

# Modi bats for 2-state solution to iron out Israel-Palestine issue

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
**Saurabh Trivedi**

NEW DELHI

Highlighting the role of dialogue and diplomacy in the “period of global turbulence”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reiterated the importance of the two-state solution to end the Israel-Palestine conflict.

“In this period of global turbulence, India believes that the role of dialogue and diplomacy has become more important than ever before. On the issue of Palestine, we continue to support a two-state solution and the pursuit of lasting peace,” Mr. Modi said in Jakarta, Indonesia, the first leg of his three-nation tour. Mr. Modi also focused on commonalities between India and Indonesia in dealing with globally-important issues and said that the two countries are going to deepen cooperation on such areas.

A joint statement issued at the end of the official dialogue between Mr. Mo-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Indonesian President Subianto on Tuesday. PTI

di and Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto said the leaders expressed “deep concern” over the war in West Asia and “its global effects”.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Subianto also presided over the signing of 14 agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs), including ones that will allow India to deliver the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system and Astra Mk-1 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles to Indonesia.

**CONTINUED ON**  
**» PAGE 12**

# Israel-Palestine: PM bats for two-state solution

Indonesia bestowed the Prime Minister with its highest civilian honour 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia'. Mr. Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to receive this award. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru received the same award posthumously on December 12, 1995. "It reflects the goodwill of the people of Indonesia and stands as a tribute to the historic and enduring bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia," said Mr. Modi in his press statement.

The two leaders "welcomed the memorandum of understanding signed on 17 June 2026," mentioned the joint statement in reference to the agreement signed between the U.S. and Iran to end the war in West Asia, while adding that "transit passage through the Strait of Hormuz" has to be in "accordance with international law".

It further mentioned that the Indonesian President welcomed "India's interest in partnering on the development of the Sabang Port". The two sides signed 14 agreements including two on BrahMos missile system and air-to-air missiles.

PM MEETS INDONESIA PRESIDENT, ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT

# Missiles, minerals and port: Delhi, Jakarta seal key deals

Eye on China, Modi says India on path of development, not expansionism

Shubhajit Roy  
New Delhi, July 7

INDIA AND Indonesia signed pacts on the supply of BrahMos and Air-to-Air missiles, along with cooperation on critical minerals and rare earths, maritime security, and space and agriculture as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta on Tuesday.

Modi also addressed the Indonesian Parliament as part of his two-day visit, making a thinly veiled reference to China's assertive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific. "India is a strong advocate of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. India believes in freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific... India is a nation that follows the path of development, not

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Narendra Modi with President Prabowo Subianto after being conferred the Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia, the country's highest civilian honour, in Jakarta, Tuesday. PTI  
I AM A GREAT ADMIRER OF PM MODI: SUBIANTO PAGE 6

On table: Two BrahMos missile batteries worth \$200 million

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, July 7

INDIA IS set to supply Indonesia with two batteries of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles valued at \$200 million as part of several landmark defence agreements signed between the

**E.**

two countries on Tuesday, including Astra air-to-air missile systems, major defence technology

transfer, and maritime security cooperation, officials told *The Indian Express*.

The BrahMos missile has been operationalised in India across all the three defence services and played a key role in striking designated targets inside Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# BrahMos batteries

A BrahMos battery typically comprises four launchers and 12 ready-to-fire missiles, along with other equipment and vehicles, though the composition can vary between land-based regiments and coastal defence batteries.

With this deal, India is set to export the system to three countries, also including the Philippines and Vietnam, even as it holds talks with at least half-a-dozen other nations on the missile system.

The Philippines had procured three batteries of the weapon system from India in 2022. In May this year, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh officially confirmed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore that India had signed a deal with Vietnam for the sale of BrahMos missiles, and that a similar deal with Indonesia was in “final stages”.

New Delhi has been in talks with Jakarta over the sale of

the missile system under a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia’s NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that the finer details of the deal were discussed during the third India-Indonesia defence ministers’ dialogue, co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin in New Delhi last November.

