

Trump looks set to abandon UKRAINE PEACE EFFORTS

LONDON, Sept 27 (The Conversation)

DONALD Trump appears to have had a major change of heart regarding Ukraine. On the face of it, it looks like he has embraced outright optimism that Kyiv “is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form”.

This came with the message that Europeans will need to be in the driving seat to make this happen. According to Trump, a Ukrainian victory depends on “time, patience, and the financial support of Europe and, in particular, NATO”.

The only US commitment is “to supply weapons to NATO for NATO to do what they want with them”.

Most tellingly, Trump signed his Truth Social missive off with: “Good luck to all!” This is perhaps the clearest indication yet

that the US President is walking away from his efforts to strike a peace deal.

It also suggests that he has given up on a separate deal with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. But this is where the good news ends – and where the European-led coalition of the willing will need to deliver security and stability for the continent in an ever more volatile environment.

After several weeks of Russian incursions into Nato airspace, drones – thought highly likely to be linked to Russia – twice disrupted Danish airspace in the vicinity of Copenhagen airport. It felt like a presentiment of the dystopian drone wars predicted by Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, in his speech at the UN General Assembly in New York on September 24.

FM to inaugurate 4th KEC on Oct 3

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will inaugurate the 4th Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2025) with the theme 'Seeking Prosperity in Turbulent Times' here on October 3.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will close the proceedings with reflections on India's foreign and economic policy on October 5, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The three-day KEC 2025 promises to be a dynamic forum, combining India's domestic priorities with global perspectives and charting pathways to prosperity in a time of turbulence, it added. Building on its rich expe-

rience, KEC has significantly improved its quality and international presence with 75 participants from abroad, representing over 30 countries, to focus on contemporary challenges, it noted.

Special luncheon sessions will include a forward-looking session on 'Communications: Emerging Technologies' led by Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia with leading experts on AI and digital infrastructure.

The conclave will culminate in

a high-level plenary on global macroeconomic prudence, chaired by PK Mishra, Principal

Secretary to the Prime Minister, bringing

together senior policymakers and economists to evaluate the health of the world economy and the reforms needed in financial governance, the Ministry said.

"This year's theme, 'Seeking Prosperity in

Turbulent Times', is relevant both in the context of India's growth aspirations and its success in navigating times of exceptional uncertainty, turbulence and changing geopolitics," it

added. The Ministry further said the agenda blends immediate policy priorities with longer-term shifts.

Sessions will address Asia's emergence as a global growth hub, the evolving BRICS architecture, financial stability, and new directions in industrial policy. Among the highlights, Jean-Claude Trichet, Honorary Governor of the Banque de France, will be in conversation with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on the challenges of central banking in turbulent times.

Other international leaders include Mari Elka Pangestu, former Indonesian Minister of Trade and Taro Kono, Member of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party.



Army issues Rs 30,000 cr tender for buying 'Anant Shastra' air defence missile systems



■ **By Ajit Dubey**
NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (ANI)

IN A major boost to indigenisation in defence sector, the Indian Army has issued a tender to buy five to six regiments of 'Anant Shastra' surface to air missile weapon systems to strengthen the air defence along the borders with Pakistan and China.

The tender has been issued by the Indian Army to the state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to buy the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Anant Shastra air defence missile system, which was earlier known as the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile system, defence officials told ANI.

The project, estimated to cost around Rs 30,000 crore, would strengthen the Indian Army's Air Defence, which played a crucial role in thwarting Pakistani drone attacks during Operation Sindoor, they said.

The Indian Army AAD operates the MR-SAM, Akash and other smaller air defence systems and works in an integrated manner with the Indian Air Force to guard against any aerial threats.

The Defence Acquisition Council had cleared the project for buying the indigenous air defence systems soon after the Operation Sindoor action took place in May.

Once approved, the highly mobile and agile system would be deployed along both western and northern borders.

Anant Shastra air defence systems are highly mobile as they have the capability to search and track targets on the move and can fire at short halts, they said.

With a range of around 30 km, the system would be complementing the existing systems in the forces like the MRSAM and Akash in short to medium ranges.

The missile system performance has been extensively evaluated under both day and night operational scenarios during the trials. During the four-day conflict with Pakistan, which used Chinese weaponry, the Indian Army's Air Defence units destroyed the majority of the drones using L-70 and Zu-23 air defence guns, while the Akash and MRSAM played a crucial role along with the Indian Air Force's Spyder and Sudarshan S-400 air defence systems.

FIRST IMAGES FROM NISAR show forests, wetlands, islets in US in greater detail

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

THE first images from the joint NASA-ISRO satellite show a snapshot of the American landscape ranging from narrow waterways, islets dotting the fringes of an island, forests and wetlands, and large swathes of farms.

The first pictures from the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, billed as

area. This capability is vital both for monitoring the gain and loss of forest and wetland ecosystems, and for tracking the progress of crops through growing seasons around the world.

"These initial images are just a preview of the hard-hitting science that NISAR will produce, data and insights that will enable scientists to study Earth's changing land and ice surfaces in



the most expensive satellite ever built, were released by NASA earlier this week.

A photograph of Mount Desert Island on the Maine coast, captured on August 21, shows narrow waterways cutting across the island, as well as the islets dotting the waters around it.

On August 23, the L-band SAR captured data of a portion of northeastern North Dakota straddling Grand Forks and Walsh counties.

