

PM Modi hosts UAE President Nahyan

Massive USD 200 bn trade target, LNG deal signed

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (PTI)

INDIA and the United Arab Emirates on Monday set a target of USD 200 billion in annual trade by 2032 and agreed to seal a strategic defence pact while boosting cooperation in energy, space and civil nuclear sectors with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan laying out a broad agenda to shore up ties.

Modi welcomed Al Nahyan at the Delhi airport with a hug and then they travelled together in the same vehicle to the Prime Minister's residence, where they held talks in the restricted as well as delegation-level formats.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan witness an MoU exchange, in New Delhi. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also seen. (PMO via PTI)

Exports power Chinese economy to ~~5%~~ growth

■ By **K J M Varma**
BEIJING, Jan 19 (PTI)

CHINA'S economy grew by five per cent last year to USD 20.01 trillion, riding high on the robust exports despite US tariffs while domestic consumption, its bugbear, remained sluggish.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5 per cent year on year in 2025, meeting the annual target of around 5 per cent, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Monday.

The GDP hit a record of 140.1879 trillion yuan which amounted to USD 20.01 trillion, surpassing the 20 trillion mark for the first time, according to the NBS data. The growth, however, slowed to a three-year low of 4.5 per cent in the final quarter dragged down by a series of domestic headwinds.

It was the slowest quarterly growth China had recorded since the final quarter of 2022, when it grew only 3 per cent as it was still affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Quarter on quarter, China's economy expanded by 1.2 per cent in the last three months of 2025. Despite a complex domestic and external environment, the economy advanced under

pressure, achieving fresh progress in high-quality development, the NBS said.

The main goals and tasks for economic and social development were fully achieved in 2025, bringing the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) to a successful conclusion, it said, sounding hopeful of a better start for the 15th Five-Year Plan starting this year. China managed to achieve the five per cent GDP growth rate

GDP hit a record of \$20.01 tn

mainly due to record goods export trade surplus of USD 1.19 trillion last year shrugging off the impact of US President Donald Trump's tariffs onslaught and decline in shipments to the US due to the rapid growth of other markets.

Observers say the growth, however, remained skewed as China's economy continued to be dependent on export growth while its internal demand remained sluggish coupled with downturn in the property market despite efforts by the ruling

Communist Party of China, (CPC) headed by President Xi Jinping to boost domestic consumption.

According to the NBS data, the country's per capita disposable income stood at 43,377 yuan (about USD 6,192), up by 5 per cent year on year in nominal terms. The data said that the job market has remained generally stable, with the surveyed urban unemployment rate holding steady at 5.2 per cent in 2025, while the unofficial estimates put the unemployment figure around 20 per cent. China's value-added industrial output expanded 5.9 per cent year on year in 2025, official data showed on Monday.

Commenting on China's GDP data, Kang Yi, commissioner of the statistics bureau, said China's economy had withstood multiple pressures to maintain steady growth in 2025, but cautioned that external pressures were intensifying and many "long-standing problems and new challenges" were affecting economic development.

Official data showed that China's economy became more dependent on exports last year, with net exports accounting for 32.7 per cent of growth—the highest proportion recorded since 1997.

According to the NBS, China's retail sales of consumer goods, a major indicator of the country's consumption strength, climbed 3.7 per cent year on year in 2025.

St Expedite for granting my wish.
I receive your blessing
and favours in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

- AMEN

Don't help fuel terror infra in our neighbourhood: Jaishankar to Poland

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (PTI)

POLAND should display “zero-tolerance” for terrorism and not help “fuel” the terrorist infrastructure in India’s neighbourhood, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski on Monday in a blunt message apparently over the mentioning of Kashmir in a Poland-Pakistan joint statement in October.

At a meeting with Sikorski, Jaishankar also expressed his anguish over the unfair and unjustified “selective targeting” of India over the Ukraine conflict, in what is seen as a reference to Western nations’ criticism



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Radoslaw Sikorski during a meeting, in New Delhi. (PTI)

of New Delhi over its energy ties with Russia.

The External Affairs Minister made the comments in his televised opening remarks at the meeting in New Delhi. Sikorski is also Poland's deputy Prime Minister.

On his part, the Polish Foreign Minister said he completely agreed with Jaishankar on the “unfairness” and “selective targeting” in the context of tariffs over India's relations with Russia.

Sikorski is on a three-day visit to India that came less than 10 days before the top leadership of the European Union travels to the country.

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IMF raises India's GDP growth projection to ~~7.3%~~ for FY26

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (PTI)

THE IMF on Monday raised India's growth projection to 7.3 per cent for fiscal 2025-26, up 0.7 percentage point from its October forecast, on the back of better-than-expected performance of the economy.

The Washington-headquartered multilateral lending agency has also revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.4 per cent for fiscal year 2026-27 beginning April 1, 2026, from its earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent.

"In India, growth is revised upward by 0.7 percentage point

to 7.3 per cent for 2025 (fiscal FY26), reflecting the better-than-expected outturn in the third quarter of the year and strong momentum in the fourth quarter," it said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) update.

Growth is projected to moderate to 6.4 per cent in 2026-27 and 2027-28 as cyclical and temporary factors wane, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said. According to India's Statistics Ministry, GDP during April-September of 2025-26 registered a growth rate of 8 per cent, on the back of a robust 8.2 per cent growth in July-September period.

Greenland belongs to its people, Denmark: UK PM

LONDON, Jan 19 (ANI)

AMID US President Donald Trump's tariff threats to impose tariffs on European countries, including the United Kingdom, over the sale of Greenland, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday stated that the use of tariffs against allies is "completely wrong", noting that the Arctic island belongs to its people and Denmark, describing the right as "fundamental".

Addressing a press conference on Greenland, Starmer emphasised the importance of maintaining strong alliances amid global turbulence created by Trump's tariff threats, while underscoring the UK's commitment to its partnership with Washington.

Starmer stated that matters of such seriousness must be handled through calm dialogue among allies, emphasising that Greenland's security is impor-



UK PM Keir Starmer

tant and will become even more significant as climate change reshapes the Arctic, opening new sea routes and intensifying strategic competition in the region.

"The security of Greenland matters, and it will matter more as climate change reshapes the Arctic. As sea routes open and strategic competition intensifies, the High North will require greater attention, greater investment, and stronger collective

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Denmark unable to counter Russian 'threat' in Greenland, says Trump

WASHINGTON, Jan 19 (IANS)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday escalated pressure on Denmark over Greenland, accusing Copenhagen of failing to counter what he described as a long-standing Russian threat to the strategically located island and signalling renewed determination to act.

Posting on Truth Social, Trump wrote, "NATO has been telling Denmark, for 20 years, that 'you have to get the Russian threat away from Greenland.' Unfortunately, Denmark has been unable to do anything about it. Now it is time, and it will be done!!!"

The post has emerged as the central focus of a growing diplomatic standoff between Washington and several European capitals, following Trump's recent announcement of punitive tariffs linked to Greenland. Since returning to office in 2025, Trump has repeatedly voiced his intention to "obtain" Greenland, citing security concerns and geopolitical competition in the Arctic.

Greenland, the world's largest island, is a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, though Copenhagen retains control over defence and foreign policy.