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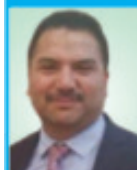


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No, This Is Not About Ganging Up Against The US



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Trump is sending a powerful message to the world with the Pentagon's rebrand



Story on Page 21

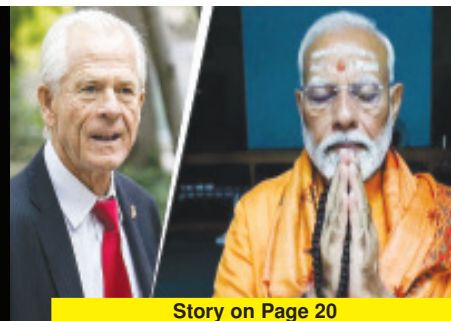
How pizza deliveries signal US military, political emergency

Earlier this week, when speculation over Donald Trump's alleged death was swirling, the Pentagon Pizza Index surged by 800%. Pizza orders near the Pentagon—the headquarters of the US Defence Department—are considered a barometer, hinting at officials at work for hours, during a crunch situation. This was also the case in June when the US bombed Iran. Even Soviet spies kept an eye on pizza orders during the Cold War.



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Battle against India is personal for Trump, his aide Navarro lets it slip



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How much will you invest in US?
Trump presses tech titans at White House dinner

Guess They Were Not Happy in Their



(Our Staff Reporter) Inside their \$1.7 million Mansion home in Georgia, The bodies of James Choi, Young Choi and Grace Choi were found on Aug. 31 Georgia dentist James Choi whose "primary goal" was to make patients smile allegedly murdered his wife and teenage daughter before killing himself inside their \$1.7 million home in a suspected murder-suicide. Police discovered the bodies of James Choi, 52, his wife, Myoung, 52, and their 15-year-old daughter, Grace, inside their lavish country club house in the Atlanta suburb of Johns Creek on Sunday afternoon.

Officials uncovered the grisly scene during

a welfare check just after 4 p.m. in the private, gated community of St. Ives Country Club, 30 miles northeast of the Georgia capital.

"This tragic incident has deeply affected not only the family and neighbors, but our entire community," Johns Creek Chief of Police Mark J. Mitchell said, according to 11 Alive. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to those impacted and ask that the community keep them in their thoughts during this incredibly difficult time." Picture-Dentist Father James Choi and his 15-year-old daughter, Grace Choi. Their 1.7 Million Mansion in the background. Courtesy X

Representative Ilhan Omar Net Worth Just Reached Up to \$30 Million?

(Our Staff Reporter) Yes, \$51,000 at the end of 2023. even though Ilhan Omar Said It's 'Categorically False' To Call Her a Millionaire. Her Net Worth Just Reached Up to \$30 Million, an Increase of at Least 3,500 Percent in One Year.

Much of the 'Squad' member's wealth comes through her husband's winery and venture capital firm.

Rep. Omar reported in her latest financial disclosure that she and her husband, former political consultant Tim Mynett, accumulated a net worth at the end of 2024 ranging from at least \$6 million to \$30 million. Their wealth is derived almost entirely from the value of Mynett's ownership stake in his two companies that, together, were worth no more than

The exact value of Omar's personal fortune at the end of 2024 is unclear—lawmakers disclose the value of their



holdings and debts in ranges. Still, the figures in Omar's latest disclosures show that her and her husband's net worth skyrocketed by at least 3,500 percent in just one year.

Trump Gives him 10 Days But he Is refusing to drop out



(Our Staff Reporter) Having raked in \$3.4 Million, in a massive fundraising effort, GOP's Curtis Sliwa is refusing to drop out of NYC mayoral race despite Trump's 10-day deadline.

As per a New York Post report, GOP nominee Curtis Sliwa won't bow to growing pressure — including from the White House — to drop out of New York City's mayoral race, insiders said Thursday. The red beret-wearing Guardian Angels founder has been encouraged by the

massive mound of cash — more than \$3 million, according to campaign finance records — he has raised since June from thousands of donors. And Sliwa feels an "obligation" to down-ballot

Republicans as the GOP's standard bearer, the insiders said. "He has an obligation to other Republican candidates running down ballot," former three-term GOP Gov. George Pataki, a major

Sliwa booster, told The Post. "He would be abandoning them. That's not going to happen," Pataki said. "Curtis is committed to the city. I don't understand the pressure to get him out."

Indian-American NASA Veteran Amit Kshatriya Named New Associate Administrator



(Our Staff Reporter) Indian-American Amit Kshatriya has been appointed as NASA's new Associate Administrator, the agency's top civil service position.

The announcement was made by Acting Administrator Sean P. Duffy on Wednesday.

Kshatriya is a 20-year veteran of NASA and previously served as the deputy head of the Moon to Mar

Elon Musk's Daughter Has No Money, is Broke



(Our Staff Reporter) Elon Musk's estranged transgender daughter Vivian Wilson has insisted she's broke after publicly cutting ties with the world's richest dad — opting to live with three roommates because it's "cheaper."

"People assume I have a lot of money. I don't have hundreds of thousands of dollars at my disposal," the 21-year-old aspiring model told the Cut in a wide-ranging interview published Tuesday. "My mom is rich, right? But obviously the other one [Musk] ... is unimaginable degrees of wealthy." "I don't have a desire to be superrich," she continued.

Musk is worth an estimated \$413 billion. "I can afford food. I have friends, a shelter, and some expendable income, which is nice and much more fortunate than most people my age in Los Angeles."

Wilson — the eldest of Musk's 14 children — infamously cut ties with her Tesla founder dad back in 2022 when she filed a petition to change her gender and name.

Since then, Wilson has repeatedly bashed the tech mogul on social media — calling him a "pathetic man-child" who hasn't been accepting of her gender.

Newsom Taunts Trump With Video of Modi, Putin, and Xi at SCO Summit

(News Agency)- California Governor Gavin Newsom escalated his feud with President Donald Trump by sharing a viral video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, China. The clip showed Modi and Putin walking hand in hand toward Xi and the three leaders sharing a laugh, a moment Newsom used to mock Trump's domestic policies. Posting the video on X, Newsom wrote, "But have no fear, Trump is sending the Guard to Chicago," in reference to Trump's recent comments about deploying National Guard troops to cities facing rising crime rates.

The jab follows Trump's announcement that Chicago and New York could be the next cities to see federal troop deployments, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from Democrats. The exchange adds to the ongoing political tension between Trump and Newsom, who is widely seen as a potential contender for the 2028 presidential race. The California governor has been increasingly vocal against the administration's hardline tactics, particularly after nearly 5,000 troops were sent to Los Angeles to manage protests over immigration enforcement

actions. The SCO summit itself highlighted India's and China's growing roles as top buyers of Russian crude oil, a point of contention with Washington. Trump recently doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 percent, citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian energy. While Beijing has also maintained its purchases, it has so far avoided similar punitive measures, fueling criticism of selective US trade policies. The gathering in Tianjin, attended by more than 20 leaders from non-Western nations, also took place as Trump continued to urge both Russia and Ukraine to negotiate an end to the war, now entering its fourth year. India,



in response to the heightened tariffs, has labeled the US measures "unjustified and unreasonable," signaling potential countermeasures to protect its economic interests.

BRS Suspends K Kavitha Amid Accusations of 'Anti-Party' Actions

(News Agency)- The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) suspended senior legislator and Member of Legislative Council K Kavitha on Tuesday, citing "anti-party activities" and statements that the leadership said were damaging to the organization. Kavitha, the daughter of party founder and former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), had recently accused senior party leaders — including her cousins Harish Rao and Santosh Rao — of fueling the controversy surrounding the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project. In a statement issued by BRS

general secretaries Soma Bharat Kumar and T Ravinder Rao, the party said Kavitha's recent behavior had forced its hand. "The leadership felt that her activities and remarks have been causing immediate harm to the party," the statement read. The decision follows her public comments on September 1, where she claimed that the damage to KCR's image in the CBI probe over alleged irregularities in the project was "due to the actions of Harish Rao and Santosh Rao," whom she accused of amassing wealth through corrupt practices.

Vikram-32: ISRO's Indigenous Processor Marks India's Big Leap in Chip Innovation

(News Agency)- India achieved a historic milestone in semiconductor technology as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented with the nation's first indigenously built 32-bit processor, the Vikram-32, at Semicon India 2025. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation's Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali, Punjab, the processor symbolizes India's rapid rise from being a major consumer of chips to an emerging global innovator in advanced semiconductor design and fabrication. The Vikram-32, also known as Vikram 3201, is specifically engineered for the demanding conditions of space missions. It successfully completed its first in-space validation during the PSLV-C60 mission,

proving its reliability for future satellite launches and deep space exploration. This achievement follows the government's focused push under the India Semiconductor Mission launched in 2021, which has fueled rapid R&D, strong policy support, and significant private and public investment. Technically, the Vikram-32 is a robust 32-bit microprocessor capable of performing complex calculations and handling substantial memory, making it ideal for space launch vehicles and satellite systems. Built using a 180nm CMOS fabrication process, the chip is designed to withstand extreme temperatures and harsh environments, ensuring dependable performance during critical missions.

Rain paralyzes north India, several dead, key roads flooded, houses washed away

(News Agency)- Rain fury continues in the entire stretch of north India as states struggle with submerged roads, flood warnings and washed away houses. Several people have died, and many others remain missing in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand, which have been witnessing serial flash floods triggered by cloudbursts over the past few days. Meanwhile, as many as 29 people have died in Punjab and thousands displaced as the state faces the "worst flood in recent history". Similar scenes were noticed in Delhi and its adjoining National Capital Region (NCR), with floodwaters entering people's homes and officials warning of



more threats as nearby water. The India (IMD) has, however, predicted Meteorological Department no respite for at least seven

days. Here are latest updates on north India rain chaos: Schools in several regions, including those in J&K, Gurugram, Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh, are closed today. Private and corporate offices in Gurugram, which saw a 20-kilometre-long traffic jam on Monday after heavy rain pounded the city and NCR, have been asked to follow work-from-home for the day. Over 10 districts in Punjab have been flooded due to heavy rain and the release of water from dams. The state recorded 253.7 mm of rainfall in August, 74 per cent above normal and the highest in 25 years. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann warned that the situation could deteriorate in the coming days.

Gold Smuggling Scandal: Actor Ranya Rao Arrested With 15kg Gold, DGP Stepfather Distances Himself



one of the largest gold hauls in Bengaluru airport's history. The DRI confirmed that she has been remanded to judicial custody under relevant provisions of the Customs Act as investigations expand to uncover possible accomplices and links to organized smuggling networks.

Senior officer Ramachandra Rao, who heads the Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation, expressed shock and distanced himself from the scandal. "Like any other father, I was shocked and devastated when I heard the news. The law will do its job. black mark on my career," he said, emphasizing that Ranya has been living separately with her husband and that family issues may have played a role. Ranya Rao, who gained fame for her role opposite Kannada superstar Sudeep in the 2014 film Maanikya, is now being interrogated at the DRI office. Authorities are focused on determining whether she acted independently or was part of a larger smuggling operation, with the case marking a significant breakthrough against illegal gold trafficking networks in the region.

(News Agency)- gold and hiding the rest in her Bengaluru police circles were shaken this week after actor Ranya Rao, stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport with nearly 15 kilograms of gold worth over ₹12.5 crore. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) detained her Monday night after she arrived from Dubai on an Emirates flight, concluding a weeks-long surveillance operation triggered by her multiple short trips to the UAE.

According to investigators, Rao attempted to bypass security by wearing part of the

Two associates reportedly carried additional gold bars in briefcases. Sources claim she leveraged her connections, identifying herself as the daughter of a Karnataka DGP and even contacting local police for an escort. However, DRI officials, already tracking her movements, intercepted her moments before she cleared customs. Following her arrest, a search of her Lavelle Road residence revealed more gold jewelry worth over ₹2 crore and ₹2.67 crore in cash, bringing the total value of the seizure to approximately ₹17.3 crore —

Chief Minister MK Stalin calls Tamil Nadu 'Germany of India', seeks investments



(News Agency)- Chief Minister MK Stalin, currently on a visit to Europe, described Tamil Nadu as the "Germany of India" while making a strong pitch for greater investments in the State.

"Tamil Nadu is India's second largest economy and is the only State to attain double-digit growth in economic growth and the manufacturing sector. It is the State with 48 per cent urbanisation," said Chief Minister Stalin at "TN Rising Germany Investment Conclave" in Dsseldorf, Germany. He drew a parallel with Germany's industrial and cultural legacy. "Tamil and German (Deutsch) language are important attraction toward Germany's culture, technical mastering which is awe-inspiring," he said. Highlighting Tamil Nadu's growing industrial strength, the

Chief Minister said, "Just like how 'Made in Germany' is seen as a mark of quality, 'Made in Tamil Nadu' is transforming to that level. We are manufacturing from bicycles to battle tanks. There are several similarities between Tamil Nadu and Germany's economy. Just like how Germany plays a very important role in European nations when it comes to industries, Tamil Nadu is the heartbeat of industries in Indian Union. To be more precise, Tamil Nadu is India's Germany." He further emphasised the State's strengths, citing leading higher education institutions, research centres, 54 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and more than 11,000 entrepreneurial institutions. "By utilising these, we can strengthen the partnership between Tamil Nadu and Germany," said Stalin.

