

India, Japan hold '2+2' Ministerial dialogue focusing on Indo-Pacific

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (PTI)

THE India-Japan partnership is set against a larger context of a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific and it will continue to grow, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday as the two sides held a fresh edition of "2+2" dialogue amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

The Japanese delegation at the talks in Delhi was headed by Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defence Minister Kihara Minoru. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh headed the Indian team.

"In the last decade, our relationship has assumed the form of a special strategic and global partnership. The logic of this evolution is our expanding interests and growing activities," Jaishankar said in his televised opening remarks.

"As we both step forward into a more volatile and unpredictable world, there is a need for reliable partners with whom there are substantial convergences," he said.

"As a result, we have consciously sought to facilitate



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Japan's Defence Minister Minoru Kihara and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

each other's endeavours, comprehend each other's objectives, strengthen each other's positions and work with other nations of shared comfort," he added. The External Affairs Minister said the strategic partnership between India and Japan will continue to grow as "we embrace mutuality and display sensitivity".

"Our cooperation is today set against a larger context of a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. For India, this is a natural extrapolation from our Act East policy," he said.

Jaishankar emphasised that the "2+2" dialogue must particularly focus on the steps ahead. "It has been two years since we last met in Tokyo. There have been many developments of consequence in the world. Our own relationship also has to factor in changes in our own capabilities and calculations," he said.

In his remarks, Singh said the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership is based on democratic values and the rule of law.

He said India has set a goal

of becoming a developed country by 2047 and building domestic defence capabilities is one of the significant aspects of this vision. "The India-Japan partnership in the defence sector will be an important aspect to realise our goal. Let us make a vision for this partnership," the Defence Minister said.

He exuded confidence that the discussions will lead to make a stronger commitment for cooperation in the defence sector. "The India-Japan partnership in this sphere will be very important considering the current global situation. I think this partnership is crucial to ensure freedom, inclusivity and transparency in the Indo-Pacific," Singh said.

Jaishankar and Singh held separate bilateral talks with their Japanese counterparts ahead of the "2+2" dialogue. The "2+2" dialogue with Japan was initiated to further deepen bilateral security and defence cooperation and bring greater depth to the special strategic and global partnership between the two countries. India has the "2+2" ministerial format of dialogue with very few countries, including US, Australia and Russia.

V-P to inaugurate 19th CII India Africa business conclave today

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (ANI)

JAGDEEP Dhankhar, Vice President of the Republic of India, will inaugurate the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave, themed "Creating One Future," on August 21, the conclave is scheduled to be held between August 20 and 22 in New Delhi.

Organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the event is set to be a landmark moment in the strengthening of India-Africa relations.

The Conclave will witness the presence of six African Heads of State, underscoring the significance of the event in the evolving relationship between India and the African continent.

The guests include Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President of



Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee, Chairman, Tata International, Trent Limited, and Tata Investment Corporation called on Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at Vice-President's Enclave in New Delhi. (PTI)

the Republic of Burundi; Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, Vice-President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; Muhammad BS Jallow, Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia; Jeremiah Kpan

Koung, Vice President of the Republic of Liberia; Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius; and Dr CGDN Chiwenga, Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

'People should remain active no matter the age'

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (PTI)

VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said a person should remain active at all ages and asserted that the notion that there is an age limit for work has no basis.

Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns here, Dhankhar referred to the Indian philosophy that work is worship.

Officials of the Vice President Secretariat pointed out that recently megastar Amitabh Bachchan had expressed similar sentiments in a recent social media post.

India records 26% jump in FDI flows in first quarter

MUMBAI, Aug 20 (IANS)

THE gross foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into the Indian economy has surged by 26.4 per cent to \$22.5 billion during the April-June quarter of the current financial year compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to the RBI's latest monthly bulletin.

This has resulted in net FDI shooting up to \$6.9 billion during the first quarter of 2024-25, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period of 2023-24, the report states.

India, Malaysia ink key pact on recruitment



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim during the joint press statement after their meeting, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (PTI)

INDIA and Malaysia on Tuesday elevated their ties to a comprehensive

strategic partnership after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim held extensive talks focus-

ing on expanding cooperation in several sectors, including trade, investment and defence.

A pact on promoting recruitment of Indian workers in Malaysia and protection of their interests was one of the at least eight agreements inked between the two sides.

The pact on recruitment of Indian workers assumes significance as illegal immigration and human trafficking from India to Malaysia are among major concerns of the two Governments.

