

Trump halts Iran strikes after 'progress on deal'

'Tehran Sought Time To Finalise Parameters'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump Sunday announced yet again that he was calling off a threatened American military strike on Iran for now in the diplomatic equivalent of hitting the brakes on sighting a speed camera on the highway.

After warning that the US was "locked and loaded" with military power "not seen since World War II", Trump declared on Truth Social that he is cancelling the attack because Iran and several countries in West Asia had requested time to finalise what he described as the "parameters of a deal".

The proposed understand-

14-POINT PACT TO BE REVIVED?

➤ Trump says on Truth Social that US is **'locked and loaded'** and **'ready to go'** against Iran with levels of military terror and power not seen since World War II

➤ In same post, adds Iran and other West Asian countries have **asked him to hold off attack**

➤ Proposed understanding in the works to

include **immediate reopening of Strait of Hormuz** and an end to Iran's nuclear threat, according to Trump

➤ Iran lawmaker Ghashghavi says mediators seeking to revive 14-point **Islamabad agreement** that halted war in June; it included arrangements on Strait of Hormuz and **sought an end to hostilities in Lebanon**



ding, according to the President, would include the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and an end to Iran's nuclear threat. "Get to work, everybody, and get it DONE," Trump exhorted, capping another dizzying turn in a presidency where foreign policy increasingly resembles a rollercoaster designed by a rogue algorithm.

For diplomats, allies and

military planners, the latest pivot was less surprising than the speed with which it arrived. Over the past several months, Washington's Iran policy has swung between promises of overwhelming force and optimistic declarations that peace is just one phone call and one negotiated paragraph away.

➤ **Gulf mediators, P 16**

Pak Govt made every effort to dismantle goodwill under Indus Water Treaty: Kwatra

WASHINGTON, Aug 2 (PTI)

THE Indus Water Treaty was signed in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and Pakistan spent half a century dismantling it, India's envoy to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra said.

In an article published in Newsweek magazine, Kwatra said India's decision to keep the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance merely acknowledged what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed. Kwatra's article came days after Pakistan hosted a conference recently to protest India's decision to hold the IWT in abeyance on April 23 last year, a day after Pakistan-trained terrorists killed 26 people, most of them tourists, at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is worth remembering that the treaty's preamble declares it was concluded 'in a spirit of goodwill and friendship'. Pakistan spent half a century dismantling that goodwill and friendship. The abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed," the envoy said. The IWT, signed by India and



Pakistan in 1960, gave New Delhi control over three of the six Indus basin rivers that carry roughly 20 per cent of the basin's water, while Islamabad got rights to rivers that carry roughly 80 per cent.

"That asymmetry stifled development for decades in Indian regions that could have benefited from better water rights. India honoured the treaty anyway," Kwatra said.

He said Pakistan responded by launching wars against India in 1965, 1971 and in 1999; and through decades of persistent hostility and cross-border terrorism, including an attack on India's Parliament in 2001, Mumbai terror carnage in 2008, Uri and Pathankot attacks in 2016, the Pulwama attack in 2019 and the Pahalgam attack in 2025.

IAF concludes drill in Pokhran

JAISALMER, Aug 2 (PTI)

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday concluded its week-long exercise at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, showcasing its combat readiness and counter-drone warfare capabilities, officials said.



According to defence sources in Rajasthan, the exercise, Rotor Clapp-III, was conducted on the theme of 'Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS)'. Multiple helicopter units

of the IAF took part in it. The primary objective of the drill was to test operational concepts against emerging aerial threats and strengthen combat preparedness in an evolving battlefield environment, sources said.

The exercise focused on enhancing the operational capabilities of the IAF's helicopter fleet to counter growing threats posed by unmanned aerial systems (UAS). It also assessed strategies, techniques and procedures for integrated helicopter operations under simulated real combat conditions.

Russian crude imports in July highest since Ukraine war

New Delhi: India's crude oil imports from Russia climbed to a record 2.8 million barrels per day (mbd) in July accounting for more than half of the country's purchases, even as refiners stepped up sourcing from West Asian suppliers with oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz normalised, **reports Atul Mathur.**

India's LPG imports remained heavily skewed towards US, which supplied over 9 lakh tonne, or about 73%, of the over 1.2 million tonne imported in July.

July purchases were the highest since India began importing large volumes of discounted Russian crude following the outbreak of the Ukraine war in 2022.

According to ship-tracking data from Kpler, India imported a little over 5 mbd of crude in July, marginally higher than in June.

Ebola outbreak in DR Congo spiralling out of control: WHO



GENEVA, Aug 2 (ANI/WAM)

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains out of control, with the epidemiological situation continuing to deteriorate and the risk of cross-border transmission to neighbouring countries increasing.