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GST Council Clears Compliance Relief, Eyes Major Tax Slab Overhaul

(News Agency)- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has approved a series of measures aimed at reducing the compliance burden for businesses, sources told NDTV on Wednesday. Key decisions include slashing the registration timeline for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups from 30 days to just three, as well as introducing automated GST refunds for exporters to speed up processing and improve cash flow. The council, which began its two-day meeting earlier in the day, is also reviewing a sweeping proposal to simplify the tax structure by cutting the number of GST slabs in half. The current four-tier system — with rates at 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% — may be reduced to just two or three slabs. Under the plan, 90% of goods in the 28% category could move down to the 18% bracket, while many items taxed at 12% would drop to 5%, potentially lowering prices for a wide range of goods and boosting domestic demand. The overhaul is expected to benefit eight key sectors — textiles, fertilizers, renewable energy, automotive, handicrafts, agriculture, healthcare, and



insurance. At the same time, the government is considering exempting certain goods and services, such as life and health insurance premiums, from GST altogether. However, "sin goods" like tobacco, luxury cars, and liquor would continue to face higher taxes, possibly with a new Health or Green Energy Cess replacing the expiring Compensation Cess. Officials believe that lowering tax rates could spur consumption, particularly for "daily use" and "aspirational" goods, while encouraging manufacturers to reduce prices and ramp up production. Increased demand, they say, could offset concerns about shrinking profit margins

and even lead to job growth in labour-intensive industries such as automobiles and consumer electronics. Despite the optimism, resistance from several non-BJP ruled states, including Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, is expected. These states are concerned about an estimated ₹50,000 crore revenue loss from the changes and are likely to demand compensation. The council will continue efforts to build consensus before finalizing the rationalization plan, which the government hopes will cushion the impact of U.S. tariffs on Indian exports while boosting local demand.

Rising Yamuna Forces Mass Evacuations as Delhi Braces for Flood Crisis

(News Agency)- The Yamuna River surged past the 206-metre mark in Delhi for the first time this monsoon, triggering large-scale evacuations and emergency measures across the capital and surrounding National Capital Region (NCR). By Tuesday night, more than 10,000 residents from low-lying areas were moved to safer locations as officials warned that water levels were still climbing and could surpass critical thresholds within hours. Heavy rainfall in the Himalayan catchments and massive releases from the Hathnikund barrage have driven the river's rapid rise. Data from the Central Water Commission showed the Yamuna at 206.3 metres by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, with forecasts predicting a rise to nearly 207 metres by Wednesday morning. Historical records reveal the river has breached this level only four times in over six decades, most recently during the catastrophic July 2023 floods when water levels reached an unprecedented 208.66 metres. Authorities say the surge is

being fueled by peak discharges from Hathnikund exceeding 300,000 cusecs on Monday, more than double August's highest flow. Since water typically takes up to 48 hours to reach Delhi, the city is bracing for additional inflows that could keep the river high until at least Thursday. The government has already shut down the Old Railway Bridge to traffic, sealed drainage regulators to prevent backflow, and warned residents to stay away from embankments. Experts caution that floodplain parks and beautification projects along the riverbank are likely to be inundated. In response, Delhi's Irrigation and Flood Control Department has launched a full-scale emergency plan. Hundreds of engineers and field staff are on round-the-clock duty, with sandbags, boats, life jackets, and pumps deployed across vulnerable zones. The Delhi Jal Board is monitoring discharge levels from key barrages and managing pumping stations to prevent sewer overflows.

PM Modi likely to visit Mizoram, violence-hit Manipur in second week of September

(News Agency)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Mizoram and Manipur on September 13, officials in Aizawl said. PM Modi will first visit Mizoram to inaugurate the new Bairabi-Sairang railway. Multiple officials of the Mizoram government said they have received information that from Aizawl, the PM will fly to Manipur, his first visit since the ethnic violence broke out in the state in May 2023. However, they said that they are yet to receive the final itinerary of the PM's visit. Officials in Imphal, however, could not confirm the visit. Mizoram Chief Secretary Khilli Ram Meena on Monday convened a meeting with various departments and law enforcement agencies to review preparedness for the PM's visit. The meeting deliberated on various issues, including security measures, traffic management, reception and street decoration, a statement said. The meeting also deliberated on the



arrangements to allow government employees, farmers, and students from various schools and colleges to participate in the inaugural function to be held in Lammaul in Aizawl, it added. The 51.38-kilometre-long railway line is part of the Centre's Act East Policy, which aims at boosting connectivity and economic integration across the Northeast region. The new railway line will link Aizawl with the rest of the country via Assam's Silchar town.

Punjab AAP MLA, arrested for rape, flees from custody after opening fire on cops

(News Agency)- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Harmeet Singh Dhillon Pathanmajra, arrested on rape and cheating charges, escaped police custody on Tuesday after allegedly firing at officers in Kamal. Police said the MLA, who represents Sanour in Patiala, was being taken to a local station when he and his aides opened fire, injuring one policeman. In the chaos, Pathanmajra allegedly ran a vehicle over another officer before fleeing in a Scorpio SUV with his associates. A Fortuner used in the escape was later seized. Police teams have been deployed to trace him. Pathanmajra had been arrested after an FIR was filed by a Zirakpur-based woman, accusing him of misrepresenting himself as divorced before entering a relationship with her. She alleged he married her in 2021 while still being married, sexually exploited her, sent her obscene material, and issued threats. The FIR



invokes rape, cheating and criminal intimidation charges. The legislator, however, claimed the case was politically motivated. He went live on Facebook after the FIR, accusing the AAP's Delhi leadership of "illegitimately ruling Punjab" and targeting him for raising his voice. "They can lodge FIRs against me, I can stay in jail, but my voice cannot be suppressed," he said. His lawyer, advocate Simranjeet Singh Saggi, also argued that the complainant admitted in court to a live-in relationship, calling the charges baseless. The MLA had recently clashed with his own government over the handling of floods in Patiala. He accused senior officials of ignoring repeated requests to desilt rivers like the Tangri, warning it had worsened flooding in villages. He also alleged that his security was withdrawn, and local police officers were transferred as retaliation.

Newsom Taunts Trump With Video of Modi, Putin, and Xi at SCO Summit

California Governor Gavin Newsom escalated his feud with President Donald Trump by sharing a viral video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, China.

The clip showed Modi and Putin walking hand in hand toward Xi and the three leaders sharing a laugh, a moment Newsom used to mock Trump's domestic policies.

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Guard to Chicago," in reference to Trump's recent comments about deploying National Guard troops to cities facing rising crime rates.

The jab follows Trump's announcement that Chicago and New York could be the next cities to see federal troop deployments, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from Democrats. The exchange adds to the ongoing political tension between Trump and Newsom, who is widely seen as a potential contender for the 2028 presidential race. The California governor has been increasingly vocal against the

administration's hardline tactics, particularly after nearly 5,000 troops were sent to Los Angeles to manage protests over immigration enforcement actions.

The SCO summit itself highlighted India's and China's growing roles as top buyers of Russian crude oil, a point of contention with Washington. Trump recently doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 percent, citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian energy. While Beijing has also maintained its purchases, it has so far avoided similar punitive measures, fueling criticism of selective US trade



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The gathering in Tianjin, attended by more than 20 leaders from non-Western nations, also took place as Trump continued to urge both Russia and Ukraine to negotiate an end to the war,

now entering its fourth year. India, in response to the heightened tariffs, has labeled the US measures "unjustified and unreasonable," signaling potential countermeasures to protect its economic interests.

Vikram-32: ISRO's Indigenous Processor Marks India's Big Leap in Chip Innovation

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India's rapid rise from being a major consumer of chips to an emerging global innovator in advanced semiconductor design and fabrication. The Vikram-32, also known as Vikram 3201, is specifically engineered for the demanding conditions of space missions. It successfully completed its first in-space validation during the PSLV-C60

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ideal for space launch vehicles and satellite systems. Built using a 180nm CMOS fabrication process, the chip is designed to withstand extreme temperatures and harsh environments, ensuring dependable performance during critical missions. Beyond space exploration, the chip holds immense potential in sectors

like defence, aerospace, automotive, and energy, opening avenues for strategic applications that require both precision and durability. Its development positions India as a serious contender in the global semiconductor ecosystem, with the ability to design and manufacture chips tailored to its unique technological needs.

Bihar bandh today over abuse to PM's mother during Rahul Gandhi's yatra

The NDA in Bihar is holding a five-hour bandh on Thursday to protest against alleged derogatory remarks by a man against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother during Rahul Gandhi's Congress-led 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in the state. The shutdown, led by NDA's women's wing, will be in effect from 7 am to noon on Thursday, with emergency services exempted. According to BJP state president Dilip Jaiswal, the protest is against "abusive language" used from a dais during the yatra in Darbhanga town, where a purported video from the Rahul Gandhi's rally showed an unidentified person using a Hindi expletive against Modi and his mother. Jaiswal condemned the act as an

"insult to all mothers," saying that the purpose of the bandh is to protest the incident and that the general public will face minimal inconveniences.

"All NDA leaders strongly condemned the abusive language used against the PM and his mother from the stage of the RJD and the Congress in Darbhanga during the recent 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'.

This was not just an insult to Modi's mother but to all mothers," Jaiswal said. JDU state president Umesh Singh Kushwaha echoed these sentiments, calling the remarks "indecent comments" and "abusive remarks" that were an "insult to democratic traditions" and the "revered position of a mother.

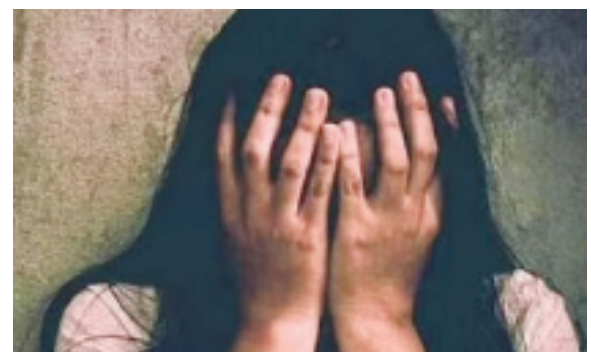
Ghaziabad man accused of rape, blackmail under fake name; 'love jihad' row erupts

A woman in Ghaziabad has accused a man of sexually assaulting and blackmailing her after luring her with the promise of a job and concealing his identity. The case, registered in the Muradnagar police station area, has also sparked protests by Hindu groups who termed it a case of "love jihad."

According to the woman's complaint, the accused introduced himself as "Rahul" and promised her employment. She alleged that he took her to a hotel, raped her, filmed the assault and used the video to coerce her into repeated meetings. The man later revealed his real name as Zubair Ali,

leaving her shocked. The woman further alleged that he extorted valuables from her home, including jewellery and mobile phones, and threatened that if she approached police, he would secure bail quickly and attack her family with a knife. Senior police officer Alok Priyadarshi confirmed that the accused has been arrested. "A case has been registered, the accused has been taken into custody, and all allegations made by the complainant are under investigation. Action will be taken based on evidence," he said.

Following the incident, Hindu organisations staged protests, alleging that the man entrapped the



Judge Rules Trump's National Guard Deployment in Los Angeles Illegal



A federal judge has ruled that the Trump administration violated federal law by deploying National Guard troops to Los Angeles during immigration enforcement operations and protests earlier

this summer. The ruling, issued Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco, found that the administration's use of troops breached the Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits military involvement in domestic law enforcement.

Although the judge did not order an immediate withdrawal of the remaining 250 National Guard members still stationed in the city, his order will take effect Friday. The decision follows a lawsuit filed by California officials, who argued that the deployment was an overreach of presidential authority and a dangerous

escalation of military involvement in civilian matters. Judge Breyer's opinion sharply criticized the administration, saying officials "willfully" ignored legal boundaries, used armed troops in prohibited roles such as traffic and crowd control, and failed to properly coordinate with state and local leaders.

The court noted that internal training materials given to troops explicitly listed these activities as violations of the law. The deployment, which involved roughly 4,000 National Guard soldiers and 700 Marines at its peak, was ordered despite objections from California Governor Gavin Newsom and city

officials. Newsom celebrated the ruling on X, writing in all caps, "DONALD TRUMP LOSES AGAIN. The courts agree — his militarization of our streets and use of the military against US citizens is ILLEGAL." The decision raises broader concerns as President Trump has hinted at similar deployments to other Democratic-led cities, including Chicago, New York, and Baltimore. Analysts warn that the ruling could set a precedent for how far a president can go in using military forces domestically. The White House and the Pentagon have not yet responded to requests for comment on the court's decision.

Asim Munir, Shehbaz Sharif Hold Strategic Talks With Xi Jinping, Strengthening China-Pakistan Ties

Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir met Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time on Tuesday, joining Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for wide-ranging discussions aimed at deepening bilateral and regional cooperation. The high-level meeting took place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, with the delegation now set to attend a grand military parade in Beijing on Wednesday, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese

Aggression.

This marks Munir's second visit to China since becoming Field Marshal, following his July trip where he met Vice President Han Zheng but not President Xi — a contrast to his predecessor, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. For Pakistan, the parade holds particular importance as over 80 percent of its military acquisitions come from China, making the display of cutting-edge weapons and systems a key interest for its defense leadership. During the talks, President Xi emphasized the importance of the "all-weather" partnership, calling the relationship

a pillar of regional peace and development. He urged both



nations to accelerate efforts to build a "closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future,"

highlighting the importance of upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Free Trade Agreement. Xi also called on Pakistan to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and projects, particularly as work begins on the next phase of CPEC, focused on Pakistan's key economic sectors. Prime Minister Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's support for China's Global Governance Initiative, calling it vital for global stability. He reiterated Islamabad's commitment to the "one-China policy" and pledged to strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors while ensuring

security for Chinese nationals and assets in Pakistan. The leaders also discussed regional and global developments, agreeing to maintain close coordination on shared strategic concerns. Sharif extended an invitation for Xi to visit Pakistan in 2026, which will mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Both sides framed the meeting as a reaffirmation of their "unique and unparalleled" partnership, signaling deeper collaboration on economic growth, defense, and regional security as they advance into the next phase of their strategic relationship.