Ibrahim began his three-day visit to India on Monday night in his first trip to the country as the Prime Minister. "Today, we have decided that our partnership will be elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi said.

Amid growing tensions with China, Indonesia, Australia finalise bilateral defence treaty

MELBOURNE, Aug 20 (AP)

INDONESIA and Australia on Tuesday finalised a new bilateral defence treaty that will enhance the neighbouring nations' ability to operate their militaries in each other's territory.

The agreement was reached as Indonesian President-elect Prabowo Subianto, who also serves as Defence Minister, met with Australian officials at the country's Parliament earlier on Tuesday.

The bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important to Australians in face of growing tensions with China.

New Australian Prime Ministers typically make Jakarta one of their first overseas destinations.

The pact will be signed within days, when Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles visits Jakarta.

Marles said the successful conclusion of negotiations after two years was significant for both countries' national security. "What this agreement will do is provide for much greater interoperability between our defence forces, it will provide for much more exercises between our defence forces, it will see us working together the global commons to support

the rules-based order and, importantly, it will allow us to operate from each other's countries," Marles told reporters.

"And in that sense, this agreement will be the deepest, the most significant agreement that our two countries have ever made," Marles added.

Subianto described the agreement as "ironing out some legalistic details" and said that it achieved "great progress" in the two countries' defence cooperation.

Euan Graham, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank, questioned the pact's strategic

value to Australia.

Subianto made clear that Indonesia would remain non-aligned under his leadership, Graham said. This means Indonesia will remain among a group of countries that don't want to be officially aligned with or against any major power bloc such as the United States.

"The issue is that Indonesia doesn't share the same threat perception as Australia towards China," he added.

With around 275 million people, Indonesia has 10 times the population of Australia, which has fewer than 27 million people.

Kamala will be a historic President: Biden

CHICAGO, Aug 20 (PTI)

KAMALA Harris will be a "historic President," US President Joe Biden has said, as she passed the baton of the Democratic Party to her and made a strong pitch to American voters to vote for her to preserve democracy.

Biden, 81, received an emotional standing ovation when he came on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Monday night.

Harris, 59, is scheduled to formally accept the Democratic Party's presidential nomination on Thursday to take on Republican rival Donald Trump, 78, in the November 5



election. "Are you ready to elect Kamala Harris as the President of the United States of America," Biden said, amidst cheers from thousands of members and leaders of the Democratic Party at its national convention here in this windy city as he urged his countrymen to vote and elect his deputy of four years.

Biden said Harris would be a "historic President."

President Joe Biden stands with Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and First Lady Jill Biden during the first day of Democratic National Convention on Monday in Chicago. (AP/PTI)

HORROR. ANGER. PROTESTS.

Schoolgirls sexually abused in Badlapur

School principal among 3 suspended; parents stage rail blockade

THANE, Aug 20 (PTI)

THE management of a school at Badlapur in Maharashtra's Thane district has suspended its principal and two staffers in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of two girls, while angry parents of the school children have been staging a blockade since Tuesday morning at the local railway station seeking stringent action against the accused.

Hundreds of irate parents and local citizens came onto the tracks at the Badlapur railway station around 8 am and blocked the path of trains to draw the administration's attention to their demand. The protest has affected the move-



Police personnel speak with people blocking railway tracks in protest against the alleged sexual abuse of two girls at a school, at Badlapur railway station, in Thane district on Tuesday. (PTI)

ment of trains on Up and Down routes since around 8 am.

On August 17, the police (Contd on page 5)

Protest over incident, school vandalised, stones hurled during 'rail roko'

Mah Govt forms SIT to probe sexual abuse

Case will be fast-tracked, says Shinde; cops told to invoke rape attempt charge

Kolkata rape-murder case

SC raps W Bengal Govt Questions delay in filing of FIR

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (PTI)

TERMINING the rape and murder case of a medic at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital as horrific, the Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the West Bengal government over delay in filing FIR in the

matter.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the case, the top court said this incident raises systematic issue regarding safety of doctor across India. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which had taken cognisance of the incident, (Contd on page 5)

Read Editorial
VERY SERIOUS
on page 8



SC constitutes 10-member task force to formulate protocol for safety of doctors

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (PTI)

OBSERVING that the safety and well-being of doctors is a matter of national interest, the Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring their safety and security in the wake of the rape-and-murder of a doctor in Kolkata. The task force will submit its interim report within three weeks and the final report within two months, the court said. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said a lack of institutional safety norms at medical (Contd on page 5)