

Close to a deal... will cut tariffs on India at some point: Trump

'Right Now, They Don't Love Me, But They'll Love Us Again'

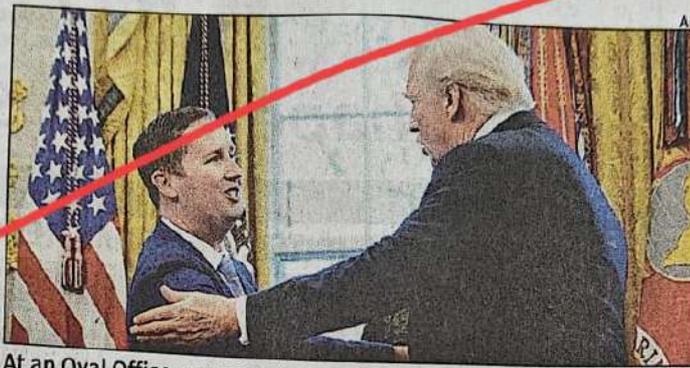
Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday said he would be reducing tariffs on India "at some point" because New Delhi had stopped or substantially reduced buying Russian oil.

At an Oval Office ceremony for the swearing-in of Sergio Gor as the new ambassador to India, Trump seemed aware of the enormous damage his policies and his approach have caused to bilateral relations, conceding, "So right now, they don't love me, but they'll love us again."

"We're getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal. We had pretty unfair trade deals. They had very good negotiators there. We're getting close... I think we're pretty close to doing a deal that's good for everybody," Trump said, without elaborating on when there will be an agreement and what is holding it up. His segue from "they've stopped doing the Russian oil" to "it's been reduced very substantially" in the same breath suggested he is waiting for a certain level of reduction of Russian oil purchases with a concurrent uptick in purchase of US energy before he signs off on the deal.

Unusually, Trump hosted Gor's oath-taking in the Oval



At an Oval Office ceremony to swear in Sergio Gor as the new India envoy, Trump said Gor had already become friendly with PM Modi

Office, the ceremony attended by a phalanx of MAGA luminaries, some of whom had nothing to do with the India portfolio. Several liberal commentators called the event "creepy", "obsequious", and "Stalinesque" as speakers flattered Trump with what one observer called "North Korea-level" sycophancy, with very little reference to India. Trump himself held forth on various other issues, including the govt shutdown and ties with Syria, after brief boilerplate remarks on Gor's mission to India.

Asserting that he (Trump) has a "fantastic" relationship with PM Narendra Modi, the US president called India "an important economic and strategic security partner in the Indo-Pacific region", even though, from all accounts, he has

diminished the partnership with punitive tariffs on India (compared to China and Pakistan) and his shoddy treatment of the Quad, a group whose mission was to counter China's influence in the region.

"It (India) is an amazing country. Actually, 1.5 billion people. China is 1.4 billion. Those are two big countries. As ambassador, Sergio will work to fortify our country's bond, promote investments in key industries and technologies, increase American energy exports and expand our security cooperation. And you know, we're making a deal with India, a much different deal than we had in the past," Trump said, having virtually ceded a co-equal peer position to China with repeated references to G-2 over the past fortnight.

He said he was trusting Gor to strengthen "one of our country's most important international relations, the strategic partnership with India", adding that "being the ambassador to India is a big deal".

Vice-president JD Vance, who formally administered the oath to Gor as per protocol, also tried to put some gloss on the damaged ties, saying Gor would be a great ambassador to India, "which the President and I love". Trump said Gor has already become friendly with PM Modi, and knowing that he is going to be the ambassador "they would call constantly to say, 'let's get to know this man', and they like what they see." "So I know you're going to have great success over this," he told Gor.

The presence of a large number of MAGA luminaries was also a testament to Gor's proximity to the president and his influence in the administration, prompting secretary of state Marco Rubio, who would technically be his boss, to say, "It looks like there are 1.5 billion people in the Oval Office today." Among those who spoke glowingly of Gor when they veered off from flattering Trump was attorney general for Washington DC and Erika Kirk, widow of slain MAGA activist Charlie Kirk.

