

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## Danish PM says her country is 'ready to defend' Greenland as Trump joins NATO leaders in Turkiye

**ANKARA, JULY 8:** Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday rejected President Donald Trump's renewed demands that the U.S. should take control of Greenland from NATO ally Denmark, saying that "Greenland is of course not for sale."

"We hope that all, including all allies, will respect the Greenland people's right for self-determination," Frederiksen said ahead of a meeting of the leaders of NATO member countries in Turkiye.

"We are sovereign states and we need everybody to respect our territorial integrity and our sovereignty."

Trump reopened old wounds over Greenland on the eve of the meeting by insisting that the United States should control the semi-autonomous island. NATO is founded on the principle that its 32 members will defend each others' territory, not threaten to seize it.

Frederiksen said Denmark is "ready to defend every inch of NATO including our own territory" in the event of an attack, and would rely on NATO allies to honor their commitment to defend each other.

Iceland's Prime Minister, Kristrun Frostadottir, said Greenland "belongs to the people of Greenland," and called for unity among the NATO allies in the face of external dangers.

"We have threats coming from outside the alliance," Frostadottir said. "Russia is their biggest threat when it comes to these NATO allies. We need to focus on us and how we stick together."

**NATO chief backs latest US strikes on Iran**

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said from Ankara on Wednesday that he believes the United States is fully committed to the military organization, and praised Trump for taking forceful action against Iran overnight.

"I think it was absolutely necessary because when you have a ceasefire and Iran is basically violating a ceasefire, we see what happened yesterday," Rutte said of the series of US strikes on Iran after Tehran struck three merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

"I think it is totally crucial



that the US forcefully react," Rutte said.

The US strikes on Iran, as well as the revoking of a license allowing it to sell its oil on global markets, were retaliation, and underscored the fragility of an interim deal to end months of fighting between the two countries.

Trump launched the attacks shortly after leaving a dinner hosted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and so far has not spoken about the strikes.

It is rare for US presidents to launch military action while outside the US, though in 2011 former President Barack Obama authorised strikes in Libya while on a trip to Brazil.

The meeting in Ankara of NATO's 32 member countries was meant to focus on progress made toward meeting the alliance's spending targets.

Rutte said US demands for all allies to spend the same in terms of gross domestic product "is completely fair," and noted that Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Greece are already investing more.

"The commitment is there, no doubt," Rutte said before chairing the summit of NATO leaders, but noted that the Trump administration expects "the Europeans and Canadian will equalize their spending with the United States."

**NATO leaders sought to show Trump they were boosting defence**

NATO summits are designed to be a show of unity aimed at deterring any potential adversary - a resolve more important than ever as Russia continues to wage war on Ukraine, and con-

cerns mount that other European countries could be targeted.

In an attempt last month to mollify the U.S. leader, Rutte went to Washington to hail the "Trump Trillion" - the \$1.2 trillion that European allies and Canada have added to defense spending since Trump came to power in 2017. South Asians & Diaspora

Yet Trump has demanded "loyalty" and branded NATO a "paper tiger" after some allies refused to grant open access to their bases for US forces to attack Iran.

As leaders converged on Ankara, Rutte hosted a "big reveal" event to showcase the many deals planned for the increased spending - much of it to be spent on US companies, creating thousands of jobs for Americans.

NATO diplomats and officials had hoped that Trump would take the win, but judging by some of his remarks since arriving in Turkey, they are in for yet another dressing down.

**NATO braces for Trump's grievances**

Trump has long argued that the US carries more than its fair share of the defense burden for NATO. At last year's summit, the allies had agreed to invest 5% of their gross domestic product on defense - 3.5% on their defense budgets and 1.5% on roads, bridges and ports so troops and equipment can move faster in times of conflict.

New figures released by NATO on Tuesday showed that Slovenia, Belgium, Spain and the Czech Republic could be in hot water with the Trump administration as they struggle to meet the alliance's old target of invest-

ing 2% of their GDP. Digital Newspaper Access

The Trump administration wants to see a more lean and lethal "NATO 3.0," with Europe taking responsibility for its own security, including Ukraine, with conventional weapons while America would continue to provide its nuclear umbrella.

However, the Pentagon has launched a 6-month review of U.S. military presence in Europe, leaving allies to seek clarity on just how deeply Trump intends to cut U.S. force numbers.

