Trump Angered by India's Tariff Request: 'Should Have Done It Sooner'



Collected picture

U.S. President Donald Trump has criticized India for requesting a reduction of tariffs to zero percent, saying this should have happened long ago. He made the comments on his social media platform, Truth Social, just hours after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned from China.

The Trump administration has imposed a 50 percent tariff on Indian imports, including a 25 percent levy on oil purchased from Russia. Trump argued that India's oil imports indirectly support Russia in its attacks on Ukraine, although he has so far refrained from imposing direct sanctions on Moscow.

India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar opposed the tariffs, pointing out that similar rules have not been applied to China or the European Union—both of which are major importers of Russian crude oil and LNG.

Trump also highlighted the trade imbalance between the two countries, noting that while the U.S. does little business with India, India engages heavily with American companies. He described India's high tariffs as a major obstacle to U.S. businesses and called the situation a "completely one-sided disaster."

The president further criticized India for buying most of its oil and military equipment from Russia, contributing to the U.S.-India trade deficit. Reports also suggest Trump was irritated by India's claim that he had no role in facilitating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May.