

Flash floods in Uttarakhand leave four dead; over 60 feared trapped

Many feared washed away after water from Kheer Ganga river swept through Dharali in Uttarkashi district; heavy losses of life and property feared; nine Army personnel feared missing, 20 people rescued in first three hours, Army officer says

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

At least four persons were killed and dozens feared washed away in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand after flash floods triggered by torrential rain hit the Kheer Ganga river on Tuesday afternoon.

The floods hit hotels and residential buildings in Dharali town, situated 8,600 feet above sea level, where video footage recorded by residents showed giant waves of water gushing through the area and swallowing everything in their way, including people and homes.

Residents were heard yelling warnings to their acquaintances to run for their lives. The entire market area of the popular tou-



Blink of an eye: A series of images shows floodwater surging downhill and destroying buildings in Dharali town, located 8,600 feet above sea level, in Uttarakhand, on Tuesday. PTI

rist town was washed away in minutes, leaving the place looking like a sludge-filled river bed.

At least 25 establishments, including hotels, guest houses, and homes were completely destroyed. A rough estimate

by the district administration says that around 60-70 people are missing or might be trapped in the area. As many as nine Army personnel are feared missing, said Lieutenant-Colonel Manish Shrivastava, the Army's Public Rela-

tions Officer at Dehradun. The Army rescued around 20 people in the first three hours of the rescue operation, he added.

Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya said that the floods, which hit the town around 1.45 p.m.,

had caused heavy losses of life and property.

Sources in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the area said that 32 people were rescued by different teams. As many as 120 people were rescued and given first aid till the time of filing this report.

The administration has also set up relief camps for those affected. Hospitals in the area have been asked to reserve a separate wing for the treatment of injured people, and medical teams have been asked to be ready with beds, oxygen, and medicines.

"There has been heavy destruction in the area around the helipad in Harshil, another popular tourist spot," Mr. Arya said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Restore special status: J&K parties amid protests against Article 370 abrogation

Peerzada Ashiq

SRINAGAR

Street protests by regional political parties and the demand for special status marked the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

The ruling National Conference (NC) organised street protests in several districts of J&K and demanded the restoration of special status.

“We live in a country known for its democracy that must reflect in Kashmir too,” NC leader and MLA Salman Sagar said.

The Opposition PDP also held street protests.

“August 5 marks a black day not just for Jammu and Kashmir, but for the entire



Congress supporters hold placards as they demand the restoration of J&K Statehood in Srinagar on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

nation. The unconstitutional abrogation of J&K's special status was not an end, it was the beginning of a broader assault on constitutional values,” PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said.

Police action

The Congress accused the police of preventing party

members from holding a protest in Srinagar.

“On August 5, the identity of the 1.40 crore people of J&K was stripped. J&K was not only bifurcated, but degraded as well. We are observing it as a black day,” J&K party unit chief-Tariq Hameed Karra said.

CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tari-

SC to hear plea on non-restoration of J&K Statehood

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to list on August 8 an application questioning the non-restoration of Statehood to J&K despite an assurance made on the Centre's behalf to the court. » **Page 14**

gami termed August 5 “the darkest day in Indian history” and an “attack on our constitutional relationship with India”. “We will continue our peaceful struggle for justice,” he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP held special functions across the Union Territory to celebrate August 5.

Top court to hear plea on J&K Statehood non-restoration

Supreme Court lists application questioning the continuance of Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status despite assurance of Statehood made on behalf of the Centre for August 8

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to list on August 8 an application questioning the non-restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir despite an assurance made on behalf of the Centre to the court.

The application was orally mentioned before Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan on August 5, which is the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

The application, filed by Zahoor Ahmed Bhat and activist Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, pointed out that the court had in its 2023 judgment upholding the abrogation, merely accepted the assurance of the Centre to restore Statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest". They pointed out that the Assembly poll in the Union Territory was held peacefully.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any



A man feeds pigeons in front of the Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as the erstwhile State marks six years since the abrogation of Article 370. IMRAN NISSAR

other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the application said.

'Violation of federalism'

The applicants argued that the lack of restoration of Statehood in a time-bound manner amounted to a violation of federalism, which was part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

In its 2023 verdict, a Constitution Bench of the

apex court had unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate Article 370 in August 2019, leading to the reorganisation of the full-fledged State of Jammu and Kashmir to two Union Territories and denuding it of its special privileges.

