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PM Modi To Visit China

- PM Narendra Modi will visit China to attend the regional summit SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) in Tianjin city from August 31 to September 1 signalling another step towards normalising ties between the two nations that had frayed after the Galwan clash of 2020.
- It's learnt that once India officially confirms participation by Modi, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi will travel to India to discuss the agenda for Modi's bilateral with Xi on the margins of the summit. Wang is also expected for the Special Representative talks with NSA Ajit Doval on the boundary issue.
- President Donald Trump Wednesday announced an additional 25 percent tariffs on India for its trade with Russia, worsening further the erosion of trust between the 2 countries because of Trump's incessant targeting of India.
- If Modi does indeed travel to China, he's unlikely to return without a bilateral meeting with Putin. Modi in fact is also likely to host the Russian president for the annual India-Russia summit later this year.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Overview
- What is SCO?
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance. It was formed to promote regional cooperation, ensure peace and stability, and counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism.
- Founding and Evolution
- Established: 15 June 2001
- Founding Members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

- **Origin:** Developed from the **Shanghai Five** (1996) China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Members (as of 2025):
- China
- Russia
- India (joined in 2017)
- Pakistan (joined in 2017)
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

- Iran (joined in 2023)
- Observer States (e.g. Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia)
 - Dialogue Partners (e.g. Turkey, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc.)
- Key Objectives of SCO:
- Strengthen mutual trust and good-neighborliness among member states
- Promote cooperation in politics, trade, energy, transport, culture, education, and environmental protection
- Maintain regional peace, security, and stability
- Combat terrorism, separatism, and extremism
- Main Organs of SCO:
- Heads of State Council (HSC): Highest decision-making body

- Heads of Government Council (HGC): Discusses economic matters
- Council of Foreign Ministers
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS): Based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan coordinates counter-terrorism efforts
- Importance for India:
- Promotes connectivity with Central Asia (key for energy and trade)
- Helps India engage in multilateral diplomacy
- Platform to interact with China and Pakistan
- Supports India's energy security goals (e.g., via Iran and Central Asia)
- Recent Developments:
- Iran's full membership approved in 2023
- Belarus is expected to become a full member soon
- India hosted the SCO Summit 2023 virtually
- Discussions on Afghanistan, economic corridors, and regional connectivity remain ongoing



Trump Imposes Additional 25% Tariff On India

- US President Donald Trump announced on August 6, 2025, an executive order imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports, raising the total US tariff burden on India to 50%.
- This action, justified by Trump as a "punishment" for India's continued and increased purchase of Russian oil despite ongoing US and Western sanctions against Moscow, marks a significant escalation in the recent US-India trade dispute.
- Trump, in interviews and official statements, accused India of undermining USled efforts to pressure Russia over its invasion of Ukraine by buying heavily discounted Russian oil and then, in some instances, allegedly reselling it for profit.
- The move is expected to affect almost \$64 billion worth of Indian exports, including key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, garments, gems, jewelry, and petrochemicals.
- INUS India—US Trade and Tariff Relations Overview
- Background
- India and the United States share a growing economic partnership.
- The bilateral trade relationship has expanded significantly in the last two decades.
- They cooperate in sectors like defence, energy, technology, pharmaceuticals, services, and agriculture.
- Trade Figures (2024 estimates):
- Total Bilateral Trade: Over \$200 billion
- India's Exports to US: ~\$120 billion (includes textiles, pharmaceuticals, gems, software, etc.)
- India's Imports from US: ~\$80 billion (includes oil, aircraft, electronics, etc.)
- The United States is India's largest trading partner.

- Rey Areas of Trade:
- India's Exports to US
 India's Imports from US
- Pharmaceuticals
 Crude oil & LNG
- IT Services
 Aircraft & parts
- Diamonds & Gems
 Defence equipment
- Garments & Textiles
 Agricultural products
- Organic Chemicals
 Electronics & semiconductors

- In **2019**, the US revoked India's GSP status, which allowed duty-free access for over 3,000 Indian products.
- Reason: US concerns over market access and tariffs imposed by India.
- India's Tariffs:
- The US has long criticized India for:
- **High import duties** (especially on electronics, wine, automobiles, and dairy products).
- Protectionist policies in some sectors.
- India argues these are necessary to protect domestic industries and farmers.
- Output
 US Tariffs:
- US has imposed duties on Indian steel and aluminium.
- Trade imbalance (India has a **trade surplus**) has been a concern for the US.