The drawdowns could depend on how fast the European allies increase defense spending, and whether they are prepared to allow greater use of their bases.

**Ukraine's Zelenskyy pushes for NATO entry**

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a fresh appeal Tuesday for Ukraine to be allowed to join the alliance, saying Ukrainian armed forces are highly experienced and would only boost NATO's defense capabilities.

Zelenskyy, who is expected to meet with Trump in Ankara on Wednesday, highlighted Ukraine's adaptability and its ability to strike deep inside Russia, hit Moscow's oil refineries and other energy targets. He said Ukraine's armed forces are "eliminating" on average 30,000 Russian troops every month.

Concern has been mounting among some northern, central and eastern European countries that Russia might be preparing a hybrid attack - a combination of conventional warfare with tactics like cyberattacks - on the continent as Russian President Vladimir Putin struggles to secure victory in Ukraine.

Trump will also meet with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a former insurgent who led the offensive that unseated autocrat Bashar Assad in December 2024. Despite having once been an al-Qaida fighter, al-Sharaa has won Trump's backing as he seeks to rebuild Syria and restore its long-shattered ties with the West.

Trump has repeatedly suggested that al-Sharaa would do a better job of rooting out Hezbollah in Lebanon than the Israeli army, raising alarms in Lebanon and Israel alike.

## King Charles III's bodyguard turns strategic adviser for Indian market

**LONDON, JUL 7:** A recently retired senior protection officer to King Charles III on Tuesday joined global consultancy Trafalgar Strategy as an adviser to offer insights for the firm's expansion into the Indian market.

Jagjivan Singh Khangura, known as Jag, served within the Metropolitan Police's Royalty and Specialist Protection command for over 20 years, most recently as Protection Team Leader to King Charles and Queen Camilla.

He was awarded a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) for services to Royalty and Specialist Protection in the King's Birthday Honours list last month.

"It is a real privilege to join the Trafalgar Strategy Advisory Board and combine my expertise and experience with the immense talent already delivering at a world-class level for their clients," said Khangura.

Born in rural India before emigrating to Britain, Khangura's journey from Punjab to Buckingham Palace saw him operate at the highest levels of security, strategy, negotiation and communication.

He was often pictured in the camera frame playing a key role during high-profile royal events, including Queen Elizabeth II's funeral



in September 2022 and Charles' coronation in May 2023.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jag to our advisory board. He brings an exceptional mind with a track record that is second to none. Jag offers a completely different skillset to our team which, in an ever-changing world, will be integral for our clients," said Giles Kenningham, founding partner at Trafalgar Strategy.

The firm said Khangura would bring a "unique insight" into UK-India relations and his connections across diaspora communities, which would be central to the company's "rapid expansion into the Indian market". "Jag brings head-of-state level expertise in global

security and will be the board's lead on the Indian market while strengthening links with South Asian diaspora businesses in the UK. The move will allow clients to access Jag's expertise in the growing sector of personal security," the company stated.

This latest addition follows another Indian-origin senior executive, Tech India Advocates co-founder Ani Kaprekar, recently partnering with Trafalgar Strategy as Senior Counsel - India.

"The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) creates a bridge. I'm particularly excited by what this means for technology, AI, the creative industries and the countless collaborations yet to be imagined," said Kaprekar.

Trafalgar Strategy pitches its team as one that has advised prime ministers, business leaders and celebrities across the world as they navigate complex political, commercial and reputational challenges.

The firm is also advising multiple businesses on their India strategy, led by partner Jonathan Badyal.

"India represents one of the most significant economic, technological and geopolitical opportunities of our time," said Badyal.

"This partnership (with Kaprekar) further strengthens our ability to help clients navigate and succeed in one of the world's most dynamic markets, while supporting Indian companies with UK ambitions," he said. (PTI)

## 21 who died in landslide in northwest China were forestry workers

**BEIJING, JULY 8:** A landslide buried and killed 21 forestry workers walking through a remote valley in the mountains of northwestern China, state media reported Wednesday after rescue operations ended.

Twelve others survived, seven with minor injuries, state broadcaster CCTV said. The team was heading out to clear and maintain forest land when the landslide struck shortly before 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

Footage on CCTV showed a swath of denuded mountainside that ended in the valley. The exposed earth contrasted sharply with the green, heavily forested slopes that angled up steeply on both sides under mostly clear skies. The landslide was about 40 meters (130 feet) wide and covered roughly 5,400 square meters (58,000 square feet), Longnan city natural resources of-



ficial Yang Yaoxian said at a news conference. Excavators were used to help clear the accumulated debris, which was about 8 to 10 meters (26 to 33 feet) deep.