The five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud (now retired) had confirmed that the President could "unilaterally issue a notification that Article 370 ceases to exist".

The court held that the President had the power to abrogate Article 370 if

"special circumstances warrant a special solution".

The judgment had reasoned that the abrogation of Article 370 was the culmination of a "gradual and collaborative exercise" spread over the past 70 years between the Centre and the State to integrate Jammu and Kashmir with the Union.

The objective of the integration process was to make the entirety of the rights and obligations enshrined in the Indian Constitution applicable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the court held.

RPAs for three services to mountain radars: DAC clears procurements worth ₹ 67,000 cr

Maintenance support for US-made C-17 and C-130J fleets & Russian-made S-400

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE DEFENCE Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday approved a range of military procurement proposals for the armed forces worth nearly ₹67,000 crore.

These include the procurement of Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs) for the three services, a compact autonomous surface craft for the Navy, maintenance support for the C-17 and C-130J fleets of the Indian Air Force (IAF), and a comprehensive annual maintenance contract for the S-400 long range air defence missile system.

The DAC's approval for the maintenance of both American and Russian platforms with the IAF can be considered a display of strategic autonomy by India, especially at a time when the US President Donald Trump has

been criticising India over its crude oil imports from Russia, a move New Delhi termed "unjustified and unreasonable targeting" of the country.

The IAF has a fleet of 12 C-130J-30 Super Hercules Aircraft, procured from the US in 2010-11, followed by additional orders in the subsequent years. The IAF operates a fleet of 11 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft procured between 2013 and 2019. Both were procured by India from the US under separate Foreign Military Sale (FMS) agreements.

India had signed the S-400 deal with Russia in 2018, a year after the US passed the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). The long range surface to air missile system played a critical role in defending Indian skies during Operation Sindoor between May 7 and 10.

These procurements are particularly significant in the light of Operation Sindoor, which was launched by India on May 7 after the April 22 terror attack in

Pahalgam that left 26 people dead, and appear to be drawn from lessons learnt from it.

According to a statement issued by the Defence Ministry, the DAC has granted an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sights for the Battle Mechanised Platforms with the Army, which will enhance the night driving capability of BMPs and provide higher mobility and operational advantage to the mechanised infantry.

The DAC is the primary body responsible for approving major capital acquisitions in defence. The first step in the defence procurement process is the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN). However, obtaining an AoN does not always lead to a final order.

The DAC also approved the procurement of the compact autonomous surface craft, the BrahMos fire control system and launchers, and the upgrade of the BARAK-1 point defence missile system for the Navy.

"The procurement of the compact autonomous surface craft will enable the Indian Navy to detect, classify and neutralise threats during anti-submarine warfare missions," the statement said.

For the Indian Air Force, an AoN was granted for the procurement of mountain radars and the upgrade of the SAKSHAM/SPYDER weapon system, which will enhance air surveillance capabilities along and across borders in mountainous regions.

The upgrade of the SAKSHAM/SPYDER system for integration with the Integrated Air Command and Control System will strengthen India's air defence capabilities. Additionally, the procurement of MALE RPAs for three services will support round-the-clock surveillance and combat readiness, as these aircraft can carry multiple payloads and weapons while operating at longer ranges for extended missions.

All 10 new Central Secretariat buildings likely to be completed in 2027, says govt

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

All 10 of the new Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings, to be named as Kartavya Bhawan, are likely to be completed in 2027, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Srinivas Katikithala said Tuesday. The Secretary also said that a metro corridor connecting all the buildings with Indraprastha station on one side and Ramkrishna Ashram Marg station on the other is also being planned.

The first of the 10 buildings, Kartavya Bhawan (KB) 3, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal said.

Construction on CCS 10 at the site Raksha Bhawan, and CCS 6 and CCS 7 at the site of the old Vice-President's house and Vigyan Bhawan Annexe on Maulana Azad Road is also ongoing.

The work on the buildings, CCS 4 and CCS 5 at the site of Shastri Bhawan and Krishi Bha-



The first of the 10 buildings, Kartavya Bhawan (KB) 3, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

wan, and CCS 8 and CCS 9 at the site of Udyog Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan will start by December 31, the secretary said. He said the buildings are likely to be completed in "20 to 22 months", adding that the National Museum, the National Archives, Jawahar Bhawan and Vanijya Bhawan buildings would be retained.

