



**President Droupadi Murmu during an interactive session with the members of Indian Business delegation at Bratislava, in Slovakia**



**Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol waves upon his arrival at the private residence in Seoul, South Korea**



**Turkey's Prez Recep Tayyip Erdogan with Syria's interim Prez Ahmed al-Sharaa (left) during a meeting the 4th edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya**



**Freed Palestinian Naeim Al Burai, 66, is welcomed upon arrival at al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, after being released from an Israeli prison**

allovertheworld



**Russia's President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with US President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff during a meeting in Saint Petersburg, on Friday**

**Plane carrying 3 people crashes in South Florida near major highway**

**BOCA RATON (US):** A small plane carrying three people crashed Friday morning in South Florida near a major interstate highway and railroad tracks, officials said. The Boca Raton Police said in a social media post that several roads near the Boca Raton Airport were closed near Interstate 95 after the plane went down shortly after 10 am. Local media reported the plane was on fire and firefighters were responding. The Federal Aviation Administration identified the plane as a Cessna 310 with three people on board, though it wasn't immediately known if anyone had died. It went down about 10:20 am after departing from Boca Raton Airport bound for Tallahassee, the FAA said in an email. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are investigating, with the NTSB leading the probe.

**Former Russian minister sentenced to 40 months in prison for violating British sanctions**

**LONDON:** A former Russian govt minister who violated British sanctions by receiving financial support from family members was sentenced Friday to more than three years in prison. Dmitriy Ovsianikov, who was appointed governor of Sevastopol in Crimea by Russian President Vladimir Putin, became the first person convicted of violating the sanctions put in place after the illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. He set up a British bank account to illegally receive tens of thousands of pounds from his wife and accepted gifts and payments from his brother, prosecutors said. Ovsianikov, 48, was convicted Wednesday in Southwark Crown Court of six counts of circumventing sanctions between February 2023 and January 2024, and two counts of money laundering. He was sentenced to 40 months behind bars.

**Thousands of children raped, sexually abused in eastern Congo, UNICEF says**

**DAKAR (SENEGAL):** Thousands of children have been subjected to rape and sexual violence in conflict-battered eastern Congo over the course of two months, the UN children's agency said Friday, warning that existing funding gaps meant that hundreds of thousands were deprived of protection. Children make up between 35% to 45% of the nearly 10,000 cases of rape and sexual violence reported January and February this year, James Elder, the spokesperson for UNICEF told reporters in Geneva on Friday. "In short, based on initial data (...) a child was raped every half an hour," Elder said. He added that UNICEF faced significant funding gaps, which threatened care for hundreds of thousands children.

**UK secures first Interpol Silver Notice to track Indian-origin fraudster's criminal assets**

**LONDON:** The UK's National Crime Agency on Friday announced its first "Interpol Silver Notice" to help trace and recover the criminal assets of a convicted Indian-origin fraudster, believed to have made GBP 8.5 million illegally. Anopkumar Maudhoo, who is said to have used several aliases, has been made subject to the international order which facilitates locating, identifying, and obtaining information about laundered assets such as properties, vehicles, financial accounts and businesses. Maudhoo, from London, was convicted last month after orchestrating a large-scale conveyancing fraud which offered investment opportunities in supposedly repossessed properties or the re-development of plots of land.

**Brazil's former President Bolsonaro hospitalised with abdominal pain**

**SAO PAULO:** Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was hospitalised Friday morning with abdominal pain while travelling in northeastern Brazil, his political party said. The pain was related to long-term effects of a stabbing to the abdomen he suffered in September 2018, the press office of his Liberal Party said. Bolsonaro has been in and out of hospitals since the incident at a campaign event before Brazil's 2018 presidential election. The conservative leader underwent several surgeries during his presidency from 2019-2022. He was admitted Friday to a hospital in Santa Cruz, a small city in the northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte.

# China retaliates with 125% tariffs against US imports

Says more tariffs by Trump will be a joke

**PTI, BEIJING:** China on Friday continued its tit-for-tat move against the Trump administration's tariffs by hiking its additional levies on imports from the US to 125% against duties of 145% by America even as it evinced interest in dialogue with Washington to resolve the impasse.

