PUTIN'S SPOKESPERSON SAYS KUSHNER, WITKOFF TO MEET RUSSIAN LEADER

US Envoys in Moscow, Putin Halts Kyiv Strikes for 72 Hrs


Russia's presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev (centre) welcomes US special envoy Steve Witkoff (right) and Jared Kushner (left) at Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a 72-hour pause in strikes on Kyiv, the Kremlin said Saturday, as US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow to try to revive a stalled push to end Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Putin has ordered that no strikes be carried out against Kyiv for three days, starting at midnight today," presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russia's *Tass* news agency. He said the decision was tied to preparations for Witkoff and Kushner's planned visit to the Ukrainian capital, which Kyiv has said will happen Sunday. Peskov also confirmed that Kushner and Witkoff would meet Putin during their visit, but said there was "no talk of new ideas" to end the conflict.

The envoys' trip comes as both sides escalate aerial attacks, some four-and-a-half years after the Kremlin's invasion of its neighbour.

ZELENSKYY SPEAKS TO ENVOYS
Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he spoke with Witkoff and Kushner, adding that Kyiv was ready to refrain from strikes on Moscow from now on, and also on Sunday and Monday. He said he expected Russia to do the same regarding Ukraine.

"I have just spoken with the US President's envoys," Zelenskyy said on Telegram. "From the moment of this conversation, we are ready to observe a ceasefire in airstrikes against the cities involved in the negotiation process."

Washington's push to end the fighting, now in its fifth year, has lost momentum as US attention has been focused for the past six months on its war with Iran. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, was in January, when they met Putin in the Kremlin. They have never previously visited Kyiv.

The envoys were met at the airport in Moscow by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Tass reported. Dmitriev shared photos of him meeting them as they disembarked, alongside the caption, "Welcome to Moscow Peacemakers."

With peace efforts stalled, Russia has intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments recently stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine's shortage of air defensive systems.

On Friday, a Russian drone hit one of the most important government buildings in Kyiv — the headquarters of Ukraine's Security Service, known as the SBU, which is one of the agencies involved in carrying out deep-strike operations inside Russia.

The long-range strikes by Ukraine have hit Russian military facilities, oil refineries and e-commerce hubs, seeking to undermine the Kremlin's war effort and economy, as well as make ordinary citizens feel the consequences of the war.

The air war between Russia and Ukraine has intensified as troops have struggled to make progress along the 1,250-kilometer (775-mile) front line. Russia has recently been using fast-flying, jet-powered drones, and the recurring wail of air-raid sirens has become part of daily life in Kyiv.

In a social media post on Saturday, Zelenskyy said that Russia had carried out overnight strikes on Kyiv and Boryspil international airports, and linked the attack to the planned US visit.

"Clearly, these Russian strikes on the airports are a reaction to the discussions and preparations for the possibility of the US side using an aircraft to travel to Ukraine," he said. "We have taken note of this Russian move, and next week we will adjust our operation accordingly regarding Russian airspace, which has become dangerous because of our drones and missiles in the sky. Of course, there are and will be no threats to diplomacy from our side."

5 KILLED AT INDUSTRIAL SITE
Meanwhile, Russian attacks killed five people and wounded five more at an industrial facility in Ukraine's southern Dnipropetrovsk region, local military administration head Oleksandr Hanzha said. He described those killed as employees at the site.

"A locksmith, an electrician, a plumber and a machinist. People of peaceful professions. They were simply working their job when enemy missiles cut off their lives," he said. **AP & Reuters**

Its Navy Warships 'Targeted', US Hits 3 Iranian Oil Tankers

Cairo: The United States military on Saturday said it struck three Iranian oil tankers after Navy warships were targeted with missiles, warning that it would "if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet."

The strikes—a day after President Donald Trump sought to minimize the conflict as "small potatoes"—keep up a new tilt back toward fighting after six months of war that began with US and Israeli attacks on February 28. Both sides have sought to inflict both military and economic pain, and negotiations have collapsed. The military's statement said a US aircraft carrier and a destroyer evaded "multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks" while patrolling in the region and no US personnel were hurt. It said two Iranian oil carriers were "permanently disabled" and the third, unladen one, was destroyed.

The US statement said the tankers were part of a shadow network helping to fund Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard and its armed proxies in the region. Earlier, Iranian state TV had said four US missiles struck a tanker about 10 km from Kharg Island, home to a terminal through which the country exports most of its oil. Kharg Island has been repeatedly targeted during the war.

The US said one tanker was struck off Kharg Island and another near Jask, east of the Strait of Hormuz. The unladen tanker was hit in the Gulf of Oman. The statement shared what it called video footage of the strikes. "We will not hesitate to defend American forces, and if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet," said Admiral Brad Cooper, head of US Central Command. **AP**

Mention Total Amount, Not Part Added

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This was a rejoinder filed in the SC on September 5, in response to FSSAI's affidavit. The petitioner sought implementation of the warning labels in a single all-encompassing phase rather than leaving products high in only one nutrient to a second stage in the future, or to set a definite timeline for starting the second phase.

