

Putin-Trump summit: Russia, Ukraine hold fast to demands

KYIV, Aug 10 (AP)

THE threats, pressure and ultimatums have come and gone, but Russian President Vladimir Putin has maintained Moscow's uncompromising demands in the war in Ukraine, raising fears he could use a planned summit with US President Donald Trump in Alaska to coerce Kyiv into accepting an unfavourable deal.

The maximalist demands reflect Putin's determination to reach the goals he set when he launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Putin sees a possible meeting with Trump as a chance to negotiate a broad deal that would not only cement Russia's territorial gains but also keep Ukraine from joining NATO and hosting any Western troops, allowing Moscow to gradually pull the country back into its orbit.

The Kremlin leader believes time is on his side as the exhausted and outgunned Ukrainian forces are struggling to stem Russian advances in many sectors of the over 1,000-kilometre front line while swarms of



Russian missiles and drones batter Ukrainian cities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also has stood firm in his positions, agreeing to a ceasefire proposed by Trump while reaffirming the country's refusal to abandon seeking NATO membership and rejecting acknowledgement of Russia's annexation of any of its regions. A look at Russian and Ukrainian visions of a peace deal and how a Putin-Trump summit could evolve:

RUSSIA'S POSITION: In a memorandum presented at talks in Istanbul in June, Russia offered

Ukraine two options for establishing a 30-day ceasefire. One demanded Ukraine withdraw its forces from Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson—the four regions Moscow illegally annexed in September 2022 but never fully captured.

As an alternate condition for a ceasefire, Russia made a "package proposal" for Ukraine to halt mobilisation efforts, freeze Western arms deliveries and ban any third-country forces on its soil. Moscow also suggested Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the countries could sign a comprehensive

peace treaty. Once there's a truce, Moscow wants a deal to include the "international legal recognition" of its annexations of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the four regions in 2022.

Russia says a peace treaty should have Ukraine declare its neutral status between Russia and the West, abandon its bid to join NATO, limit the size of its armed forces and recognise Russian as an official language on par with Ukrainian — conditions reflecting Putin's earliest goals.

UKRAINE'S POSITION: The memorandum that Ukraine presented to Moscow in Istanbul emphasised the need for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to set stage for peace negotiations. It reaffirmed Ukraine's consistent rejection of Russian demands for neutral status as an attack on its sovereignty, declaring it is free to choose its alliances and adding that its NATO membership will depend on consensus with the alliance.

It emphasised Kyiv's rejection of any restrictions on the size and other parameters of its armed forces, as well as curbs on

the presence of foreign troops on its soil. Ukraine's memorandum also opposed recognising any Russian territorial gains, while describing the current line of contact as a starting point in negotiations.

The document noted the need for international security guarantees to ensure the implementation of peace agreements and prevent further aggression.

TRUMP'S POSITIONS: Trump has often spoken admiringly of Putin and even echoed his talking points on the war. He had a harsh confrontation with Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on February 28, but later warmed his tone. As Putin resisted a ceasefire and continued his aerial bombardments, Trump showed exasperation with the Kremlin leader, threatening Moscow with new sanctions. Although Trump expressed disappointment with Putin, his agreement to meet him without Zelenskyy at the table raised worries in Ukraine and its European allies, who fear it could allow the Russian to get Trump on his side and strong-arm Ukraine into concessions.

Pakistan lost Rs 4.1 bn after airspace ban on Indian flights

■ **By Sajjad Hussain**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10 (PTD)

PAKISTAN'S airport body suffered a loss of Rs 4.1 billion in over two months due to the closure of airspace for Indian airlines, according to official data. Pakistan and India closed their respective airspaces for each other's airlines following the deadly Pahalgam terrorist attack in Kashmir on April 22, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

The airspace ban was extended after ties between the two countries deteriorated due to the four-day conflict as India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and destroyed terror infrastructure in territories con-

trolled by Pakistan.

The Ministry of Defence informed the National Assembly on Friday that the closure of airspace to Indian-registered aircraft has cost the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) a loss of Rs 4.1 billion, reported the 'Dawn' newspaper. The Ministry said the shortfall, from April 24 to June 30, was in overflying revenue.

