# Trump hails 'historic' meet with Xi, Putin in Shenzhen

U.S., China and Russia release 'peace declaration' after summit and agree to launch a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks; Xi Jinping says major countries should 'respect one another's sovereignty'

**Anantha Krishnan**
BEIJING

The leaders of the United States, China and Russia on Thursday held a historic trilateral summit in Shenzhen that made for striking optics even if it did not yield substantive outcomes on the war in Ukraine, the crisis in Iran or other pressing global issues.

The holding of the summit, in itself, was a success, according to U.S. President Donald Trump, who said the three leaders were "making history".



**Power move:** Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump in Shenzhen. AP

### 'Red lines'

Chinese President Xi Jinping, for his part, laid out his view of how major countries should engage, saying they should "respect one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and "in particular, not to challenge the red lines of one another".

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the three countries "have many converging interests when it comes to resolving regional conflicts, including, of course, the conflict in Ukraine", adding that the talks would address food and energy security issues.

The three leaders' opening remarks underlined their different priorities as they came together for a summit of striking optics.

Mr. Trump, embattled after bruising midterm elections, is looking to shore up his legacy.

For China, holding the summit on Chinese soil, and in the city that has come to symbolise China's economic resurgence, has been framed as a landmark moment for what Mr. Xi calls major country diplomacy.

For Mr. Putin, the summit reinforced Russia's global influence amid recent isolation after the Ukraine war. This was Mr. Putin's first in-person attendance at an APEC summit in nine years.

A joint "China-Russia-U.S. Heads of State Declaration toward Peace" released after 90 minutes of talks had mostly broad points of consensus.

There was agreement to launch a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks, with the three leaders "reaffirming that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought".

### 'Sword of Damocles'

Mr. Xi described nuclear weapons as "the Sword of Damocles that hangs over humanity". The three countries said they would "increase the production and supply of refined petroleum products for the benefit of all nations", and "recognised that the principle of state consent and respect for immunities of State officials are of paramount importance and concurred that the International Criminal Court and other similar bodies must not abuse their jurisdiction."

### 'Uniquely positioned'

Mr. Trump in his remarks said the three countries as "the world's three largest nuclear powers by far" were "uniquely positioned to discuss how to reduce the number of nuclear weapons on earth and also to lessen the risk that those weapons will ever be used".

"I'm delighted that this trip has given us the opportunity for this first ever trilateral meeting between the leaders of the U.S., Russia and China, and today, so in that sense, and I think in lots of other ways, we are really making history," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

SHAURYA SSB ROLL NO 1042209

# Trump hails 'historic' meet with Xi, Putin

Mr. Xi said China, Russia and the U.S. "should not go for conflict or confrontation among themselves, but should hold the line on peaceful coexistence and make efforts to avoid the Thucydides Trap", referring to the idea that an established power and rising power could fall into conflict. "As the main victors of the Second World War, China, Russia and the U.S. should steadfastly safeguard the postwar international order," he said.

Before the summit, Mr. Xi and Mr. Trump also held bilateral talks.

The U.S. President said both were "looking to help with respect to the war with Russia and Ukraine, [and] would like to see it ended." "We have a very special relationship and I think as long as you and I are in charge of things, we will never have a problem," Mr. Trump told Mr. Xi. The Chinese President, in remarks released by the Foreign Ministry, told Mr. Trump on the Taiwan issue that "the U.S. side should continue to do the right thing and avoid major disruptions to China-U.S. relations." "In the economic and trade fields, the two sides should strengthen communication, address each other's concerns, and strive for mutually beneficial outcomes," he said.

Both sides have recently clashed over a number of trade issues, including semiconductors and rare earths. Earlier this week, China said the U.S. was "abusing export control measures", after the introduction of new rules aimed at curbing Chinese firms' remote access to advanced AI chips through data centres in third party countries. The rules were announced amid scrutiny over chipmaker Nvidia and its relationships with companies in the region, including those with links to China.

SHAURYA ASSET (63810452)

# PM slams industry leaders over static wages, employment

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday tore into gathered industry leaders on a variety of issues, including the lack of progress in the manufacturing sector, companies' failure to increase employment and wages, the trend of exporters sending their best-quality items out of the country, and industry's lack of preparedness to exploit benefits unleashed by Free Trade Agreements.

"Have you increased the salaries of your employees," he asked them while addressing the inaugural session of FICCI's Annual General Meeting here.

The Congress took Mr. Modi's statements as a sign that he was "nervous and rattled". "For the first time in 12 years, a nervous and rattled PM has pulled up the captains of industry," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on social media platform X.

"He parroted what the Indian National Congress has been saying for long: (i) that wages have not increased; (ii) tax rates have been cut but investment has not boomed; and (iii) jobs are simply not expanding at the desired rate," Mr. Ramesh said.