China Hosts Global Power Summit Amid Shifting Alliances

What Canada Can Learn From Finland and Sweden on National Preparedness China is stepping into the spotlight as it hosts a high-profile Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, drawing leaders such as Russia's Vladimir Putin and India's Narendra Modi. The two-day gathering aims to position Beijing as a global power broker at a time when the United States, under President Donald Trump, is reshaping alliances and fueling trade tensions worldwide. With delegations from across Asia, the Middle East, and beyond, China is leveraging the summit to showcase its role as a stabilizing force in a turbulent international landscape. The summit's guest list underscores China's reach and influence, featuring leaders from countries that often find themselves on opposite sides of regional rivalries. For

Beijing, the optics are clear: China wants to be seen as the indispensable convener of dialogue and cooperation in Eurasia.

This strategy comes as Washington's ties with some nations fray, creating opportunities for Beijing and Moscow to strengthen their own partnerships and expand their influence. For Russia, the summit offers much-needed international visibility as it faces mounting criticism over its war in Ukraine. Putin, arriving to a red-carpet

welcome, praised the China-Russia partnership as a stabilizing force, emphasizing their shared vision of building a multipolar world order. India's participation, particularly after skipping

last year's meeting, signals a subtle realignment as New Delhi seeks to balance its relationships with Washington



and Beijing. The SCO, originally founded in 2001 as a security-focused bloc, now spans economic, energy, and educational cooperation, representing 40 percent of the global population and a significant

portion of the world's energy reserves. Recent expansions, including the addition of Iran and Belarus, highlight its shift toward becoming a counterweight to Western-led alliances. While the summit is heavy on symbolism, analysts remain skeptical about the organization's ability to deliver substantive policy shifts or resolve tensions among its members.

As banners in multiple languages adorn Tianjin and traffic restrictions signal the city's elevated status, the summit and an upcoming military parade in Beijing send a clear message: China is not just participating in the global order, it intends to shape it. Whether this ambitious positioning translates into concrete outcomes remains to be seen, but for now, Beijing is making it clear that it is ready to lead in a rapidly changing world.

India sends humanitarian aid to Afghanistan after deadly earthquake



India has extended humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan following a series of powerful earthquakes that have killed more than 800 people and injured over 2,800. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed the aid in a post on X on Monday, stating, "India extends humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in the wake of the earthquake."

The relief efforts include trucks loaded with sacks of rice and other essential food items. Early on Monday, a strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck eastern

Afghanistan, with tremors felt as far away as Pakistan and India. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported that several aftershocks followed, ranging between magnitudes 4 and 5. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the quake's epicentre was in Kama district of Nangarhar Province, near the border with Pakistan. Preliminary reports indicate that the provinces of Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan have been the hardest hit. UNOCHA estimates that at least 12,000

people have been directly affected by the disaster. The scale of destruction has left communities reeling. "Spoke with Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi today. Expressed our condolences at the loss of lives in the earthquake. Conveyed that India has delivered 1000 family tents today in Kabul. 15 tonnes of food material is also being immediately moved by Indian Mission from Kabul to Kunar. Further relief material will be sent from India starting tomorrow. Wish early recovery of those injured."

At least 1,000 dead after landslide wipes out village in Western Sudan



At least 1,000 were killed in a landslide that destroyed a village in the Marra Mountains area of western Sudan, leaving only one survivor, The Sudan Liberation Movement/Army said on Monday.

The landslide struck on August 31 after days of heavy rainfall, the group led by Abdelwahid Mohamed Nour said in a statement. The movement, which controls the area located in Darfur region, appealed to the United Nations and international aid agencies to help recover the bodies of victims, including men, women and children. The village

"has now been completely levelled to the ground," the movement added.

Fleeing the raging war between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in North Darfur state, residents sought shelter in the Marra Mountains area where food and medication are insufficient.

The two-year civil war has left more than half the population facing crisis levels of hunger and driven millions from their homes with the capital of North Darfur state, Al-Fashir, being under fire.

Modi, Xi Agree to Cooperate Against Cross-Border Terrorism

India and China have pledged deeper cooperation in combating terrorism following a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Modi raised the issue of cross-border terrorism, emphasizing that both nations are victims of this threat and should work together to address it. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi clearly outlined the need for mutual understanding and support in tackling terrorism, a message that was well received by Beijing. "The Prime Minister underlined that this is a scourge affecting both India and China, and therefore requires cooperation," Misri told reporters, noting that China expressed its support during the talks. The discussions also focused on



improving trade ties, people-to-people exchanges. Both leaders highlighted the importance of pursuing "strategic autonomy," signaling that India-China relations should not be viewed through

the lens of any third country, particularly as tensions with the United States continue over tariffs and energy policy. This renewed alignment follows recent friction, including India's refusal to sign a joint SCO statement earlier this year after China avoided mentioning the April Pahalgam attack, instead referencing incidents in Balochistan. Analysts note that China's expanding global footprint and growing concerns about extremist threats in regions like Xinjiang have contributed to its shifting approach to counterterrorism cooperation.

The SCO summit will also see Modi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif meet face-to-face for the first time since the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, adding further significance to India's diplomatic engagements at the event.

China shows missiles, Trump shows muscle: Xi's strategy can't match US

China's Xi Jinping likes getting the world stirred up with military confrontation. Perhaps that's why he wore his Mao Zedong high-collar suit, channeling the aura of the 1949 revolution, to the first major military parade in China since 2019.

With him stood Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, marking the first time in 66 years that this terrible trio of leaders of China, North Korea and Russia have gotten together. And did you catch the hot mic moment with Xi and Putin, both 72, groaning like the "Grumpy Old Men" they are about how "70 is just a child" and wondering if organ transplants can enable immortality? Kim, just 41, stifled a grin. Who knows who will have the last laugh in that trio. They are not my picks for immortality. Xi, Putin and Kim had their serious dictator faces back on as they watched as China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force – teacher's pet to Xi – roll their DF-5C intercontinental nuclear missiles down the streets of Beijing. They also showed off a new variant of their DF-26D medium-range missile. They claim it can hit U.S. ships and aircraft carriers or the island of Guam.

Dealing with this trio is a challenge like no other. And it's all in a day's work for President Donald Trump. Trump said he's not concerned and called them out with some choice trash-talk, posting on Truth Social about their rather obvious efforts to "conspire" against the U.S.

The China-Russia military alliance is the single biggest danger the U.S. military has ever faced.

However, Xi's plan for world domination is showing some fault lines. Xi has scrambled for 13 years to build up China's military. His strategy is based on loading up with missiles, missiles and more missiles. Yet looking at what rolled down the streets in Beijing, the fact remains that China can't outpace U.S. military technology, despite decades of espionage, copycat designs and heavy military spending.

The U.S. has some far superior systems. I'm talking about the new B-21 stealth bombers and F-47 sixth-gen fighters, for example. China has no true equivalents.

The U.S. also has new ways to deal with China's missiles. The U.S. Space Force's new Hypersonic and Ballistic Track and Surveillance System will use a constellation of satellites in low earth orbit, cued to use a medium field-of-view, to track China's hypersonic missiles as they maneuver. Innovations like this nix China's gains.

The parade showcasing "multi-domain" technologies that might be used during an invasion of Taiwan was underwhelming. China's laser gun on the truck, the unmanned surface vessels and even the big underwater drones are nothing remarkable. The U.S. has all that. Just check out the

U.S. Navy's massive Orca drone, which can lay seabed mines all by itself. Or the U.S. Army's high-energy laser tests against drone swarms at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, this summer.

Xi needs his thug friends to challenge the U.S. and allies. Sadly, China allows Putin the option of refusing to talk about ending the war in Ukraine. The warm welcome given to North Korea showed that China is eager for Kim's rising nuclear capabilities to provoke the U.S. and Pacific partners. Kim toured a solid-fueled missile facility before boarding the train to Beijing and North Korea is working on nuclear submarines as well. That's scary.

Trump's nonchalance in dealing with this terrible trio is possible because the administration is taking action every day to shore up America's power and oppose the China-Russia alliance.

In the Oval Office Tuesday, Trump flexed American power with two very different announcements.

First, U.S. forces blew up a Tren de Aragua drug runner's fast boat with an anti-ship missile. The strike opened a whole new chapter in the drug war.

Tren de Aragua is a designated terrorist organization, so in tactical terms, this is no different from striking ISIS or Houthi terrorists in the Middle East. Believe me, the U.S. Navy has plenty more anti-ship missiles and it's high time to clean up the Western Hemisphere. Trump's predecessor James Monroe, famous for the Monroe Doctrine, would be proud.

Next, Trump announced that U.S. Space Command will be headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama. U.S. dominance in military and commercial space is essential for the economy and for global power; that's why Trump created the United States Space Force as the sixth military branch in 2019.

Elon Musk's Starlink and now Amazon's Kuiper are muscling China out with thousands of satellites in low-earth orbit to deliver broadband, and backstop U.S. military freedom of action in space. And the Space Force is key to the Golden Dome defenses for the U.S.

Finally, no military parade can cover up the fact that China, Russia and North Korea all face economic problems. China's growth rate has halved in recent years and tariffs threaten the continued expansion in global markets that is Xi's top economic priority. Russia is running on defense production and oil sales, and North Korea has no discernible economy apart from its trade with China.

Those other leaders in the parade photo had better not be looking to do more business with the U.S. anytime soon.

The larger economic reality is that the U.S. is winning the AI race and, with concerted effort, can shut the door on China's attempts to dominate AI.

To Survive Trump, India Needs More Than Just Handshakes With Xi And Putin

US President Donald Trump's tariff 'punishment' meted out to India has been hailed as both a wake-up call and an opportunity by economists and geopolitical observers in India and abroad. Altering global trade dynamics by compelling nations like India to not just recalibrate their external relationships but also think deeper about internal reforms, this tariff regime is here to stay.

Until Trump changes his mind once again.

The populist president of the United States is currently wielding tariffs both as a trade protectionist measure and a tool of economic diplomacy. Any response by an affected country needs a similar two-pronged approach. India's response so far has been an assertion of its strategic autonomy by refusing to make any trade deal with the US under duress. It has also signalled through an uninhibited outreach to Russia and China through bilateral visits as well as multilateral fora, such as the recently concluded SCO summit.

Baggage Of The Past

A lot is being suggested at home and in the world by referencing the visuals of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin. While Modi and Putin have been consistent in exuding the warmth of close ties, the iciness of the Modi-Xi relationship in the aftermath of the Doklam and Galwan crises has not yet been forgotten. In that sense, the timing of the SCO summit is significant for India. New Delhi has been able to signal that it cares for old allies and is willing to turn a page with old adversaries. PM Modi deserves accolades for handling the China issue - multiple issues rolled into one - with quiet pragmatism in the past decade. Despite cornering by the Opposition, belligerent voices within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and a growing chorus of revenge among its voter base, the government did not bite

the bait of battle. A full-blown war with China would have been hazardous, pushing India's economic development behind by years if not decades.

What Being A World Power Really Means

And this quietness is the biggest lesson to be learnt amidst the current geopolitical fracas. India needs to take a hard look inward to see whether it staked the claim to the world power status a bit prematurely. From the Nehruvian belief in India's civilisational greatness to Vajpayee's India Shining to the current Vishwaguru narrative, most Indians have grown up on a steady dose of grandiloquence. That we are unique and powerful is not up for any debate; we are only lagging because of a grand international conspiracy. The imposition of US tariffs ought to engender a discourse on what India's proclaimed greatness is worth if its vulnerability of relying heavily on a single global trade partner can be exploited so easily. India's pivot away from the US to China will pose the same risk. With US tariffs, India has lost access to the wealthiest market in the world. China cannot replace that. Additionally, the existing asymmetry in India-China trade relations cannot be wished away to make way for a strategic alliance against the US. Russia, war-worn and politically embattled, cannot offer the Indian economy the boost it needs. Beyond supplying cheaper crude oil and partially fulfilling India's defence equipment demands, Moscow's cooperation means precious little.

An Inward Journey

Does it mean that the US is destined to remain the global Big Brother, leaving little to no elbow space for economic and geopolitical realignments for India? Certainly not. Superpowers come and go, empires are built and destroyed. However, the destroyers of old empires and disruptors of the world order are usually strengthened from within before they embark on external conquests.

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India Holds Its Ground As Trump Flails, Putin Gains, And Xi Reaches Out



Sometimes, in diplomacy, optics can become substance, provided those choreographing this know the difference between the two. In light of Trump's erratic and punitive tariffs against India, and the irrational and vicious tirade launched by him and his closest aides, pictures of Russian President Putin, Chinese supremo Xi Jinping, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi parleying together convey an important message: that erstwhile rivals, or friends who had perhaps grown less close, can come together and forge new relationships to stand up to a common adversary.

This strange quartet, Trump, Putin, Xi and Modi, pirouetting merrily on the centre stage of international diplomacy has left many observers surprised, and certainly left Trump a little stumped. It is difficult to say who is the biggest gainer in this contrived new tango. In my view, Russia comes up trumps. On the one hand, Putin is having summit meetings with Trump, and on the other, continuing the pummelling of Ukraine while reinforcing his friendship with China and renewing it with India. In addition, by all accounts, Russia's economy, in spite of international sanctions, is doing well.

China, possibly, comes second in the list of gainers. It has stood up to Trump's tantrums, strengthened its

relationship with Russia, and what would have been unimaginable after its transparent military and political solidarity with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, is now happily shaking hands with India. The state of China's internal economy, always a trifle opaque, appears to be a matter of concern. But the Dragon Kingdom is too big an economy, and too intertwined with key sectors of global trade, to suffer a serious setback in the face of America's bluster. In fact, it would be no surprise if a mercurial Trump backtracks and goes in for a deal with China.

