

EMERGING AI & MACHINE LEARNING TECH BEING INCORPORATED FOR LOGISTICS OPTIMISATION

Military developing integrated structure for theatre commands

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, October 15

THE INDIAN military is actively developing an integrated logistics structure to support its planned theatre commands as part of its effort to transform the service-specific logistics architecture into an integrated defence framework, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Additionally, emerging AI and machine learning technologies are being incorporated for logistics optimisation, with predictive maintenance analytics already deployed in limited applications by the defence forces. Moreover, legacy financial architecture and procurement framework are also being revised to facilitate joint logistics.

The Department of Military Affairs is spearheading the

move. These points were outlined in a letter from Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar, a joint secretary in the department, to Rajya Sabha MP Dr Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade. The response followed Gopchade's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a unified defence logistics and fuel management framework modelled on the United States Defence Logistics Agency (DLA).

According to the letter, a tri-services logistics management application (TLMA) is under development to provide real-time inter-service inventory visibility and to integrate service-specific enterprise resource planning software. Additionally, work is underway to establish a National Defence Codification System (NDCS), analogous to Nato's stock number system, while

joint logistics nodes and subsequently joint ammunition depots, airstores supply parks, and material organisations are being planned across India, it stated.

The department further stated that the PM Gati Shakti Defence Portal is also under development for alignment with the national logistics policy and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

The letter also noted that joint logistics integration, akin to the US DLA, is a strategic imperative and its realisation is a prime priority for the defence ministry. The armed forces have been establishing joint logistics nodes as part of other efforts to promote integration. In September last year, the decision to establish three joint military stations was announced during the Combined Commanders Con-

ference in Kolkata.

In his letter, Gopchade referred to the functioning of the US DLA, which serves as a single, centralised combat logistics support agency for the entire US Department of Defence, stating that it manages fuel supply, military procurement, spare parts, logistics AI systems, defence standardisation, petroleum quality assurance, warehousing, technical support, and global supply-chain management under an integrated tri-service structure. He highlighted that at present, logistics management in India is largely distributed across multiple service-specific structures such as the Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, naval logistics branches, air force maintenance systems, fuel depots,

and various procurement and inventory mechanisms.

"...there appears substantial scope for further strengthening jointness through a more integrated logistics architecture," the MP wrote.

Four reforms on the lines of DLA

Gopchade suggested four reforms on the lines of the DLA, including a unified defence fuel management system integrating Army, Navy, and Air Force fuel procurement, storage, transportation, and quality-control mechanisms, introduction of a secure military fuel card system integrated with IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, defence depots, RFID, GPS, and digital audit systems to improve transparency, reduce leakages, and simplify operational logistics.

MoD signs ₹4,106-cr. deals for IAF satellite, torpedoes

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence on Thursday signed contracts worth approximately ₹4,106 crore for a dedicated communication satellite for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and *Varunastra* heavy-weight torpedoes for the Indian Navy, in a push to strengthen indigenous defence capabilities.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the contracts cover the acquisition of GSAT-7C, valued at ₹2,563 crore, from New Space India Limited (NSIL), Bengaluru, and *Varunastra* heavy-weight torpedoes worth ₹1,543 crore from Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hyderabad.

The GSAT-7C satellite, indigenously designed, developed and manufactured, will enhance secure, resilient and seamless communication capabilities for IAF assets, strengthening the force's operational effectiveness.

The dedicated satellite



Senior officials from the MoD, IAF, Indian Navy, and industry representatives during the signing of contracts in New Delhi. PTI

communication capability is expected to improve the Indian Air Force's ability to maintain reliable communications in support of its operational requirements, it added.

The second contract is for *Varunastra*, an indigenous ship-launched anti-submarine warfare torpedo developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).

Equipped with advanced manoeuvring capabilities, the heavyweight torpedo can engage enemy submarines at long ranges, en-

hancing the Indian Navy's underwater warfare capabilities.

The contracts were signed in New Delhi in the presence of A. Anbarasu, Additional Secretary and Director-General (Acquisition), Department of Defence.

Both agreements are aimed at advancing domestic defence manufacturing and promoting self-reliance in critical technologies, in line with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

Cannot claim reservation after conversion: Top court

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, October 15

IN A significant ruling, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that a person who converts from the Hindu social order cannot claim affirmative action based on pre-conversion status.

The court refused to interfere with a June 25 judgment of the Madras High Court which held that a person converting to Islam cannot claim status of a Backward Class category Muslim.

“Backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order cannot by itself be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the religion to which he has converted,” the bench of Justices P K Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhhar said.

The bench said that by virtue of paragraph three of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, a person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Buddhism or Sikhism cannot be deemed a member of the Scheduled Caste. “Consequently, upon conversion to a religion not specified therein, such person ceases to possess the Scheduled Caste status attached to his antecedent caste and cannot claim any affirmative action benefit of the backward class...,” the bench said.

“A person’s pre-conversion caste or community status cannot merely, by reason of conversion, be transposed into

“Backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order cannot by itself be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the religion to which he has converted.”

JUSTICES P K MISHRA AND
SHREE CHANDRASHEKHAR
SUPREME COURT BENCH

membership of a distinct notified backward class community in the post-conversion social order. Social backwardness which forms the basis of the person’s pre-conversion status cannot by itself furnish the legal foundation for conferring upon membership of a different notified backward class community after conversion,” it added.

The petitioner, earlier a Hindu, later converted to Islam. He married a woman as per Islamic rites and customs in 2016, and had two children. He applied for a community certificate showing him as “Muslim Lebbai”.

The tehsildar rejected his application, prompting the petitioner to approach the Madras HC. Upholding the tehsildar’s order, the HC declared a 2024 Tamil Nadu government order granting reservation in such cases as

unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court upheld the HC ruling and said the government order “cannot be sustained and has been rightly quashed by the High Court”. “It creates an artificial route by which a person moves from a pre-conversion social or backward social order into a notified Muslim backward class without establishing the necessary social and legal link. Therefore, the declaration made by the HC that the impugned GO is unsustainable in law calls for no interference,” the court ruled.

The HC had said that a Hindu man converting to Islam would pass off as “an exercise of one’s fundamental right under Article 25 of the Constitution of India”. “But when, after such metamorphosis, the convert continues to claim the benefit of reservation, it triggers yet another conversation, nay debate, on the legitimacy and legality of such demand.”

The SC judgement also addressed questions of backward class when a convert reconverts to the original religion. It said that “where a person after having converted from the Hindu social order to a non-Hindu social order and subsequently reconverts to the Hindu social order, the question of his entitlement to affirmative action under Article 16(4) cannot be determined merely by reference to his antecedent status.”

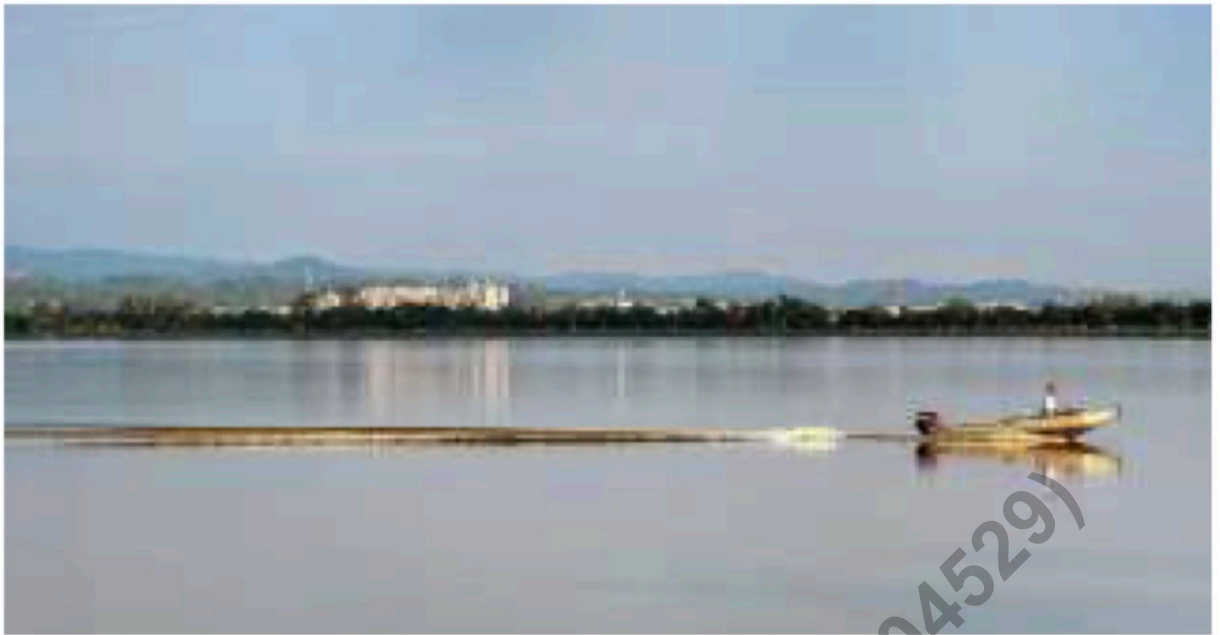
The court said “such entitlement would require an independent, fact-specific determi-