**TRADE WAR**

Announcing an additional 125% tariff, China's Customs Tariff Commission said, "Even if the US imposes higher tariffs, it would no longer make economic sense and ultimately go down as a joke in world economic history."

"Given that it's already impossible for the Chinese market to accept US imports at the current tariff level if the United States imposes further tariffs on Chinese products, China will ignore it," it said. However, should the US



File photos of Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and US President Donald Trump

persist in substantially undermining China's interests, Beijing will take firm countermeasures and fight to the end, the commission added. China's new tariffs of 125% against US imports will be effective from Saturday, it said.

The announcement follows the US move to raise the "reciprocal tariffs" on Chinese imports to 125%. The US later confirmed the total tariff on Chinese

products was 145% with the inclusion of 20% levies announced by Trump soon after he took over power in January this year.

Trump's heavy tariffs left China to wage a lone battle as he paused tariffs against all other countries.

Also, similar to previous tariff hikes, China has filed a lawsuit against the US with the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism, a

**Trump says tariff policy 'doing really well'**

**AFP, WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump pledged Friday that his tariff policy is working and will benefit the United States and the world, despite China hiking tariffs on US goods to 125% in a deepening trade war. Traumatized stock markets seasawed, the dollar tumbled and US government bonds faced renewed pressure after Beijing's retaliation intensified the confrontation between the world's two biggest economies.

In a message Friday on social media, Trump continued to insist that "we are doing really well on our tariff policy."

"Very exciting for America, and the World!!! It is moving along quickly," he wrote.

Trump sent global financial markets into a tailspin by announcing sweeping import taxes on dozens of countries last week, only to abruptly roll them back to 10% on Wednesday — although hiking them for China.

But the subsequent bounce in the markets has faded with the realization that the Washington-Beijing trade war is still spiraling.

Xi also said the European Union and China should "jointly resist unilateral bullying practices" during talks with Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said. While slapping additional measures, China, however, kept its door open for talks to resolve the issue. Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Lin Jian on Friday said if the US truly wanted to resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation, it must cease its maximum pressure tactics and reckless actions.

European governments have accused Putin of dragging his feet. "Russia has to get moving" on the road to ending the war," US President Donald Trump posted on social media. He said the war is "terrible and senseless."

In Russia, the Kremlin said Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff was meeting with Putin in St Petersburg.

Witkoff, who has been pressing the Kremlin to accept a truce, initially met with Putin envoy Kirill Dmitriev, footage released by Russian media showed.

**Europe vows military support for Ukraine as US envoy meets Putin**

**AP, BRUSSELS:** European countries vowed Friday to send billions of dollars in further funding to help Ukraine keep fighting Russia's invasion, as a US envoy pursued peace efforts in a trip to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid growing questions about the Kremlin's willingness to stop the more than three-year war.

Russian forces hold the advantage in Ukraine, with the war now in its fourth year. Ukraine has endorsed a US ceasefire proposal, but Russia has effectively blocked it by imposing far-reaching conditions.

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**PVT JETTY AT MALIM IS BID TO PUSH MARINA PLAN: ACTIVISTS**

Palkar said, "I came to know about it after reading the newspapers. River Mandovi is already congested as it is occupied by off-shore casino boats and river cruise boats. The proposed project at Malim jetty will affect the livelihood of fishermen. It will further affect the depleting shellfish like clams and it will become extinct."

Activist Adv Shankar Phadte from Porvorim said, "The programme of developing inland waterways should be aimed and directed towards ease of commuting the common man which would also include the tourists. Planning of these routes and execution on the projects should have been done with active involvement of the Captain of Ports, river navigation department and the NIO."

According to Phadte, the development plan at Malim was a classic example of the Department of Tourism stepping in to dole out State infrastructure and resources to private players. "This will open the flood gates of corruption. The marina infrastructure is different from inland waterways and should not be confused. Marinas will be constructed by private companies and State resources will be exploited for the leisure and luxuries if the super-rich. This is certainly not what the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned when drawing plans for developing inland waterways," he added.

Mandovi Fishermen Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd chairman Francisco D'Souza said, "We have been using the Malim jetty for fishing for the last several years. But we are unaware of the government's plans. We don't know where the private jetty has been proposed."