The Ministries of Home Affairs, Rural Development, External Affairs, Personnel, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises will be located in the KB 3 building, the secretary said.

The minister said that the ministries moving out of Shastri Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, Nirm-

an Bhawan and Krishi Bhawan will be accommodated in the CCS buildings, but some will be temporarily located in buildings outside of the Central Vista area.

He also said the Prime Minister's Office would also soon shift out of South Block to the new Executive Enclave that is under construction. An official said that work on the PM's residence, called Executive Enclave 2, is also on.

On the cost of KB 3, the minister said it was split into the tendered cost, ₹3,690 crore, and then the cost for delegate services. The final cost would be known upon completion.

On why picnics were recently disallowed at the India Gate lawns, the secretary said the office of the CEO, Kartavya Path, along with a joint secretary level officer in MoHUA and the local police, were assessing "who comes for what purpose". "The whole vista has to be designed to enable the citizens who are coming either for recreation purposes or to access the Central Secretariat or to go and visit the museums..."

India-Philippines ties elevated to strategic partnership, says PM

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines have decided to boost their defence and maritime links, begin direct flights, and start negotiating a new trade deal as they upgraded their ties to the level of a “strategic partnership”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Welcoming visiting Filipino President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., Mr. Modi said that as both countries support “freedom of navigation”, cooperation in the maritime domain is “natural and essential”. The two sides also announced the commencement of talks for a preferential trade agreement.

“We have been consistently working together in areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and search and rescue operations. Today, as the

Announcement
comes as Prime
Minister welcomes
Filipino President
Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
on his visit to India

President is visiting India, three Indian naval ships are, for the very first time, participating in a naval exercise in the Philippines. India’s hydrography ship is also a part of this important engagement,” the Prime Minister said. He also expressed his “sincere gratitude” to Philippines for condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The Prime Minister discussed regional and global issues with the Filipino President, and also hinted at India’s position on the disputes in the South China Sea.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

India, Philippines now in strategic partnership

“We remain committed to peace, security, prosperity, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. We support freedom of navigation in accordance with international law,” he said.

Mr. Modi described the Philippines as an “important partner” in India’s Act East Policy. “I am happy to share that we have decided to upgrade our ties to a strategic partnership. We have also prepared a detailed action plan to turn this partnership’s potential into outcomes,” he said. The Prime Minister also announced that direct flights between India and the Philippines will begin this year, while India will extend a free e-tourist visa facility to Filipino nationals for a period of one year, starting August 2025.

The two countries agreed on a number of defence-related mechanisms including the finalisation of the Terms of Reference between their armies, navies and air forces. These agreements will cover “capacity building, joint maritime activities, exchange of training programmes between our officials, and all standard elements when we talk about defence cooperation”, according to P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs. The two countries also agreed on the Terms of Reference for enhanced maritime cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Mr. Kumaran also reiterated India’s position on the South China Sea. “We consider the South China Sea as a part of the global commons. We support freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and legitimate commerce through the waters of the South China Sea. India has an abiding interest in peace and stability in the region and our position is based on the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas, 1982,” he said. India announced that it will extend its support to a pilot project to set up the infrastructure needed for the Philippines Sovereign Data Cloud. India also invited the Philippines to participate in its Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region.

Yunus vows constitutional status for 2024 uprising in 'July Declaration'

Bangladesh Chief Adviser slams former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for turning the country into a 'mafia state'; he vows to write to the Election Commission to organise national polls in February 2026; Awami League criticises the Declaration

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The student-people uprising of 2024 that overthrew the Sheikh Hasina-led government of Bangladesh will get "constitutional recognition", said the July Declaration that was launched by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday in Dhaka.

The Declaration, launched on the anniversary of the fall of the Hasina government, blamed the Awami League for creating a one-party state in Bangladesh after 1971 and said the party was



Course reset: Bangladeshis celebrate at an event organised by the interim government in Dhaka on Tuesday. AFP

"loyal to external forces".

In a statement sent to *The Hindu*, the Awami League hit back at the interim government and said

the Declaration did not offer anything to the "protesting job seekers" of Bangladesh.