"The proposed introduction of phase II without prescribing any definite or binding timeline renders the proposed regulatory framework susceptible to indefinite postponement and defeats the very purpose of phased implementation," said the filing.

After a decade-long delay, FSSAI, after getting pulled by the apex court, proposed mandating front-of-pack for packaged food and beverages with red-coloured hexagonal shape for food products that are high in any two or more nutrients—saturated fat, sugar or salt.

India has been facing a sharp rise in consumption of ultra-processed foods. The Economic Survey for FY26 said the domestic ultra-processed food market grew over 150% between 2009 and 2023.

Petitioner 3S and Our Health Society also urged FSSAI to base labels on total sugar, salt and fat, rather than only added nutrients as proposed in its August 28 affidavit.

"...the negative impact of a food product is not only because of the added sugar but due to the total sugar content," the filing said.

Flexible Supply Chain

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"With EV demand concentrated in select states, and food inflation and uneven rainfall potentially affecting purchasing power, getting the product mix right could be critical this festive season," said an official at a two-wheeler company.

Concerns around deficient rainfall, agricultural output and food inflation could weigh on rural purchasing power in the second half, with entry-level two-wheelers potentially more exposed given their dependence on rural demand.

However, these remain downside risks rather than evidence that two-wheeler sales will decline this festive season, industry experts said.

Hero MotoCorp, reporting its August performance this week, said domestic internal-combustion-engine retail grew 18% and pointed to a more flexible supply-chain ecosystem that enables quick response to festive demand. "We often talk about rural India as one market," said Ravi Bhatia, president, JATO Dynamics India. "In Rajasthan, the small commuter motorcycle dominates. Maharashtra has a much wider product mix."

With multiple variants, colours and very diverse customer preferences across rural markets, having the perfect product mix at every dealership is nearly impossible.

However, dealer Vinkesh Gulati said, "OEMs and dealers plan inventory by analysing the previous three months' sales trends, regional preferences and anticipated festive demand. Despite these challenges, a well-planned OEM with a strong understanding of its markets can still achieve around 80–85% accuracy in providing dealers with the right product and inventory mix."

Govt Officials Too Under Lens

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The FIR invoked Section 120B, read with sections 409 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Both CBI and ED are likely to soon issue summons to the accused for questioning. Among the nine accused booked by CBI are "unknown others and unknown public servants." It will also zero in on the suspected involvement of government officials who facilitated the alleged loss to the public exchequer, the people said.

Key to the case is what LICHFL called a massive discrepancy between Chandra's declared net worth when the loans were sanctioned in 2018, and his subsequent statements during personal insolvency proceedings. As per the complaint, a net worth certificate dated March 28, 2018, certified Chandra's net worth as $6,197.62 million (about ₹59,113.21 crore) as of March 31, 2017. A second certificate, issued on July 6, 2018, put his net worth at ₹40,562 crore.

LICHFL said these financial declarations formed the basis for sanctioning and disbursing the loans. It said it subsequently came across a sharply different position attributed to Chandra during proceedings relating to his personal insolvency under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The complaint alleged that Chandra denied having the net worth reflected in the certificates earlier submitted to LIC Housing Finance. It added he claimed his net worth in 2024 was ₹31.79 crore, and that it had not exceeded ₹40,000 crore even in 2017-18.

LICHFL made the contradiction a key element of its criminal complaint, alleging that documents showing a substantially higher net worth were submitted to induce the lender to loan.

One credit facility of ₹500 crore was extended to Vasant Sagar Properties Pvt Ltd, with Pan India Infraprojects Pvt Ltd as coborrower. The facility was described as a takeover, and a top-up loan for business expansion was backed by a continuing personal guarantee executed by Chandra on March 28, 2018. The second facility, amounting to ₹480 crore, was extended to Digital Subscriber Management and Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd, with Spirit Infrapower and Multiventures Pvt Ltd as coborrowers, under a rental-discounting arrangement.

Moving Further Upmarket

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While Swiss makers have sought to cushion the blow by moving further upmarket—lifting prices as volumes fell—that's only protecting the largest brands like Rolex, Patek Philippe and Cartier, which have a cult-like following. Mid-market players and suppliers are being hit hard.

The ultra-high segment continues to command "collector interest, but it's a tougher market for those in the middle," said Rodolfo Festa-Bianchet, the chief executive officer and co-founder of Bianchet, whose watches fall in the higher end of the range. Gen Z and young millennials are less driven by status and brand loyalty, and are "more about excitement, emotion, discovery," said Babin. Younger buyers are also helping fuel the secondary market. They are comfortable buying secondhand and vintage watches online, where they can avoid waiting lists, access discontinued models and get immediate gratification rather than waiting months or years for a new piece.