The Society is established by the trawlers owners. About 140 trawler owners are using the Majim jetty.

On Thursday, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) granted the first No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the private jetty project at Malim on river Mandovi through its newly launched digital portal. The Rs 8-crore project by Mumbai-based Marina India Infrastructure Private Limited is designed to berth up to 16 privately owned yachts and pleasure crafts up to 30 metres in length. The jetty will support docking and undocking for each trip. The project aims to boost river cruise tourism along the waterway.

"Goa, which is the smallest State of India, is made up of just 3,702 sqkm of land, forest, rivers, estuaries and coastline. Nationalisation of rivers by the Inland Waterways Authority of India by permitting private jetties along rivers under National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, may not go well as is with the casinos and river cruises polluting our rivers. Our rivers are meant for fish breeding and other aqua activities as means of livelihood for a part of our population. Just as our lands are being sold for big prices to outsiders by destroying our forests, agriculture and environment so also our rivers will see its doomsday soon if such private jetties are granted permissions on river fronts in the guise of development and boosting tourism," said Oswald Pinto from Porvorim.

"It's high time our government should explore some other means to boost our economy rather than destroying the very little that nature has bestowed on our tiny Rome of the East and Pearl of the Ocean," Pinto said.

The readers may recall that the first marina project proposed by the Mumbai-based Kargwal Construction Limited at Nauki faced rough waters after locals and environmentalists opposed it. In July 2022, the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) stated that it had terminated the lease agreement with the project proponent. The lease agreement was signed in October 2010.

**SATTARI HUNTING TRIP GOES AWRY, ADVOI MAN DIES IN ACCIDENTAL FIRING**

Valpoi Police arrested Abhijit, and an investigation is underway. The accused has been charged under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Arms Act, and the Wildlife Protection Act.

It may be recalled that a similar incident occurred last December when another young man died during a hunt-

ing trip in the same forest, raising concerns about potential illegal hunting activities in the area.

Hemant's body was sent to Goa Medical College (GMC) Bambolim for postmortem.

Valpoi Police, with the assistance of a forensic expert team, conducted the panchanama and seized the firearm with an empty cartridge, as well as a scooter.

**PARKING LOT THREATENS TURTLE NESTS IN MORJIM**

Retired Navy Captain Gerald Fernandes, recipient of the first Goa Wildlife Award, lodged a formal complaint with Mandrem Police, alleging that approximately 30 labourers — led by an individual claiming to be a government official — began unauthorised construction activity in the ecologically sensitive area. "This is habitat of endangered Olive Ridley turtles, and it falls under a sand dune zone where construction is strictly prohibited," Fernandes stated.

The complaint also highlighted that the labourers could not provide any official documentation authorizing their activities.

When contacted for comment, Kedar Naik, Director of Tourism, said, "We do not need any permission to build the parking area as it is government land." However, he acknowledged that he would "check with staff and get back" regarding construction in a declared turtle nesting site. Till the time of going to press, Naik did not revert.

Morjim Sarpanch Pavan Morje confirmed that the Panchayat had not granted any permissions for the project. "The new norm seems to be awarding tenders to private parties and expecting them to obtain all necessary clearances — which rarely happens," Morje admitted.

Local resident Mayur Shetgaonkar strongly criticized the project, calling it a violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) norms. "It is a shame that the government does not ask the people what sort of development we want and instead foist on us what they think is good for us. The construction violates CRZ and CZMP norms, guidelines set to protect turtle habitats and sand dune guidelines. I have emailed the Ministry of Forests, Government of India, explaining how the Department of Tourism has flouted all norms in their bid to build this concretised parking lot and garden," shared Shetgaonkar.

On Friday, no construction activity was observed at the partially barricaded site. However, groups of concerned villagers were seen congregating nearby in a show of protest.

"It is shameful that the government ignores the voices of locals," said villager Bhabhi, whose traditional fishing hut was relocated to make way for the project. "We don't need kiosks in exchange for our nature. If an environmental disaster strikes, it is we who will suffer."

Fisherman Albert Fernandes echoed similar sentiments. "We were born on these sands. Our families have preserved this coastline for generations. We don't need outsiders to tell us what's best for our home."