"Therefore, the people

of Bangladesh express their desire that the student-people uprising of 2024 will get proper state and constitutional recognition and that the July declaration will feature in the schedule of the reformed constitution as framed by the government formed through the next national election," said the Declaration.

The document started by paying tribute to the Liberation War of 1971 while avoiding any mention of founding figure of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Declaration, presented by Mr. Yunus at a

public event held on parliament premises, stated, "...during the rule of Sheikh Hasina, an extreme force that was anti-people, autocratic and against human rights turned Bangladesh into a fascist, mafia and failed state and thereby tarnished Bangladesh's international image."

In a televised speech later in the evening, Mr. Yunus said he will write to the Election Commission to organise election in February 2026. "All of you should pray so that we can progress towards creating a 'New Bangladesh' by conducting a smooth election," Mr. Yunus said.

Over 500 held as Imran's party organises nationwide protests seeking his release

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Tuesday organised protest rallies in different parts of the country, demanding the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was arrested two years ago on corruption charges.

The party claimed that its more than 500 workers and supporters who took to the streets were arrested by police, mostly in Punjab province.

Mr. Khan, 72, was arrested on August 5, 2023, from his residence in Lahore after being convicted by a court in a corruption case. He has been incarcerated since his arrest due to conviction in other cases, and is being held at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

The call for the protest was given by Mr. Khan. His party claimed that supporters of the jailed leader responded by coming out in big numbers.

"Today, August 5, marks the second anniversary of the incarceration of former Prime Minister Imran Khan with all basic human



Leader's cause: Supporters of Imran Khan's PTI party take part in a rally in Hyderabad in Pakistan on Tuesday. AP

rights revoked, no or very limited access to his legal team or family, no access to his political leadership other than a couple of people now and then," senior party leader Zulfi Bokhari said.

Mr. Bokhari, who is the spokesperson of Mr. Khan for international relations as well as international media, said the government has imposed a ban on gatherings, blocking main highways, wrecking cars with party flags and raiding the residences of active party leaders and workers.

"Over 500 PTI leaders and workers have been arrested so far in Punjab

alone, mostly from Lahore, including several lawmakers," he said.

"The protesters will continue to demonstrate peacefully till the end of the day. However, the government seems weak in the knees, despite being in power," he said.

According to Mr. Khan's party, most arrests were made in Lahore. The police in Punjab province, which is ruled by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, arrested PTI supporters for allegedly violating Section 144, which bans the assembly of four or more persons.

Australia to buy advanced warships from Japan

Agence France-Presse

SYDNEY

Australia will upgrade its Navy with 11 Mogami-class frigates built by Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Defence Minister Richard Marles said on Tuesday.

Billed as one of Japan's biggest defence export deals since the Second World War, Australia will pay \$ 6 billion (Aus\$ 10 billion) over the next 10 years to acquire the fleet of stealth frigates.

Australia is in the midst of a major military restructuring, bolstering its Navy with long-range firepower in an effort to deter China. It is striving to expand its fleet of major warships from 11 to 26 over the next decade.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was awarded the tender over Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems.

Mogami-class warships are advanced stealth frigates equipped with a potent array of weapons. Mr. Marles said they would replace Australia's ageing Anzac-class vessels, with the first Mogami-class ship to be on the water by 2030.

NATO to coordinate regular arm deliveries to Ukraine, most will be bought from US

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, AUGUST 5

NATO started coordinating regular deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine after the Netherlands said it would provide air defence equipment, ammunition and other military aid worth 500 million euros (USD 578 million), most bought from the US. Two deliveries are expected this month. The equipment that will be provided is based on Ukraine's priority needs on the battlefield. NATO allies then locate the weapons and ammunition and send them on.

"Packages will be prepared rapidly and issued on a regular basis," NATO said late Monday. Air defense systems are in greatest need. The United Nations has said that Russia's relentless pounding of urban areas behind the front line has killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians.

Russia's bigger army is also making slow but costly progress along the 1,000-kilometre front line. Currently, it is waging an operation to take the eastern city of Pokrovsk, a logistical hub whose fall could allow it to drive deeper into Ukraine.

European allies and Canada are buying most of the equipment



Debris lies next to a train damaged during a Russian strike, in Kharkiv, Tuesday. *Reuters*

they plan to send from the United States, which has greater stocks of ready military materiel, as well as more effective weapons. The Trump administration is not giving any arms to Ukraine.