A preliminary assessment

indicated the landslide was caused by a combination of the steep terrain, erosion and the area's geological structure. The material left by the landslide was unstable and there is a risk of a second

landslide, Yang said. The landslide was in an uninhabited area in Gansu province's Tanchang county, about 220 kilometers (140 miles) south of Lanzhou, the provincial capital.

## Himachal: Wet spell to persist till Jul 13; PWD deploys workers at vulnerable areas



**SHIMLA, Jul 8:** Light to moderate rains persisted over most parts of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, with the meteorological centre here predicting a wet spell in the state till July 13.

The weather department advised the public to avoid traffic advisories, follow vulnerable areas and keep a safe distance from water bodies susceptible to flash flooding.

Guler in Kangra district received 45.6 mm rainfall since Monday evening, followed by Sarahan (34.5 mm), Sundernagar (31.2 mm), Nadaun (22.8 mm), Sujampur Tira (21.4 mm), Nahan (18.9 mm), Kahu (18.2 mm), Bhabanagar (17.2 mm), and

Shimla (13 mm). Thunderstorms lashed Shimla, Jubberhatti, Bhunari Devi and Sundernagar, the weather office said.

In order to tackle torrential rain and related hazards, the public works department (PWD) has deployed 11,137 beldars and 4,228 multi-task workers across the state to restore road connectivity wherever disrupted, PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh said on Tuesday.

In addition, 1,156 PWD and private heavy machines, including earthmovers, bulldozers, robotic equipment and tipplers, have been positioned for round-the-clock

road restoration works. Besides, six bailey bridges have been erected for emergency use. The minister directed officials to ensure that machinery, bailey bridges and construction materials are strategically positioned at important locations. He also directed that tendering processes be expedited to ensure availability of additional private machinery whenever required.

He also issued instructions to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity to essential institutions such as hospitals, police stations, educational institutions, fire stations, pumping units and power installations, identify vulnera-

ble roads, bridges and landslide-prone locations, and monitor them closely during the monsoon.

Himachal Pradesh received 54.7 mm rainfall between July 1 and 7, against a normal of 43.4 mm, recording an excess of 26 per cent, officials said. Kinnaur district received 161 per cent excess rain, while Lahaul and Spiti district registered 40 per cent surplus.

On Tuesday, Kukumseri in Lahaul-Spiti was coldest at night with a low of 10.2 degrees Celsius, while Neri in Hamirpur district was hottest, recording a maximum of 35.4 degrees Celsius. (PTI)

## Southern Chinese region reels from floods, destruction from remnants of tropical storm

**BEIJING JULY 8:** A southern Chinese region on Wednesday was reeling from the destruction and widespread flooding caused by record-breaking rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Maysak.

Officials said six people were killed, and 11 others were missing in the Guangxi region by Tuesday evening. The severe weather forced 130,000 people to evacuate, according to the regional propaganda office.

Some residents were still waiting to be rescued. Lu Xiaofei, who works in Shenzhen, a tech hub near Hong Kong, said her brother's family was stuck at his house in Lu village in Qintang district. His brother was with his wife, his 9-month-old baby, their parents and grandfather.

"The water in the house is over one person's height. They have to all move to the second floor.

The power has been out since yesterday morning, and now they don't have running water, either," Lu told



The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Lu said her brother told her that the water level rose last night and their situation was so dire that drinkable water would be running out soon, while local authorities had not reached out to them. Many villagers nearby were facing the same challenges, she said.

Others called for help on

social media, showing videos of their inundated surroundings following the flooding and highlighting their lack of resources.

Local media Litchi News reported that snakes from breeding facilities were washed away and were at large in Hengzhou city, with some attempting to enter houses. It quoted a villager saying that over a dozen of

people were bitten.

The national meteorological centre said heavy rain has been battering central-eastern and southern parts of Guangxi since last Saturday, with cumulative rainfall amounts reaching 100 mm to 400 mm (about 4 inches to 16 inches) in some areas. Some hard-hit areas recorded over 900 mm (35 inches), it said.