nation by the competent authority as to whether the original caste or social identity has genuinely revived upon reconversion and whether the person satisfies the applicable constitutional and legal requirements for such affirmative action.”

The bench said “no statutory benefit, protection, reservation or other entitlement can be claimed or extended merely on the basis of such antecedent membership after the person has converted to Islam, Christianity or any other non-Hindu social order.”

The judgement said that “a community certificate is declaratory of, and does not create or confer, the status which it purports to recognise. Neither the issuance of a community certificate nor an executive instruction can enlarge, modify or dispense with the substantive constitutional and statutory conditions governing membership of the class or entitlement to the benefits attached thereto.”

Affirming the conclusions of the High Court, the SC said that “a person who converts to Islam does not, by that act alone, become a member of any one of the seven notified Backward Class Muslim communities in the State. His former caste or community status cannot automatically be transposed into the Muslim Backward Class category, nor can a private religious body conclusively determine such statutory entitlement”.



Chandigarh's Sukhna wetland designated as Ramsar site

Sukhna wetland in Chandigarh has been declared a Ramsar site, which would bring greater international attention to its conservation efforts and global scientific oversight. Ramsar sites are also called Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, an environmental treaty established in 1971. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday announced Sukhna wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh as Ramsar sites.

“India’s Ramsar site tally reaches 103 with Sukhna Lake and Sauj Jheel becoming the latest additions to the list,” Mr. Yadav said in a post on X. PTI

Two-thirds oil imports from just 3 nations

While Russia's share in India's oil imports fell to 44%, from a historic high in July, share of both the U.S. and UAE surged, resulting in cumulative shares of the three countries reaching an all-time high; American oil came at a substantial premium compared with the average price India paid

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In a sign of increasing concentration of India's oil supplies and its limited options to source from, latest data shows that more than two-thirds of the country's oil imports came from just three countries – Russia, the U.S., and the UAE – marking a record high share.

Notably, Russia's share in India's oil imports fell to around 44% in August 2026, the latest month for which official data is available, from a historic high of 51% in July.

Data shows that India's

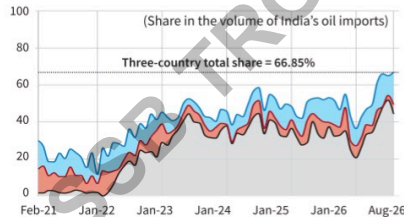
oil imports from both the U.S. and the UAE surged in August, with the American oil coming at a substantial premium compared with the average price India paid for oil imports.

India's total oil imports stood at 191.2 lakh tonnes in August 2026, which was 10.3% lower than in July, but 3.4% higher than in August last year. However, the elevated price of oil has meant that India's oil import bill was nearly 25% higher in August this year than in the same month last year.

Within this, Russian oil accounted for 84.8 lakh tonnes of Indian oil imports, or 44.3% of the total.

Increased concentration

Three countries account for more than two-thirds of India's oil imports



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

In terms of India's oil import bill of \$12.2 billion in August 2026, payments to Russia accounted for 44.5%. That said, India im-

ported 23% less oil from Russia in August 2026 than in July, although this figure was still 22.5% higher than in August last year.

India's elevated oil imports from Russia have been a sore point in its relations with the U.S. and its President Donald Trump, who in September signed into law an Act that could see tariffs of up to 100% being levied on countries that import large amounts of Russian oil and gas, as India does.

On the other hand, India's oil imports from the U.S. once again surged in August 2026 to 9.7 lakh tonnes, making up 5.1% of India's total oil imports that month. In terms of quantity, this was nearly 82% higher than in July, and more than 130% higher than in August last year.

The data also shows that India paid an average of \$810.6 per tonne of oil to the U.S., much higher than the average price of \$640 per tonne it paid across all its oil imports in August. Oil from the U.S. has been costlier than average since June 2026.