The new deliveries will come on top of other pledges of military equipment.

The Kiel Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, estimates that as of June, European countries had provided \$83 bil-

lion worth of military aid since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, compared to \$65 billion in US aid.

Dutch Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans said that "American air defence systems and munitions, in particular, are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself."

Announcing the deliveries Monday, he said Russia's attacks are "pure terror; intended to break Ukraine."

Russia: Won't abide by missile moratorium

Russia has declared that it no longer considers itself bound by a self-imposed moratorium on deployment of nuclear-capable intermediate range missiles, a warning that potentially sets the stage for a new arms race as tensions between Moscow and Washington rise again over Ukraine.

The Russian Foreign Ministry

EXPLAINED Military aid to Ukraine

THE KIEL Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, estimates that as of June, European countries had provided \$83 billion worth of military aid since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, compared to \$65 billion in US aid.

linked the decision to efforts by the US and its allies to develop intermediate range weapons and preparations for their deployment in Europe and other parts of the world. It specifically cited US plans to deploy Typhoon and Dark Eagle missiles in Germany starting next year.

The ministry noted that such actions by the US and its allies create "destabilising missile potentials" near Russia, creating a "direct threat to the security of our country" and carry "significant harmful consequences for regional and global stability. It didn't say what specific moves the Kremlin might take.

UK to start returning some migrants to France within days under new deal

REUTERS

LONDON, AUGUST 5

BRITAIN SAID it will begin implementing a deal to return some migrants who arrive on small boats to France within days, a key part of its plans to cut illegal migration, after a treaty on the arrangement is ratified on Tuesday.

Under the new deal, France has agreed to accept the return of undocumented people arriving in Britain by small boats, in exchange for Britain agreeing to accept an equal number of legit-



British PM Keir Starmer with French President Emmanuel Macron. *Reuters*

imate asylum seekers with British family connections.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer

and French President Emmanuel Macron announced the "one in, one out" pilot scheme on migrant returns last month.

More than 25,000 people have come to Britain on small boats so far in 2025, and Starmer has pledged to "smash the gangs" of smugglers to try to reduce the number of arrivals.

Starmer, whose popularity has fallen since winning an election landslide last year, is facing pressure to stop small boats from Nigel Farage's Reform UK party, which leads national opinion polls.

India may change stance amid U.S. tariffs, EU sanctions over Russian oil

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The statement by the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday, defending India's purchases of Russian oil, is its most explicit since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, making it clear that India will take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its interests.

The MEA's response followed the new threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to impose penalty tariffs over and above the massive 25% reciprocal tariffs the U.S. will impose on Indian goods as tariffs kick in worldwide on Thursday.

On Monday, Mr. Trump said India was selling "massive amounts" of Russian oil for "big profits" without "caring how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian war machine", which was why he would raise tariffs "substantially".

The MEA statement called out both the U.S. and the European Union for their double standard, given they themselves continued to purchase Russian



Weighing options: India could continue to buy crude from Russia or seek alternative partners. FILE PHOTO

energy, critical minerals, fertilizers, iron and steel.

The statement left other double standard unsaid, such as the U.S. and Europe's funding and arming Israel's war in Gaza, that has led to the killing of at least 60,000 Palestinians. Nor did it point out that the U.S. has not announced penalties on China, a bigger buyer of Russian oil.

This marks a shift from the past when New Delhi's response to low-impact U.S. and E.U. sanctions of Indian companies for Russian transactions was submissive. In 2017, the Modi government agreed to "zero out" all its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela after threats from the pre-

vious Trump administration.

Changing tack

The MEA's statement could indicate that it is prepared to change to a third tack – that of considering "measures" against any further costs imposed by the West, even though Indian oil companies have begun reducing their Russian intake. These measures, according to experts could be three-fold: maintaining status quo, looking for alternative partners, and retaliatory actions.