Brahmos Aerospace Private Ltd is also looking to export a compact next-gen version, BrahMos NG, to at least 10 countries, including South Africa and West Asian nations such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt.

Work is also underway to extend the range of existing BrahMos missiles from 290 km to 500 km for land attacks, and to 400 km for ship attacks.

# Four States reach a pact on Narmada project payments

Union Home Minister says that issue of pending payments had remained unresolved for a long time and it had been settled amicably; water and electricity have reached all four States, he adds

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh reached an agreement on Tuesday on the settlement of pending payment issues among the Narmada Award beneficiary States.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil. Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra), Bhupendra Patel (Gujarat), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh) signed the agreement, which relates to the cost-sharing arrangements for the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

Under the agreement, the payments to be made towards the final settlement of pending dues have been resolved through a one-time settlement. Mr. Shah said that the issue of pending payments under the Narmada Award had remained unresolved among the four States for a long time, and that it had been resolved



**Common platform:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Patil with the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. PTI

amicably on Tuesday. He said that with the completion of the dam, water and electricity have reached every part of the four States.

He added that while the benefits accruing to Rajasthan may appear modest at first glance, the areas that have received Narmada waters have witnessed a transformation in both the value of the land and the fortunes of the farmers.

The Union Home Minister said that let it be Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana or

Maharashtra, the water ultimately served the people of the country, especially the farmers. Regardless of which part of the country the water is utilised in, the ultimate beneficiary will be an Indian, he said.

## Water-sharing issues

Recently, significant progress has also been made in resolving long-standing water-sharing issues between States, such as those concerning the Kishau Dam project in Himachal Pradesh and the water dispute between Rajasthan

and Haryana, officials said. On June 29, Rajasthan and Haryana signed an agreement for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project, resolving a nearly three-decade-old issue.

Additionally, on June 16, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Kishau Dam project in Himachal Pradesh to rejuvenate the Yamuna river.

*(With PTI inputs)*

# Four States reach a pact on Narmada project payments

Union Home Minister says that issue of pending payments had remained unresolved for a long time and it had been settled amicably; water and electricity have reached all four States, he adds

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh reached an agreement on Tuesday on the settlement of pending payment issues among the Narmada Award beneficiary States.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil. Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra), Bhupendra Patel (Gujarat), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh) signed the agreement, which relates to the cost-sharing arrangements for the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

Under the agreement, the payments to be made towards the final settlement of pending dues have been resolved through a one-time settlement. Mr. Shah said that the issue of pending payments under the Narmada Award had remained unresolved among the four States for a long time, and that it had been resolved



**Common platform:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Patil with the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. PTI

amicably on Tuesday. He said that with the completion of the dam, water and electricity have reached every part of the four States.

He added that while the benefits accruing to Rajasthan may appear modest at first glance, the areas that have received Narmada waters have witnessed a transformation in both the value of the land and the fortunes of the farmers.

The Union Home Minister said that let it be Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana or

Maharashtra, the water ultimately served the people of the country, especially the farmers. Regardless of which part of the country the water is utilised in, the ultimate beneficiary will be an Indian, he said.

## Water-sharing issues

Recently, significant progress has also been made in resolving long-standing water-sharing issues between States, such as those concerning the Kishau Dam project in Himachal Pradesh and the water dispute between Rajasthan

and Haryana, officials said. On June 29, Rajasthan and Haryana signed an agreement for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project, resolving a nearly three-decade-old issue.

Additionally, on June 16, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Kishau Dam project in Himachal Pradesh and the water dispute between Rajasthan

*(With PTI inputs)*

# BRICS nations call for timely exchange of information on drugs

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

The BRICS nations on Tuesday adopted the Guwahati Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking and related organised transnational crime.

BRICS, an intergovernmental organisation of major emerging markets and developing countries, is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia.

The joint declaration by the heads of anti-drug agencies of the participating nations brought the curtains down on a two-day meeting at a resort on the outskirts of Guwahati.