Notably, India's oil imports from the UAE also jumped in August 2026 as the two countries established alternate supply routes through ports relatively un-impacted by the war in West Asia.

Oil imports from the UAE, at 33 lakh tonnes, made up 17.4% of India's total oil imports and 16.9% of its oil import bill.

Goods exports jump 23.04% in Sept.; trade deficit narrows

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Healthy growth in shipments of petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals helped India's merchandise exports rise 23.04% in September, while the trade deficit narrowed to \$30.21 billion year-on-year due to a dip in imports of precious metals. In September 2025, it was \$33 billion.

The country's exports rose from \$36.08 billion to \$44.4 billion in September 2025, government data released on Thursday said. However, the deficit widened when compared to \$26.86 billion recorded during August 2026.

Exports of petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals grew by 31.9% (\$6.2 billion), 70.44% (\$5.3 billion) and 24.21% (\$3 billion) respectively, during the month.

High crude oil prices amid the West Asia crisis have helped India earn bet-

Growth spurt

Exports of petroleum products, electronic goods, and chemicals increased during the period. High crude oil prices have helped India earn better from petroleum product exports

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS
Values in \$ billion

36.08

Sept. 2025

44.4

Sept. 2026

ter realisations from petroleum product exports.

Imports rose by 8% year-on-year to \$74.61 billion in September.

Gold and silver imports declined by 81.27% and 49.11%, respectively, to \$1.8 billion and \$665 million during the month. In-bound shipments of crude oil, on the other hand, rose by 30.76% to \$18.34 billion.

Brent crude oil prices have been hovering over \$100 per barrel during the last few weeks.

Cumulatively, during April-September this fiscal, exports jumped 18.51% to \$259.89 billion, and im-

ports climbed 16.31% to \$437.53 billion. The deficit during the first half of 2026-27 widened to \$177.64 billion as compared to \$156.88 billion during April-September 2025-26.

Exports are maintaining their growth trend, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said in a press briefing on trade data.

He expressed the hope that if the trend continued, the country's merchandise exports would cross \$500 billion. They were at \$442 billion in 2025-26.

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Goods exports jump 23.04% in September

As per government estimates, services exports stood at \$36.35 billion in September, and imports were at \$19.44 billion.

On services exports, the secretary said the rise in oil prices due to the West Asia crisis has impacted the exports in areas, including travel and tourism.

Commenting on the data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president S.C. Ralhan said exporters continue to respond to global uncertainty with agility, strengthening their presence across markets and product categories.

“This strong first-half performance provides a firm foundation to advance towards India’s \$1 trillion export ambition. The priority now is to translate this momentum into sustained orders and deeper market penetration. With an enabling policy environment, India can expand high-value and technology-intensive exports, build on its traditional strengths and strengthen its participation in global value chains,” he said.

Special summary revision of voter lists to begin soon

Annual exercise to enrol new voters and update electoral rolls was stalled last year due to launch of SIR; it will be done in 17 States and U.T.s, including poll-bound Uttarakhand, U.P. and Punjab

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Amid protests against the special intensive revision and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday announced the special summary revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in 17 States and Union Territories, including poll-bound Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab.

The SSR seeks to enrol new voters and update electoral rolls. The annual exercise was stalled last year due to the launch of the now-controversial SIR. Election Commissioners S. S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi are understood to have raised this as an anomaly among other issues.

Roll reboot

The Election Commission has ordered voter roll revisions across 17 States and Union Territories

- Voters **need no citizenship proof** under the standard SSR process
- Candidates will **receive searchable and readable PDF** electoral rolls electronically
- Revision process **skips home visits by booth officers** and lists will be displayed locally
- ECI **limits Form 7 applications** to prevent bulk voter deletions



Unlike the SIR, applicants do not have to submit documents to prove citizenship or be mapped with earlier electoral rolls when enrolling through the SSR.

Following protests against the 13 crore SIR deletions, the ECI announced on September 29 a special drive to re-enlist voters who were left out. This re-enrolment through special camps and house-to-house

visits by booth-level officers (BLOs) is being done using the original Form 6, without the declaration appended during the SIR. The commission has also capped the number of Form 7s, used for voter deletions, that an individual can submit amid reports of such applications being filed in bulk. The SSR is over and above this special re-enrolment drive.

Among the firsts in this

year's SSR, the ECI said that it will provide a "readable PDF" of the alphabetically arranged electoral rolls to contesting candidates and recognised political parties during elections. Opposition parties have been demanding machine-readable electoral rolls rather than image-based PDFs so that they are digitally searchable, indexable, and verifiable.

