

# Trump praises Putin, Xi, calls them intelligent and strong leaders

WASHINGTON, Nov 3 (IANS)

AMERICAN President Donald Trump lauded Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, when asked which of the two global leaders was tougher to deal with, describing both as strong and intelligent men who shouldn't be underestimated.

During an interview with American media outlet CBS, President Trump was asked, "Who's tougher to deal with, Vladimir Putin or Xi Jinping?", to which he replied, both leaders are "tough and smart".

"Look, they're both very strong leaders. These are people not to be toyed with. These are people you have to take very seriously. They're not-- they're not walking in saying, 'Oh, isn't it a beautiful day? Look how beautiful. The sun is shining, it's so nice.' These are serious people.



These are people that are tough, smart leaders," NDTV quoted President Trump as saying during the interview with CBS' 60 Minutes.

"Before the ninth month, I stopped eight wars. The only one I haven't been successful yet in, and - and that'll happen - is Russia Ukraine, which I thought actually would be the easiest one because I have a very good relationship with President Putin," the US President stated.

President Trump claimed he

had discussed the issue of denuclearisation with leaders of both Russia and China, acknowledging that both nations possess large stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

"I believe we need to do something about denuclearisation, and I have indeed discussed it with both President Putin and President Xi," he stressed.

President Trump confirmed his plan to conduct nuclear tests, saying, "We need to see how it works. The reason I talk about tests is that Russia has announced its intention to test, North Korea tests constantly, and so do other countries. We are the only country that does not test."

When pointed out that Moscow was testing delivery systems rather than nuclear weapons, President Trump claimed both Russia and China were carrying out such tests, "but they are not talking about it."

# India, New Zealand teams commence next round of talks for trade pact

NEW DELHI, Nov 3 (PTI)

OFFICIALS of India and New Zealand on Monday started the fourth round of negotiations in Auckland for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Commerce Ministry said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will reach Auckland this week to meet his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay to review the progress of the negotiations. "The Fourth Round (November 3-7, 2025) of negotiations for the India-New

Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) commenced today (Monday) in Auckland, New Zealand," the Ministry said in statement. Negotiations in this round are focusing on key areas, including trade in goods and services, and Rules of Origin.

# Manufacturing activity strengthens in Oct: PMI

NEW DELHI, Nov 3 (PTI)

INDIA'S manufacturing sector activity strengthened in October, buoyed by Goods and Services Tax relief, productivity gains and tech investment, even as international sales rose at a weaker pace, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 57.7 in September to 59.2 in October, indicating a quicker improvement in the sector's health. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "India's manufacturing PMI accelerated to 59.2 in October, up from 57.7 during the month prior. Robust end-demand fuelled expansions in output, new orders, and job creation," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

The pick-up in sales growth mainly stemmed from the domestic market, as new export orders increased at a softer rate, the survey said. New orders increased further at the start of the third fiscal quarter, with com-

panies attributing growth to advertising, buoyant demand and the GST reform. Moreover, the pace of expansion was sharp and stronger than that recorded in September.

Manufacturers continued to purchase additional raw materials and semi-finished items in October, reportedly to supplement production and build inventories amid softening of cost inflation. On the price front, even though there was a modest and softer increase in input costs, the rate of inflation matched September's near 12-year high.

"Input prices moderated in

October, while average selling prices increased as some manufacturers passed on additional cost burdens to end-consumers," Bhandari added. Meanwhile, job creation entered its twentieth consecutive month in October. The rate of expansion was moderate and broadly similar to September.

Regarding the outlook, manufacturers attributed positive expectations to GST reform, expanded capacities and marketing efforts. They also predicted demand resilience and hoped that pending contracts will be approved.

# India, Bahrain begin trade deal negotiations

NEW DELHI, Nov 3 (PTI)

INDIA and Bahrain on Monday announced commencing negotiations for an ambitious trade deal and inching closer to seal an investment pact as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held extensive talks with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani to further broad-base overall ties.