The BRICS nations underscored the need to

boost the timely exchange of information, intelligence and best practices, consistent with national laws and international obligations. They expressed concern over the evolving nature of drug trafficking, the proliferation of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, the diversion of precursor chemicals and the misuse of emerging technologies and virtual assets.

Anurag Garg, Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau, said India has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, and a three-year road map (2026-29) based on a network-centric approach.

“The strategy focuses on dismantling entire criminal networks, preventing drug abuse through mass awareness campaigns, and strengthening treatment, de-addiction, and rehabilitation measures,” he said.

# Usha exhorts athletes to do India proud at CWG

The IOA chief along with Union Sports Minister unveils the team kit at the official send-off for the 124 athletes who will take part in the Glasgow event beginning on July 23

## GENERAL

**Sports Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday offered a grand send-off to the Indian contingent for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG) and unveiled the official kit that the athletes will don in Glasgow from July 23 to August 2.

The ceremony brought together athletes, support staff, administrators and official sponsors as Team India hopes to forge a successful CWG campaign. A contingent of 124 athletes will represent the nation at the quadrennial competition. The upcoming edition has been cut down to 10 sporting disciplines along with six para-sports.

The event in the national capital was attended by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and IOA president P.T. Usha among other dignitaries.

“Today marks the begin-



**The Games look:** IOA president P.T. Usha, ministers Giriraj Singh and Mansukh Mandaviya, British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron, Chef de Mission Rohit Rajpal and others display the team kit.

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

ning of another proud chapter for Indian sport. Every athlete wearing the India jersey has earned this opportunity through years of hard work, discipline and sacrifice. I have complete confidence that Team India will make the nation proud through its performances. On behalf of the Indian Olympic Association, I wish every member of Team India the very best,” Usha remarked on Tuesday.

Mandaviya said that his ministry is committed to providing optimum support to every member of the contingent.

“I urge every athlete to compete fearlessly, uphold the highest spirit of sportsmanship, and give their very best. The Government of India stands firmly behind each athlete and remains committed to providing every possible support to help bring glory to the nation,” he said.

Former paddler Sharath Kamal graced the occasion and reminisced about his first CWG in Melbourne in 2006.

“I did not know much going into it,” Sharath, who participated in five editions and won multiple medals, recalled. “Nobody expected us to win medals. But when we won our first medal in the team event, it was a moment that I still relish. It keeps coming back to me quite often.”

U.S. PRESIDENT RENEWS PUSH TO CONTROL GREENLAND

# NATO flaunts arms deals as Trump targets Europe allies

Key 'defence forum' yields \$50 billion in deals: NATO official

Reuters  
Ankara, July 7

NATO LEADERS unveiled arms deals worth tens of billions of dollars in Turkey on Tuesday, driving home the message that they are heeding US calls to spend more to defend Europe even as President Donald Trump said he felt let down and renewed his push to control Greenland.

Leaders were convening for a summit in the capital Ankara, hoping to project unity after another bruising year, in which the Iran war once again exposed cracks in the alliance.

In a meeting with President Tayyip Erdogan, Trump said he might have boycotted the NATO summit altogether had it not been for his warm relations with Turkish leader, and did not rule out further troop withdrawals from Europe. "Well, we're going to see. I was very disappointed with NATO," he said, singling out Britain, France, Germany and Italy for not doing enough to support US war on Iran.

Trump added "we weren't treated well" by the allies, even as he reiterated that he did not want or need their help. "Before I asked, they said they wouldn't be there, and we've invested trillions of dollars in NATO," Trump said.



US President Donald Trump with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Tuesday. AP

NATO members have repeatedly tried to show Trump that they are stepping up. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Monday Europeans had made "staggering" increases in defence spending.

Before Trump's arrival, Rutte trumpeted a series of initiatives and deals at a defence industry forum, and called for a defence industry "revolution" across the alliance, warning over Russia's massive military spending as well as China, North Korea and Iran.

"We don't have the luxury of time. We need capabilities now to ensure we remain ready. The security situation demands it," Rutte said. "The hum of machinery must become a roar."

