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## NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND IRAN SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY WERE CANCELED AFTER IRAN REFUSED TO DISCUSS ITS MISSILE PROGRAM



## India free to buy oil from any supplier: Kremlin

**Trump last year imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, among the highest in the world, including 25 per cent levies for its purchases of Russian energy.**



The Democratic News  
New Delhi, Feb 04

India is free to buy oil from any country, and there is nothing new about its decision to diversify its crude suppliers, the Kremlin said on Wednesday. "We, along with all other international

energy experts, are well aware that Russia is not the only supplier of oil and petroleum products to India. India has always purchased these products from other countries. Therefore, we see nothing new here," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said while responding to

a question. He was asked about US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to stop buying Russian oil and switch to purchasing crude from the United States and, potentially, from Venezuela. A day earlier, Peskov said

that Russia has not received any statements from India regarding the cessation of Russian oil purchases. Private Kommersant FM business radio noted that, unlike President Trump, PM Modi did not mention any agreement on stopping Russian oil imports. Igor Yushkov, a leading expert at the National Energy Security Fund, said that Indian refiners cannot fully stop the import of Russian crude. "The American shale oil they export is light grades, similar to gas condensate. Russia, on the other hand, supplies relatively heavy, sulfur-rich Urals. This means India will need to blend US crude with other grades, which incurs additional costs, meaning a simple substitution won't be possible," he said. "Russia typically exports 1.5 million

## SUICIDE ATTACK AT SHIA MOSQUE IN PAKISTAN CAPITAL KILLS 31

The Democratic News  
Islamabad, Feb 06

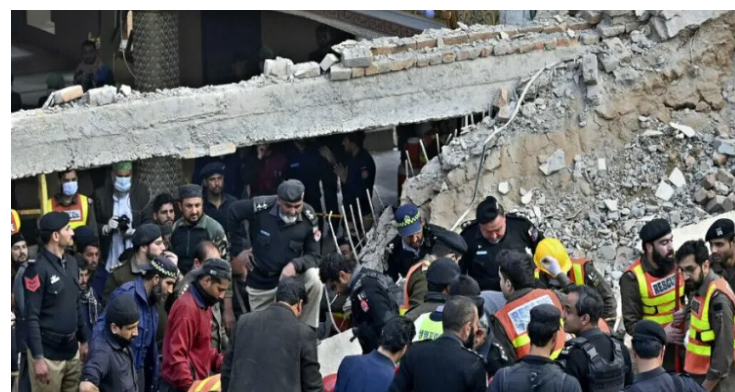
At least 31 people were killed and 169 others injured after a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a Shia mosque during Friday prayers in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, officials said on Friday.

The blast occurred at the Khadijatul Kubra mosque-cum-imambargah in the Tarlai area, triggering panic among worshippers gathered for prayers.

According to police and eyewitness accounts, the attacker was intercepted at the entrance gate of the imambargah. Unable to enter the premises, he detonated the explosives at the spot, causing extensive casualties.

Confirming the toll, a district administration spokesperson said in a post on X that 31 people lost their lives, while 169 sustained injuries, several of them critically.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the at-



tack. However, police sources indicated that the attacker was a foreign national with suspected links to Fitna al Khwaraji, a term used by Pakistani authorities to refer to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Earlier, Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon had said that over 80 injured persons and at least 15 bodies were shifted to hospitals soon after the blast. Rescue teams, including police and Rescue 1122 personnel, rushed to the site and launched emergency evacuation operations.

Army troops and Rangers were deployed to cordon off the area as security agencies began search and clearance operations in the surrounding locality. An emergency was declared at major hospitals in the capital, including the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), to accommodate the large number of injured.

The attack comes less than three months after a suicide bombing outside a district and sessions court in Islamabad, which had claimed 12 lives.

## Traitor vs desh ke dushman: Rahul, Bittu clash outside Parliament

New Delhi: A spot broke out between Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu outside Parliament on Wednesday, February 4, with the former calling Bittu a "traitor" for defecting to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the Congress and the latter hitting back by saying Gandhi is a "desh ke dushman (enemy of country)." Congress party members, along with Gandhi, were protesting near the Makar Dwar before the Budget Session proceedings began. As the Union Minister was passing by the protesters, Gandhi said, "Here is a traitor walking right by." His comment received a round of laughter, after which he continued, "Take look at the face, this is what it looks like." "My traitor friend," he added, while stretching his hand out for a handshake. Bittu, the Union Minister of State for Railways, passed by him, while the LoP continued saying, "Don't worry, you'll come back." Bittu replied, "Desh ke dushman," and refused to shake Gandhi's hand. Union Minister Bittu had previously served as the leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha in 2021 and joined the BJP in 2024. Gandhi was likely referring to his party change, insinuating that he would come back to the party. "Today, even a street goon would not do what Rahul Gandhi has done. When I did not shake hands, he was about to physically assault me, as you can see in the video." The minister later told IANS in an interview that even a street gangster would not make a remark like the one made by Gandhi.



## CM Revanth Reddy Slams BRS Over 'Father of the Nation' Claim, Political Heat Rises in Telangana

*Telangana politics heats up as CM Revanth Reddy slams BRS over projecting KCR as Father of the Nation, with Harish Rao hitting back ahead of municipal elections.*

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, Feb 04

Telangana politics has witnessed a fresh political storm as the debate over the "Father of the Nation" remark triggered sharp exchanges between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy strongly criticised the BRS for projecting K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) as the "Father of the Telangana Nation," sparking a heated war of words



ahead of the municipal elections. Revanth Reddy Slams BRS Over 'Father of the Nation' Claim Speaking at an election rally in Miryalguda, the Chief Minister questioned the BRS narrative and expressed anger

over what he called misleading propaganda. "Will those who do such things become the Father of the Nation?" Revanth Reddy asked, taking a direct swipe at KCR and the BRS leadership. He further remarked that people who allegedly monitored others' phone calls cannot be glorified with such titles. The Chief Minister emphasised that Telangana statehood was achieved through collective struggle and sacrifice, not by one individual alone.

## Mallikarjun Kharge slams govt in Rajya Sabha, warns of farmers' revolt over India-US trade deal

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, launched a scathing attack on the Central government during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address on Wednesday.

He accused the administration of compromising national interests through the recently announced India-US trade deal, warning that it would force Indian farmers into unfair competition with their American counterparts and severely impact their livelihoods. Kharge asserted that the deal, highlighted by US President Donald Trump and acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, placed Indian agriculture at risk by potentially opening markets to American products while reducing tariffs reciprocally. "You are setting up Indian farmers to compete with American farmers, this will impact them severely," he declared and warned the Union government by predicting a resurgence of farmer protests, saying, "The farmers' revolution will happen again, and you will have to take these measures back."

Questioning India's global standing, Kharge asked, "When our sovereignty is being attacked, when we are under the control of Trump, what is our position in our world?" The Congress President described the Union government's position as untenable, remarking that "even if the advocacy is good, the case is so bad that it cannot be won." Turning to social justice, Kharge lamented its deterioration under the current Narendra Modi-led Union government.