It added that the amounts reflected "revenue shortfalls, not overall financial losses" and noted that overflight and aeronautical charges remained unchanged. Pakistan's airspace is open to all except Indian airlines and aircraft. Similarly, Pakistani carriers remain banned from Indian airspace.

Operation Sindoor was unlike any conventional mission: Army chief

NEW DELHI, Aug 10 (PTI)

ARMY Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has said that Operation Sindoor was akin to playing a game of chess as “we did not know” what would be the enemy’s next move, and though the “test match stopped on the fourth day”, it could have been a protracted conflict.

He also emphasised the importance of “narrative management” in such a scenario as “victory is in mind”, and said, if you ask a Pakistani “whether you lost or won, he’d say, my (Army) chief has become a Field Marshal, we must have won only, that’s why he has become a Field Marshal”.

The Army chief made the remarks in his address at a function held at IIT-Madras on August 4. The video of his address was shared by the Army over the weekend. Without naming any country, the Army chief also underlined the threat perception, and said, “next time, it may be much more, and whether that country will do it alone, or supported by some other country, we don’t know. But, I have a strong hunch, feeling, that country will not be alone. That is where we have to be careful.”



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi addresses the gathering at IIT Madras, in Chennai, on Sunday. (PTI)

The Army chief used the analogies of chess and cricket to emphasise the intricacies of Operation Sindoor, India’s decisive military action launched in May on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

The operation led to a four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that was halted after an understanding reached between the two sides on May

10. Using the metaphor of the chess game, General Dwivedi said, “In Operation Sindoor what we did, we played chess. So, what does it mean? It means, we did not know what is the next move, the enemy is going to take, and what we are going to do. This is something, we call.. The grey zone. Grey zone is that we are not going for the conventional operations. But, we are doing something, just short of a conventional operation.”

'ISRO to launch 6,500 kg US communication satellite'

CHENNAI, Aug 10 (PTI)

AFTER marking a humble beginning in the Indian space programme with a tiny rocket supplied by the United States, ISRO would launch a 6,500 kg communication satellite built by the US in the next couple of months, the Chairman of the space agency, V Narayanan said.

Following the historic launch of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission onboard a GSLV-F16 rocket on July 30, ISRO would be launching another satellite for the United States, he said at an event near Chennai.

Narayanan, who is also the Secretary of Department of Space, was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, by the Governor of Maharashtra CP Radhakrishnan, during the 21st Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology at Kattankulathur



ISRO Chairman V Narayanan

near Chennai.

In his acceptance speech, Narayanan recalled that the ISRO was set up in 1963 and the country was 6-7 years behind advanced countries then. In the same year, a tiny rocket was donated by the United States marking the beginnings of the

Indian Space Programme. "It was on November 21, 1963," he said.

In 1975, through satellite data given by the US, ISRO demonstrated 'mass communication' by keeping 2,400 television sets across 2,400 villages of 6 Indian States, he said.

"From that (kind of humble

beginnings), the 30th of July was a historical day for the Indian space programme. We have launched the NISAR satellite. The costliest satellite ever built in the world. The L Band SAR payload from the USA and S Band payload provided by ISRO. The satellite was placed in orbit precisely by Indian launcher (GSLV). And today, we are shoulder to shoulder with advanced countries," Narayanan remarked.

He noted that the team from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) lauded their counterparts in ISRO for the precision launch of the GSLV-F16/NISAR Mission.

"In another couple of months, a country which received a tiny rocket from the United States, is going to launch a 6,500 kg communication satellite built by America using our own launcher from Indian soil. What a significant growth it is," he noted.

Pak Army chief Munir on second visit to US



Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir with outgoing US CENTCOM Chief General Michael E. Kurilla in Tampa, Florida.

■ **By Sajjad Hussain**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10 (PTI)

PAKISTAN Army chief Asim Munir, who is visiting Washington for the second time since the four-day conflict with India, has met top US political and military leaders, the army said on Sunday.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) "is undertaking an official visit to the United States", the army said in a statement released here.

The army chief engaged in high-level interactions with sen-

ior political and military leadership as well as members of the Pakistani diaspora, according to the statement.

No details were shared about his stay in the US, and it was also not clear when he arrived.

In Tampa, Munir attended the Retirement Ceremony of outgoing US Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander General Michael E. Kurilla, and the Change of Command Ceremony, marking the assumption of command by Admiral Brad Cooper.