Trump, in my view, has a bit of egg on his face. The world, increasingly tired of his constant tariff threats, is adjusting to this transient nuisance. Russia and China appear to be unfazed. His diplomatic adventurism, meeting Putin in Alaska, a meeting about which all kinds of rumours are afloat regarding business deals between the Trump business empire and Russian oligarchs, and attempts to end the war in Ukraine and in Israel-Palestine have come to no avail. High tariffs are hurting the US economy, and in the days to come, he is likely to be far more embroiled in internal dissensions than in his Nobel Peace Prize-winning shenanigans. That leaves India. We have

done well to stand up against Trump's tariff threats and have not backed off from buying Russian oil. In terms of optics, we have made new and important beginnings to once again strengthen our relations with Russia, which continues to be an important partner in a wide range of sectors, including, most vitally, defence.

Our olive branch to China is, of course, fraught with danger. China is not a country to be trusted, and we have a long and verifiable historical trajectory to prove that it has repeatedly stabbed us in the back. Moreover, it is almost certain that it will do so in the future as well. In China's worldview, India is, given the size of our landmass and economy, our entrepreneurial innovativeness, and democratic credentials, an enduring rival to China's ultimate goal of establishing hegemony in Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and globally.

While enjoying the optics of the outreach to China and Russia, India should never, in the case of China, mistake optics for substance. Our goal must remain to further strengthen our defence preparedness, border infrastructure, and holistic capabilities to meet and repel Chinese intransigence. Equally, any temporary rapprochement with China must not come at the cost of our national

interest, be it in trade, the intractable border dispute, or the entire range of issues on which China has consistently acted against our interests. Most importantly, Trump's tariffs, which essentially are tantamount to economic sanctions, should make us seriously think about how to convert a challenge into an opportunity. This adds great urgency to much-delayed internal economic reforms, tangible steps on Ease of Doing Business, and sustained efforts to diversify our economic and defence relations. Atmanirbharta only acquires heft if we actually become producers of world-class goods and a magnet for international investment. The slumbering elephant must unleash its mostly untapped powers for wide-ranging internal restructuring.

Trump will come and go. Indo-American relations are important to us, and to the US, and will survive this irrational aberration. But what matters is how India, instead of overly relying on so-called personal chemistries between world leaders, rises to the current challenge, uses the transitional period for imperative internal economic reforms, and comes out stronger on the world stage. That will enable us to give substance to optics in future, in our relations with the US, Russia, China, and indeed, globally.

Contradictions Of Trump's Foreign Policy: A Threat To India-US Relations



US President Donald Trump projects himself as the great dealmaker, the man who can bend the world to America's will with his sheer instincts. But instincts are not policy, and tweets or Truth Social posts are not diplomacy. When a superpower conducts its foreign policy by impulsive outbursts on social media, it undermines credibility not just with rivals but also with allies. Trump's foreign policy is riddled with contradictions, so much so that it is difficult to even call it a policy. It looks more like a sequence of self-promoting stunts, intended to show strength in the moment, without regard for consequences.

Foreign policy requires patience, foresight, and continuity. Trump offers none of these. His approach is transactional, rooted in the mindset of a Manhattan real estate hustler, where winning means humiliating the other party. He confuses bullying for negotiation and short-term bragging rights for long-term strategic gains. America has the luxury of power, but reckless decisions from its leader carry costs that others are forced to pay. For India, these

contradictions have already left scars on a relationship that was built carefully and patiently for two decades. Trump's attacks on India reveal both ignorance and arrogance. His repeated labelling of India as the "tariff king" was not only undiplomatic but also factually misleading. India negotiated in good faith for an interim trade deal, but Trump threw it away because it was not one-sided enough for him to parade as a personal triumph.

Unlike the EU, Japan, or Gulf monarchies, which mollified him with massive LNG contracts and defence purchases, India refused to barter its sovereignty. Trump's response was to slap a 25% tariff on Indian exports, threatening to double it if New Delhi continued to buy Russian oil and weapons. This was less about economics and more about coercion, an attempt to break India's strategic autonomy and force it into America's line.

The irony is staggering. Trump targeted India for buying Russian oil even as he himself sought engagement with Moscow on nuclear issues, Arctic cooperation, and possible economic ties. ExxonMobil was openly exploring a return to Russian energy projects. China,

the largest buyer of Russian oil, escaped Trump's wrath. The EU, the largest buyer of Russian LNG, faced no penalty. Turkey, a NATO member importing Russian refined products, was spared. Even the US itself imported metals and refined petroleum from Russia through intermediaries. Yet, Trump singled out India, a democratic partner that has never compromised America's security, as the scapegoat.

You May Like This hypocrisy only deepened when Trump's advisers joined in the chorus. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Stephen Miller, and trade hawk Peter Navarro claimed India was "profiteering" from the Ukraine war by refining Russian oil. Navarro went so far as to declare that the "road to peace runs through New Delhi," as if Modi alone bore responsibility for ending a conflict fuelled by Western arms and NATO expansion.

The absurdity of this rhetoric is matched only by its malice. It ignores the real profiteers: American defence contractors raking in billions through arms sales to Europe and Ukraine, US agribusiness firms taking control of Ukrainian farmland, and LNG

exporters who forced Europe into long-term dependence by ensuring the destruction of the Nord Stream pipeline. Trump himself coerced Europe into a \$750 billion LNG deal with the US. And yet, it is India that is vilified for simply safeguarding its energy needs.

Trump's worldview reduces diplomacy to a stage-managed clash of egos. But nations are not real estate tenants, and allies are not contractors to be browbeaten. The India-US partnership has been built not on vanity but on shared values and mutual respect. Trump's bullying erodes that foundation. It is naïve for him to assume that after insulting and coercing India, New Delhi will simply shake hands and move on. Trust, once damaged, cannot be repaired with hollow rhetoric. India will not bend to threats, and it will certainly not trade its sovereignty for the fleeting satisfaction of flattering an American president's ego.

Prime Minister Modi's consistent line that "this is not an era of war" has resonated globally, from the G20 to the UN. India has pushed for dialogue and diplomacy, rallied the Global South, and balanced its ties with all powers without surrendering its independence. PM Modi's

presence at forums like the SCO in China is not about siding with Beijing but about asserting India's place in a multipolar order. For Washington, this should be a sobering signal. If Biden's policies drove Russia deeper into China's embrace, Trump's reckless bullying could alienate India, pushing it to strengthen strategic equations with Beijing and BRICS. India will not choose China over the US, but it will preserve its autonomy at all costs. A civilisational nation like India does not make its choices under duress. The larger problem with Trump's foreign policy is that it is not really a policy at all. It is theatre, crafted for applause at rallies and headlines in the press. It is about Trump the performer, not America the superpower. By treating adversaries like Russia with transactional indulgence while targeting partners like India with hostility, Trump undermines the very credibility of American power. By confusing allies and enemies, by flip-flopping between threats and embraces, and by reducing the complexities of global order to his own whims, Trump shows the world that America under his leadership is unpredictable and unreliable. India cannot afford to let its destiny be tied to such inconsistency. The partnership with the US will endure, because the links between the two nations – trade, diaspora, innovation, and defence – are deep and real. But India will continue to hedge, to diversify, to strengthen ties with other powers, and above all, to rely on its own rising capabilities. The era when Washington could dictate terms is over. India is not a client state; it is a civilisational force reclaiming its place in the world.

top videos

Trump may believe he can bully his way into victories, but in the case of India, he is mistaken. What he risks instead is squandering decades of trust painstakingly built by both nations. For India, the lesson is clear: it must chart its own course, rooted in self-reliance, strategic autonomy, and a vision larger than the insecurities of any one American president.

Modi's War Or America's Miscalculation: The Truth Behind US Tariffs On India

Seasoned US commentators and geostrategic experts of several decades of experience, who have worked with world leaders, whether they are pro-Trump or anti-Trump, have been nearly unanimous in declaring the latest US tariff policy against India an unmitigated disaster.

It appears, at least from the outside, that a one-man think tank consisting of John Navarro, president of the US Security Division at Mobile Communications America, has convinced POTUS that a tariff war against India will bring big benefits to the US. In actions that have lasted just weeks, Trump, in calling the Ukraine war "Modi's war", has derailed three decades of carefully constructed diplomacy by both the US and India that had brought bilateral relations to a stable, even slightly friendly condition.

It is clear that the US, in its excessive concern with China, the Asian dragon, has ignored the Asian elephant. One never talks about the dragon in the room. It's always the elephant in the room about which one is uneasy. India has paid heed to Deng Xiaoping's sage advice about biding one's time while one builds up one's strength.

Quietly, almost unobtrusively, we have been trying to build our economic and military strengths, the twin pillars of global heft, so that we are becoming a voice that others listen to seriously.

In the new world order that is unfolding literally in front of our eyes, it is more important to be the ambassador of the world instead of being the policeman of the world. The old school of thought in the US still thinks that the world exists as it did in the post-World War II era of the 1950s and 1960s; how wrong they are.

The US action against India has backfired spectacularly on them. Unlike Europe, which genuflected in front of Trump and Vance, India has increased its oil imports from Russia after the 50 per cent tariffs were announced. This is hardly the action of a country that would be happy accepting crumbs thrown to it from Silicon Valley.

You May Like Our leaders have correctly gauged that the era of the four spheres of influence has



arrived—the quadrille between India, China, Russia and the US will be the major geopolitical theme that will be played out in the next ten years. If India plays its cards well—and there is no reason to believe that it will not, except in the unfortunate circumstance that there is a Congress-led coalition in Delhi during the coming decade—it may even overtake the US to be the second largest economy in the world by 2040.

The first major indicator of the new world order is the forthcoming set of talks in Beijing between Modi, Xi and Putin. It is already clear that moves will be made to focus BRICS activities towards establishing a de-dollarised world.

The almighty dollar, instead of being used by the US in a responsible manner to maintain economic harmony and equilibrium throughout the world, has been reduced to a crude club used to browbeat any country that the US identifies as its enemy. Dedollarisation has already begun, with so many countries buying oil from Russia and paying for it in currencies other than the dollar. Energy is the very lifeblood of the modern world.

If the economic equations

underlying energy are decoupled from the dollar, it is as good as saying that the US dollar is no longer the world reserve currency. Empires are not timeless; they rise and fall.

The British Pound was the world reserve currency when Britannia ruled the waves. The US dollar may similarly decline in importance as the US empire's influence reduces. The US wants to impose its sole world hegemon status in the present times, with the actions of Trump leading the charge for this purpose.

Dedollarisation will leave the US with an intractably huge debt. Prices of commonplace everyday things that US consumers have been used to buying at artificially low prices since the 1950s will become a thing of the past. These low prices were made possible because the rest of the world was forced to make up for the shortfall directly or indirectly. The domestic disturbances that would erupt within the US would be at a scale where no political party, Democratic or Republican, would be able to handle them, not electorally anyway. Our economic success and self-sufficiency will also showcase to the world that a multicultural, rooted civilisation

can also become successful without the need to be revanchist, revisionist, or to "break from the past" in its attempts to be deemed "modern" by the Amerisphère and its European vassal states. This war, the real Modi's war, is the war between two opposing civilisations—the one representing around 5 per cent of the world population that has seized 25 per cent of its resources, while generating 30 per cent of its waste, and has forcibly impressed its will on the rest of the world through an economic system that is as exploitative as the colonial empires of the 19th century—that stand for entirely different ways of looking at life itself.

In the end, this is what a civilisation is all about: how does an individual see himself in relation to the bigger scheme of things, and how he realises that there are others like him who think like him in these respects.

This is why India, or should I say Bharat, is a civilisational state and not a nation-state, becomes a role model for many countries weaker than us today, as they see a more workable route towards their advancement than becoming serfs to an unfair

economic system.

This is the real reason why the US is taking the tariff route against India. This is the only weapon it has in its armoury, and it is not working. We should make no mistake that the US views India as the catalyst country that may establish a new world order, a charter for a completely different way, culturally speaking, of addressing economic, technological and military matters.

These tariffs have nothing to do with Russian oil. Many countries, including the EU and the US, are profiting from Russian natural resources such as oil, gas or minerals. America finally seems to have woken up to the fact that India poses a mortal threat to the continuation of its ancient regime.

The only tactic left to the US is to flood Pakistan and the Indian opposition parties with money it no longer has so that the present BJP government, and in particular the PM, are removed. This is Modi's war in more ways than one, and we, the Bharatiyas of today, can only hope that it is concluded decisively in our favour.

Strategic Autonomy: India's True Compass After SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin offered no dramatic breakthroughs for India, but it did highlight the tightrope Delhi continues to walk between Eurasian symbolism and Indo-Pacific substance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to China in seven years underscored the need to keep channels open with Beijing and Moscow, yet it also reminded that India's foreign policy is not about choosing sides but about preserving room for manoeuvre.

Strategic autonomy — India's guiding compass since independence — has acquired renewed salience in a world fractured by U.S.–China rivalry, Russia's dependence on Beijing, and the contest for influence across Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, his first trip to China in seven years, the choreography was carefully managed.

Images of Modi seated alongside Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin were designed to convey a sense of multipolar solidarity, a Eurasian counterweight to Western power. Xi spoke of the "dragon and the elephant walking together", and Moscow projected the summit as proof that it was not isolated despite sanctions. For Beijing and Moscow, the SCO is a theatre of defiance. For India, however, the calculus is more complicated.