Political parties will get supplementary voter lists that were earlier kept only for record and future use.

The SSR process will not include house-to-house visits by BLOs. Instead, draft and final lists will be put up at polling booths.

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Special summary revision to begin soon

In its order to the Chief Electoral Officers of the States and Union Territories where the exercise will begin, the Commission said that through the SSR it aims to “facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors with reference to the qualifying date of January 1, 2027 along with seeking advance applications for the three subsequent qualifying dates of April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027.”

17 States and UTs

The ECI directive said that the SSR will be held in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

In States/UTs where the SIR is going on or has just been completed, the SSR schedule will be announced later.

These are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, and Telangana.

For Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, where SIR has not been done, the schedule for roll revision will be announced after considering the weather conditions.

Sensex, Nifty surge 2%, rupee stronger

Gowri Lakshmi

MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex extended rally and ended 2% higher compared with the previous close. The Sensex ended 1,533 points or 2% up at 74,315 while the Nifty 50 closed at 22,997, up 374.65 points or 1.6%.

The indices defied other Asian markets dragged



Rupee closed 0.1% higher

down by speculation over AI stocks, concerns over rising U.S. inflation and a

likely interest rate hike by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

“AI deceleration in stocks globally, positive corporate earnings especially in banking so far and an anticipation of further rate hike by Fed has turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Indian markets,” V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments said.

However, analysts said a

sustained rally for the stock market may be unlikely unless the Iran-U.S. conflict is resolved and till the crude continued to trade over \$100/barrel,

Rupee boost

The Indian rupee also strengthened for the fourth consecutive trading day following a weaker dollar, closing at 95.5 against the greenback, up 0.1%.

Russia builds drone base near border in 6 weeks

Reuters

London, October 15

RUSSIA HAS nearly finished building a major new base for launching jet-powered drones in just six weeks, according to defence experts and a *Reuters* analysis of satellite imagery, in the latest expansion of its attack capability close to Ukraine.

The site in what was an empty field in Russia's south-western Rostov region on August 31 had become a complex facility the size of around 126 soccer

pitches by Wednesday, commercial imagery provided by Planet Labs and Airbus showed.

The construction coincides with a surge in the use of Russian jet-powered attack drones against Ukraine, which is struggling to intercept the faster weapons that can travel at speeds of up to 600 km per hour.

Mike Monnik, founder and CEO of private intelligence company DroneSec, said the site in the imagery would be capable of launching the Geran-4 and Geran-5 models, Russia's newest

types of jet-powered drone.

He said the western edge of the facility showed eight platforms for launch rails capable of firing those drones, adding to an existing Russian network of at least 11 fixed launch sites used for drone attacks on Ukraine.

"The speed of construction ... demonstrates the ease with which Russia can bring now-established offensive capabilities to bear rapidly," Monnik said.

The site, he added, looked very close to completion and it

will be "probably a matter of weeks before (it is) fully operational, if not earlier."

The construction of the facility coincides with worsening relations between Russia and the NATO military alliance.

European governments accuse Moscow of stepping up a campaign of sabotage, drone incursions and cyberattacks against them, while Russia warned last month it could use nuclear weapons if NATO attempted to cut off its Kaliningrad exclave.

WILL HALT STRIKES ONLY IF WE GET MORE U.S. PATRIOT INTERCEPTORS, SAYS UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Zelenskyy says 'done' with Trump's energy truce, hits Russian refineries

Ukrainian drone strike caused fire at refinery: Ryazan Gov

Reuters

Kyiv, October 15

UKRAINE STRUCK a Russian oil refinery Thursday, after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv was "done" supporting a ceasefire on energy targets announced by US President Donald Trump was ignored by Russia.

Since Trump's surprise announcement on Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to halt attacks on energy, Kyiv had suspended attacks on Russian refineries, which Trump blames for raising diesel prices on global markets.

But in the days that followed, Russia rained down deadly missile and drone strikes, including on energy targets such as power stations, knocking out power to thousands of people.

In an interview with the *Financial Times* published Thursday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's patience had run out.



A supermarket damaged by a Russian jet drone in Odesa region, Ukraine, on Thursday. REUTERS

"The block (on attacking refineries) is out. We're done," he told the newspaper.

