

India, Russia agree to boost efforts on joint climate action

New Delhi: India and Russia on Friday agreed to intensify their bilateral efforts for implementing different climate actions under global goals approved on multilateral forums such as the UN Convention on climate change and its Paris Agreement, reports **Vishwa Mohan**.

The statement, issued after the meeting between PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, noted the agreement of both countries to continue development of joint approaches to mobilise "increased access to climate finance and technologies" for developing countries and economies in transition.

Russia comes under the 'economies in transition' (EIT) category, and therefore, does not fall under the group of developed countries who are obligated to provide climate finance to assist developing countries to undertake emissions reduction activities under the UN Convention.

Under the convention, developed countries have to take all practicable steps to promote development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to EIT and developing countries. The India-Russia joint approach may help in mobilising climate finance by leveraging their combined efforts at multilateral forums.

Noting the importance of expanding efforts to combat climate change and achieving the goals of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement, both India and Russia agreed to "intensify the bilateral dialogue on implementing mechanisms of the Article 6 (carbon trade) of the Paris Agreement, developing low-carbon technologies and using sustainable finance instruments".

The joint statement said both countries also agreed to continue interaction within G20, Brics and SCO on climate change. "Both sides encouraged fruitful cooperation in the area of addressing climate change in Brics during the India chairship in 2026," it said. The statement also welcomed the first meeting of the joint Russia-India working group on issues of climate change and low-carbon development held on Sept 10 in New Delhi.

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WUTHERING HEIGHTS: JUST WAIT, TRUMP, YOU'LL BE HERE

After 1945, Germany constrained its army. Now, it is trying to revive it

Christopher F. Schuetze

Ever since Germany reformed its military after World War II, the primary role of the German defence minister has been to maintain an army large enough to protect the country, but constrained enough to prevent a return to German militarism. The role of the incumbent, Boris Pistorius, is different.

As Russia warns that it is ready for war with Europe, Pistorius's goal is to make Germany's military capable of leading the continent's defence in a major land conflict — and to prepare the country's pacifist

population for this new posture. On Friday, German lawmakers approved the latest part of Pistorius's plan: a law that aims to increase the number of German soldiers to 260,000 by 2035, a nearly 50% boost. To incentivise recruitment, soldiers will be paid more and receive more training that is useful for civilian careers.

All 18-year-old men will be sent a questionnaire requiring them to provide information about their health and fitness, making it easier to identify potential recruits. Women will be able to fill the form out voluntarily. The law stops short of actually drafting soldiers. That is a



German defence minister Boris Pistorius acknowledged the weight of German history, but said it had given him 'a sense of responsibility'

mistake, according to some experts who fear Germany won't be ready for a Russian attack on Nato territory. Pistorius's supporters said it was the best he could do, given a deep-seated unease about rearming the co-

untry that started World War II. "This is one of the biggest social changes we have seen in years in the areas of security and defence," Pistorius, 65, said in an interview. "It affects a generation and future generations who have never had to deal with these issues because the threat did not exist," he added.

The law is the latest in a sequence of moves that were unthinkable less than a decade ago. In March, Pistorius helped lead an effort to remove limits on military spending from Constitution. That was a major shift for a debt-shy country, and it enabled Pistorius to spend billions more on arms, tanks,

ships and aircraft that the country previously couldn't buy.

Pistorius has also championed a stuttering effort to integrate Europe's militaries. He was a guiding force behind the recent formation of the Group of Five, a bloc of defence ministers from major European countries who seek tighter security coordination.

In an interview, Pistorius acknowledged the weight of German history, but said it had given him and others "a sense of responsibility." He said the expanded German Army will still be much smaller than it was during the Cold War. The task of rebuilding German ar-

my is even more fraught because of the long shadow cast by the militarism of the Nazi era.

Pistorius is there to boost morale. On an occasion, he huddled among the soldiers and praised them, before greeting a young captain on her birthday. He then commended a sergeant's military record and promoted him on the spot.

In 2023, Pistorius was unexpectedly appointed defence minister. Working in local politics taught him "to talk to the people for whom I make my policies," he said. "I tend not to make policy based on the principle that I know what is best for people, but rather I listen." 107

Trump admin will

Rosatom makes first delivery of N-fuel for TN plant's 3rd unit

Putin Pledges Steady Fuel Supply To India

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New Delhi: Unfazed by US sanctions on Russian crude oil and western pressure on Moscow over the Ukraine war, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday underlined his willingness to provide “uninterrupted shipments of fuel” to India. As per Putin’s unwavering resolve to continue nuclear cooperation with India, Russia’s state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom has made the first delivery of nuclear fuel for the third unit of the Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu.

A cargo flight transported the first batch of VVER-1000 fuel assemblies from Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant in southwestern Siberia to India, Rosatom said in a statement on Thursday.

A total of seven flights from Russia are planned to



Modi and Putin confirmed intent to broaden cooperation in N-energy

supply the entire reactor core and some reserve fuel. These shipments are provided under a contract signed in 2024, which includes fuel supply for the third and fourth VVER-1000 reactors of the Kudankulam plant for the entire service life, starting from initial loading.

The Russian side said since 2022, newer TVS-2M fuel had been introduced at India’s two operational VVER-1000 plants Kudankulam unit-1 and unit-2, which led to “improved performance” and longer 18-month operating cycles. According to Rosatom, Kudankulam unit-3 and unit-4 will be the first VVER-1000 units

to begin operation directly on an 18-month cycle.

At the Kudankulam plant, there are two operational units and four more — units 3, 4, 5 and 6 — are under construction. All six will have VVER-1000 reactors with a total installed capacity of 6,000 MW.

