

Trump says he'll meet North Korea's Kim in Demilitarized Zone today

Agency
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President Donald Trump said he'll hold a history-making meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday in the Demilitarized Zone separating the Korean Peninsula.

"I'll be meeting with Chairman Kim," Trump said at a news conference with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. "Just shake hands quickly and say hello," he added.

Trump has met Kim twice at summits in Singapore and Hanoi. No U.S. president has ever met a North Korean leader in the DMZ.

"The U.S. and North Korea will meet at Panmunjom today," Moon said, referring to the truce village that straddles the border. "In 65 years since there was a declaration of a ceasefire, there will be a handshake for peace at the symbol of separation."

Trump made his audacious offer to meet Kim at the DMZ in a tweet on Saturday before meetings at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, jolting the gathering of world leaders as well as officials in the U.S. and Seoul. The American and South Korean



governments have scrambled to arrange the meeting, but there's been no public acknowledgment by North Korea that Kim will show up. "I look forward to saying hello to him if that all finally works out," Trump said earlier in the day. "I guess there's always a chance that it might not, but it sounds like the teams would be like to have that work out, so that's good."

A top North Korean diplomat, Choe Son Hui, called Trump's tweet "a very interesting suggestion" in a statement on Saturday but added: "We have not received an official proposal in this regard." The country's state-run media was silent on Sunday about both

Trump and the possibility of a meeting. Throughout meetings Sunday morning, Trump and Moon both appeared unsure about whether Kim would appear. The U.S. president repeatedly cautioned that the logistics were complicated, and he said that any meeting would be little more than a photo op.

"Chairman Kim wants to do it," he said before an official meeting with Moon. "A handshake means a lot," he added. Moon will accompany Trump to the DMZ and has eagerly encouraged the meeting, though it's unclear whether he'll participate. The North Korean government has

scooped at the Blue House's attempts to act as an intermediary in negotiations between Trump and Kim, which the U.S. hopes will lead to Pyongyang relinquishing its nuclear arms.

"I saw that tweet and it felt like you've sent a flower of hope for the Korean Peninsula," Moon told Trump on Sunday. "If you shake hands with Chairman Kim Jong Un at the Military Demarcation Line, it would be historic, just by the picture of it. Not only for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but also for a permanent peace in the region, it'll be very meaningful."

Sport News

Sports Minister visits boxing camp in NIS Patiala

From a Correspondent
New Delhi, June 30,

The Indian men's boxing contingent got a wonderful surprise when the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Kiren Rijiju visited them at the National Camp in NIS Patiala on Saturday. He interacted with the players and coaches as he surveyed the ongoing camp and training process. The Minister watched the sparring sessions as the pugilists prepare for the upcoming Championships.

The senior boxers in turn also discussed the existing training



facilities and shared inputs on modernizing facilities. The minister also took part in a sparring session with the four-time Asian Championships

medalist Shiva Thapa. The pugilists were assured of all possible support needed for their preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

ICC Cricket World Cup: Australia beat New Zealand by 86 runs

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In the ICC Cricket World Cup, defending champions Australia, who are already into the semis, strengthened their position at the top of the 10-team table when they defeated the Kiwis by 86 runs.

Opting to bat, the Aussies posted 243 for 9, with Usman Khawaja top scoring with 88

and Alex Carey playing a crucial inning of 71.

Mitchell Starc claimed a five-wicket haul as New Zealand were bundled out for just 157 in 43.4 overs.

In the other game played at Leeds, Pakistan moved to the fourth spot with a three-wicket win over Afghanistan.

Australia is at the top of the table with 14 points from eight matches, while unbeaten

India, who play hosts England at Birmingham today, are second with 11 points from six games. If India wins today, they will book a semi-final berth, while it will see England on the brink of an exit.

All India Radio will broadcast live commentary on the India-England game from 2:30 PM today. It can be heard on Rajdhani, FM Rainbow Network and DTH (Hindi).

'Kedarnath trip was to meet my inner self and not for politics': PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, June 30,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to controversies over his Kedarnath trip and last Mann ki Baat address apart from reminding his listeners of the importance of upholding democracy that was trampled during Emergency, reading books and water conservation among others.

He started with a clarification on his trip to Kedarnath shrine during the polls. He said it was not a political trip but an opportunity for him to meet himself.

"Most people saw political meaning in it, but for me, it was



an opportunity to meet my inner self. In one way it helped me fill the void left by Mann ki Baat in the interim," PM said. He also rejected allegations that he had used last Mann ki Baat in February — last one before the 2019 Lok Sabha

polls — to make a poll pitch. "People had even given political meaning to my last 'Mann ki Baat,' when I promised to see you on the programme after the polls. Critics called it 'over confidence' but it was your

confidence that has aided my return. I couldn't have come back on my own unless you invited me," he said.

PM chose to talk about the Emergency in 1977 and how fundamental rights were trampled during this period to emphasise the importance of polls in upholding democracy. "Every citizen during the Emergency felt like he had lost something," he said.

"Democracy is about respecting every single voter," he said, recounting how electoral officers had to travel for two days to set up a polling booth for a single woman in a remote Himalachal village.

Key challenges for Nirmala Sitharaman's budget 2019

Agency
New Delhi, June 30,

Like any general election year, 2019 brings two federal budgets. The first was presented in Parliament by then-finance minister Piyush Goyal on February 1, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The second will be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 5, a little more than a month after voters re-elected the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. And that is what has occupied the attention of the ministry of finance since the new government took charge. The economic situation may not have changed dramatically in these five months, but priorities have shifted. Promises made on February 1 are now commitments, and the objective has changed, too, from wooing voters to putting the economy back on track.