In their talks, the two ministers also agreed to develop a common understanding to commence negotiations for a double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA).

This would help eliminate double taxation, provide tax certainty and promote trade and investment, officials said.

Alzayani landed in India on Sunday on a two-day visit with an aim to further expand bilateral ties in the areas of trade, investment and defence at a time West Asia has been witnessing conflicts and geopolitical turmoil.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Bahrain Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani during the 5th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar reiterated India's support for the Gaza peace plan and hoped that it would lead to a lasting and durable solu-

tion to the conflict in the region.

In their talks, Jaishankar and Alzayani explored ways to boost bilateral cooperation in areas of defence, security, economic,

trade, investment, health, fintech, space, culture and people-to-people ties.

The two sides also resolved to work towards further growth and diversification of trade in areas such as electronics, petroleum, processed foods, base metals and gems and jewellery, according to a joint statement released following the Jaishankar-Alzayani talks. Bahrain is an important country for India in West Asia, and the overall bilateral relations have witnessed a major upswing in the last few years, with two-way trade reaching USD 1.64 billion in 2024-25.

The Gulf nation is home to close to 3,32,000 Indian nationals who comprise nearly a quarter of the total population of 1.5 million in that country. India is among the top five trading partners of Bahrain.

In the talks, both sides noted the progress made toward establishing the joint working group on trade and investment as also on the commencement of nego-

tiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries, the statement said. "These initiatives will further promote trade and investment between both countries," it said. "Both sides welcomed the progress made in ongoing negotiations for a bilateral investment treaty."

According to the joint statement, both sides also agreed to develop a common understanding to commence negotiations for a double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA).

It said the two sides expressed optimism for enhancing future collaboration in the areas of defence and security and cited the visit of three Indian naval ships to Bahrain last month.

"The two sides unequivocally condemned terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed strong commitment to combat terrorism, including cross-border terrorism," the statement noted.

# SIR begins, booth officers to visit you

## RWAs Told To Help Officials With Collecting Voter Info

Ashni Dhaor@timesofindia.com

**Noida:** Booth levels officers will start going door-to-door in the NCR districts from Tuesday as special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls gets underway in UP. Noida and Ghaziabad will see a verification drive, aimed at updating and correcting voter details — a move that could have a significant impact on electoral participation and representation in the region.

The exercise, which covers all of UP, will be carried out by 1,180 booth level officers (BLOs) in Noida and 3,224 in Ghaziabad. With over 18 lakh registered voters in Noida and nearly 29 lakh in Ghaziabad, according to Lok Sabha data from last year, the scale of the operation is immense. Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) have been asked to support the process to ensure no one is left behind.

Ashutosh Gupta, sub-divisional magistrate (Sadar), said, "All BLOs will personally visit every voter in their assigned areas, providing them with a counting form and helping them fill it. If a house is locked, the BLO will leave the form inside and return at least three times to collect it. We have instructed BLOs to ensure that elderly, disabled, and economically weaker voters do not face any difficulty in completing the form."

Each enumeration form will come partially filled with the voter's name, EPIC number, assembly and state details, and photograph. Voters are required to verify these details and fill in the rest, including date of birth, Aadhaar number (optional), mobile number, and the names and EPIC numbers of parents, spouse, or guardian where applicable.

"BLOs will upload verified information using the ECI Net mobile app. Online submissions will be physically verified later," said Saurabh Bhatt, additional district magistrate, Ghaziabad.

A key feature of this revision is the effort to prevent duplication. The form includes a section linking current details with the 2003 summary revision list. Voters can also check or correct their details online at [voters.eci.gov.in](http://voters.eci.gov.in).

The verification drive will run from Nov 4 to Dec 4. The draft electoral roll will be published on Dec 9, with a window for claims and objections open till Jan 8 next year. All claims will be addressed by Jan 31, and the final roll will be released on Feb 4.