Unlike China and Russia, India does not approach the SCO as a platform to challenge the West. It treats the grouping as a regional mechanism for dialogue, a venue for projecting presence in Central Asia, and an opportunity to ensure it is not excluded from conversations shaping Eurasia. But this participation comes with inherent limits. The SCO has steadily tilted towards China's vision, whether on infrastructure through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or on security issues where Beijing shields Pakistan. India has consistently refused to endorse the BRI, rejected equivocations on terrorism,

and kept its emphasis on sovereignty intact. These are not cosmetic differences but reflections of India's refusal to be co-opted into another power's project. Strategic autonomy as compass

India's approach to the SCO reflects a deeper principle that has defined its foreign policy since independence: strategic autonomy. Often misunderstood as

equidistance or non-alignment by another name, strategic autonomy is not about sitting on the fence. It is about retaining decision-making flexibility, maximising space for manoeuvre, and preventing entanglement in rigid blocs. At the SCO, this principle plays out visibly. India engages with China, Russia, and Central Asian states because disengagement would cede ground to rivals. Yet it resists pressures to convert this engagement into alignment. Delhi knows that the structural distrust with Beijing, from the disputed border and repeated standoffs to China's embrace of Pakistan, cannot be wished away by summity. It also recognises that Moscow's increasing dependence on Beijing limits the scope for Russia to act as a balancer in Asia. For India, then, the SCO is useful as a stage, but not as a strategic anchor.

This insistence on autonomy is not confined to Eurasia. In the Indo-Pacific, India has deepened cooperation with the United States, Japan, and Australia through the Quad, but has not entered into a formal alliance. It participates in Malabar naval exercises, co-develops defence technologies, and strengthens maritime domain awareness with Washington — yet retains independent positions on issues like oil imports from Russia or trade negotiations. The thread that ties these choices together is the same: flexibility and multi-alignment rooted in autonomy.

advertEurasian theatre, Indo-Pacific reality

The SCO highlights the contrast between Eurasia's symbolism and the Indo-Pacific's substance for India. In Eurasia, the institutions are

largely dominated by China and Russia. Central Asia's landlocked geography and economic dependence on Beijing reduce its strategic utility for Delhi. Connectivity projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor remain underdeveloped, limiting India's footprint. The SCO stage may provide visibility, but it does not alter the structural imbalance that constrains India's role.

By contrast, the Indo-Pacific offers tangible opportunities. The United States is India's largest export market, with a trade surplus exceeding \$40 billion. It is also a vital partner in technology, from semiconductors and space to clean energy. Defence cooperation has deepened with foundational agreements on logistics, communications, and intelligence sharing. Japan remains one of the largest investors in Indian infrastructure. Australia, once distant, has become a close partner in critical minerals and higher education. These relationships are not just diplomatic photo-ops but concrete pathways to economic modernisation and security resilience.

For India, then, the choice is not between Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific but between theatre and transformation. Engagement in Eurasia prevents marginalisation and signals India's multipolar credentials. But the Indo-Pacific is where the structural future of India's rise lies. Strategic autonomy ensures it can participate in both, but it must remain clear-eyed about where its core interests are best served.

The Russia factor and a shifting balance

One of the underappreciated dynamics shaping India's Eurasian choices is Russia's transformation. Once seen as a reliable strategic partner and a potential balancer against China, Moscow today is increasingly dependent on Beijing due to the Ukraine war and Western sanctions. The SCO summit underscored this reality, with Putin leaning on Xi for political support and

economic relief. For India, this complicates its old calculus.

India continues to value its defence ties with Russia, including access to legacy platforms and spare parts. But Moscow's drift into Beijing's orbit reduces its capacity to act independently. In multilateral settings like the SCO, this means India cannot rely on Russia to moderate Chinese dominance. Instead, Delhi must rely on its own balancing tools, deepening Indo-Pacific partnerships, investing in indigenous defence, and diversifying global energy and technology ties.

Strategic autonomy, in this context, is not neutrality but adaptation. It allows India to keep doors open with Moscow while not allowing its Eurasian commitments to constrain its Indo-Pacific trajectory.

Autonomy in practice: Hedging, balancing, and leading

Scholars often describe India's foreign policy as a mixture of hedging and balancing. Hedging captures the idea of engaging multiple powers simultaneously to reduce risks. Balancing reflects India's partnerships that counter China's growing influence. But there is a third dimension often overlooked: India's aspiration to lead.

At the SCO, India projects itself as an independent pole that can speak for sovereignty and against terrorism without capitulating to bloc politics. In the Indo-Pacific, it does not just follow U.S. leadership but advances its own initiatives, from the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative to coalitions on disaster resilience and digital public goods. Globally, India's presidency of the G20 was used to amplify the voice of the Global South, bringing African Union membership to the table.

This blend of hedging, balancing, and leading is the essence of strategic autonomy in the 21st century. It is not passive avoidance but active agenda-setting, even within constraints.

A cautious path ahead

The SCO summit was a reminder of both the possibilities and limits of

India's Eurasian engagement. Modi's presence prevented relations with China from sliding into outright hostility and preserved channels of dialogue with Russia and Central Asia. But the structural impediments — the unsettled border, China–Pakistan ties, and Moscow's growing dependence on Beijing — remain formidable.

Meanwhile, friction with Washington over tariffs and Russia policy should not obscure the deeper convergences in Indo-Pacific strategy, trade, and technology. India's challenge is to manage tactical disputes without letting them overshadow structural alignment. The way forward is not to romanticise "dragon–elephant friendship" nor to view U.S. partnership as unproblematic. It is to hold fast to the compass of strategic autonomy: engaging without illusion, aligning without submission, and leading without isolation.

In Eurasia, this means using the SCO for visibility while resisting absorption into China's vision. In the Indo-Pacific, it means consolidating partnerships that deliver tangible security and economic dividends. Globally, it means expanding India's role as a voice of balance in an era of polarisation. As Modi returns from Tianjin, the lesson of the summit is unmistakable. The SCO offers India a useful stage, but the Indo-Pacific provides the real script for its rise. India's future will not be determined by choreographed photographs in Eurasian capitals but by the decisive choices it makes across oceans, technology, and supply chains in the Indo-Pacific.

With clear vision, strategic autonomy has evolved into a proactive doctrine — one that allows India to engage with both East and West without being bound by either.

This is not hedging, but confident statecraft: a recognition that substance must outweigh symbolism, and that India's place as a leading global power will be secured by its clarity of vision and firmness of action.

India's Stock Rises: Standing Tall Against Trump's Tariffs Wins Global Respect

Is India's global stature rising? If one goes by world headlines and the diplomatic buzz, the answer seems to be a resounding yes. New Delhi's firm stance against Donald Trump's tariff offensive has turned into a defining geopolitical moment. The standoff with Trump has come at a cost, punitive tariffs of 50 per cent, a bruising trade battle, but the long-term gains are larger. If this was a test to determine whether India would claim its independent place in the world or settle as a vassal, then standing its ground wasn't even a choice. It was a necessity. Trump is known for playing the "madman" game, shocking his opponents with hyperboles and threats, and forcing them to fold. Except he's been using this tactic not with adversaries but with friends and allies. This madness hopped from country to country, humiliating nations and putting them in a spot. But this time, he ran into a wall called India. While most countries caved under pressure, India has stood firm, calm and composed. It all boils down to a simple principle really. India's sovereignty is non-negotiable and no amount of pain inflicted by the US or anyone else can change that. And that message is resonating globally. The world now sees India as a country that doesn't blink, even when Washington tries to strong-arm it. PM Modi captured the mood perfectly in Japan: "The world isn't just watching India—it is counting on India." And India is proving why. This fiscal's first-quarter GDP growth came in at 7.8 per cent, higher than the expected 6.5 per cent, even amid global uncertainty and Trump's tariff tantrums. That's resilience on display.

Washington is buzzing with alarm and criticism about Trump's India policy. Some even call it his biggest mistake yet, with geopolitical consequences beyond trade. A striking chorus pushed back on tariff maximalism: Jeffrey Sachs called the move "stupid" that "serves no purpose," while Nikki Haley warned of a "troubling inflection point" and urged treating India as a prized democratic partner central to balancing China. John Kerry criticised an "ultimatum" style—too much ordering and pressuring, not enough genuine diplomacy—arguing that great nations don't lead by coercion alone. The Economist labeled the tariff push a "giant own-goal," noting the inconsistency of penalising India while sparing larger purchasers of Russian energy. The Wall Street Journal urged Trump to note the complexities of India's political economy: no Indian leader will "commit political suicide" by crossing the farm red line. An Atlantic Council analysis warned that the tariff crusade risks

unraveling decades of bipartisan work to build US–India strategic convergence.

Even pro-Trump voices like Saagar Enjeti called the tariffs pointless, criticising Trump for tariffing India to purportedly bring peace in Ukraine, a strategy that does not even work. Meanwhile, former US officials sounded alarms at various levels. These are just some examples, out of hundreds of global headlines. If tariffs were bad, Trump's advisers made things worse. Peter Navarro's bizarre outburst about "Brahmins profiteering" wasn't just factually wrong—it was racially charged, a political matchstick in India's caste-sensitive landscape. The backlash was so fierce that the US Embassy in Delhi scrambled for damage control, tweeting photos of Marco Rubio in a desperate "we still like India" charm offensive. This almost made it seem like the true message was that Marco Rubio, the secretary of state, and perhaps the only diplomat left in the White House, was the voice to be taken seriously, not Navarro. But Rubio's job had already been made nearly impossible by the non-diplomats—Trump's wolf-warrior tariff czars who had no regard for diplomacy. They have rambled on for too long, often following the President's lead and sometimes going even further, as seen in Navarro's inflammatory remarks—"Modi's war" and the absurd "Brahmin profiteering" comment.

Around the same time as Navarro's remark, visuals emerged of Modi in animated conversation with Putin and Xi—images splashed across global media as a symbol of a shifting world order. Those optics sent a chill through Washington. And that's when Trump's tone seems to have changed a bit.

Trump, despite some rumoured health setbacks, took to X to post about India—but the message seemed aimed more at his domestic audience than at New Delhi. The tone was surprisingly subdued compared to his usual style. Gone were the all-caps rants and dramatic threats. But in typical Trump fashion, it still carried hyperbolic claims about trade.

His first claim: "India sells massive amounts but the US sells India very little. The relationship is totally one-sided. A one-sided disaster."

Fact check: That's simply not true. The trade relationship is far more balanced than Trump suggests—arguably even tilted in favour of the US if you consider services, education, tourism, and investments. Trump fixates on goods, but the real story is in the broader economic engagement.

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the US enjoys

surplus earnings of \$35–40 billion from India. Indian students alone contribute \$25 billion annually to the US economy. That's entirely one-sided. Add to that the billions American tech giants—Amazon, Google, IBM, Dell—generate through their operations in India. Hollywood dominates the entertainment market, and consumer brands like McDonald's and Coca-Cola earn huge revenues here. As for Trump's obsession with trade deficits? America's goods trade deficit with India—about \$46 billion—isn't even in the top five. China tops the list at \$296 billion, followed by Mexico (\$176 billion) and Vietnam (\$123 billion). India doesn't even come close. So, what "disaster" is Trump talking about?

His second claim: "US sells very little to India."

Again, misleading. US exports to India were \$41.75 billion, nearly on par with what it exports to France (\$44.39 billion). That's hardly "very little." And if American businesses can't sell into India, then what explains the dominance of US brands, from Amazon to Nike, across the Indian market?

Finally, Trump argues that India buys most of its oil and military equipment from Russia and "very little" from the US. The truth? India's oil imports from the US actually grew during Trump's first term, and India was open to buying more to reduce the trade gap. On defence, the story is similar: while Russia remains a legacy supplier, its footprint has narrowed, and US defence exports to India have surged in the last decade. India has purchased billions worth of American hardware. So, what is Trump talking about?

America isn't being robbed blind. The "one-sided" narrative simply doesn't hold.

And then came the kicker: Trump says India has "now offered to cut their tariffs to nothing, but it's getting late."

Is that an off-ramp he's sketching for himself? A face-saving way to walk back the tariffs? Because India's offer has been clear for a while: significant tariff reductions on a wide range of items, with firm red lines on agriculture, dairy, and politically sensitive sectors. And that hasn't changed. So, will he take the deal?

Trump's crusade was supposedly about Russian oil. Trump's hypocrisy is glaring. He hit India with punitive tariffs but spared China—the biggest buyer of Russian crude. This has left China and Russia even more confident. They have now sealed the deal for a mega gas pipeline called Power of Siberia 2. Now, Russia will be selling even more energy to China. Trump had expressed his wish to pull Russia away from China. But his

policy has brought them even closer. Trump is pushing the Europeans to come up with a holistic sanctions package against Russia. Will that ever come to life? With India, he seems to have sobered down, lowering the attacks and falling back on his old grouse: trade, while dialing down mentions of Russian oil.

So, what is this fallout with India really about?

The media has already outed Trump. On the June phone call with Modi, The New York Times reported that Trump tried to get Modi to nominate him for the Nobel Prize, alongside the Pakistanis—even though Trump had no substantive role in that ceasefire—and Indian foreign policy simply does not allow mediation on Kashmir. Trump echoed Pakistani talking points, and Modi rejected them point by point. But Trump went on like a broken record even after this call, claiming he "stopped the war," perhaps hoping India would eventually come around.

So, did this ultimately hurt Trump's feelings? That Modi urged him to face the nuances of a decades-long conflict instead of inserting himself as the self-obsessed central figure? Did Trump launch the "India is funding Russia's war machine" narrative to discredit India's geopolitical position because he felt challenged?

Look, Trump's message about avoiding wars is great. Every US President should be applauded for being anti-interventionist. But the truth is, Trump did bomb Iran and carried out several strikes in the Middle East. And his claim about "ending seven wars" is weak—some had already ended, and some never even began. Still, his Nobel bid would not have faced any opposition from India. The problem is that he tried to win it at the expense of India—at the expense of its decades-long foreign policy and its hard-won positions in a bitter conflict with Pakistan, which continues to sponsor terrorism against India. If Trump truly were a man of peace, he would have acted against Pakistani terror groups targeting India. Instead, he's doing the opposite—embracing Pakistan's military dictator. And it gets worse when you see why. Because Trump knows all about Pakistan-sponsored terrorism; it hasn't just killed Indians, it has killed Americans too. But Trump has sold India out for crypto money. I'm not the only one saying this. America's own former NSA Jake Sullivan said: "Because of Pakistan's willingness to do business deals with the Trump family, Trump has thrown the India relationship over the side."

