

Putin sees US peace plan as starting point

MOSCOW, Nov 27 (AP)

US PROPOSALS to end the war between Russia and Ukraine offer a starting point for talks, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday, as he told Ukrainian forces to pull back or be overrun by Russia's bigger army.

"We need to sit down and discuss this seriously," Putin told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Kyrgyzstan. "Every word matters."

He described US President Donald Trump's plan as "a set of issues put forward for discussion" rather than a draft agreement.

Warns Ukraine's army to withdraw

"If Ukrainian troops withdraw from the territories they occupy, hostilities will cease. If they don't withdraw, we will achieve this by force," the Russian leader said.

Kremlin officials have had little to say so far about the peace plan put forward last week by Trump. Since Russia's invasion of its neighbour, Putin has shown no willingness to budge from his goals in Ukraine despite Trump's push for a settlement.

Putin has previously demanded that Ukraine completely withdraw from the entirety of

Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions before Russia considers any sort of "peace negotiations"—notably including areas of each of those oblasts that Russia does not occupy.

He also wants to keep Ukraine from joining NATO and hosting any Western troops, allowing Moscow to gradually pull the country back into its orbit.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff is set to visit Moscow next week, the Kremlin says, while US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who in recent weeks has played a high-

profile role in the peace efforts, may be heading to Kyiv.

The initial US peace proposals appeared heavily skewed toward Russian demands, but an amended version emerged from talks in Geneva on Sunday between American and Ukrainian officials.

Sidelined European leaders, fearing for their own security amid Russian aggression, are angling for deeper involvement in the process. Analysts say Putin is attempting to outwait the commitment of Western countries to

supporting Ukraine's war effort. Trump has previously signalled he could walk away from efforts to stop the fighting if there is no progress. European officials say Putin is stalling because Russia wants to grab more of Ukraine before accepting any deal.

Russian officials have claimed they have battlefield momentum in Ukraine, even though their slow progress has been costly in terms of casualties and armour. The Institute for the Study of War on Wednesday cast doubt on Russian claims that its invasion is unstoppable as it is still struggling to capture cities in the eastern Donetsk region.

India, Indonesia resolve to boost defence industrial cooperation

NEW DELHI, Nov 27 (PTI)

INDIA and Indonesia reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific, guided by international law and respect for sovereignty, against the backdrop of China's growing assertiveness in the region. In their wide-ranging talks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin also broadly agreed to set up a joint defence industry cooperation committee to ensure bilateral collaboration in areas of transfer of military technologies and for supply-chain linkages.

India's experience in submarine development was acknowledged as highly valuable for Indonesia's future plans, the Defence Ministry said.

Noting that the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative share relevant fundamental principles, Indonesia reiterated that India remains a key partner in promoting peace and cooperation in the region.

"Both countries committed to enhancing practical cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience, and joint operational readiness," the Ministry said.

In the talks held in New Delhi, the two sides also reaffirmed the "strong foundation of bilateral defence cooperation, including the defence cooperation agreement and the work of the joint defence cooperation committee", the Ministry said.

B'desh court sentences ousted former PM Hasina to 21 years in jail



DHAKA, Nov 27 (PTI)

A DHAKA court on Thursday sentenced ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years imprisonment and her two children to five years each over alleged irregularities in allocation of plots under a government housing project after their trial in absentia.

Dhaka Special Judge Court-5 handed down the sentences to 78-year-old Hasina, her son Sajib Wajed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul in three cases over corruption charges in the government housing project at Purbachal adjacent to the capital.

"The plot was allotted to Sheikh Hasina without any application and in a manner that exceeded the legally authorised jurisdiction," Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun said while delivering the judgment.

Hasina was sentenced to seven years in each of the three cases involving the alleged allocation totalling 21 years in prison.

Apart from the Hasina family, 20 others, including former junior minister for housing Sharif Ahmed and officials of the housing ministry and Rajdhani Unyan Kartripakkah, were tried in the cases and except one, all were sentenced to varying prison terms.

South Africa won't be invited to US for G20 next yr, says Trump

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Bluntly accusing the South African govt of genocide of white people, US President Donald Trump said he would bar the country from attending the G-20 summit in Miami late next year, throwing the world's main forum for international economic cooperation, of which India is a part, into turmoil.

In an angry social media post, the US President, who boycotted the just concluded G-20 meet in Johannesburg, said he did not attend because the South African Government "refuses to acknowledge or address the horrific Human Right Abuses endured by Afrikaners, and other descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers." "To put it more bluntly, they are killing white people, and randomly allowing their farms to be taken from them," he alleged. The narrative, mostly from a small minority of white nationalists in South Africa and US, has been wi-



PERCEPTION BATTLE: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (L) has rejected US President Trump's charge of persecution of white Afrikaners in his country

dely debunked by independent observers amid acknowledgment that the country faces a law-and-order situation.

Trump further maintained that South Africa "has demonstrated to the World they are not a country worthy of Membership anywhere," and said he will "stop all payments and subsidies to them, effective immediately."

US aid to Pretoria, mostly in the health sector, peaked at \$ 564 million in 2024 before tailing off to a planned \$ 103 million in 2025 amid deteriorating ties underscored by an Oval

Office ambush of South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa where Trump showed him a multimedia presentation of "white genocide."