The first option would be to continue to buy Russian energy and even double down on them, while weathering sanctions im-

posed by the U.S. and E.U., and continuing to pursue free trade agreements with both in the hope these would lessen such penal-

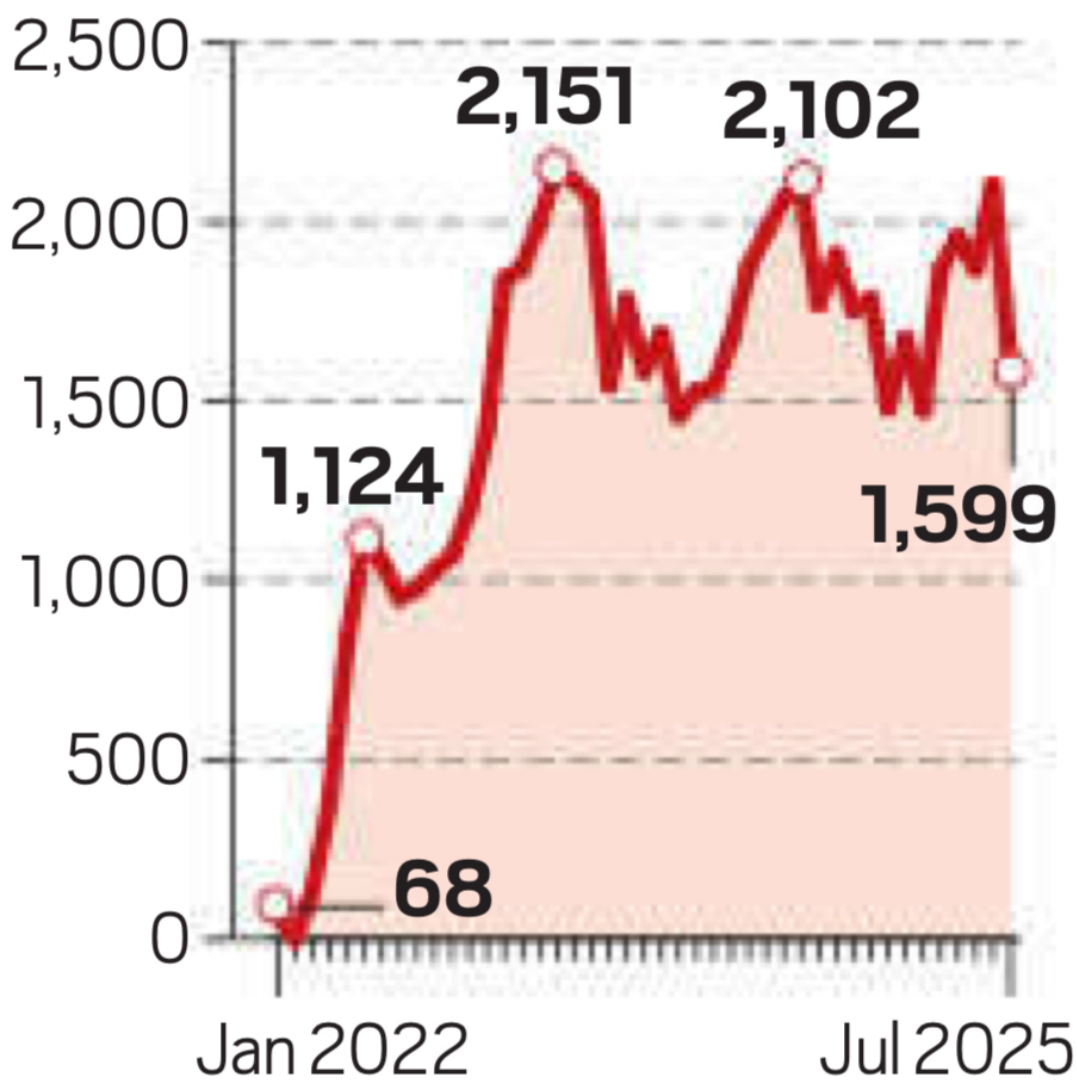
ties. The next option, to search for alternative options for trading to circumvent U.S.-E.U. sanctions, could include moving to quickly conclude other FTA negotiations, ongoing with the GCC, EAEU, Australia, New Zealand and so on. It could also conclude talks on revising the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement or even a re-look at joining the 15-nation ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that India withdrew from in 2019, largely due to concerns about

China. The third option, of counter-measures, could involve suspending talks with the E.U. on the BTIA, and with the U.S. on trade, nuclear energy, defence purchases and others until they prove more reasonable on the issue.

All eyes are now on whether the turbulence will impact the strongest pillar of India-U.S. ties – their shared Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad summit that India is due to host this year.

