

# No trade talks with India until tariffs issue is resolved: Trump

By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Aug 8 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has ruled out the possibility of trade negotiations with India, until the issue of tariffs is resolved. "No, not until we get it resolved," Trump said in the Oval Office on Thursday in response to a question on whether he expects increased trade negotiations with India since he has announced 50 per cent tariffs on the country.

Last week, Trump had announced 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India that came into effect from August 7. The US President also signed an execu-

tive order slapping an additional 25 per cent levy on India for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total duties to 50 per cent, among the highest imposed by the US on any country in the world.

The additional 25 per cent duty will come into effect after 21 days or August 27. Responding to the tariffs, the Ministry of External Affairs has said that the targeting of India is "unjustified and unreasonable". "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," it said. On the current situation between India and the US, prominent Indian-American attorney Ravi Batra said "much more is at stake"

amid Trump's tariffs.

He described as "unfortunate" that Russian President Vladimir Putin did not accept a ceasefire with Ukraine as wanted by Trump. "Hurting India is to hurt Russia," Batra said in a post on X. "But it hurts us too, much more," he said adding that America needs the Russian president to enter into a "genuine" ceasefire with Ukraine, "free-of-deception by any, and then get President Xi (Jinping of China) and Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi to be American allies too, along with Putin."

"It's time for a mature reset, or we risk a domino effect that hurts all and unravels multilateralism and gives us unbridled chaos

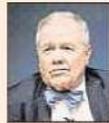
(Contd on page 3)

Read Editorial **BEYOND 'SELF'** on page 6



## Trump certainly doesn't know what's happening in Asia, India: Jim Rogers

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 (IANS)



AS US President Donald Trump imposes 25 per cent tariffs on India, with an additional 25 per cent slated to come into effect from August 27, ace American investor Jim Rogers said on Friday that Trump doesn't understand much of the world, and he certainly doesn't understand what's happening in Asia and particularly, India.

Speaking to IANS, Rogers who is one of the top financial commentators in the world, said that India remains the fastest growing economy in the world and Washington should actually be doing a lot of business with New Delhi rather than hampering long-standing trade and

(Contd on page 3)

## Trump's 'tariff tantrum' risks years of US-India relations: Gregory Meeks

NEW YORK, Aug 8 (PTI)



US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's latest "tariff tantrum" risks years of careful work to build a stronger US-India partnership, a prominent American Congressman has said. Representative Gregory Meeks, a Democrat and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Dems, said that the US has "deep strategic, economic, and people-to-people ties" with India.

"Trump's latest tariff tantrum risks years of careful work to build a stronger US-India partnership," Meeks said in a post on X. "Concerns should be addressed in a mutually respectful way consistent with our democratic values," he

(Contd on page 3)

**A word of CAUTION**

Much more is at stake: American attorney Ravi Batra

# Army, IAF seek 200 light helicopters to replace **CHETAK-CHEETAH FLEET**

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 (ANI)

---

THE Defence Ministry has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to replace its fleet of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters with about 200 modern light helicopters classified as Reconnaissance and Surveillance Helicopters (RSH).

The new helicopters will serve both the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF), with an expected requirement of 120 units for the Army and 80 for the Air Force. The RFI aims to finalise technical requirements, decide the procurement method, and identify potential suppliers, including Indian companies partnering with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), who can supply Reconnaissance and Surveillance Helicopters.

These helicopters will have multiple roles, operating day and night.

Their duties will include reconnaissance and surveillance, carrying small troops or Quick Reaction Teams for special missions, supporting ground operations with internal and external loads, scouting alongside attack helicopters, casualty evacuation including search and rescue, and aiding civil authorities when required.

# Xi, Putin discuss Ukraine war ahead of Russia, US summit

■ By K J M Varma

BEIJING, Aug 8 (PTI)

**CHINESE** President Xi Jinping on Friday spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the phone ahead of the latter's planned summit with Donald Trump to discuss the future course of the Ukraine war.

During the phone call, held at the request of Putin, the Russian leader briefed Moscow's views on the current situation of the Ukrainian crisis and recent contacts and communications between Russia and the US, a statement released by the Foreign Ministry here said.

In his phone call, Putin, who is expected to visit China later this month to take part in the SCO summit in Tianjin, emphasised that the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination will remain unchanged under any circumstances, the statement said.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

summit is due to be held on Aug 31 and Sept 1.

After the summit, Putin is expected to stay back to witness the massive military parade of the Chinese military to be held in Beijing on Sept 3 to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

During the phone conversation, Xi told Putin that China will remain consistent in its position on the Ukraine crisis and continue to promote peace talks no matter how the situation evolves.

Xi said that complex problems have no simple solutions and elaborated on China's principles and position on the Ukraine crisis, the statement said.

*(Contd on page 3)*



# Modi, Putin reaffirm commitment to deepening ties

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over phone during which the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

Putin briefed Modi on his country's ongoing conflict with Ukraine, with the Prime Minister reiterating India's consistent position for its peaceful resolution.



The conversation between the two leaders came amid

US President Donald Trump ratcheting up pressure on India over its purchase of Russian oil.

Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order, slapping an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for the purchase of Russian oil, bringing the total duties to 50 per cent -- among the highest imposed by the US on any country in the world. The additional 25 per cent duty will come into effect on

August 27.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest develop-

ments on Ukraine. "We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to

Time & Tide  
SWIFT DIPLOMACY  
on page 6



hosting President Putin in India later this year."

It will be the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement, "President Putin briefed the PM on the latest developments concerning Ukraine". "While thanking President Putin for his detailed assessment, the Prime Minister reiterated India's consistent position for peaceful resolution of the conflict," it said.

The two leaders also reviewed progress in the bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed their commitment to  
*(Contd on page 3)*