Narendra Modi

At the meeting, Mr. Modi voiced several points of criticism against the Indian private sector. One of these pertained to the Make in India mission, aimed at making the country self-reliant. "In 1930, Gandhi came to you and said exactly this," Mr. Modi said. "And even today, after all these years, I have to say the same thing. Is this your success or your failure?"

## Economic strengths

At the meeting, Mr. Modi also spoke about the various strengths of the economy, including its move from a 'fragile five' economy to the fastest-growing major economy in the world, the increase in per capita income, and the World Bank's recognition of India's poverty reduction efforts.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

SHAURYA GSB TPC (8368104529)

# India, Japan hold talks in Tokyo; Japanese forces to train in Indian firing ranges

**Saurabh Trivedi**
**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

India and Japan on Thursday held a "two-plus-two" Foreign and Defence Ministers' dialogue in Tokyo, where both sides welcomed the signing of a Letter of Intent that will, for the first time, allow Japan's Self-Defence Forces to use Indian test ranges for "live-fire training..., including those involving surface-to-ship missiles".

The two sides also indicated forward movement towards India receiving the Unified Complex Radio Antenna, or UNICORN, naval radar system from Japan, and discussed the ongoing revisions in Japan's national security and defence policies.

FULL STORY ON
» PAGE 14

SSRG/836

# In a first, Japanese forces to train in Indian firing ranges

Foreign and Defence Ministers of the two countries hold '2+2' dialogue in Tokyo; both sides indicate forward movement in India receiving UNICORN naval radar system from Japan

**Saurabh Trivedi**
**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

India and Japan on Thursday held a '2+2' Foreign and Defence Ministers' dialogue in Tokyo, where both sides welcomed the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) that will, for the first time, allow Japan's Self-Defence Forces to use Indian test ranges for "live-fire training..., including those involving surface-to-ship missiles".

The two sides also indicated forward movement towards India receiving the Unified Complex Radio Antenna, or UNICORN, naval radar system from Japan, and discussed the ongoing revisions in Japan's national security and defence policies.

"They welcomed the signing of LOI toward the utilisation of firing ranges in India, whereby Japan Self-Defence Forces would, for the first time, conduct live-fire training etc., including those involving surface-to-ship missiles, at firing ranges in India," said a joint statement that also announced that the two sides will deepen security and defence cooperation and hold "bilateral and multilateral exercises at short notice".

The Ministers also planned a dialogue and tabletop exercise (TTX) involving the consular authorities of India and Japan to help in cases where evacuation of Indian and Japanese nationals would be required.



**Closer ties:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Japanese counterpart, Shinjiro Koizumi, in Tokyo on Thursday. X/PTI

The two-plus-two dialogue featured Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and their Japanese counterparts, Toshimitsu Motegi and Shinjiro Koizumi. The Japanese side "explained the ongoing efforts to revise Japan's National Security Strategy, National Defence Strategy and Defence Buildup Program".

The current government in Japan, led by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, is carrying out several reforms in the country's strategic and security culture in view of the ongoing wars in West Asia and Ukraine, as well as global trends.

Following the meeting, Mr. Jaishankar said, "Reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral cooperation, focusing on strengthening economic security and deepening G2G, B2B and P2P linkages. Our discussions also covered challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific, regional hotspots, global issues, and multilateral cooperation."

The joint statement said the Ministers discussed the UNICORN naval radar system that Japan has proposed for India, and added that an "early formulation" of "Acceptance of Necessity" by February of next year is on track.

## Further collaborations

The two sides also discussed enhancing "mine countermeasures capabilities" and "joint development in naval ship building and design".

"They welcomed the expanding cooperation between the two countries' coast guards, including the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) to be held in India in February 2027, a framework which was initiated by the Japan Coast Guard," the statement said.

The Ministers also agreed to deepen information-sharing arrangements between the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and the Indian Navy. Welcoming the participation of both countries in the Malabar 2026 multilateral naval exercise and the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX 2026), held in Japan this month, the two sides agreed to expand joint exercises and exchanges between their Special Operations Forces.

Further, they agreed to advance collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Japan's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) in advanced missile and defence technologies. They also agreed to promote cooperation in 'air domain awareness' and expand multilateral defence engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

In an interview with *The Japan News*, Mr. Jaishankar said that Japan and India, alongside 'Quad' partners United States and Australia, would advance a free Indo-Pacific through "practical cooperation".

SHAILESH SSP TRG 8368104567

# Publication puts Rafale count at 32; officials dispute claims

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The number of active Rafale fighter jets in the Indian Air Force (IAF) inventory has been revised downward to 32 from 35 in the latest edition of the World Air Forces directory released by British aviation publication *FlightGlobal*.

However, sources in the Defence Ministry questioned the authenticity of the assessment, saying the information was not provided by the Ministry.