India improves its rank in climate risk index from '23

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New Delhi: India has improved both its long-term and year-wise global climate risk index (CRI) rank, figuring as the 9th and 15th most-affected country globally due to extreme weather events during the 1995-2024 period and in 2024, respectively, compared to the previous year's assessment, showed the latest CRI report released by the environmental think tank Germanwatch on Tuesday.

The country was the 8th most affected during the 1994-2023 period and 10th in 2023, showing an improvement, as a lower rank means lesser risk.

The report that analysed six indicators including fatalities and economic loss due to extreme weather events during 1995-2024, showed that India reported loss of more than 80,000 lives and nearly \$170 billion in 430 extreme weather events in the past three decades.

Globally, over 8,32,000 people lost their lives due to more than 9,700 extreme weather events in the 30 years until 2024. It caused financial loss of over \$4.5 trillion (inflation-adjusted) during the period.

Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras were the top three most-affected countries by extreme weather over the past 30 years (1995-2024), whereas St/Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Chad were the top three most-affected nations in 2024.

The CRI report, released on the sidelines of the ongoing UN climate summit

Extreme weather killed 8.3L in 30 yrs

Top 10 worst affected countries in 30 years (1995-2024)

CRI Rank	Country
1	Dominica
2	Myanmar
3	Honduras
4	Libya
5	Haiti
6	Grenada
7	Philippines
8	Nicaragua
9	India
10	Bahamas

*CRI - Climate Risk Index (lower the rank means lesser the risk)

Cumulative Global Figures For Past 30 Years (1995-2024)

Lives lost: More than 8,32,000

No. of extreme weather events: More than 9,700

Financial loss: Over \$4.5 trillion (inflation-adjusted)

Six indicators analysed for CRI ranking:

- > No. of deaths
- > No. of deaths per 1 lakh inhabitants
- > No. of people affected
- > No. of people affected per 1 lakh inhabitants
- > Sum of losses in USD in PPP (purchasing power parity)
- > Losses in % of GDP

(COP30) in Belem, shows that around 40% of all people worldwide — over three billion — currently live in the 11 countries that have been most severely affected by extreme weather events such as heat waves, storms and floods over the past 30 years. These countries include India (ranked 9th) and China (11th), and others such as Libya (4th), Haiti (5th) and the Philippines (7th). None of the 11 countries are among the rich industrialised nations.

At the same time, EU countries and industrialised nations such as France (ranked 12th), Italy (16th), or the US (18th) are among the 30 countries most affected by extreme weather over the past 30 years (1995-2024).

"Countries such as Haiti, the Philippines, and India — all of which are among the 10 most affected countries in the CRI — face particular challenges.

They are hit by floods, heat waves, or storms so regularly that entire regions can hardly recover from the impacts until the next event hits," explains Vera Künzel, co-author of the CRI report.

Referring to India, the report highlighted fatalities caused by cyclones Hudhud and Amphan in 2014 and 2020, respectively; and Uttarakhand floods of 2013. It also noted that the "recurring and unusually intense heat waves", all with temperatures around 50 degrees Celsius, claimed many lives in 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2015.

Globally, floods, storms, heat waves and drought were the most prominent extreme weather events that caused maximum losses. From 1995 to 2024, heat waves and storms accounted for 33% each of the total fatalities. On the other hand, storms caused, by far, the greatest economic losses (58%).

India offers Bhutan ₹4,000 cr line of credit for hydel units

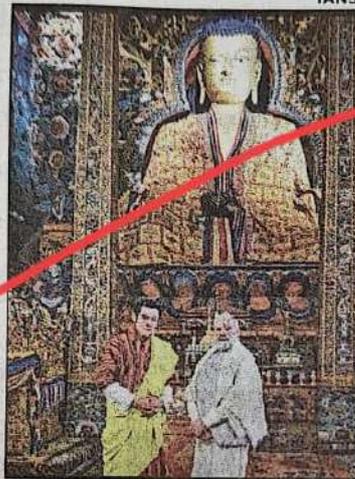
PM Announces Plan To Boost Connectivity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck jointly inaugurated the 1020MW Punatsangchuu-II hydroelectric project, calling it a milestone in the vibrant and growing mutually beneficial energy partnership between India and Bhutan which has brought significant benefits to the lives of ordinary people in both countries.