For those who have changed address within the same assembly constituency, Form 8A must be filled to update details. If the move is to another constituency, Form 6 is required for inclusion in the new roll. Both forms can be submitted online or offline through BLOs. If details are already correct, no form is needed — the BLO will simply mark the entry as verified.

Importantly, BLOs will not collect any documents during their visits. All verification is based on the enumeration form, and officials will also flag entries for deceased, shifted, or duplicate voters to keep the rolls clean and accurate.

Administration has called on RWAs and apartment associations to cooperate by granting access to societies and encouraging residents to participate. Rajiva Singh, president of the Noida Federation of Apartment Owners Associations (NOFAA), said, "We will cooperate with the BLOs in every possible way to ensure a smooth and inclusive

### KEY DATES

- Nov 4 - Dec 4, 2025**  
Door-to-door verification by booth level officers (BLOs)
- Dec 9** Draft publication of electoral roll
- Dec 9, 2025 - Jan 8, 2026**  
Claims and objections period
- Jan 31** Disposal of claims and objections
- Feb 4** Final publication of electoral roll

### IF VOTER NOT HOME

- Form to be given to an adult family member
- In case no one is present, BLO will slip form under the door & visit at least three times to collect it at a later date
- If it is confirmed voter has moved or is absent, BLO will mark entry as 'absent', 'shifted', or 'dead'

### DELETION

- Name is not immediately deleted
- Entry is flagged for verification, & a formal notice (Form 7) is issued by Electoral Registration Officer before any deletion

### No document collection

BLOs are not authorized to take any documents from voters during house visits. Verification will be done only through enumeration form.

### revision process."

### If you are not a voter here...

If you live in Noida or Ghaziabad but are not registered as a voter here (for example, you have shifted here from

## ROLL CALL ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

### VOTERS TO PROVIDE OR VERIFY DETAILS

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	Aadhaar number (optional)	Mobile number	Name of father or guardian
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### TO BE PROVIDED IF AVAILABLE

Father or guardian's EPIC number	Mother's name and EPIC number	Spouse's name and EPIC number
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### LINKING WITH PREVIOUS VOTER LISTS

- Enumeration will include section linking the voter's current details with the 2003 Special Summary Revision list
- Voter's constituency name, part number, & serial no as per the 2003 list will be recorded by the enumerator

### IMPORTANT POINTS

#### Online verification

Voters can check their names in the 2003 voter list on the Election Commission website [voters.eci.gov.in](http://voters.eci.gov.in)

#### Submission

Once filled, enumeration form must be handed back to BLO, who will upload the information through the ECI Net Mobile App

#### Online submission

Voters can also fill and upload their enumeration forms online. BLOs will later visit to verify and authenticate those entries

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Voters can change their address during SIR, but process depends on whether the new address is within the same constituency or not

### If address is in the same constituency

- Voter must fill Form 8A (Application for transposition of entry)
- This updates their address in the electoral roll without changing their constituency
- Form to be attached with enumeration form during submission

### If the new address is in a different constituency

- Voter must fill Form 6 (Application for inclusion of name in electoral roll)
- Their name will be added to the new constituency's roll and automatically deleted from the old one
- Form to be attached with enumeration form during submission

### Both requests can be made during special revision period

**Online process** | Through National Voters Services Portal (NVSP)

**Offline process** | Via BLO or Electoral Registration Office

Mumbai but are still a voter there), the enumeration form will not come to you. If you want to get registered as a voter here, then you have to fill Form 6, along with required proof documents (available

on NVSP portal online or with local BLO) for inclusion of your name in the electoral roll. You will be issued a fresh EPIC ID and your name will automatically get deleted from the earlier constituency.

However, your name will not be part of the SIR draft to be published on Dec 9, as it will only verify voters registered here till the cutoff date of Jan 1, 2025. The update will happen later.

# US will resume N-tests because Pak, other countries are doing so: Trump

## Energy Secretary Says Washington Likely To Conduct 'Non-Critical Tests'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Sunday said Pakistan, North Korea, China, and Russia were conducting secret underground nuclear tests to assert that the US too would resume nuclear tests.