The deals, estimated to be worth at least \$50 billion ac-

ording to one NATO official, included European countries buying surveillance drones from US company Northrop Grumman, and NATO buying planes from Sweden's Saab.

Europe's defence sector has often been criticised as fragmented and saddled with red tape and rivalries between companies and countries. That has left Europe more reliant on purchases of US weapons.

Tensions within NATO, already strained over Ukraine and Trump's desire to wrest Greenland from fellow NATO member Denmark, have deepened since the US attacked Iran in February.

On Tuesday, he renewed his push to wrest Greenland from Denmark. "That should be controlled by the United States, not by Denmark," he said.

Trump: US to lift Turkey sanctions, sell F-35 fighters

Reuters  
Ankara, July 7

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Tuesday announced that the US would lift sanctions on Turkey that were imposed in 2020 over Ankara's purchase of Russian missiles, and signaled a willingness to sell the NATO ally F-35 fighter jets, moves that would both be massive gestures to Turkey but may face legal hurdles.

In the first visit to Turkey by a US President in 11 years, Trump was welcomed by President Tayyip Erdogan at the airport with a lavish state ceremony.

Speaking to reporters at the Turkish presidential palace, Trump repeatedly praised Erdogan, saying he had "chemistry" with him and that the relationship with Ankara has never been better.

Turkey's 2019 acquisition of a Russian S-400 system and Washington's 2020 imposition of sanctions on a major Turkish defence company and removal of Turkey from the F-35 stealth fighter jet program have long been a sore point. "We're going to be taking the sanctions off," Trump said. "It's time. We don't want to sanction friends."

When asked if he had any concerns about Ankara still being in possession of the Russian S-400s, he said he did not.

# Tanker set ablaze after being struck by projectile in the Strait of Hormuz

Iranian state TV says an LNG tanker came under attack after ignoring warnings but does not say Tehran ordered the attack; Doha said targeting Qatari vessel in the strait was an 'unacceptable attack' on international navigation and energy security

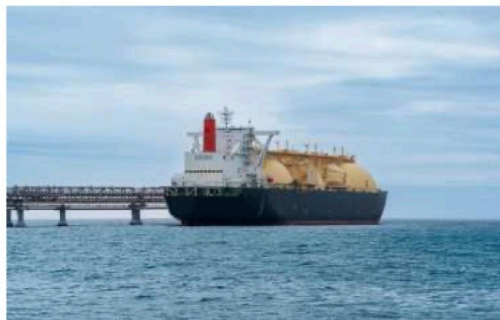
**Associated Press**

DUBAI

A tanker travelling off the coast of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz was struck by a projectile and caught fire early Tuesday, the British military said, in the latest attack targeting a vessel moving through the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Iranian state television said the liquefied natural gas tanker came under attack after ignoring warnings but did not directly claim the assault.

According to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre, three tankers were hit in the strait in the past 24 hours.



A spokesperson for the Qatari Foreign Ministry called the attack a 'serious violation' of international law. GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Tehran, which has repeatedly declared that only its approved route through the strait is safe, is suspected of attacking other ships that have used another route close to the Omani

shore. Previous attacks in the strait have sparked retaliatory strikes by the U.S. Iran then attacked Gulf Arab states.

Meanwhile, talks between Iran and the U.S. ap-

peared to be on hold until after the burial of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated at the beginning of the war. Authorities flew Khamenei's body to the Shia seminary city of Qom, where mourners honoured him on Tuesday.

The UKMTO said the tanker was hit near Limah, Oman, in the strait. It said the projectile hit the port side of the vessel as it tried to travel south out of the strait toward the Gulf of Oman. The agency said there were no environmental effects from the strike. "UKMTO has received a report of a further incident involving a tanker transiting the Strait of Hor-

muz. The tanker was struck by an unknown Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and has sustained minor structural damage.

Iranian state TV, quoting anonymous sources, implied that Tehran carried out the assault on a tanker it said was carrying natural gas from Qatar. However, there was no official claim from the Islamic Republic for the attack.