The first two reactors at Kudankulam were connected to India’s power grid in 2013 and 2016. During the operation of the first two reactors, Russian and Indian engineers had done considerable work to increase their efficiency through the introduction of advanced nuclear fuel and extended fuel cycles, Rosatom said.

2nd Russian nuclear plant on the cards

New Delhi: In an important takeaway from Russian President Vladimir Putin’s first official visit to India since the start of the Ukraine war in 2022, India and Russia on Friday decided to expand cooperation in nuclear energy, with the two sides discussing the possibility of building a second nuclear power plant with Russian-designed reactors, reports **Surendra Singh**.

“The Indian side will strive to finalise formal allotment of the second site in accordance with earlier agreements,” said a joint statement issued on Friday.

Modi and Putin confirmed their intention to broaden cooperation in nuclear energy, including fuel cycle, life-cycle support for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and non-power applications, as well as an agenda for engagement in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and related high technologies.

Trump praises Congo, Rwanda as they sign US-mediated peace deal



WASHINGTON, Dec 5 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump praised the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda for their courage as they signed onto a deal on Thursday aimed at ending the

conflict in eastern Congo and opening the region's critical mineral reserves to the US government and American companies.

The moment offered Trump — who has repeatedly and with a measure of exaggeration boasted of brokering peace in some of the world's most entrenched conflicts — another chance to tout himself as a dealmaker extraordinaire on the global stage and make the case that he's deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize. The US leader hasn't been shy about his desire to receive the honour.

"It's a great day for Africa, a great day for the world," Trump said shortly before the leaders signed the pact. He added, "Today, we're succeeding where so many others have failed."

Trump welcomed Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of Congo and Paul Kagame of Rwanda, as well as several officials from other African nations who travelled to Washington to witness the signing, in the same week he contemptuously derided the war-torn country of Somalia and said he did not want immigrants from the East African nation in the US.

Lockheed marks delivery of 250th tail component to India

C-130J Super Hercules



NEW DELHI, Dec 5
(PTI)

AEROSPACE major Lockheed Martin has marked the delivery of the 250th

C-130J Super Hercules tail component manufactured by a joint venture entity, and termed it a “major milestone” in the long-standing aerospace partnership between India and the US.

The empennage, the complete C-130J tail assembly and horizontal and vertical stabilisers essential for aircraft stability and control, is a critical component of the iconic Super Hercules, the “world’s most versatile and operationally proven military airlifter”, the firm said.

“Lockheed Martin marked the delivery of the 250th C-130J Super Hercules tail component manufactured by Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Limited (TLMAL), a major milestone in the long-standing aerospace partnership between India and the United States,” it said in a statement. TLMAL, a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Lockheed Martin, was established in 2010 in Hyderabad.

“This 250th delivery highlights the deep collaboration between Lockheed Martin and Indian industry and reinforces India’s growing role in the global aerospace supply chain,” Rod McLean, vice president, Air Mobility & Maritime Missions at the firm, was quoted as saying in the statement.

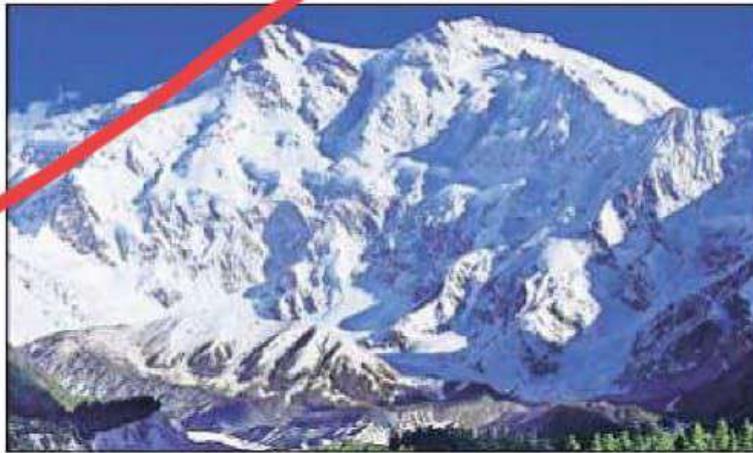
Indian Army scales Arunachal's highest peak

ITANAGAR, Dec 5 (PTI)

AN INDIAN Army team from the Eastern Command has become the first to scale Mount Kangto, Arunachal Pradesh's highest peak at 7,042 metres, marking a milestone in the country's mountaineering history, a defence spokesperson said on Friday.

Approaching from the extremely challenging southern route, the team successfully climbed the hitherto unconquered peak, long considered an impregnable sentinel of the Kameng Himalayas, Defence Spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Athul Sreedharan said in a statement.

Army Commander of Eastern Command Lieutenant General



RC Tiwari formally 'flagged in' the team and lauded the mountaineers for their exceptional courage, endurance and professionalism.

According to the statement,

the 18-member expedition was flagged off on November 3 from a forward base by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Gajraj Corps.

The team undertook a physi-

cally punishing journey across rugged and hostile Himalayan terrain, enduring rarefied air, severe sub-zero temperatures, treacherous icy ridgelines, deep crevasses and near-vertical ice walls.

Their achievement reflects the Indian Army's hallmark values of grit, discipline, teamwork and an unyielding spirit, the statement said.

The successful ascent not only pays tribute to the grandeur of the Eastern Himalayas but also underscores the Army's commitment to pushing the limits of human endurance and operational excellence.

"Nothing is impossible for the Indian Army," the statement added.