Senior Ministry officials said the figures published in the directory did not originate from the IAF. The latest assessment, compiled using aviation analytics firm Cirium's military fleet database, does not specify which aircraft were excluded from the active inventory or the reasons behind the revision.

The government procured 36 Rafale fighters from France, comprising 28 single-seat EH and eight twin-seat DH variants. *FlightGlobal*'s 2026 edition, published in late 2025, listed 35 aircraft as active, while the latest edition has reduced the number to 32.



Defence Ministry officials said the figures in the directory did not originate from the IAF.

After Operation Sindoor, the IAF said "losses are a part of combat", but it never disclosed the total number or the types of aircraft involved.

The officials added that, in June this year, the IAF issued a tender seeking "bridge support" for all 36 Rafale aircraft, underlining that the entire fleet remains part of its support and maintenance requirements.

Cirium tracks military aircraft at the individual airframe level using publicly available information, including aircraft sightings.

Variations in active fleet figures could reflect aircraft undergoing maintenance, upgrades, or structural repairs. However, the latest directory does not provide details to establish the reasons for the reduction.

The publication has also revised the inventory of Pakistan's Saab 2000 Erieye airborne early warning and control aircraft from nine to seven.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368104579)

# COP31 cover text draft drops references to fossil fuel phase-out, net zero dates

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

The latest iteration of the COP 31 draft cover text has eliminated references to fossil fuels phase-out and net zero dates but has also deleted references to a firm $120 billion adaptation-finance target that developing countries have been asking for as "legally binding financial obligations" on developed countries. This suggests that the most ambitious demands of both the developed and developing country blocs have been eliminated.

The COP31 Presidency's revised draft cover decision, dated November 19, has 80 paragraphs, down from 144 in the November 16 version. The summit officially ends on November 20, though negotiations frequently overshoot into the weekend.



A boxing-themed demonstration calling for an electrification target based on renewable energy, at the COP31 on Thursday. REUTERS

A major concern raised by developing countries, of phasing out unilateral trade measures such as the CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) by 2027, that was present in the earlier draft has also been eliminated.

However, a widely expected outcome of raising electricity's share in final energy consumption to 35% by 2035, scaling up the use of carbon capture utilisation technologies and making early warning systems universal by 2027, continue to find mention in the text. A broad commitment to triple adaptation finance also remains.

"The draft cover text weaves the 35% electricity in final energy consumption by 2035, alongside tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030," Ajay Mathur, India's lead negotiator at Paris COP and former DG, International Solar Alliance, said in a statement. "The electricity usage in India went up by 13% in 2025 due to the Hormuz crisis alone. It will be an ambitious goal for India to achieve 35% electrification by 2035," he added.

SURYA SSB 9368104523

# OPEC share in India's crude imports dropped in April-Oct.

The decline potentially reflects a shift in India's crude procurement strategy as the country navigates shipping disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties due to the West Asia conflict

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) share in India's crude oil import basket declined sharply to 27.4% during April-October of the current fiscal, against 38.5% in the corresponding period last year, according to the latest provisional data released by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The decline potentially reflects a shift in India's crude procurement strategy as the country navigates shipping disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties arising from the continuing conflict in West Asia.

During the seven-month period, India's crude oil imports increased 2.7% on a YoY basis to 146.6 million metric tonnes (MMT). Without identifying individual countries, PPAC data showed that supplies from the Eurasian region accounted for 43.8% of India's crude oil import basket, while West Asia contributed 36%.

South America accounted for 10.6% of imports, followed by Africa at 6.6% and North America at 3%.

The changing sourcing pattern indicates a growing diversification of India's crude oil procurement, with supplies from outside the traditional West Asia market gaining a larger share. On the petroleum products trade front, diesel accounted for the largest share of India's exports at 43.4% during the reported period. Petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) followed with shares of 22.4% and 10%, respectively.

On the import side, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) constituted the largest component, accounting for 50.5% of total petroleum product imports, followed by petroleum coke (petcoke) at 18.3%.

Petroleum product exports remain an important component of India's external energy trade to contain the impact on its net oil and gas import bill.

PPAC data released earlier showed that petroleum product export value increased approximately 47%.

## Fuel gauge

Supplies from outside the traditional West Asia market have gained a larger share

During the 7-month period, India's crude oil imports increased **2.7% to 146.6 MMT**

Supplies from Eurasian region accounted for **43.8%** of India's crude oil import basket




West Asia contributed 36%; South America 10.6%, Africa 6.6%, North America 3%,

CHAUKA SSB TRG (8368104525)

## • 80% of seaborne trade goes through maritime chokepoints

The Strait of Hormuz has been a global headache for the better part of year now. Of course, this is not the first time that the closure of trade passages has been weaponised.