- 2023: India and the US resolved six World Trade Organization (WTO) disputes related to tariffs.
- India **removed retaliatory tariffs** on US products like almonds, walnuts, and apples.
- Focus shifted to strengthening supply chains, tech transfers, and semiconductor cooperation.
- iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies): Enhances cooperation in AI, quantum computing, 5G/6G, space, and semiconductors.
- **Defence trade**: Growing steadily, with deals like GE's jet engine tech transfer.
- Clean energy: Partnership on solar, hydrogen, and climate tech.
- Multilateral Angle:
- Both countries often cooperate or differ on WTO policies, climate tariffs, digital trade rules, and data localization.
- India advocates data sovereignty, while the US supports free data flows.





STATEMENT

The United States has in recent days targeted India's oil imports from Russia.

We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India.

It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest.

We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified and unreasonable.

India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests.

Akash Missile Talks In Focus For Philippine

- The Philippines is actively deepening its defence relationship with India, signalling a significant evolution in its strategic partnerships as regional tensions in the Indo-Pacific escalate, particularly due to ongoing friction with China over the South China Sea.
- After finalising the acquisition of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile systems from India—a \$375 million deal first agreed in January 2022, with the initial deliveries completed and the remainder expected by the end of 2025—the Philippines is now seeking to procure India's domestically developed Akash-1S air defence missile system as its next major air defence upgrade.
- The Akash-1S is an advanced, medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system developed by India's DRDO and produced by Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).
- What is Akash-1S?
- Akash-1S is a surface-to-air missile (SAM) developed by DRDO (Defence
 Research and Development Organisation). It is an upgraded variant of the
 original Akash missile system, designed to intercept and destroy aerial threats
 like fighter jets, drones, cruise missiles, etc.
- **(** Key Features of Akash-1S:
- Feature
 Details
- Type
 Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)
- ♦ Range ~25 to 30 km
- Altitude
 Up to 18 km
- Speed
 Supersonic (Mach 2.5 to 3.5)
- Guidance
 System
 Command-guided with in-built seeker (important upgrade)

- Feature
- Details
- \diamondsuit Mobility
- Mounted on mobile launchers (can be deployed quickly)
- **Warhead**
- High-explosive, fragmentation type

- What's New in Akash-1S?
- Indigenous Seeker: The biggest improvement over the original Akash is the addition of an indigenous seeker.
 - It enables better target tracking and precision, especially against low radar cross-section (RCS) targets like UAVs and cruise missiles.
- Improved Accuracy: Enhanced ability to strike fast-moving aerial targets in hostile environments.
- All-weather Capability: Can operate in day/night and all weather conditions.

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- Development & Trials:
- Developed by DRDO with production by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Successfully test-fired in May 2019 from the Integrated Test Range (ITR),
 Chandipur, Odisha.
- The tests validated its **seeker capability**, flight control, and performance in **combat-like scenarios**.

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- IN Importance for Indian Armed Forces:
- Strengthens India's layered air defence capability.
- Protects sensitive military and civilian infrastructure from aerial attacks.
- Offers an **indigenous alternative** to foreign air defence systems.
- Complements systems like Barak-8, MR-SAM, and S-400 in India's arsenal.

- Wariants of Akash:
- VariantFeature
- Akash (Original)
 Basic version without seeker
- Akash-1S
 Indigenous seeker added
- Akash-NG (Next
 Longer range (up to 70 km), lighter, better mobility,
 active radar seeker





DRDO Awards ₹135 Crore Contract To Astra Microwave

- DRDO of India has awarded a significant contract worth ₹135 crore to Astra Microwave
 Products Limited (AMPL) for the upgrade of its Ground-Based Radar Systems.
- This contract highlights DRDO's ongoing efforts to enhance the country's defence capabilities through modernization of critical radar infrastructure.
- The order is also important for Astra Microwave's growth, as it adds to its healthy order backlog and reaffirms its position as a leading supplier for defence radar and electronic warfare systems in India.
- Astra Microwave, a key player in defence electronics specializing in advanced RF and microwave technologies, will execute this upgrade project over an 18-month period.



