

Ahead of Quad meet, EAM meets Aus, Japanese counterparts in Washington

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahead of the Quad foreign ministers' meeting, external affairs minister S Jaishankar met his Australian and Japanese counterparts, Penny Wong and Takeshi Iwaya respectively, in Washington.

All three foreign ministers were in the US capital to participate in Trump's oath-taking. Jaishankar said in a post on X that he discussed progress in bilateral cooperation and also developments pertaining to Quad in his meeting with Iwaya.

According to an Indian readout, Jaishankar and Iwaya utilised the meeting to take stock of salient issues in bilateral cooperation, including in the political, security, economic, technological, and people-to-people domains. "They expressed satisfaction



EAM Jaishankar with his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya in Washington DC on Monday. The two took stock of salient issues in bilateral cooperation, including in the political and security domains

at the level, range, and pace of exchanges between the two countries. They agreed to maintain strategic communication through frequent dialogue, including Strategic Dialogue and the 2+2 Dialogue of Foreign and Defence Ministers. In this context, the EAM extended an invitation to foreign minister Iwaya to

visit India," said Indian govt.

On the 40th anniversary of the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan on science and technology cooperation in 1985, the ministers also declared 2025-26 as the India-Japan Year of Science, Technology and Innovation, and welcomed efforts to enhance

people-to-people exchanges, especially in areas of technology, skills and education.

"The meeting reinforced the enduring friendship between India and Japan based on mutual trust, shared values, and commitment to regional stability," said the Indian readout.

Jaishankar also announced his meeting with "Quad colleague" Wong in another post on X, saying he enjoyed his discussion with her on the state of the world. Trump's nominee for secretary of state Marco Rubio is expected to join the visiting ministers for a Quad meeting on Tuesday. The meeting is expected to discuss possible dates for the Quad summit that India will host this year. Shortly after being confirmed as secretary of state, Rubio was also expected to have bilateral meetings with Jaishankar and others.

U'khand cabinet clears UCC rules, implementation in next 10 days

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Dehradun: Uttarakhand cabinet on Monday approved the rules & regulations for the Uniform Civil Code, paving the way for its implementation in the next 10 days. With this, Uttarakhand is set to become the first state in the country to adopt UCC since Independence.



"We will soon announce the date for implementation. It will be a big change, which will start from Uttarakhand and spread to other states," chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told **TOI**. While he did not specify the exact date, sources indicated that the code may be rolled out on Jan 26 or 28. Dhami added that the training of over 2,000 govt employees has already been completed, and the trial run is expected to conclude in the coming days.

UCC law includes seven schedules and 392 sections, addressing critical issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships. It aims to eliminate practices like polygamy, polyandry, halala, iddat, and talaq. The code also ensures equal property rights for all children and protects the rights of unborn children. According to the new rules, marriages and divorces conducted since 2010 must be registered within six months of the law's notification. Similarly, marriages must be recorded within two months to avoid penalties, while live-in relationships and separations must be registered within 30 days.

Asked about any changes to the report submitted by the rules and regulations panel in Oct 2024, home secretary Shalish Bagauli told **TOI**, "Around 80-90% of the report has been retained, and the law's essence remains unchanged. At the same time, it needs to be understood that rules are subordinate legislation and only define the procedures for implementing the Act. Rules cannot amend the Act."

India, France to jointly track Indian Ocean Region threats

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New Delhi: India and France reiterated, after another round of maritime cooperation dialogue, their strong commitment to upholding international law, supporting multilateralism, including through regional organisations, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and protecting freedom of navigation.

Recalling in a joint statement their vision for a free and open Indian Ocean Region, first expressed in the 'Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the In-



Rafale jets in Goa earlier this month during Indo-French naval exercise

dian Ocean Region' in 2018, India and France agreed to support free and secure access to sea lanes of communications through collaboration between their maritime assets and organisations.

France welcomed the par-

ticipation of the Indian Navy in the Combined Maritime Forces and looks forward to India's leadership of the appropriate Combined Task Forces, said the Indian govt.

"India and France agreed to develop a joint assessment

of the threats to maritime security in the region; to counter illicit maritime activities, including piracy and robbery, maritime terrorism, contraband smuggling, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, hybrid as well as cyber security threats and marine pollution," said the Indian readout.

As part of their joint commitment towards the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of oceans, India and France also agreed to preserve marine resources in the Indian Ocean Region, through the United Nations Ocean Conference.

'Pralay' missile to be displayed at R-Day parade

■ Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv will not be part of the Republic Day flypast on January 26

NEW DELHI, Jan 20 (PTI)

NEWLY-DEVELOPED tactical missile 'Pralay', capable of carrying conventional warhead, will be among the indigenous weapon systems to be displayed at the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday.



At a media briefing, Singh said the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv will not be part of the Republic Day flypast on January 26 and described the grounding of the choppers as "little bit of a setback".