Experts expect the first budget of the Narendra Modi government's second term to focus more on consolidation — calibrating revenue and expenditure targets in such a way that adequate funds are made available to meet the promises already made, and take policy measures to boost the

economy, which grew 6.8% in the last fiscal year, the slowest pace in five years.

"Medium-term growth challenges include uplifting growth to its potential of 8% plus and keeping the deviation from this potential to a minimum across the quarters," said DK Srivastava, chief policy advisor, EY India.

That would require a robust employment-oriented growth strategy that should be supplemented by a well-formulated countercyclical policy to address the problems posed by temporary slowdowns, Srivastava said. The full budget that will be presented by Sitharaman next week is expected to be pragmatic rather than populist especially because of growth concerns, rising unemployment and a widening fiscal deficit, officials in the government said on condition of anonymity.

The conclusion is based on a series of meetings that took place between Sitharaman and economists, including sectoral experts, bankers and businesspeople.

Sitharaman wasted no time in getting to understand the nuances of the economy after she took charge of the finance ministry on May 31, the officials

cited above said. She started her first pre-budget consultation, on agriculture and rural development, at the top of the new government's mindspace, on June 11. The series of consultations continued until June 15. Back-to-back meetings at North Block also covered the social sector, infrastructure, climate change, financial sector, capital markets, the digital economy, startups, trade and labour issues.

According to the officials, the finance minister has received clear instructions from the Prime Minister — incentivise investments, boost consumption, focus on the rural economy and create jobs. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for July 2017-June 2018, the unemployment rate was 6.1% in that period, seeming to suggest it was at a four-decade high, but which the government said was based on an entirely new methodology, making any comparison with previous surveys unfair.

"For higher growth to translate into jobs and livelihood creation, at the required scale, productive job creation must be undertaken in all sectors of

the economy — agriculture and the rural economy, manufacturing, services and infrastructure. Prioritised efforts should be made to promote employment-intensive sector," the Confederation of Indian Industry proposed in its latest publication, Agenda for New Government.

Officials said that the budget is expected to set the stage for reforms over the next five years that could see structural policy changes in areas such as land, labour, capital markets and entrepreneurship to attract investment, offer incentives to boost consumption, and spend public money on social infrastructure for equitable growth. The focus would be on job-intensive sectors such as food processing and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Officials said that the budget may address key concerns of the MSME sector, which can boost growth as well as create jobs, and which has been hurt by measures such as the November 2016 invalidation of high-value banknotes and the July 2017 implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

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The India vs England ICC World Cup 2019 fixture at Edgbaston, Birmingham will be the most unique match in the history of the tournament. It not only bears special significance as the outcome of it will more-or-less seal hosts England's fate in the tournament but it will also be the first of its kind match in a World Cup where children will take over the off-field duties, including pre and post-match commitments, media conferences and in-match productions. The India vs England match has been titled #OneDay4Children.

The ICC in partnership with UNICEF, had announced 'One Day for Children' bringing together cricket's one billion fans to help build a better world for every child. #OneDay4Children will use the power and reach of the World Cup to help children learn to play and be healthy. The money raised will

support UNICEF's work for children in cricket playing nations across the world.

While there were various activities throughout all the matches in the World Cup regarding the cause but the campaign will peak during Sunday's India-England encounter at Edgbaston. Three young cricket-mad children have been appointed 'Playground Pundits' and will take over some of the production elements.

The 'Playground Pundits' also supported and managed the captains' press conference on the eve of the match.

India captain Virat Kohli too answered questions by children during the press conference.

During the match, the children will assist the commentators and presenters in the broadcast zone, make announcements over the PA system encouraging spectators to donate and take part in a special social media take-over.

"As part of our continuing

work with UNICEF through Cricket for Good, we are delighted to launch #OneDay4Children and use the platform of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 to help more children to play and be healthy. This is our most ambitious charity project to date and we know that cricket's one billion fans will come together to help build a better world for every child," said ICC's Dave Richardson.

"Our partners have got right behind #OneDay4Children, with global broadcast partner Star Sports ensuring it will be seen by hundreds of millions around the world, whilst locally in the UK Sky have also committed to promoting it to their viewers. Booking.com and Gray Nicolls have committed to a significant donation whilst our other global partners are working on in-venue activations and promotions to drive fundraising ensuring our #OneDay4Children match really captures the imagination of cricket fans."

Martin Gupthill takes outrageous catch to dismiss Steve Smith, latter replies with one-handed stunner - WATCH

Agency
New Delhi, June 30,

New Zealand's Martin Gupthill took what could go down as the best catch of ICC World Cup 2019 to dismiss Steve Smith on Saturday at Lord's. Hours later, Smith himself replied with another fantastic one-handed catch to send back Gupthill's teammate Tom Latham on a day where fielding ruled and bowlers scared the daylight of the batsmen.

In the 12th over of the New Zealand innings, Lockie Ferguson aimed a 142 km/h

short delivery at Steve Smith's body. The latter did well to quickly transfer his weight to the backfoot and play a good enough pull shot but to Smith's dismay, Gupthill, standing at leg-gully leapt in the air and flung his left hand to pluck the ball out of thin air.

Amazingly, Gupthill had earlier given two lives to Usman Khawaja. While the first one was a an extremely difficult chance, the second one — a much easier one at second slip — should have been taken by Gupthill. The Kiwi opener more than made up for his lapses with his one-handed

stunner to dismiss Steve Smith a few minutes later.

"It was an epic catch. He had a couple of practices with some tough ones," joked Williamson. "It certainly took something pretty special — despite the plan — to hang on to that catch. One of the best catches you'll ever see."

Williamson indicated that perhaps he was expecting Gupthill to be called into action for a looping catch at leg gully, off a Ferguson short ball, rather than a full-blooded pull. But in the end, the result was all the same for the skipper.