As Modi called on the king during his two-day visit to Bhutan, India announced a concessional line of credit of Rs 4,000 crore for Bhutan to fund energy projects. To promote connectivity, Modi also said that Gelephu and Samtse in Bhutan will be connected to India's extensive rail network.

"Once completed, this project will provide Bhutanese industries and farmers with easier access to India's large markets," the Prime Minister said, adding that connectivity creates opportunity and opportunity creates prosperity.



IANIS

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING PM MODI'S VISIT TO BHUTAN

- Understanding for resumption of work on the main dam structure of 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project
- Grant of land in Varanasi for building a Bhutanese temple/monastery and guest house
- Decision to establish an Immigration Check Post in Hatisar across Gelephu
- 3 MoUs signed in fields of renewable energy, mental health services and healthcare

The two countries also signed three MoUs in the fields of renewable energy, mental health services, and healthcare to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. The king also conveyed condolences on the loss of lives in the Delhi "tragedy" in the meeting with Modi.

"Along with rail and road connectivity, we are rapidly progressing on border infrastructure," said Modi, while endorsing the king's vision of Gelephu Mindfulness City. The PM announced that India would establish an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu to further facilitate visitors and investors visiting the place.

On energy cooperation, Modi said Bhutan currently produces 100% of its electricity from renew-

able energy. "Taking this progress forward, another major step is being taken today. A new hydroelectric project of over 1,000 MW is being launched which will increase Bhutan's hydropower capacity by nearly 40%. In addition, work is also being resumed on another hydroelectric project that has been stalled for a long time," said the PM, adding the progress and prosperity of India and Bhutan are closely linked.

"In this spirit, last year Govt of India announced a contribution of Rs 10,000 crore to support Bhutan's Five-Year Plan. These funds are being utilized across all sectors — from roads to agriculture, from finance to healthcare, helping improve the ease of living for the people of Bhutan," he said.

BSF raising all-women 'Durga Drone Squadron' for smart border security

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (PTI)

THE Border Security Force is developing its first all-women drone operations unit -- Durga Drone Squadron -- which will see female personnel trained in sophisticated aerial surveillance and reconnaissance at sensitive borders on the western and eastern fronts.

The training at the School of Drone Warfare (SDW) in the BSF Academy in Gwalior will foster self-reliance, speed and precision among women personnel, preparing them to play a pivotal role in the smart border security framework of the future, a BSF statement said.

Terming it a "new chapter" in



the history of the 3.70 lakh personnel-strong force, the statement said that training has been launched recognising the three intrinsic strengths of women -- patience, precision and perseverance. Launched under the

leadership of ADG and Director of the BSF Academy, Shamsheer Singh, the new programme will integrate women's unique abilities into drone-based operations.

"The objective is to empower women personnel with modern

technology, ensuring their active and capable participation in border management and national security," the statement said.

The BSF, which guards sensitive borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, is training its women personnel to operate and control drones, conduct surveillance missions, and collect data for intelligence purposes.

"The trainees are also being trained to counter cross-border drone threats, including exposure to electronic detection and response systems. Furthermore, the course builds technical proficiency for search and rescue operations and disaster response using drone technology," it said.

India, China leading global clean energy transition: COP30 President

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (PTI)

COP30 President Andre Corrêa do Lago has praised India and China for playing a transformative role in the global energy transition, saying both countries have embraced climate action “in a very clear way” and are driving down the cost of clean technologies worldwide.

Addressing a press conference at the opening of COP30 in Belem, Brazil, do Lago said China has “embraced this agenda in an extraordinary way” by combining scale, technology and affordability, three crucial ingredients that have accelerated the world’s progress towards cleaner energy systems. He said both China and India are shaping the future of the global energy transition. “China has very advanced technology and has a scale that can only be compared to India. And India is somehow doing the same, because they also have brilliant companies and engineers and incredible people. They are going in the same direction,” he said in response to a question on China’s contribution to the fight against climate change. Do Lago emphasised China’s leadership in clean technology manufacturing, particularly in electric vehicles, solar panels, wind energy and battery production.