How Modi-Xi Meet May Impact Manufacturing, Trade, Technology & Dollar

Despite historical border tensions, the Modi-Xi meeting signals a pragmatic shift to deepen bilateral economic ties. Both leaders talked peace and mutual respect, with an emphasis on cooperative development rather than rivalry. This detente offers key opportunities for India's manufacturing sector, particularly as it pursues its ambitious Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) campaigns aimed at transforming the country into a global manufacturing hub.

China's dominance in manufacturing and supply chains remains critical for India's ambitions. India relies on Chinese components, machinery, and technology as it integrates into global supply chains, acknowledging that short- and medium-term cooperation is essential despite geopolitical friction. The "China Plus One" diversification strategy, previously favoured by western corporations to reduce dependence on China, is evolving into an "India Plus Two" scenario where India takes centre stage alongside China and Russia, leveraging their combined strengths. This shift promises enhanced trade and investment flows, especially as both countries move to reduce visa restrictions and aviation connectivity resumes, easing people and goods movement.

The renewed focus on technology and research cooperation, including joint ventures in electronics and eased foreign direct investment norms, offers India access to advanced knowledge and capital. However, challenges remain, such as China's export restrictions on critical machinery and rare earths that India needs for industrial growth. Nonetheless, the Modi-Xi engagement sets the stage for gradual improvements in these areas, catalysing India's manufacturing, and technological advancement.

Geopolitical & Economic

Realignment Amid US Sanctions & Tariffs

The toughening of US trade policies toward India, marked

economic cooperation, and multilateralism, seeking to reduce trade frictions and foster regional stability. The three

external financial pressures.

The drive for de-dollarisation also reflects a broader

development goals.

Moreover, the challenge to the US dollar's primacy in oil trade and global finance could lead to greater financial stability and reduced volatility for these nations as they expand bilateral and multilateral trade frameworks. However, significant hurdles persist, including enduring trust deficits, border disputes, and economic imbalances among the trio, which require careful navigation to realise the full potential of this alignment.

PM Modi's visit to China symbolises a pragmatic, forward-looking approach to managing India's complex relationships amid a rapidly shifting global environment. The



notably by the imposition of a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, largely in retaliation to India's strategic oil purchases from Russia, has created new external pressures. These tariffs threaten key Indian export sectors such as textiles, gems, and leather, with projected impacts of GDP reductions and export value declines. The tariffs have compelled India to accelerate its push for self-reliance and diversification of markets, emphasising domestic production and championing the "Made in India" brand. Amid these pressures, India's diplomatic engagement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, alongside President Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, displayed renewed efforts to strengthen trilateral ties. This India-China-Russia troika (RIC) envisages a collective geopolitical and economic counterbalance to Western, particularly US, dominance in global affairs. The alignment plays on their complementary strengths: China's

manufacturing capacity, Russia's energy resources, and India's service economy and strategic location.

Discussions at the SCO and direct bilateral interactions have emphasised maintaining peace,

countries' combined GDP, population, military spending, and energy consumption signify a shifting centre of global influence toward Eurasia, challenging the West's unipolar dominance.

Challenging Dollar's Dominance and Oil Trade Dynamics

One of the most consequential aspects of this trilateral cooperation is the concerted effort to break the dominance of the US dollar in global trade and oil transactions. India has taken pioneering steps with the introduction of Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVA), enabling trade settlements directly in rupees with countries like Russia, bypassing the US dollar system. This mechanism helps insulate these countries from the impact of US sanctions and expands the use of local currencies in international trade. The collaboration between India, China, and Russia includes energy cooperation, where India benefits from cheaper Russian oil imports, while China and Russia also seek payment alternatives that reduce reliance on the dollar. This monetary realignment facilitates Eurasian-led restructuring of trade routes and payment systems, stabilising the trio's economies against

geopolitical ambition, to assert greater economic sovereignty and create a multipolar global financial architecture that better represents emerging economies interests. By promoting trade in their currencies and developing independent financial infrastructures, these countries aim to diminish Washington's economic hegemony.

Implications for the New World Order

The Modi-Xi meeting, alongside strengthening ties with Russia, points toward a nascent multipolar world order where power and influence are more distributed. The new alignment leverages economic complementarities and shared interests to build strategic resilience against the uncertainties of US foreign policy shifts, including sanctions and tariffs. Functionally, this means redrawing global supply chains, enhancing Eurasian connectivity, and cultivating regional trade partnerships that are less vulnerable to Western coercion. India, by positioning itself as a significant hub in this revamped landscape, can attract investments, enhance technological capabilities, and ensure energy security, propelling its long-term

focus on manufacturing, trade, technology, and research cooperation with China, coupled with growing ties with Russia, is reshaping regional and global power equations. This will affect the China-Pakistan ties and its impact at the India-Pakistan border. China can be assured of the safety of its One Belt One Road project among peace between India and Pakistan.

Together, India, China, and Russia present a formidable challenge to Western economic dominance, particularly through efforts to bypass the US dollar in trade and oil transactions. This trilateral dynamic represents a foundational step towards a more multipolar economic world order, promising new opportunities for growth, stability, and strategic autonomy in an uncertain global landscape. The Modi-Xi engagement, therefore, is not merely bilateral diplomacy but a component of a larger transformation in global economics and geopolitics that could redefine the rules of international trade, finance, and security in the coming decades. India's ability to balance its relations, leverage its strengths, and assert its interests within this new framework will be crucial in shaping the future trajectory of the region and the world.

Pawan Kumar Chauhan Makes History as First Punjabi Producer in Hollywood with "Highway 905"



(By our staff reporter) producer to break into Hicksville, New York – August 29, 2025 – Pawan Kumar Chauhan, a trailblazing filmmaker and the founder of PRC Production Inc., has captivated audiences worldwide and marks a history as the first Punjabi significant milestone for

diversity in the global film industry. Highway 905, directed by Chauhan himself, is a riveting murder mystery set against the scenic backdrop of Long Island, New York. Featuring a diverse ensemble cast, including Bollywood star Riya Sen in her Hollywood debut, WWE superstar David Otunga, and talented actors like Jose Eduardo Ramos and Abby Gumper, the film has been praised for its compelling storyline, top-notch dialogue, and seamless blend of Bollywood and Hollywood sensibilities. With a 7.8 IMDb rating, critics and audiences alike have lauded the film as "a fresh perspective in the thriller genre" and a "landmark moment" for cross-cultural storytelling. Chauhan, a dynamic entrepreneur and passionate storyteller, founded PRC Production Inc. in 2016 in Hicksville, New York. His journey into filmmaking began with a Bachelor of Arts degree from DAV College, Jalandhar,

Punjab, in 1995, where his passion for theater was ignited through roles like Angad in Ramayan and assistant directing for Sathyawadi Harishchandra. Before entering the film industry, Chauhan made his mark in the tool-making sector as the founder of Anmol Raja Industries, showcasing his versatility and relentless pursuit of excellence. Reflecting on his debut, Chauhan shared, "Highway 905 is a culmination of years of hard work and a testament to the power of diverse storytelling. I wanted to create a film that thrills audiences while exploring themes of humanity and justice. This is just the beginning for PRC Production." Beyond Highway 905, Chauhan is already working on an exciting slate of upcoming projects, including a groundbreaking Punjabi web series set to be filmed in the USA, a first of its kind. PRC Production is actively seeking actors, writers, singers, music

composers, cameramen, directors, and technicians to join this ambitious venture, further cementing Chauhan's commitment to fostering new talent and innovative storytelling. With Highway 905 now streaming exclusively on Amazon Prime USA and distributed globally by World Cinema Partners, Chauhan's work is reaching audiences far and wide. His vision for PRC Production continues to push boundaries, blending cultural narratives and creating opportunities for underrepresented voices in Hollywood. About PRC Production Inc. Founded in 2016 by Pawan Kumar Chauhan, PRC Production Inc. is a Hicksville, New York-based film production company dedicated to creating captivating, diverse, and innovative cinematic experiences. With a team of industry veterans and passionate newcomers, PRC Production is redefining storytelling on a global stage.

Priya Bapat reinvents the cop archetype in 'Andhera'



In Andhera, you play a tough, no-nonsense cop. What was one personal fear you had to overcome to make the character believable? To make Kalpana feel truly fearless and strong, she was shown as a swimmer — someone who uses swimming as part of her daily routine, for fitness and also stress buster. Raghav sir had a very specific vision for how he wanted to capture that swimming shot. We also had several underwater fight sequences, which was completely new territory for me. I had never

done scuba diving before and had no idea how to breathe or hold my breath underwater. So I underwent extensive scuba and underwater training, and I took three months of swimming lessons — all for that one shot. But I think it really made me stronger, both physically and mentally. You've played both vulnerable women and now a powerful, authoritative figure in Andhera. Which space feels more natural to you? I think both do. I've portrayed vulnerability, and now with Kalpana Kadam — a fearless, determined, and honest cop — I've explored strength and authority. Each character brings its own challenges and rewards. I enjoy finding the truth in both. What's one behind-the-scenes moment from Andhera that sums up your experience on set? Honestly, everything I got to do as Kalpana — the action sequences, the gun training, the underwater fight — made a lasting impact on me. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me grow, not just as an actor but as a person. Now, if there's ever a chase or an action scene, I know I'm ready for it. From socially grounded Marathi dramas to the gritty world of Andhera, how do you choose your projects?

In Hindi, it usually works differently. I don't always get to pick scripts upfront — casting directors and filmmakers approach me with a synopsis. I'm still at a stage where I have to

Guru Randhawa sets up relief camp in Punjab



Singer Guru Randhawa has been winning hearts with his music. With his latest gesture, Guru has proven that not only is he a great singer, but also an amazing human being. With the recent calamity that hit Punjab due to heavy rains and floods, Guru Randhawa has stepped in as a major source of help. The actor has set

up relief camps in and around his village in Punjab to help out the victims. Announcing the same, Guru Randhawa wrote on Instagram, "Prayers for Punjab and all other states suffering from floods. Let's help in whatever ways we can. Setting up help camp in my area Dera Baba Nanak and near my village Dharowali."

Melania Trump's Name Floated for 2025 Nobel Peace Prize Amid Ukraine Diplomacy

Former U.S. First Lady Melania Trump is unexpectedly in the spotlight as allies of former President Donald Trump suggest she could be nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. Florida Representative Anna Paulina Luna told Fox News that Melania has played a "very instrumental" role in quiet diplomatic efforts with Russia and could be a "key reason" peace talks on Ukraine might eventually move forward.

Donald Trump himself has already received multiple nominations for the award from the governments of Rwanda, Israel, Gabon, Azerbaijan, and Cambodia, along with several individual nominators. Betting markets currently place his odds of winning at around 29%, similar to those of Russian activist Yulia Navalnaya.

The speculation intensified earlier this month when Trump delivered a personal letter from Melania to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a summit in Alaska. The letter, later released by

her office, urged Putin to "protect the innocence of children" and called for "a dignity-filled world for all." While it did not directly mention the ongoing war in Ukraine, some reports suggested it alluded to the plight of Ukrainian children taken during the conflict.

Despite no breakthroughs in negotiations and continued Russian strikes on Ukraine, Trump's inner circle insists that both the former president and first lady deserve recognition for their diplomatic overtures. Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, even told the former president during a Cabinet meeting, "You are the single finest candidate since this Nobel award was ever talked about."

The Nobel Peace Prize, which can honor up to three individuals or organizations in a single year, will announce its 2025 recipient on October 10, keeping the world watching to see if the Trumps' names will be called.



Param Sundari box office Day 5: Sidharth-Janhvi film gets push, earns Rs 34 crore



Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor's 'Param Sundari', which began with a fair opening but dipped on its first Monday, bounced back on its fifth day.

With the film slogging at the box office, it is expected to surpass the Rs 50 crore mark at the domestic box office. The film, which earned an impressive Rs 30

crore net in its first four days, added another Rs 4.25 crore on Tuesday, 2 September 2025, taking its India net total to around Rs 34.25 crore. This came after a sharp 68 per cent drop on Monday, when it collected Rs 3.25 crore, following a strong

Sunday haul of Rs 10.25 crore. Jaipur topped the charts with the highest occupancy at 24.33 per cent, peaking in the afternoon (31 per cent) and evening (27 per cent) shows. The National Capital Region (NCR) came next with the highest screenings and an

overall occupancy of 18.33 per cent, maintaining steady numbers in the afternoon and evening slots.

'Param Sundari' follows the story of Param, a young man from Delhi, who turns to an AI app in his quest for love.

Kiran Rao, Biju Toppo join Humans in the Loop as executive producers

Kiran Rao and Biju Toppo have joined as executive producers for the indie film Humans in the Loop. The film highlights invisible AI labour through an Adivasi woman's story, raising questions about technology and indigenous

Filmmakers Kiran Rao and Biju Toppo have come on board as executive producers for 'Humans in the Loop'. This feature film follows the story of an Adivasi woman working as an AI data-labeller in Jharkhand. Their support comes just ahead of the film's theatrical release on September 5 in Mumbai. Directed by Aranya Sahay, the film focuses on Nehma, an Oraon Adivasi woman whose work labelling data for AI systems becomes a window into the often unseen labour behind today's "smart" technologies. Shot in Jharkhand, the film also explores how indigenous knowledge systems are increasingly being sidelined in the rush toward technological progress. Kiran Rao, who directed 'Laapataa



Ladies', India's official entry to the 2024 Oscars, said she was drawn to 'Humans in the Loop' for both its emotional depth and the questions it raises. "I loved 'Humans in the Loop' from the very first viewing," Rao said in a statement. "It's deeply moving and thought-provoking. The film carries an important global message about technology, labour,

and the knowledge systems we risk losing. Supporting this project felt both urgent and necessary." For Biju Toppo, whose work has long focused on Adivasi stories, the film hits especially close to home. "This film speaks directly to the lives of people I personally have known and seen.