SHAURYA SSB TRG (8568104529)

• **According to** a McKinsey Global Institute report this month, the vast majority of trade is seaborne. And 80% seaborne trade happens through one of 24 key global waterways.

• **As it turns** out, the Strait of Hormuz is not the only important maritime chokepoint. Three others — the Bosporus Strait, the Bohai Strait, and the Danish Straits — also have no viable seaborne alternative.

• **But the** impact of the closure of one of these four routes goes beyond initial shocks and can also depend on what goods flow through them.

• **Hormuz and Bosporus** are energy-heavy, while Bohai is concentrated in metals and minerals, requiring different resilience responses, the report said.

# Myanmar guilty of Rohingya genocide: ICJ

The court finds that Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, carried out sexual assaults and acts of extreme violence against children, and attacked fleeing Rohingya; the panel rejects Myanmar's claim that the 2017 operation was a legitimate counter-insurgency campaign

**Associated Press**
THE HAGUE

In a landmark judgment, the United Nations' top court ruled on Thursday that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya minority in a brutal 2017 military operation and ordered the Southeast Asian nation to allow people who fled the violence to return home.

International Court of Justice (ICJ) President Yuji Iwasawa said the court, in a 9-6 decision, found that Myanmar "has committed genocide against the Rohingya group in northern Rakhine State, in violation of its obligations under the Genocide Convention".

The 15-judge panel of the World Court, which included Navi Pillay, the respected international jurist who won the Nobel Peace Prize last month, rejected Myanmar's defence that the 2017 campaign was a legitimate operation against insurgents.

Mr. Iwasawa said that "the court finds that Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, perpetrated widespread acts of sexual violence, as well as acts of extreme violence against children, and attacked fleeing Rohingya as they sought to flee in large numbers".

The decision marks the first time the court has ruled that a state committed genocide and comes as the World Court also is handling genocide allegations linked to the Gaza conflict and the war in Ukraine.



Rohingya refugees look through a metal net as they watch the live announcement of ICJ verdict, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. REUTERS

There was no immediate reaction from the Myanmar delegation in The Hague or from the government in Myanmar.

The court also ordered Myanmar to commit to reparations including allowing Rohingya "safe, voluntary and dignified return to their place of residence". It ordered Myanmar to investigate, prosecute and punish people found to have committed genocidal acts and to pay compensation to Rohingya. The amount will be decided in later court proceedings.

An umbrella organisation of Myanmar opposition groups said in a statement that "the struggle for justice will continue, and this judgment must now be enforced," calling on the international community to ensure it is fully implemented.

The court's rulings are final and legally binding, but it has no way to enforce them beyond reporting non-compliance to the UN Security Council.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the ruling "a demonstration of international justice and a reaffirmation that impunity for such horrific acts must not stand".

Shortly after the ruling was read, U.K. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said his government was expelling Myanmar's defence attache from the U.K..

In August 2017, Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine State in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

The court said that evidence showed Myanmar forces killed about 10,000 Rohingya.

About 1.2 million Rohingya refugees now live in Bangladesh, primarily in crowded camps across Cox's Bazar district, where they endure harsh conditions.

# Putin rules out Black Sea, energy truce after Crimea bridge strike

**Reuters**
*Moscow, November 19*

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin said Thursday Moscow would no longer consider a moratorium on strikes in Black Sea or on energy infrastructure following Ukraine's attacks on a bridge linking Russia and Crimea, vowing a harsh response.

Earlier, Kyiv struck the bridge for the third time in a week, creating an awkward backdrop to three-way talks Putin held with the Chinese and US presidents at the APEC summit in Shenzhen.

Speaking after those talks, Putin said he had discussed a possible halt to attacks at sea and on energy facilities with Russia's Security Council and had "asked everyone to give it further thought and come back to it, hoping that perhaps some kind of agreement could be reached."

"But after the strikes on the Crimean Bridge, there will be no agreements. We will respond to these strikes. And I want everyone to know this: I believe our response will be far more painful than what the Kyiv regime did to the bridge," he said.

He added that the bridge was used exclusively for civilian purposes and not to transport military equipment, as Kyiv has alleged, or petroleum products.

A third Ukrainian aerial attack in four days on Kerch Bridge linking Russia to Crimea halted rail traffic, a Russian official said, after earlier strikes shut down road section of the landmark.

## Trump is open to security guarantees for Ukraine: Kushner

*Berlin:* US President Donald Trump is open to security guarantees for Ukraine as part of a peace deal with Russia, special envoy Jared Kushner said on Thursday, adding that any such deal would have to be part of a broader security package.

Kushner told reporters that US talks in Berlin with European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had "made a lot of progress on what those security guarantees can look like," as well as a post-war prosperity plan. **REUTERS**

CHAURYA ASSO TPG (9358104519)