NSA Ajit Doval on Moscow Mission

- National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval today held a meeting with senior Russian officials in Moscow to discuss India-Russia defence and security cooperation. The visit comes at a time when US President Donald Trump has announced that he will increase tariffs on Indian goods to the 25 per cent because of New Delhi's oil purchases from Russia.
- The visit is part of an earlier planned schedule and will focus on cooperation between India and Russia. NSA is also likely to hold talks on defence industry cooperation.
- India has a longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence, which is guided by the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MMTC) headed by the Defence Ministers of both countries.
- As time-tested partners, both countries have been involved in several bilateral projects, including the supply of S-400, licensed production of T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI, supply of MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya (formerly Admiral Gorshkov), production of AK-203 rifles in India and BrahMos missiles.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. From which country did India receive the final Airbus C-295MW aircraft under the 2021 contract?
- A. Spain
- B. France
- C. Germany
- D. Italy

ANSWER: A

- 2. On which dates were the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II?
- A. August 5 and August 7, 1945
- B. August 6 and August 9, 1945
- C. July 16 and July 20, 1945
- D. September 2 and September 5, 1945

ANSWER: B

- 3. What were the code names of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
- A. Fat Man and Little John
- B. Thin Man and Big Boy
- C. Little Boy and Fat Man
- D. Red Dragon and White Tiger

ANSWER: C

- 4. What was the codename given by the Indian Army for its operation during the Kargil War?
- A. Operation Blue Star
- B. Operation Vijay
- C. Operation Meghdoot
- D. Operation Shakti

ANSWER: B

- 5. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was initially formed from which earlier regional grouping?
- A. BRICS
- B. ASEAN

- C. Shanghai Five
- D. SAARC

ANSWER: C

- 6. Which is the premier tri-services training institution for future officers of the Indian Armed Forces?
- A. Indian Military Academy, Dehradun
- B. Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun
- C. National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla
- D. Defence Services Staff College, Wellington

ANSWER: C

- 7. The primary training institute for officers joining the Indian Army through direct entry (after graduation) is:
- A. Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala
- B. Indian Military Academy, Dehradun
- C. Air Force Academy, Dundigal
- D. Rashtriya Military School, Bangalore
 ANSWER: B

ANDVIEW. D

- 8. Infantry Day Is Always Observed On
- A. 26 Oct
- B. 27 Oct
- C. 28 Oct
- D. 29 Oct

ANSWER: B

- 9. PBG The Oldest Regiment In The Indian Army, Having Been Raised In
- A. 1773
- B. 1774
- C. 1779
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

- 10. Keir Starmer Become The New PM Of
- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel

D. Iraq

ANSWER: B

11. INSAS Rifle Manufactured By

- A. ARDE
- B. HAL
- C. IAI
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: A

12. ISRO Hq Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bangalore

ANSWER: D

13. Brahmos Is A

- A. Hypersonic Cruise Missile
- B. Supersonic Cruise Missile
- C. Subsonic Cruise Missile
- D. Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B



14. Where Is The Hq Of The Central Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: D

15. Sarmat Missile Is A

- A. Nuclear-Capable Missile
- B. Cruise Missile
- C. Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles
- D. None

ANSWER: A

16. "The Broken Earth" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. N.K. Jemisin
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Philip Pullman

ANSWER: B

17. What Is The Capital Of Nigeria?

- A. Oslo
- B. Abuja
- C. Cape Town
- D. Warsaw

ANSWER: B

18. Ex 'Ajeya Warrior' conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. UK

ANSWER: D

19. Operation Ganga Was Conducted By IAF In

- A. UK
- B. USA
- C. Ukraine
- D. Afghanistan

ANSWER: C

20. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Shillong
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C