Zelenskyy also made clear he believed that changes in the capability of the military version of SpaceX's Starlink receptors, which have curbed Ukraine's ability to use them to pilot its drones, were a policy decision. "It was not a technical problem, it was the will," he told the *FT*.

In a social media post overnight, SpaceX boss Elon Musk

said usage of the military version of Starlink, known as Starshield, was ultimately up to Trump, as president of the United States.

"Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government. Any limits on speed or usage are decided by the US military and ultimately POTUS," Musk wrote.

A Ukrainian official confirmed that Ukraine had hit a Russian refinery overnight in response to Moscow's heavy bal-

listic missile and drone attacks that violated the energy truce.

Ukraine's latest target was a refinery in the Ryazan region southeast of Moscow, which is owned by state oil major Rosneft and accounts for nearly 5% of Russia's refinery throughput, helping supply the capital.

Regional governor Pavel Malkov said in a post on Telegram that a major Ukrainian drone attack had caused a fire at the refinery. Damage was being assessed and emergency services were at the scene.

In the latest attacks on Ukraine, three people were killed and six wounded in the central region of Kirovohrad overnight, as Russia launched more than 500 drones.

In the *FT* interview, Zelenskyy criticised Washington's eagerness to strike business deals with Moscow and Trump's apparent admiration for Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Asked whether Ukraine would be open to halting energy strikes as a way of repairing relations with the White House, Zelenskyy said he could agree only if in return he were given more US-made Patriot interceptors, calling it the "minimum" that would be acceptable.

Russia restarts diesel exports after deal with Trump: Kremlin

Moscow: The Kremlin said Thursday Russian diesel had begun to reach global markets following an agreement with US President Donald Trump.

"The diesel has started reaching global markets and is expected to have a positive effect on stabilising oil markets, although it will not be enough to fully stabilize them," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a daily conference call.

LSEG data showed on Wednesday that Russia had resumed diesel export loadings from the Baltic port of Primorsk.

According to the shipping data, a tanker carrying around 40,000 metric tons of ultra-low sulphur diesel was loaded on October 13 and was heading towards Morocco. REUTERS

Moscow police question Novaya

Ukraine pounds Russian oil sites as U.S. relations teeter

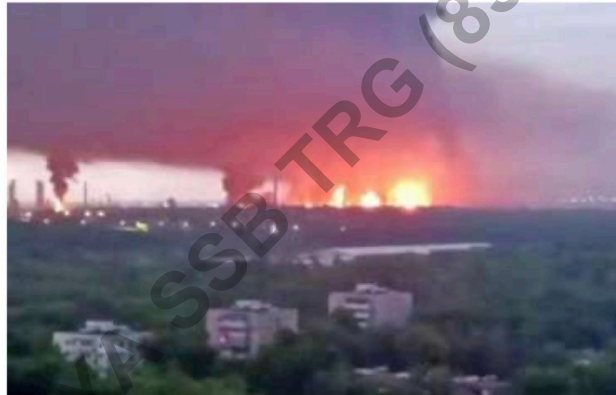
Brief energy truce over, says Zelenskyy; he adds that Ukraine will resume strikes on Russian oil refineries as Moscow continues attacking; Lavrov calls Kyiv's attacks 'direct challenge' to Trump

Associated Press

KYIV

Ukrainian drones attacked a refinery in Russia's Ryazan region early Thursday, hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that a brief truce spurned by Moscow was over amid deepening tensions with Washington.

The drone strike started a fire at the refinery about 300 km southeast of Moscow, Russia's Defence Ministry and Ryazan Governor Pavel Malkov said. Russia's *Astra* online news outlet posted what it said was a photograph of the blaze.



Rising tensions: Fire and a thick plume of smoke rise in the vicinity of the Ryazan oil refinery in Ryazan region of Russia in May. REUTERS

A senior Ukrainian official confirmed that Ukraine had hit the refinery. The strike could further complicate Kyiv's relations with U.S. President Donald

Trump, which have soured again in recent days.

Mr. Zelenskyy was outraged by Russia's continuing aerial bombardment of his country's energy infras-

tructure in apparent defiance of Mr. Trump's demand on Sunday for both sides to halt those attacks. He added that that Ukrainian attacks on Russian oil refineries would resume.

Conflicting accounts

The Ukrainian government said that it was heeding the ceasefire, but Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday that Ukraine never stopped its strikes on refineries that have hurt Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov labelled Ukraine's strikes on oil facilities as a "direct and crude challenge to President Trump".