Ramaphosa maintained that the farm attacks were part of broader crime affecting all races and the allegations Trump referenced was from a "small minority party" not reflective of govt policy. "I am sorry I don't have a plane to give you," Ramaphosa joked at one point during the meeting, referring to a story at that time about Trump receiving a jet from Qatar. "I wish you did," the US President kidded back.

But beyond the banter ties continued to sour, with Trump taking exception to what he claimed was South Africa's refusal to hand off the G20 Presidency to a Senior Representative from the US Embassy, who attended the closing ceremony in Johannesburg. Ramaphosa rejected the charges saying the "instruments of the G20 Presidency were duly handed over to a US Embassy official"..

Vikram-1, India's 1st pvt orbital rocket unveiled

Reuters

PM Inaugurates Skyroot's Infinity Campus Virtually

Swati Bharadwaj & Surendra Singh | TNN

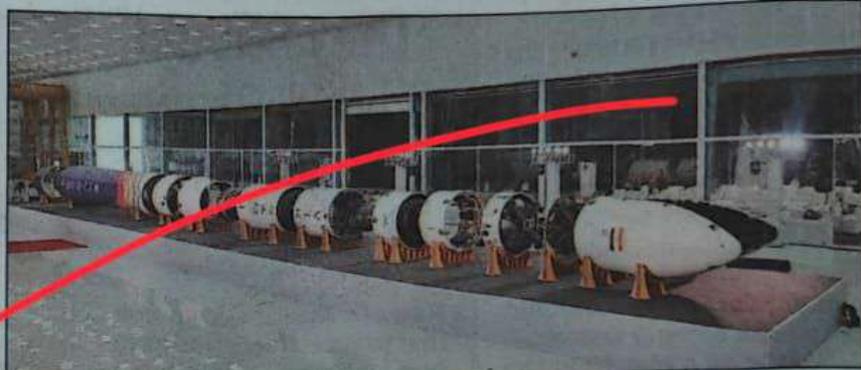
Hyderabad/New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated Hyderabad-based spacetech startup Skyroot Aerospace's Infinity campus and unveiled India's first commercial orbital rocket, Vikram-1, which will launch satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO).

Emphasising that India is on track to emerge as a global leader in the satellite launch ecosystem, Modi said, "The private sector is making giant strides in India's space sector. Skyroot's Infinity campus is a reflection of new thinking, innovation and most importantly, youth power. Our youth's innovation, risk-taking ability and entrepreneurship are touching new heights."

Extending his best wishes to Skyroot CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana and company co-founder Naga Bharath Daka, the PM said the two entrepreneurs are an inspiration for young people. "Growth of the private space sector, spearheaded by companies like Skyroot, is also a testament to the govt's efforts to foster innovation and private enterprise in the space domain," he said.

The Infinity facility, spread over 2 lakh sqft in Hyderabad, will have the capability to design, develop, integrate and test multiple launch vehicles, with a capacity to build one orbital rocket every month. It adds to Skyroot's 55,000-sq-ft integrated rocket design and development facility — Max-Q — near Hyderabad airport.

Pointing out that though India's space journey began with limited resources, its ambitions were never limited, Modi said: "India has proven that the height of dreams is determined not by re-



Vikram-1 on display during the inauguration ceremony of Skyroot Aerospace's Infinity Campus, India's largest private rocket factory, in Hyderabad on Thursday

Amendments to nuclear liability law also on cards

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Amendments to another key nuclear law, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, are also on the cards. These amendments will usher in big reforms in the nuclear sector at a time when India has set a target of generating at least 100 GW nuclear energy by 2047.

At present, the Atomic Energy Act prohibits the participation of the private sector or even state govts. Under this law, the power to operate nuclear power plants is vested in the central govt and companies or corporations established by it. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a PSU under the department of atomic energy, is the only entity operating nuclear power plants, and currently, operates all 24 commercial nuclear reactors in the country.



PM Narendra Modi also said the future will depend greatly on the research being carried out today, and underscored that the govt is focused on providing maximum opportunities for youth in research. He underlined that the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation Fund will provide significant support to the youth. Modi said more than 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have already been set up to instill a spirit of research and innovation among students, and added that work is under way to establish 50,000 new labs.

sources but by resolve."

He also praised Isro, saying it "has for decades given new wings to India's space journey." Modi also recalled the reforms undertaken in the space sector, with his govt opening up the sector to private innovation and preparing a new Space Policy.

Modi highlighted that more than 300 space startups are today powering India's space aspirations, with most of them starting out with small teams. "Gen-Z engineers, designers, coders and scientists are creating new technologies, whether in propulsion systems, composite materials, rocket stages or satellite platforms."

Space promoter and regulator IN-SPACe chairman Dr Pawan Goenka said that in just five years

since the space sector was opened up, over 350 space startups have emerged. "The Infinity campus and Vikram-1 are testaments to what can be achieved when entrepreneurial ambition meets enabling policy," he said.

Skyroot co-founder Pawan Chandana said the company was ready to launch Vikram-1, fully designed and built in India, in the next two months. Pointing out that decisive space reforms had unlocked the skies for startups to fly, co-founder Naga Bharath Daka said Skyroot has already generated over 1,000 hi-tech jobs and will be investing around Rs 1,000 crore soon to become one of the few companies worldwide to achieve rapid and on-demand launch capabilities.