Hopefully, the helicopters will

be back soon, he said.

The Armed Forces have grounded the fleet following the crash of one of the ALH this month. The Army, the Indian Air Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard are operating around 330 ALHs.

The Defence Secretary said the

around 90-minute parade will comprise 31 tableaux, including 16 from states and 15 from the central ministries.

Singh said 'Pralay' missile will be displayed at the parade along with various other indigenously developed platforms.

'Pralay' is a short-range surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg.

The missile is capable of carrying conventional warhead. It has a range of 150 to 500 kms.

The defence secretary said the parade will have a larger cultural imprint with participation of 5,000 tribal artists. "What is unique this time about the parade is that from a military character we wanted to showcase a broader cultural aspect," Singh said.

Great Wall of America: Trump vows to repel illegal entrants, slap steep tariffs

Prez Says Will Reclaim Panama Canal; 'Drill Baby Drill' For Oil

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a script few historians could have written, Donald Trump returned to the White House on Monday for a second term, promising to end "four years of American decline" under his predecessor Joe Biden and begin a brand-new day of American strength and prosperity, dignity and pride".

Trump, 78, took the oath of office shortly after noon in the Rotunda of the Capitol, the seat of the US legislature stormed by Trump's MAGA

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Govt reviews import basket, P 15

loyalists on Jan 6, 2021 to protest what they felt was an election victory stolen from Trump. "In America the impossible is what we do best," Trump said, describing his own political comeback after his defeat in the 2020 election.

Trump later laid out a series of executive actions he would sign later in the day to



“Congratulations my dear friend... on your historic inauguration as the 47th President of the US! I look forward to working closely together once again, to benefit both our countries, and to shape a better future for the world”

— PM Modi



TO-DO LIST ON DAY 1

- 1 Declare national emergency at southern border, send troops to stop illegal immigrants, designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations
- 2 Rename Gulf of Mexico as Gulf of America
- 3 Sign exec order to end govt censorship

“The golden age of America begins now. Those who wish to stop our cause have tried to take my freedom, and indeed to take my life. My life was saved for a reason, I was saved by God to make America great again”

— Prez Donald Trump

end illegal immigration to the US and energise its economy in moves he called the "revolution of common sense".

Trump vowed to retake the Panama Canal from Panama, and to declare a national energy emergency: "we will drill, baby, drill".

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Vivek Ramaswamy eased out of DOGE

Trump loyalist Vivek Ramaswamy has been eased out of the department of govt efficiency. His position did not sit well with the MAGA base, who questioned his loyalty to America. **INSIDE JACKET**

Immigrants brace for crackdown

A border app that has allowed 1 million people to legally enter US has been blocked. Illegal immigrants are on edge as Trump has promised "the most aggressive" clampdown. **INSIDE JACKET**

Open to discussing Ukraine: Putin

Russian President Putin congratulated Trump Monday. During a video with Russia's Security Council, Putin said Moscow is to discussing a settlement in Ukraine. **INSIDE JACKET**

China-built airport in Pak's Gwadar welcomes 1st flight

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: The first commercial flight landed at Pakistan's new Gwadar International Airport on Monday following a months-long delay in the opening of the Beijing-funded facility in volatile Balochistan province.

The airport's opening was postponed from Aug 14 to the end of 2024 due to a security review sparked by a series of deadly attacks by separatist militants in Balochistan, in Pakistan's southwest. Then, on Jan 10, the airport was due to open, but this was again delayed.

"The \$246-million Chinese-backed project is expected to grow into one of Pakistan's biggest airports and serve both domestic and international travel," the Pakistan Aviation Authority (PAA) said in a statement.

"Pakistan achieved a landmark moment in its aviation history on Monday as the first commercial flight successfully landed at the new Gwadar International Airport," it read, adding the new airport is poised to play a key role in connecting Pakistan to global markets and facilitating trade, tourism, and economic development.

PIA Flight PK-503 departed from Karachi at 9.50 am and touched down at the airport at 11.15 am, carrying 46 passengers. In a video shared by PAA, the PIA flight was seen being greeted by a traditional water salute by water bowers as it landed.

China has pledged more than \$65 billion for infrastructure, energy, and other projects in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As part of President Xi Jinping's Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI), Pakistan is also creating a deep-water port near the new Gwadar airport, a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China that is nearing completion. Chinese people and projects have been frequently attacked in the past by separatists who view Beijing as a foreign invader trying to gain control of impoverished but mineral-rich Balochistan, the site of a decades-long insurgency.

Recent attacks, including one in Oct 2024 in which two Chinese workers were killed in a suicide bombing in Karachi, have forced Beijing to publicly criticise Pakistan for security lapses. In recent months, the media has widely reported that China wants its own security forces on the ground to protect its nationals and projects, a demand Islamabad has long resisted.