In a statement, the organisation said that the outbreak is now the largest Ebola outbreak ever reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As of 30th July 2026, a total of 3,605 confirmed cases, including 1,587 deaths, have been reported, corresponding to a crude case fatality ratio (CFR) of 44%.

The continued increase in cases, expanding geographic spread, and persistently high mortality underscore the rapidly evolving nature of this public health emergency. During the most recent complete reporting week (epidemiological week 30), the highest weekly number of reported cases (567) and deaths (296) to date were recorded, underscoring the exceptional pace of transmission.

The convergence of insecurity, population displacement and mobility, and cross-border movements complicates response operations and increases the risk of further geographical spread.

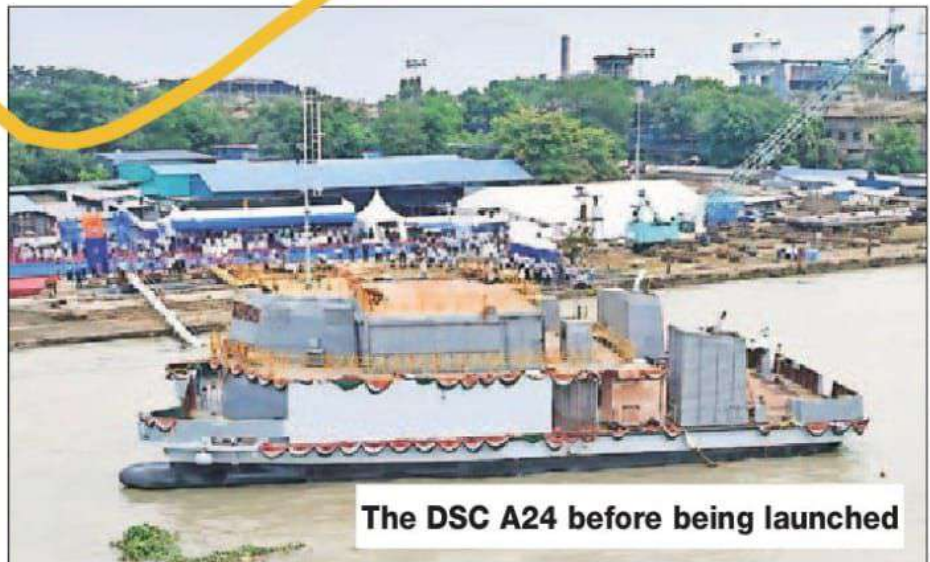
Indian Navy launches final DSC A24 vessel in Kolkata

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (IANS)

THE Indian Navy has launched DSC A24, the fifth and final vessel under the Diving Support Craft (DSC) Project, marking another milestone in the country's indigenous naval ship-building programme.

The vessel was launched on Saturday at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) in Kolkata by Kamal Singh in the presence of Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel. The launch ceremony was conducted with full naval traditions and attended by senior officials of the Indian Navy and TRSL.

The Navy said the "Fifth ship of Diving Support Craft Project, DSC A24" was launched on August 1 and highlighted that the vessel is "equipped with state-of-the-art diving systems and is tailor-made for conducting operational dives." The spokesper-



The DSC A24 before being launched

son further said the Diving Support Craft are "a testament to engineering excellence and indigenous capability" and are "proud flag bearers of the Make in India initiative, strengthening Indian Navy's offshore diving capabilities."

According to the Ministry of Defence, the five Diving Support Craft are being constructed by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems

Limited, Kolkata, in accordance with the Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). The Ministry said the vessels feature a catamaran-hull form with an approximate displacement of 300 to 400 tonnes, offering superior stability, enhanced deck space and improved sea-keeping characteristics, making them well-suited for diving operations.

India approves just 1 Chinese FDI proposal worth Rs 1 cr in FY26; 13 from Hong Kong

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (PTI)

INDIA approved just one Chinese FDI proposal worth Rs 1 crore, while clearing 13 applications from Hong Kong worth Rs 610.42 crore in the last financial year, according to official data.

These approvals are important as investments from countries sharing a land border with India have been subject to prior Government approval since April 2020 under Press Note 3 of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The measure was introduced to curb opportunistic takeovers and acquisitions of Indian companies during the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

Overall, the Government has approved 63 FDI (foreign direct investment) proposals worth Rs 10,292.67 crore, or USD 1.18 billion, during April 2025-March 2026, according to the DPIIT data.

Singapore emerged as the largest source of approved FDI proposals in value terms, with five proposals worth Rs 3,259.88 crore (USD 382.52 million) receiving clearance.

This was followed by the UK, where five proposals worth Rs 2,477.67 crore (USD 283 million) were approved, and Thailand, which received approval for two proposals worth Rs 1,600 crore (about USD 180 million).