GST 2.0 Plus Alternatives To US: Modi's Reply To Trump

When Washington moved to raise duties on a wide set of Indian exports to 50 per cent, the aim was straightforward — to force concessions or extract commercial leverage from New Delhi. Reports from the past week captured the public face of the dispute — US President Donald Trump's repeated criticisms of India's trade stance and claims about barter with Russia — and the private diplomatic disquiet that followed. The tariffs have been framed in US political debate as part of a broader protectionist push; internationally they prompted quick reassessments of alliances and trade strategies. Politically, the measures created an opening for India to choose posture. The Narendra Modi government picked restraint over recrimination: There was no headline-grabbing retaliation aimed at Washington; instead New Delhi recalibrated policy instruments at home and redoubled outreach abroad. That diplomatic choice has two effects — it denies the US the spectacle of an escalatory bilateral row, and it buys India time to convert diplomatic sympathy into new commercial and strategic partnerships. advertisementThis, in fact, has been the BJP-led NDA's template response in the face of adversity. Remember then-Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha's 'bland' budget in the year 2000, the time when many Indians expected retaliation against the sanctions for Pokhran II slapped by the Bill Clinton-ruled US? India's domestic politics may see knee-jerk reactions quite often; India's management of external affairs rarely does. Modi's return from Japan and China Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on 2 September after a four-day diplomatic tour to Japan and China, timed amid the escalating US tariff row. In Japan from 29-30 August, Modi co-chaired the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, focusing on defence cooperation, economic ties, and supply chain resilience—areas critical for diversifying away from US dependencies. Discussions reportedly included accelerating joint ventures in semiconductors and green energy, with both leaders emphasising a "free and open Indo-Pacific" in subtle counterpoint to US protectionism. From there, Modi proceeded to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin from 31 August to 1 September—his first visit to the country in seven years. Bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping highlighted efforts to stabilise relations post-border tensions, with agreements on trade deficit reduction and resuming direct flights. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri noted that both leaders viewed their nations as "partners rather than rivals", stressing that stable ties could benefit 2.8 billion people and foster a multipolar Asia. While no major breakthroughs on territorial

disputes emerged, the meeting underscored India's push for balanced trade amid US pressures, with Modi advocating a "political and strategic approach" to economic imbalances. These engagements, occurring just before the GST overhaul, signalled India's intent to deepen Asian partnerships as a hedge against Western volatility. On 3 September, the GST Council approved what ministers described as the most consequential rate rationalisation since the GST's introduction, collapsing four slabs into two, broadly 5 per cent and 18 per cent, with targeted exemptions and a continuing high rate for luxury and "sin" items. The reforms take effect on 22 September — deliberately ahead of the festive season. The Modi government expects the package to spur consumption and ease price pressures. The Centre's initial estimate of revenue loss is sizeable but deemed manageable by officials. The timing is politically resonant. While ministers insist the overhaul was long planned, the coincidence with the tariff shock means GST 2.0 now reads as an explicit economic buffer: lower domestic indirect taxes across many consumer lines will lift volumes, provide immediate relief to manufacturers and traders squeezed by weaker external demand, and soften the political sting of lost export opportunities. Analysts described the package as "one arrow, many targets" — stimulating demand, cooling inflation, helping MSMEs and improving cash flows so firms can ride out disrupted US orders.

Five ways GST 2.0 helps — and the gaps it cannot fill

Demand backstop: Lower GST on mass goods and reduced taxes on small cars and appliances should raise household purchases during the crucial festive quarter, aiding factories that otherwise would face faltering US orders. Early market commentary suggests festival season sales will be the quickest indicator of the package's effectiveness. Working capital relief: Rate cuts and exemptions ease cash-flow constraints across MSMEs and retail chains, which in turn reduces immediate layoffs and bankruptcies in export-adjacent clusters. Faster GST refunds, which the government has promised to prioritise, will be critical. Signal to investors. Simplification reduces compliance frictions. That helps multinational firms reallocate production to India — a process already under way, for example in electronics — and reassures foreign investors that policy can be responsive. Reuters and industry reports earlier in the year documented rising iPhone production in India, a trend GST 2.0 aims to accelerate.

Macroeconomic breathing room: By cooling inflation (some banks suggest

headline consumer price pressure might ease if cuts are passed through), the reform affords the Reserve Bank and the government more room to support growth without triggering immediate monetary tightening. Citi and other institutions placed a quantifiable easing effect on inflation in their models. Fiscal strain: Cuts mean revenue loss. The government's estimate of the hit has been challenged by economists; balancing this shortfall without crowding out capital spending will be the policy test in the quarters ahead. States face uneven impacts that will require Centre-state coordination on borrowings and transfers.

What GST 2.0 will not do is alter the landed price of Indian exports in the United States. Tariffs are applied at the US border; domestic indirect tax cuts can only partially offset the competitiveness loss through lower production costs, higher domestic demand and improved firm resilience. Targeted export relief — faster drawback, interest subsidies on export credit and bilateral market access concessions — remain necessary complements. Specific exemptions on life and health insurance policies, along with reductions on essential medicines, agricultural machinery, and renewable energy devices, further underscore the focus on affordability and inclusion.

Diplomacy on two fronts

Economic fixes would be incomplete without politics. Over the week, New Delhi reinforced its diplomatic outreach. Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong conducted a high-level visit focused on trade, green energy and digital cooperation; Germany's foreign minister Johann Wadephul met Indian counterparts to press for deeper EU-India engagement and even asked for India's help on wider security questions. Finland's President Alexander Stubb publicly cautioned against alienating the Global South — all signs that many countries are seeking stable ties with India amid doubts about Washington's consistency.

That outreach serves multiple political aims. First, it converts short-term diplomatic goodwill into concrete commercial and investment opportunities that can help absorb the tariff shock. Second, it strengthens India's voice in fora where the Global South seeks alternatives to an order perceived as increasingly fractious. Third, it preserves space to mend relations with the US later without having escalated into a bilateral crisis. In other words, New Delhi is pursuing diversification rather than decoupling.

Global North balanced with Global South The week gone by has underscored an emerging narrative — the Global North is not monolithic in response to US policy. While some Western capitals share concerns about India's ties with Russia, many European

governments and Asian partners are pragmatic — keen to secure supply chains, investment and collaboration With New Delhi, even as they voice reservations about Washington's methods. Germany's outreach is notable: Berlin explicitly sought India's help on wider diplomatic problems, signalling trust and the potential for a deeper EU-India economic compact.

Perhaps the EU leaders wouldn't have been wary of Trump if the US president had not treated them with condescension, making them sit around his desk at the White House recently, as though they were obedient pupils attending a lecture by the headmaster.

Be that as it may, India's alignment with parts of the Global South has political meaning beyond immediate bilateral economics. BRICS expansion and active engagement in multilateral forums have amplified India's diplomatic voice; presenting India as a leader of an alternative coalition makes the country more attractive to nations seeking hedging options. GST 2.0 strengthens the domestic pillar of that leadership by showcasing governance that can protect and stimulate the home economy.

Sectoral winners and losers

In electronics and mobile manufacturing, firms that have already moved assembly to India — notably players in the Apple supply chain — stand to gain as domestic demand firmed and compliance slows. GST simplification reduces the friction of complex input chains. However, where exports to the US are price sensitive, gains may be contained without targeted export rebates.

The labour-intensive, export-dependent sectors—textiles, gems and jewellery, and shrimp—are most vulnerable to border tariffs. Domestic demand can absorb some production, but order books to the US will still decline unless the Indian government offers direct export support. Some industry sources and analysts estimate meaningful short-term revenue risks.

As for automotive and appliances, reclassification of small cars and certain appliances into the 18 per cent bracket reduces consumer prices, which should boost volumes during the festival season. Strong retail take-up here will be an early signal of the package's success.

Policy complements that matter now GST 2.0 is necessary but not sufficient. The past week's news discourse identified immediate follow-ups policymakers must prioritise: Faster GST refunds and predictable drawback schedules to help exporters manage cash flow.

No, This Is Not About Ganging Up Against The US

What could arguably be the most 'consequential' visit of the Prime Minister is now over. That adjective, once used to describe India-US relations, could ironically now apply to the Beijing visit, given the tantrums being seen almost daily from the White House. The maligning and insults by White House officials have added flavour to what should have otherwise have been an almost ignored event. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has never come up with anything exciting, but now it seems the grouping is going places, with its largest ever meeting. India's presence added the necessary spice, especially since Delhi chose very deliberately to go to Japan first. That's signalling of a sort not seen in decades.

Japanese Fine Dining

The visit to Japan prior to going to China - for what was, after all, a multilateral meeting and not a bilateral one - is of note. It was, in some measure, a taste of what Beijing has often done in clubbing India and Pakistan together in visits. There was an additional twist. This time, Beijing was holding a grand parade to mark its win against Japan during the

World War. That the Prime Minister did not attend that with other guests is one thing. What would have riled the Chinese even more was the unmitigated success of his Japan visit in terms of optics, warmth and the written word. With more than 70 dialogue mechanisms and groups, ties are already at a high level, but the Joint Statement has two interesting aspects. One is the commitment to facilitate more than 5 lakh people exchanges to foster talent mobility. As the US threatens India on the H-1B visa, that's a huge thumbs up. The second is even more interesting: the Agreement on Security Cooperation, which highlights a surprisingly large range of increased military activities, including exercises, energising logistics cooperation, research and development, interaction among special forces, supply of defence equipment, an annual NSA-to-NSA (National Security Advisor) dialogue, all of which is intended to deliver, among other things, a 'coercion-free Indo-Pacific' and common security interests. That's the basketful of goodies with which the Prime Minister arrived in Beijing. The Xi Hiccups Modi's

meeting with Xi was watched closely across the world; it showed a certain affability, with both declaring themselves as "development partners and not rivals". The usual Chinese statement, that the border issue should not define the overall China-India relationship, was met with India's equally predictable reiteration of 'border first'. After all, Xi's analogy of a "dancing of the dragon and the elephant" is hardly possible, when one partner is looking over their shoulder for yet another salami-slicing of territory. Again, while Beijing spoke of a 'multipolar world', India shot back with an 'multipolar Asia'. The statement basically took forward the agreement already reached when foreign minister Wang Yi visited India, which dealt with direct air flights, and opening of trade routes. But what was notable was India's careful language, that (improving) "relations should not be seen through a third country lens". In other words, no ganging up on the United States or anybody else. That left the field open for improving ties with Washington at a much, much later date. But no one is giving up on that yet. Mean-

while, the presence of officials of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) at the table may indicate some movement in rectifying the \$99 billion trade deficit. This organisation has been managing the response to US tariffs and economic policy, including with countries like Kazakhstan, which has also been hit hard by tariffs. Trade is a major area that Beijing needs to relent on, for its own benefit. This is especially so since Beijing hasn't yet agreed to even the sharing of data on rivers, restricting it to only emergency sharing on humanitarian grounds. Beijing might shake hands and exude bonhomie, but if it has to be seen to deliver on the SCO's pleasantries, opening up on trade is the way to go, especially since India has already indicated that it is likely to lift curbs on Chinese Foreign Direct Investment. The Russian Photo-ops Then there was the camaraderie with Russian President Vladimir Putin so apparent in photo-ops, and the read-out of the meeting from the Kremlin. That meeting had a whole phalanx of ministers and a warm language of "trust-based relations for de-

acades", and so on. The MEA's read-out was terse and emphasised the need to end the war in Ukraine. Later, however, state media seems to have thought better of it and talked of the two countries standing 'shoulder to shoulder' during difficult times. This is undoubtedly true; the fact that Russia came to India's rescue with weaponry during the Galwan conflict is now an open secret. But it is also true that the 'cheap oil' - now even cheaper as the price of Urals crude has dipped further with a discount of around \$3 a barrel - may not last long. Russia is again opening up to international buyers, and reports suggest that majors like Exxon Mobil are in talks to return to the Sakhalin oil fields. That might put an end to the huge refinery boom for India. True, Russia has offered to produce the S-500 in India for export, as well as the fifth generation Su-57, which is a major opportunity. But both deals are designed to evade sanctions. That might not be possible for India anymore, even though the BrahMos has become part of urban legend after 'Operation Sindoor'.

The Beginning

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About the Author



Sharanjit Thind Singh, for more than 29 years has spent his career immersed in the world of advertising, marketing, and media. His professional journey includes working with well known Media, FMCG and Telecom Companies in India and the US.

Hailing from a small postal stamp size city in Punjab, Thind's academic background reflects his drive for excellence. After completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, he pursued an MBA. He further strengthened his expertise with a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication. This combination of business knowledge and media insight became the foundation of his career.

He founded and, is CEO of Nu Way Advertising in Manhattan now known as Nu Way Media Group Inc. He has served as a Commissioner of the Nassau County Human Rights Commission in New York.



The Beginning

MAD MEN OF NU WAY ADVERTISING

Sharanjit Thind Singh

The Beginning

A True Story of the iconic rise of an Indian American Advertising Agency in Manhattan, New York in early 2000

Sharanjit Thind Singh



MAD MEN

OF

NU WAY ADVERTISING

How much will you invest in US? Trump presses tech titans at White House dinner

At a White House dinner with top tech CEOs, Donald Trump pressed Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft on their US investments.