“I don’t need to say how important China has become for electric vehicles, for solar panels, for wind, for batteries. Thanks to their scale, by lowering the price of all these essential elements in the transition, they are at the same time doing an amazing job of international cooperation,” he said.

Meanwhile, websites created for the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) emit up to 10 times more carbon, compared to an average internet page, suggests an analysis of web archives.

Gaganyaan mission: ISRO conducts important test on main parachutes

BENGALURU, Nov 11 (PTI)

ISRO on Tuesday said it has successfully conducted an important test on main parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module at the Babina Field Firing Range (BFFR) in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 3.

The Indian space agency said this test is part of the ongoing series of Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Tests (IMAT) for the qualification of the parachute system for the Gaganyaan mission. The Gaganyaan mission is India's first human space-flight programme, aiming to send a three-member crew on a three-day mission to space and return them safely to Earth.

As part of the mission, ISRO is developing a human-rated launch vehicle, an orbital module, and a crew-escape system. The programme includes prior

unmanned missions to test critical systems before the first manned flight.

In a statement, ISRO said that for the Gaganyaan Crew Module, the parachute system comprises a total of 10 parachutes of four types. It added that the descent sequence begins with two apex cover separation parachutes that remove the protective cover of the parachute compartment, followed by two drogue parachutes (small powerful parachute deployed from a fast moving object to slow it down) that stabilise and decelerate the module. Upon release of the drogues, three pilot parachutes are deployed to extract three main parachutes, which further slow down the Crew Module to ensure a safe touchdown, ISRO said.

"The system is designed with redundancy—two of the three main parachutes are sufficient

India, Nepal annual border talks in Delhi from today

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (PTI)

HEADS of the security forces of India and Nepal will hold their annual border talks here from Wednesday over a host of issues related to curbing trans-frontier crimes and sharing of real-time intelligence inputs.

This will be the first time that the two forces -- Sashastra Seema Bal and the Armed Police Force of Nepal -- will have a top-level meeting after the 'Gen Z' driven violent protests that rocked Kathmandu in September.

The 9th annual coordination meeting will be held between November 12-14, an official statement said.

The Indian side will be led by SSB Director General (DG) Sanjay Singhal, while the Nepalese delegation is headed by APF Inspector General (IG) Raju Aryal.

The deliberations are expected to lay "special emphasis" on developing effective mechanisms for prevention of trans-border crimes to ensure peace and security along the Indo-Nepal frontier, the SSB statement said.

Bihar exit polls predict **return of NDA**

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 (PTI)

EXIT Polls on Tuesday predicted a return of the NDA Government in Bihar with a big

The Bihar polls were conducted in two phases on November 6 and 11, and the results will be announced on November 14.

NDA	INDIA	JANSURAAJ
Dainik Bhaskar		
145-160	73-91	--
Matrize Exit Poll		
147-167	70-90	0-2
People's Pulse Survey		
133-159	75-101	0-5
People's Insight		
133-148	87-102	0-2
Chanakya Strategies		
130-138	100-108	00

victory over the Mahagathbandhan, and a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj in its debut outing.

While the Matrize Exit Poll forecast the NDA likely getting between 147-167 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 70-90, and
(Contd on page 5)

69% voting in 2nd phase of Bihar polls

PATNA, Nov 11 (PTI)

BIHAR on Tuesday witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the second and final phase of polling, wrapping up a nearly month-long exercise that saw the ruling NDA defend its "sushasan" pitch against the opposition's onslaught, promising "change".

The results, which will be declared on November 14, will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving Chief Minister, secures yet another tenure or his former deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who has likened the 20-year-old regime to a "rickety old car" (khataara), takes the wheel.

Briefing reporters, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh Gunjyal said the state recorded 68.79 per cent voter turnout, provisionally, in the second and final phase of the assembly polls.

In both phases, the state registered a voter turnout of 66.90 per cent, provisionally, which is 9.6 percentage points more than the last assembly polls, the CEO added.

In the 2020 Assembly polls, the state recorded a voter turnout of 57.29 per cent. Polling began at a brisk pace, with figures made available by the Election Commission constantly surpassing the same for the corresponding period on November 6, when 121 seats had witnessed, in the first phase, the "highest ever turnout"

(Contd on page 5)