Majed Al-Ansari, a spokesperson for the Qatari Foreign Ministry, said targeting the Qatari tanker, *Al Rekayyat*, in the strait was an "unacceptable attack" on international navigation and global energy security. He called it a "serious violation" of international law.

# Trump praises Erdogan, slams NATO before summit

**Agence France-Presse**

ANKARA

U.S. President Donald Trump praised his “chemistry” with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan as he arrived in Ankara for a NATO summit on Tuesday, while hitting out at European allies for their response to his war in Iran.

Mr. Trump was greeted personally by Mr. Erdogan on the tarmac as he descended from Air Force One, before being escorted through the empty streets of the Turkish capital by a guard of riders on white horses.

The summit comes at a fraught time for the 77-year-old transatlantic alliance, as Mr. Trump has lashed out at allies and Washington steps back from Europe.

“I was very disappoint-



Donald Trump and American officials meet with Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish officials in Ankara on Tuesday. AP

ed with NATO,” Mr. Trump said, sitting next to Mr. Erdogan at the latter’s vast presidential palace.

“Frankly, if it (the summit) weren’t held in Turkey, where my friend happens to be a very strong leader, a very strong person, it’s possible that I wouldn’t have attended.”

NATO officials are hoping Mr. Trump’s strong re-

lationship with the Turkish leader could help smooth over the bad blood caused by the Iran war.

In a potentially major boost for Mr. Erdogan, Mr. Trump said Washington would consider selling F-35 fighter jets to Turkiye, after booting it out of the programme in 2019 over Ankara’s purchase of a Russian system.

# Reform UK leader Farage resigns as MP, forces byelection

**Sriram Lakshman**

LONDON

Nigel Farage, the leader of the nativist Reform UK party, resigned from his parliamentary seat of Clacton-on-Sea on Tuesday, saying he would run again in the byelection that has been triggered by his resignation. The announcement was made towards the end of an approximately 15-minute speech, during which he railed against “the establishment”, accusing the mainstream political parties in Britain and the media of unfairly targeting him.

Mr. Farage is currently under investigation by a

parliamentary standards body for not registering a personal gift of £5 million from Thailand-based cryptocurrency investor Christopher Harborne weeks before he announced that he was running in the 2024 general election. Mr. Farage has offered different explanations of the gift – from suggesting it was a “reward” for his Brexit campaign to saying it was funding for his personal security. He has continued to argue that he did not break the rules by not declaring the gift. The probe, launched in May, has not yet concluded.

There are, however, other allegations against the



Nigel Farage

Reform UK chief. Over the weekend, the *Sunday Times* had published a report alleging that Mr. Farage received funding from a long-time associate and convicted criminal, George Cottrell, funding his security, housing and staffing. Mr. Farage reportedly

broke gift registration rules. The Liberal Democrats have referred this incident to the parliamentary standards commissioner.

Mr. Farage has repeatedly insisted he has done nothing wrong, arguing that the parliamentary code did not cover what MPs spent in their private lives.

“The press would rather our Members of Parliament had no assets and no wealth at all, they seem to fundamentally object to any MP that has outside income,” Mr. Farage said in his broadcast on Tuesday, adding that he was earning well in the 1990s as a com-

modity trader but did not do well financially as a member of the European Parliament subsequently.

Mr. Farage boasted that his actions led to Brexit (he had spearheaded the Brexit campaign as chief of the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party) and that he emerged from the process with “very little money”.

“Now I’ve decided that the people of Clacton should be the judges of my actions. This will be a people versus the establishment by-election.”

The £5 million was going to be needed for his security, Mr. Farage said, adding that he was the most physically and verbally at-

tacked politician currently. He said the country was about to get a Prime Minister without a mandate, referring to MP Andy Burnham, the former Greater Manchester mayor and MP, who is likely to succeed Prime Minister Keir Starmer imminently.

Mr. Farage on Tuesday called for a general election. Reform U.K. had performed strongly in the May 2026 elections for local council seats in England and assembly seats in Wales and Scotland, at the expense of both Labour and the Conservatives although it has been losing voters to the far-right Restore Britain party.