and defence imports from Russia. With the Kremlin confirming that Putin and Trump are likely to meet in the "coming days", India is hoping Trump would be successful in brokering a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire that would take care also of some of the sticking points in India's ties with the US. Doval was briefed about US special envoy Steve Witkoff's talks with Putin that led to the announcement about a Trump-Putin meeting. EAM S Jaishankar is also scheduled to travel to Moscow soon.

Doval expressed hope that the Modi-Putin summit would provide new directions for development of bilateral ties and produce a "tangible and substantial" outcome. Doval further said that under prevailing global uncertainties, the India-Russia old strategic and privileged partnership has got a very special role to play. He also thanked Russia for support after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Shoigu was quoted as saying that for Moscow, the most important thing is to comprehensively strengthen the special privileged strategic partnership with India, which is based on "mutual respect, trust, equal consideration of each other's interests, and the desire to promote a unifying agenda".

# Brazil's Lula dials PM as Trump slaps 50% tariff on both nations

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New Delhi: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva dialled PM Modi to discuss "imposition of unilateral tariffs", exploring possibility of greater integration between the two countries. Backing India's upcoming Brics presidency, Lula accepted Modi's invitation to visit India early next year, according to a readout by his office.



Both Brazil and India have been slapped with 50% tariffs by the US & Lula earlier this week, when asked about Trump's remark that the Brazilian president was going to call him, had said he was going to dial Modi. While India has chosen to avoid any direct confrontation with Trump, Lula has taken him on, ruling out direct talks between him and the US president that he said would end in "humiliation". Brazil, however, is still negotiating for a trade deal with the US like India.

Lula said during the hour-long conversation that Brazil and India are the two countries most affected by tariffs and both leaders, according to a Brazilian statement, reaffirmed the importance of defending multilateralism and the need to address the challenges of the current situation.

On his talks with Lula, Modi later said in a post on X that a strong, people-centric partnership between Global South nations benefits everyone.

As a preparatory step for Lula's visit, according to Brazil, the leaders agreed that Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin

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will travel to India next Oct for the Trade Monitoring Mechanism meeting. "The delegation will include Brazilian ministers and business people to discuss cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical minerals, health, and digital inclusion," said the Brazilian statement.

A separate statement by India said the leaders exchanged views on regional and global issues and agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, tech, energy, defence, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties. Modi recalled his visit to Brazil last month during which the two agreed on a framework to strengthen ties in same areas.

"Building on these discussions, they reiterated their commitment to take India-Brazil Strategic Partnership to new heights. The two leaders exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch," said the Indian statement.

According to a Reuters report from Brasilia, Lula has said he is open to negotiating a trade deal with the US, but dismissed Trump's complaints about the trial of his right-wing ally and former president Jair Bolsonaro as a threat to Brazilian sovereignty & judicial independence.

# Munir to visit US for 2nd time in 2 mths

## Trip To Deepen Military Ties Stirs Political Backlash

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, is set to visit the US for the second time in two months, a move that underscores the growing military alignment between Islamabad and Washington yet also highlights the intensifying political divisions Munir faces at home and abroad.

He is expected to attend the farewell ceremony of US Central Command (Centcom) commander General Michael E Kurilla in Tampa, Florida this week. The visit follows Kurilla's own trip to Pakistan in July du-

ring which he was awarded the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military), one of the country's top honours, for strengthening defence ties.

This renewed military engagement reflects a strategic recalibration after years of tension. In June, Munir made headlines for being hosted at a private White House lunch by US President Donald Trump, an unprecedented gesture for a Pakistani military chief, notably unaccompanied by any civilian leaders.

However, Munir's engagements in the US have not gone unchallenged. On Aug 5, coordinated protests erupted in multiple US and European cities on the call of imprisoned former PM Imran Khan, demanding his release and condemning the military's role in the post-May 9, 2023 crackdown. The de-

monstrations – organized largely by the Pakistani diaspora and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chapters – signaled Khan's continued influence despite being behind bars. These protests followed similar scenes in June during Munir's previous US visit. Outside Washington's Four Seasons Hotel, demonstrators shouted slogans such as "mass murderer" and "dictator". PTI supporters accuse the military of orchestrating a "civilian façade" to mask what they call outright military rule.

As Munir heads to Tampa, he faces a dual test: to solidify Pakistan's global standing while fending off mounting domestic and diaspora opposition. For now, the military's control remains unshaken – but so does the resistance.



# Forces release joint doctrines for cyberspace, amphibious ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The armed forces have come up with new joint doctrines for cyberspace and amphibious operations, with the former especially emerging as a key element of non-contact warfare, blurring the demarcation between war and peace.

The "declassified versions" of the doctrines were released during a meeting chaired by Chief of Defence Staff General **Anil Chauhan** with the three Service

chiefs, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, General Upendra Dwivedi and Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, here on Thursday.



Cyberspace operations have become critical in modern-day warfare, especially in the backdrop of China developing potent cyber warfare and cyber espionage capabilities.

"The armed forces are conscious of the pursuits in the cyberspace domain by our adversaries, including software and hardware initiatives, which are indicative of the increased threats of

aggressive cyberspace exploitation," the CDS said, in the doctrine's foreword.

"Operations in cyberspace can be equated to manoeuvre warfare, where speed and agility are of utmost importance... The armed forces, through a collaborative whole of nation approach, will befittingly respond to and face the challenges posed by our adversaries in cyberspace," he added.

The doctrine outlines a unified approach to defend national cyberspace interests, integrating offensive and defensive cyber capabilities.

# PM: Will protect our farmers, ready to pay heavy price for it

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New Delhi: PM Modi responded on Thursday to US President Donald Trump's decision to raise the tariff against India to 50% by ruling out concessions to American business in the agriculture, dairy and fishery sectors, and said he was ready to pay any price

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ce he may personally have to pay for resisting the pressure. "For us, the interests of our farmers is top priority. India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, dairy farmers and fishermen. I know I will personally have to pay a heavy price but I am prepared for it," Modi said.

The PM's remarks came hours after Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff burden on Indian goods as a penalty for, ostensibly, buying Russian oil, bringing the overall duty

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## To beat 50% duty, exporters rush shipments

Indian exporters are rushing shipments ahead of the Aug 27 deadline, when the customs duty becomes 50%. For several exporters, advancing shipments has meant that manpower has been redeployed to meet the requirements of US buyers. Indian businesses have worked out an arrangement with several buyers where the 25% burden is being split equally. P 26

on Indian exports to 50% and further fanning tariff tensions. US's insistence on access to agriculture, dairy and fishery sectors has been among the major points of discord, with India putting its fo-

ot down. "For the farmers of my country, for the fishermen of my country, for the livestock rearers of my country, Bharat stands ready today," he said.

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## Trump: 2x on India a warning to China

Trump said that the 25% secondary tariff on India is a warning for China, amid indications that New Delhi is becoming collateral damage in a great power fracas. Asked if China could face similar penalties for buying Russian oil, he said, "It may happen. I don't know, I can't tell you yet. We are doing it probably with a couple of others, one of them could be China." P 23

## Lula speaks to Modi on 'unilateral' tariffs

Slapped with the highest 50% rate, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in an hour-long call with PM Modi Thursday, discussed the "imposition of unilateral tariffs", exploring the possibility of greater integration between the two countries. Lula also accepted Modi's invitation to visit India early next year. P 13