**PANJIM ARTERIES FEEL PATTO BRIDGE PAIN DESPITE BYPASS**

Echoing similar sentiments, Christina Fernandes from Calangute, who was in town to make some purchases, said, "It is so hot and unbearable. Already the traffic is moving at a snail's pace in Porvorim and the traffic congestion in Panjim is like adding salt to injury. I do not know when this problem will be over."

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a motorist said, "The repair works should have been carried out during the night or on weekends to minimise disruptions. It is not proper to 'roast' the taxpayers in the scorching sun. The bridge joints were covered by iron sheets for so many months and why did the authorities choose this month to carry out comprehensive repairs?"

The traffic issues also affected local businesses, including food delivery services, leading to customer complaints and order cancellations. Motorcycle pilots too faced similar challenges.

A food delivery boy said, "It was difficult to reach the

customers on time. Despite a few order cancellations, customers grumbled over the late arrival of the food items."

Meanwhile, the Goa Traffic Cell advised people to maintain lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent traffic congestion.

"Due to the closure of New Patto Bridge at Panjim, the movement of vehicular traffic is a bit slower. Motorists are requested to maintain lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent traffic congestion," SP Traffic, Goa, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). As per the traffic diversion plan, during the four day period, two-way movement of vehicular traffic will be allowed on new Patto Bridge (riverside) during morning hours.

The movement of traffic on old Patto Bridge will be reversed and will be used only to enter Panjim and vehicles entering Panjim via Old Patto Bridge will be allowed to take right turn near SOHO club to proceed to D B Marg via Umesh Keni Petrol Pump. Traffic exiting Panjim via Church Square — Cortin shall compulsory take right turn at Cortin foot bridge to exit via new Mala Bridge, except route buses, no heavy vehicle will be allowed to use new and old Patto Bridges to enter Panjim. Heavy vehicles carrying essential commodities will be allowed to enter the city only via the new Mala Bridge — Bhatlem side or via Goa Medical College and Hospital at Bambolim — Dona Paula — Miramar side.

**UIDAI REFUSES TO PART WITH ATALA'S DETAILS**

Additionally, the ANC has summoned the Kolkata-based owner of the Siolim property where Atala resided after being released on bail in connection with a 2019 attempted murder case registered at the Anjuna Police Station.

DySP Nerlon Albuquerque and SP ANC are continuing to lead the investigation.

It may be recalled that Atala's arrest 15 years ago revealed a nexus between police, politicians, and the drug mafia, leading to the suspension of seven officers.

He was recently arrested on April 6 by the ANC with drugs worth Rs 8.7 lakh and was found to be staying in Goa without valid documents, possessing two passports.

**NIA GRILLS RANA AFTER COURT GRANTS 18-DAY CUSTODY**

"His (Rana) prolonged custody has been deemed necessary to facilitate an extensive interrogation aimed at uncovering deeper layers of the conspiracy. We suspect that the tactics used in the Mumbai attacks were intended for execution in other cities as well, prompting investigators to examine whether similar plots were developed elsewhere," the NIA is believed to have informed special NIA judge Chanderjit Singh late Thursday while presenting its arguments, sources said.

Rana has to be confronted with a lot of evidence and his statements would lead to "additional discoveries," the NIA submitted. The agency further told the court it needed to investigate his links with other terrorists and those accused in the Mumbai attack case,

**SIEMENS CEO, FAMILY DIE IN NYC CHOPPER CRASH**

Radar data showed it flew north along the Manhattan skyline and then back south toward the Statue of Liberty.

Video of the crash showed parts of the aircraft tumbling through the air into the water near the shoreline of Jersey City, New Jersey.

A witness there, Bruce Wall, said he saw it "falling apart" in midair, with the tail and main rotor coming off. The main rotor was still spinning without the helicopter as it fell.

Dani Horbiak was at her Jersey City home when she heard what sounded like "several gunshots in a row, almost, in the air." She looked out her window and saw the chopper "splash in several pieces into the river."

The helicopter was spinning uncontrollably with "a bunch of smoke coming out" before it slammed into the water, said Lesly Camacho, a hostess at a restaurant along the river in Hoboken, New Jersey.