In a CBS 60 minutes interview telecast Sunday night, Trump insisted that other countries, including Pakistan, were conducting underground tests, rejecting the questioner's contention that countries like Russia were only testing delivery systems like missiles without nuclear payload. "No, we're going to test because they test and others test. And certainly North Korea's been testing. Pakistan's been testing," Trump maintained, adding, "You don't necessarily know where they're testing. They test way underground where people don't know exactly what's happening with the test."

According to Washington's own account under previous administrations, all five formally recognized nuclear powers (P-5), including the US, Russia, and China have observed a moratorium on explosive



President Trump listens to a reporter's question on board Air Force One

## 'Not eyeing war, but Maduro's days numbered'

President Donald Trump sent mixed signals Sunday about potential US intervention in Venezuela, playing down concerns of imminent war against the South American nation. His remarks come as the US amasses military units in the Caribbean and has conducted multiple strikes on alleged drug-trafficking vessels, killing dozens. "I doubt it. I don't think so," Trump said when asked if the US was going to war against Venezuela. However, when asked if Maduro's days as president were numbered, Trump replied: "I think so." Maduro, who faces indictment on drug charges in US, has accused Washington of using drug trafficking as a pretext for "imposing regime change".

nuclear testing for more than 25 years. Russia's last test was in 1990 (as the Soviet Union), and China's last test was in 1996.

India too, as a de facto nuclear power, announced a voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing after its Shakti tests in May 1998 even though it is not obligated to do so since it is not a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). North Korea is the only country that has conducted nuclear weapon tests

(explosions) in the 21st century.

However, US govt reports have occasionally expressed suspicion that Russia and China may have conducted very low-yield or "sub-critical" tests that could technically violate the "zero-yield" standard of the testing moratorium, but they have not given proof of full-scale nuclear explosions.

Experts say low-yield tests are hard to distinguish from sub-critical tests, which are generally considered permissible

## 'There could be US troops on ground in Nigeria, or air strikes'

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday the US military could deploy troops to Nigeria or carry out air strikes to stop what he called the killing of large numbers of Christians in the West African country. Asked if he envisioned troops on the ground or air strikes in Nigeria, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One: "Could be. I mean, other things. I envisage a lot of things. They're killing record numbers of Christians in Nigeria ... They're killing the Christians and killing them in very large numbers. We won't allow that." Trump said on Sunday. Trump threatened on Saturday to take military action against Nigeria if it failed to crack down on the killing of Christians.

under the CTBT. Trump appeared to be suggesting that countries are conducting such low yield, sub-critical tests, saying "people don't know what's happening with the test... you feel a little bit of a vibration."

Energy secretary Chris Wright later brought some clarity to Trump's announcement, tempering the President's remarks to say the US would be focusing on system tests or what are called non-critical explosions. "These are not nuclear

explosions. These are what we call non-critical explosions. So you're testing all the other parts of a nuclear weapon," he told Fox News. This is a routine and ongoing practice for all nuclear powers.

Russia recently said it had successfully tested a nuclear-powered cruise missile, the Burevestnik, and a large torpedo, the Poseidon, which are nuclear-capable weapons systems. Wright suggested Trump had green-lighted such systems testing following Russia's announcement to reassure Americans that the US will do whatever it takes to remain the pre-eminent world power.

In fact, Trump appeared not to know that the department of energy, specifically the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) under it, manages the nation's nuclear arsenal and test sites, since he directed his order to resume nuclear testing "immediately" and "on an equal basis" with Russia and China to the Pentagon.

Non-proliferation experts were mystified by announcement. "By foolishly announcing his intention to resume nuclear testing, Trump will trigger public opposition in Nevada, from all US allies, and it could trigger a chain reaction of nuclear testing by US adversaries, and blow apart nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty," Darryl Kimball, director of Arms Control Association, said.

Trump tariff case in SC

Govt shutdown