OIL IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

Every month since beginning of the war



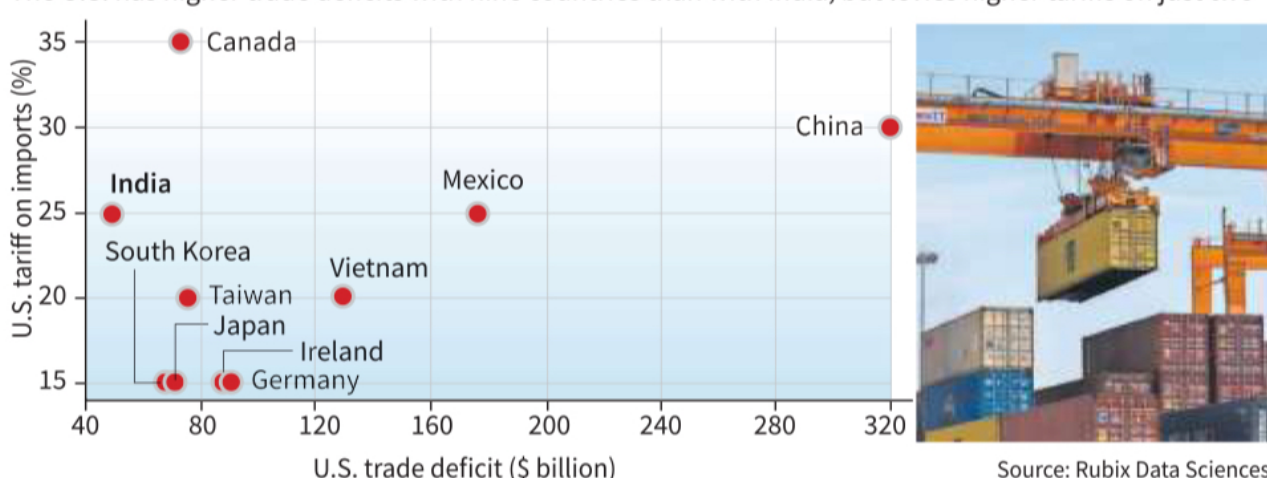
In thousand barrels/day; Source: Kpler

‘U.S. trade deficit with nine countries higher than that of India’

The only two countries with which the U.S. has higher deficits than India and also levies a higher import tariff are China (30%) and Canada (35%)

Tariff dynamics

The U.S. has higher trade deficits with nine countries than with India, but levies higher tariffs on just two



T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The U.S. has levied the third-highest tariff on India among the top 10 countries with which it has the highest trade deficits, an analysis has revealed. In other words, while the U.S. has a higher trade deficit with nine other countries than with India, it has levied higher tariffs on just two – China and Canada.

This comes against the backdrop of the Ministry of External Affairs saying that Mr. Trump’s targeting of India is “unjustified and unreasonable”.

An analysis by Rubix Data Sciences, a risk management and monitoring company, shows that the U.S. had a \$49.5 billion trade deficit with India in 2024, the 10th highest among all its trading partners. Ho-

wever, the U.S. has levied a tariff of 25% “plus penalties” on imports from India, the third-highest among these countries.

For example, the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$175.9 billion with Mexico in 2024 – 3.5 times that with India – but has levied the same 25% tariff on that country.

Similarly, the U.S. had higher trade deficits with Vietnam (\$129.4 billion), Germany (\$87.9 billion), Ireland (\$87.2 billion), Taiwan (\$76.4 billion), Japan (\$72.3 billion), and South Korea (\$69.9 billion) than with India, but levies lower tariffs on those countries than it does on India.

The only two countries with which the U.S. has higher deficits than with India and also levies a higher import tariff are China (30%) and Canada (35%).

On India’s purchase of oil from Russia, Mr. Trump

on Monday said that “they (India) don’t care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian war machine”.

However, data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, which regularly tracks Russia’s energy exports, show that the EU was the largest buyer of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG), accounting for 51% of Russia’s exports of these products between December 2022 and June 2025, followed by China (21%) and Japan (18%). Even when it comes to pipeline gas, the EU was the largest buyer of Russian gas, purchasing 37% of Russia’s exports, followed by China (30%) and Türkiye (27%).

China bought 47% of Russia’s crude exports during this period, followed by India (38%), the EU (6%), and Türkiye (6%).