In a power-packed dinner that brought together Silicon Valley's titans at the White House, US President Donald Trump posed a pointed question as he went around the table: how much are America's biggest technology companies investing back home? The heads of tech giants -- Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft -- responded with promises of staggering investments, earning praise from the President. "Tim, how much

money will Apple be investing in the United States? I know it's a very large amount. You were elsewhere before, and now you're really coming home in a big way. How much money will you be investing?" the President asked Apple CEO Tim Cook. Tim Cook replied: "\$600 billion." "\$600 billion? Alright, that's a lot of jobs. We're very proud of that. That's great. Thank you very much, appreciate it," the US President responded. Meta's

Mark Zuckerberg, seated to Trump's right, also said: "\$600 billion." The next question was about Google's investment. "We are well north of \$100 billion. In the next two years, it will be \$250 billion in the US," Google CEO Sundar Pichai replied. "That's great, that's great. We're proud of you. Thank you. A lot of jobs, a lot of jobs. Yeah, good," Trump said. "What about Microsoft? That's a big number." Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella replied: "This year,

in the United States, we are close to around \$75 to \$80 billion." "Good, very good. Thank you very much." The dinner, which followed an AI-focused event hosted by First Lady Melania Trump, was the latest example of the delicate two-way courtship between Donald Trump and tech leaders. While companies are eager to remain on the good side of the mercurial president, Trump remarked that the meeting would take the US "to a new level".

Seated at the centre of a long table, surrounded by what he called "high IQ people," Trump was also praised in turn by the tech CEOs. Notably missing from the guest list was Elon Musk, once a close Trump ally who had been entrusted with leading the Department of Government Efficiency before their public fallout earlier this year. Taking his place at the table was Musk's rival in artificial intelligence, Sam Altman of OpenAI.

Battle against India is personal for Trump, his aide Navarro lets it slip

Peter Navarro, President Trump's senior counsellor on trade, has given it away that the record-high tariffs against India are not just over Russian oil or trade. With his language and images in particular, Navarro has revealed that Trump and his cronies are making it personal against PM Modi. The attack is directed at India's civilisational roots.

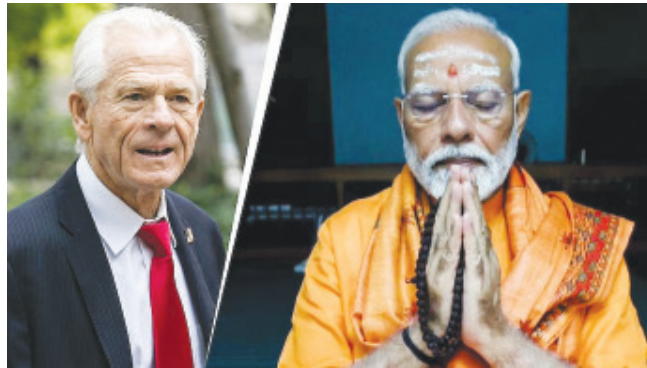
If a picture is worth a thousand words, the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted by Peter Navarro would be that. In a thread on X criticising India, the senior Donald Trump aide let it slip that the American tariff war against India is beyond oil and trade. The use of PM Modi's photo in which he is meditating in saffron robes is an attack directed at India's civilisational roots. Navarro wouldn't realise the connection of that image with a speech in Chicago 132 years ago when an Indian spiritual leader began his address with "Sisters and Brothers of America!"

Navarro would not have realised that, using the Modi image and such language, he has revealed that US President Donald Trump and his cronies have a personal axe to grind.

This tallies exactly with the analysis by Jefferies, a US-based investment banking major. "Tariffs are primarily the consequence of the American president's personal pique that he was not allowed to play a role in seeking to end the long-running acrimony between India and Pakistan," the Jefferies report said. Trump's lies about getting India and Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire after a four-day war in May would have become a highlight of his Nobel Peace claim. That Modi-led In-

dia called out his lies was unpalatable to Trump and his Cabinet, which has become bla-

dog. Navarro shoo! Navarro said India's oil trade with Russia "carries an added price of blood



tant about the Nobel Peace Prize demand. "India is getting in bed with the authoritarians," Navarro said in an interview with Bloomberg TV.

Language, Peter!

Also, Trump loves hanging out with authoritarians, be it Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani or Pakistan's Army chief Asim Munir. Navarro was formerly an economist with a love for fiction. He birthed a fictional economist, Ron Vara—and made it the brains behind the Trumpian tariffs. In the Bloomberg TV interview, Navarro fictionalised the Ukraine-Russia war as "Modi's war". Then came his thread on X that confirmed that he is nothing but Trump's attack

Navarro called India's way of dealing "madness".

In the final post of the thread, Navarro inserted an image of a meditating Modi in saffron robes, a red tilak and Thiruneeru (vibhuti paste) on his forehead. There were thousands of Modi photos to choose from, but the use of this particular image, taken out of context, is deliberate, and meant to convey a message. The attempt was at stereotyping and labelling India's Prime

Minister to make his attacks in sync with western media narrative. That image was of Modi meditating at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari on May 31, 2024. That was the day the campaigning for the general election ended, and the PM's meditation was symbolic of leaving behind the dust that had been kicked all around. Saffron is the colour of bhikshus and monks, the vibhuti and tilak give a spiritual effect. None of that would make any sense for the creator of Ron Vara. Because that's not the economy, stupid. It was exactly 131 years ago, on May 31, 1893, that Swami Vivekananda set sail for Chicago to deliver his legendary

address at the World Parliament of Religions. Clad in saffron robes, he introduced the West to the spiritual wisdom of the East, and earned everyone's attention and admiration as the "great Hindu monk". Known as Narendra then, the 30-year-old philosopher had swum to one of the rocks at Kanniyakumari, and meditated. It was in Kanyakumari that Vivekananda got the vision of a modern India. That was the place where Modi meditated, an image of which was shared by Navarro to target India, trying to make a caricature of its civilisational roots. Saffron robes, vibhuti paste and tilak are India's pride, as are its economy, collective strength and the STEM talent it nurtures. Awarding Navarro's attacks with silence like Modi did with Trump's attempts to talk to him is the best strategy India has adopted. That's like leaving a sender on WhatsApp on read, with nothing but two blue ticks. Navarro has revealed that the tariffs on India are more than just oil and trade, and that Trump and his cronies have made it personal. India has not just deep civilisational roots but internal strength to tide over all challenges. Someone in DC or Mar-a-Lago needs to remind Trump of the time when Buddha Smiled Again.

How pizza deliveries signal US military, political emergency

Earlier this week, when speculation over Donald Trump's alleged death was swirling, the Pentagon Pizza Index surged by 800%. Pizza orders near the Pentagon—the headquarters of the US Defence Department—are considered a barometer, hinting at officials at work for hours, during a crunch situation. This was also the case in June when the US bombed Iran. Even Soviet spies kept an eye on pizza orders during the Cold War.

"We know... Absolutely. Pentagon orders doubled up the night before the Panama attack; the same thing happened before the Grenada invasion. We got a lot of orders, starting around midnight. We figured something was up," said a pizza delivery person in 1990. The surge in late-night pizza orders and deliveries soon made sense. What followed was Iraq's surprise invasion of Kuwait. Saddam Hussein's forces crossed the border and swiftly occupied the small Gulf state in a few hours, and declared Kuwait Iraq's "19th province". The officials in the Pentagon—the headquarters of the US Department of Defence—were monitoring and working on the American response to it. It's a quirky yet enduring relic of wartime lore and amateur open-source intelligence gathering, which notes surges in deliveries to the Pentagon often before any US military actions or tense situations. They say officials, hunkering down for long hours of planning, munch on pizzas—a quick and handy meal. So, the Pentagon Pizza Index has come to signal a crunch situation in the US. Earlier this week, an unusual surge in pizza deliveries around the Pentagon and other high-security US government locations coincided with

speculation about President Donald Trump's alleged death. Pizza orders near the Pentagon surged, with the Pentagon Pizza Index showing an increase of nearly 800%. That was a false alarm. Trump, it seems, is hale and hearty. However, in June, the Pentagon Pizza Index proved right. Hours before Iranian state TV first reported loud explosions in Tehran, pizza orders around the Pentagon went through the roof. The delivery guys probably knew that something was cooking even before diplomats of most countries. While US government officials have dismissed, and it is more legend than intelligence, there have been moments when the Pentagon Pizza Index seemed to prove accurate. The Pentagon Pizza Index is one of several unconventional indicators, like the Hemline Index, Lipstick Index, and the Men's Underwear Index, which have been uncannily accurate at times.

PENTAGON PIZZA INDEX WAS BORN OUT OF COLD WAR

The Pentagon Pizza Index traces its roots to the late Cold War era, when Soviet intelligence operatives in Washington, DC, reportedly monitored local pizza deliveries as a low-tech way to gauge US military readiness. Dubbed 'Pizzint' (short for pizza intelligence),

the surges in late-night orders to government buildings like the Pentagon and CIA headquarters, were tracked, assuming the staffers pulled all-nighters on crisis planning. As The Economist's former head of data journalism, Alex Selby-Boothroyd noted on LinkedIn, "The Pentagon Pizza Index has been a surprisingly reliable predictor of seismic global events, from coups to wars, since the 1980s." The espionage method evolved into an unconventional barometer for journalists and analysts, with open-source intelligence (OSINT) aiding them. The theory gained mainstream traction in the early 1990s through anecdotal reports from local pizzeria owners. Frank Meeks, who owned 43 Domino's franchises in the Washington area, became a key person in popularising the Pentagon pizza theory. In a January 1991 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Meeks recounted how his drivers noticed unusual patterns. "The news media doesn't always know when something big is going to happen because they're in bed, but [pizza] deliverers are out there at 2 in the morning," said Meeks. He cited a record 21 pizzas delivered to CIA headquarters on August 1, 1990, just hours before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait,

which sparked the Gulf War. Meeks also linked similar spikes to the 1989 US invasion of Panama and the 1983 Grenada operation, where Pentagon orders reportedly doubled overnight.

250% PIZZA INDEX SPIKE DURING GULF WAR: WASHINGTON POST

CNN's then-Pentagon correspondent Wolf Blitzer amplified the lore in 1990, joking on air, saying, "Bottom line for journalists: Always monitor the pizzas." The Washington Post, in a 1998 article during Operation Desert Fox and President Clinton's impeachment, reported a 250% surge in deliveries to White House offices, comparing it to Gulf War patterns. While the Pentagon has long dismissed the index, saying, "there are many pizza options available inside the Pentagon, including sushi, sandwiches, donuts, coffee, etc.", the absence of an on-site pizzeria must have kept the theory alive.

Now, modern OSINT tools like Google Maps data, scraped by accounts such as PenPizzaReport, have digitised it, flagging anomalies when activity exceeds two standard deviations from a 30-day average. Critics, including OSINT experts, caution it's prone to confirmation bias, with unreported

false positives. Yet, as Modern Diplomacy noted in July, it exemplifies how "insight can be gleaned from surprising corners of public life", by turning mundane consumer data for high-stakes events.

PENTAGON'S STRANGEST LEGEND SAW PIZZA BOXES, BATTLE PLANS COINCIDE

The Pentagon Pizza Index's "hits" are legendary, with documented surges preceding key US military actions. The earliest verified case dates to October 25, 1983, the eve of Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada. Frank Meeks reported his Domino's shop's pre-midnight volume doubling to nearly 100 pizzas, as planners worked through the night on the invasion to oust Marxist leaders and rescue American students. The Los Angeles Times corroborated similar patterns before the December 1989 Panama invasion (Operation Just Cause), where deliveries tripled across three pizzerias to over 100 pies each. The Pentagon Pizza Index's most cited "success" came on August 1, 1990, when the CIA set a one-night record with 21 pizzas delivered, hours before Saddam Hussein's forces overran Kuwait. Meeks told Time magazine that drivers "figured something was up" from the midnight rush.

Trump is sending a powerful message to the world with the Pentagon's rebrand

When the White House announced it would rechristen the Department of Defense as the Department of War, the country didn't just react—it combust. Critics from across the aisle called it a costly political stunt, a distraction from real national security needs at a time when every dollar and every headline should count. Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth, herself a veteran, didn't mince words: "This money," she argued, "would be better spent supporting military families or funding diplomacy." Observers warn that reviving the "Department of War" label signals a more aggressive American posture, one that

could undermine decades of strategic restraint and the international norms that have kept global tensions in check. Editorials from San Antonio to London's Guardian have sounded the alarm: Is this a return to saber-rattling or just a branding exercise gone rogue? But what if there's more to this than meets the eye? What if, beneath the headlines and hashtags, there's a calculated strategy at work? The Power of Words—And Why They Matter Now Words are not mere labels; they are the lenses through which we perceive reality. At my firm, maslansky + partners, we often say, "It's not what you say, it's what they hear." And what

people are hearing now is profound—but perhaps, that's exactly the point. From Defense to War: A Calculated Shift

Consider the implications:

Defense suggests protection, safety and deterrence. War conveys aggression, conflict and—crucially—resolve. For decades, America's military has been framed as a shield. But in a world where threats are multiplying and adversaries are emboldened, maybe the shield isn't enough. Maybe it's time to remind the world—and ourselves—that America still carries a sword. Recruiting, Morale and the Warrior Ethos Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has

been clear that he wants to instill a "warrior ethos." But this isn't just about chest-thumping. It's about recruitment. It's about morale. It's about telling young Americans that joining the military isn't just about standing guard—it's about being part of something bold, assertive and unapologetically strong. A soldier follows orders, protects and defends. A warrior fights, conquers and advances. That subtle shift could be the spark that reignites pride and purpose in a generation that's grown up with endless wars but little sense of victory or valor. Global Perception: A New Kind of Deterrence For decades, America has framed its military mission as

one of defense—defending democracy, allies and freedom. That framing granted us legitimacy, trust and moral authority. But it also, at times, invited our adversaries to test our limits. Now, with the Department of War, the message is starkly different: We're not just here to defend. We're here to win. This shift doesn't just make our adversaries nervous; it could make them think twice. It could signal to the world that America is done playing defense and that the cost of aggression just went up. Why This Matters This isn't about semantics; it's about how America defines itself—and how the rest of the world defines us.

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