The image shows forests and wetlands on the banks of the Forest River passing through the centre of the frame from west to east and farmland to the north and south. The dark agricultural plots show fallow fields, while the lighter colours represent the presence of pasture or crops, such as soybean and corn.

Circular patterns indicate the use of centre-pivot irrigation, a statement from NASA said.

The images demonstrate how the L-band SAR can discern what type of land cover -- low-lying vegetation, trees, and human structures -- is present in each

unprecedented detail while equipping decision-makers to respond to natural disasters and other challenges," said Nicky Fox, associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The NISAR satellite was launched from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on July 30.

The images are also a testament to the years of hard work of hundreds of scientists and engineers from both sides of the world to build an observatory with the most advanced radar system ever launched by NASA and ISRO, Fox said.

The L-band system uses a 10-inch (25-centimetre) wavelength that enables its signal to penetrate forest canopies and measure soil moisture and motion of ice surfaces and land down to fractions of an inch, which is a key measurement in understanding how the land surface moves before, during, and after earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and landslides.

'50 km stretch of India's 1st bullet train to open by 2027'

SURAT, Sept 27 (PTI)

THE 50-km stretch of India's first bullet train project between Surat and Bilimora in Gujarat will open in 2027, and by 2029, the entire section between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be operational, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Saturday.

After becoming operational, the bullet train will cover the distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in just two hours and seven minutes, he said, stressing that India's first bullet train project is progressing very well.

Vaishnaw visited the under-construction Surat bullet train station and inspected track installation works and its first turnout installation.

"Overall progress of the first bullet train project is very good. The first 50-km section of the project between Surat and Bilimora will be open by 2027. We are preparing for that. By 2028, the entire Thane-



Ahmedabad section will be commissioned, and by 2029, the entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad section will open," he told reporters.

Vaishnaw stated that the speed potential of the main line is 320 kmph and 80 kmph for the loop line.

The Railway Minister stated that the most modern technologies are being utilized to ensure the safe and efficient movement of trains.

"This is a very complex movement of trains, that's why the most modern technologies are being used. Several vibration mechanisms have been created here. The utility cable will take

the vibrations whenever the train is moving at 320 kmph," he said.

Even within the tracks, many mechanisms have been put in place to absorb any vibration, he added.

"There are very special safety features on the track so that the train is very stable, even if there is a very heavy gust of wind or a sudden earthquake," said Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw said the entire heavy work for Surat station is completed, and finishing and utility works are progressing faster along with the track link.

"Today, the first turnout has been installed here in the Surat station on the bullet train project. Turnout is the place where the track either joins or separates. A lot of new technologies have been used here, for example, these roller bearings on which the tracks will move. This is again a totally new technology that we are using. The sleepers are made of composite material," he said.

'BRICS must defend multilateral trading system'

'BRICS must reinforce message of peacebuilding, dialogue, diplomacy and adherence to international law, says Jaishankar'

NEW YORK, Sept 27 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has called on BRICS



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks during the India-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in New York, USA. Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio is also seen. (@DrSJaishankar/X via PTI Photo)

to defend the multilateral trading system amid increasing protectionism and tariff volatility during a meeting of the bloc's Foreign Ministers here on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

"When multilateralism is under stress, BRICS has stood firm as a strong voice of reason and constructive change," Jaishankar said in a social media post.

"In a turbulent world, BRICS must reinforce the message of peacebuilding, dialogue, diplomacy and adherence to international law," he said.

"As rising protectionism, tar-

iff volatility and non-tariff barriers impact trade flows, BRICS must defend the multilateral trading system," he said.

Jaishankar's remarks come weeks after the US slapped 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent penalty for its purchase of Russian oil, among the highest in the world.

The external affairs minister also called on the bloc to amplify its collective call for a comprehensive reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council.

"Technology and innovation
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INDIA'S RIGHT OF REPLY

■ By Yoshita Singh
UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27 (PTI)

PAKISTAN'S military "pleaded" for a cessation of fighting during Operation Sindoor in May, India has said in a hard-hitting response from the United Nations General Assembly, asserting that there is "no room for any third party" to intervene in issues between New Delhi and Islamabad.

"This Assembly witnessed absurd theatrics in the morning from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who once again glorified terrorism that is so cen-

ABSURD THEATRICALS, GLORIFICATION OF TERROR India slams Pak PM's remarks at UNGA

tral to their foreign policy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot said, delivering India's Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif advanced a "bizarre" account of the recent conflict when India had launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, she said.

The Resistance Front (TRF),



First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot speaks as she delivers India's Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly, in New York on Saturday. (PTI)

an offshoot of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), had claimed responsibility.

India said, "Till May 9, Pakistan was threatening more attacks on India. But on May 10, its military pleaded with us directly for a cessation to the fighting. The intervening event was the destruction caused to multiple Pakistani airbases by Indian forces. The pictures of that damage are, of course, publicly accessible."

India slammed Pakistan after Sharif said his country "won the war" during the recent conflict

with India, referred to the "ceasefire" facilitated by US President Donald Trump and raised the issue of Kashmir in his address to the UN General Assembly on Friday morning.

Sharif had also said that the Pakistani forces had repulsed India's attacks and claimed that seven Indian jets were turned to "scrap and dust".

In a sharp retort, India said that "if destroyed runways and burnt-out hangars look like victory, as the Prime Minister claimed, Pakistan is welcome to enjoy it".

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