

# India looking forward to elevating strategic partnership, EAM to German Chancellor

BERLIN, May 23 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday told German Chancellor Friedrich Merz that India is looking forward to working with his Government to elevate and expand the bilateral strategic partnership.

Jaishankar is in Berlin in the concluding leg of his three-nation tour to the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany.

"Honoured to meet Chancellor Friedrich Merz today in Berlin. Conveyed the best wishes of PM @narendramodi. Look forward to working with his government to elevate and expand our Strategic Partnership. Appreciate Germany's solidarity as India counters the challenge of terrorism," Jaishankar posted on X.

He also met Minister of Economy and Energy Katherina Reiche.

"Discussed ways to enhance our talent linkages, industry partnership and joint collaboration to build more resilient supply



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during an interaction with members of German Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany. (PTI))

chains," Jaishankar said.

He also held a "good conversation" with Gunter Sautter, Foreign & Security Policy Advisor to Merz.

"Exchanged perspectives on major global issues, including combatting terrorism. Our deepening partnership is an important factor of stability in an uncertain world. We will also work together to strengthen resilience

and trust," Jaishankar said.

On Thursday, Jaishankar held a "good interaction" with members of the German Bundestag (Parliament), and appreciated their strong support for the continued growth of India-Germany relations.

"Also discussed with them India's firm commitment to combatting terrorism in all forms and manifestations," Jaishankar said.

## West supported military regime in Pak: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, May 23 (PTI)

NO ONE has supported the military regime and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways as much as the West, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

He described the threat of terrorism as a major "collective challenge" facing the world alongside climate change and growing poverty.

In an interview to Danish daily *Politiken*, Jaishankar criticised Europe for backing Pakistan when it was under military dictatorship.

"Our borders have been violated by Pakistan in Kashmir ever since our independence in 1947. And what have we seen in the eight decades since then," he asked.

# Yunus mulls resignation

DHAKA, May 23 (PTI)

**BANGLADESH'S** Interim Government chief Muhammad Yunus is mulling resignation as he is finding it difficult to work in view of political parties failing to reach a common ground to bring a change in the coun-

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**There is some discord between military and interim Govt over the timeline for holding parliamentary polls**

try, according to a media report. Student-led National Citizen Party chief Nhid Islam was quoted by BBC Bangla Service that Yunus is apprehensive over the evolving political situation in the country and whether he will be able to carry on with his work.

There have been reports of some discord between the military and the interim Government

over the possible timeline for holding the parliamentary elections. Though Islam said Yunus is considering resigning from the post of Chief Advisor, there was no official statement or clarity from his office on the report.

"Sir said, 'If I can't work... I was brought here after a mass uprising to bring change and reform

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# TeamIndia's 'united' message against terror

## All-party delegations meet top leadership in Russia, Japan, UAE



Delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi meets First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs and other senators, at the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, in Moscow on Friday. (PTI)



All-party parliamentary delegation led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha in a meeting with Fukushima Nukaga, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan for Operation Sindoor global outreach, in Tokyo on Friday. (ANI)



All-party delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde meets Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy Director General Nikolay Mladenov for Operation Sindoor global outreach, in Abu Dhabi on Friday. (ANI)

MOSCOW/TOKYO/ABU DHABI, May 23 (PTI)

**I**NDIAN Parliamentary delegations on Friday put across New Delhi's 'zero-tolerance' policy on terrorism to top officials in

Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Japan and exchanged views on furthering cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating radicalism following Operation Sindoor.

"TeamIndia sends a strong

and united message on combating terrorism," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a three-nation tour of Europe, said in a post on X.

India is sending out seven multi-party delegations to 33 global

capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan's designs and India's response to terror in wake of the Pahalgam terror attack after which India launched Operation Sindoor.

In Moscow, the all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi met Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Andrey Rudenko to sensitise the Russian side about terror emanating from

Pakistan, a month after the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead. In Japan, the delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha held a "focused and lively" press engagement held at the Indian

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# India calls for scrapping export controls among BRICS nations at meet

NEW DELHI, May 23 (IANS)

INDIA has called for the dismantling of export controls among BRICS members at a meeting of the Trade Ministers of the bloc held under the presidency of Brazil, with the theme, "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance", according to an official statement issued on Friday.

As India prepares to assume the BRICS Presidency in 2026, it commended the solution-oriented approach of the Brazilian Presidency in addressing critical trade issues at the meeting.

A key outcome of the meeting was the endorsement of the joint declaration along with three annexures, including the BRICS declaration on WTO reform and strengthening of the multilateral trading system, the BRICS data economy governance understanding, and the BRICS trade framework.

These documents collectively

reaffirm BRICS' commitment to equitable, inclusive, and rules-based global trade. The joint declaration especially emphasised that climate-related trade measures should not serve as tools of unjustifiable discrimination or disguised trade restrictions.

A speech delivered on behalf of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal extended India's appreciation to Brazil for its efforts in building consensus and welcomed Indonesia's induction as a new BRICS member in 2025. Reaffirming India's commitment to a fair, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system, the speech called on BRICS nations to promote a decentralised global trade architecture that addresses the developmental needs of the Global South. India highlighted the need for resolving longstanding developmental issues, particularly calling for a permanent solution to public stockholding (PSH) for food security.



# India to make **STRONG CASE** with FATF to put Pak back in 'grey list'

NEW DELHI, May 23 (PTI)

**INDIA** will make a strong case with FATF to revert Pakistan to its "grey list" for failure to comply with anti-money laundering and terror financing rules, a Government source said.

"We will be taking it up (with the FATF)," the source said when asked whether India will make a case with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to place Pakistan in the grey list.

Tensions between India and

Pakistan have heightened following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which killed 26 civilians.

India feels that Pakistan has failed to act on terror emanating from its territory and has been diverting funds from multilateral agencies to buy arms and ammunition.

Countries which fail to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing, and are

under increased monitoring, are placed in the grey list of FATF.

When FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolving swiftly the

identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and is subject to increased monitoring.

The FATF plenary, a decision-making body, meets thrice a year -- in February, June and October.

## Stop 'undermining' Armed Forces' valour: BJP to Rahul on Operation Sindoor

NEW DELHI, May 23 (PTI)

**THE** BJP on Friday launched a scathing attack at Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and asked him to stop "undermining" the Indian Armed Forces' valour and "jeopardising" the country's security by making "irresponsible remarks" about Operation Sindoor.

Calling Gandhi "Nishan-e-Pakistan", BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the Congress leader of carrying forward the "agenda of countries

inimical to India" and said his remarks on the India-Pakistan conflict were being used by Islamabad to "defame" India.

"Rahul, you decide which side you are on. You have to decide whether you are India's leader of opposition or Pakistan's Nishan-e-Pakistan," Bhatia said at a press conference. The BJP's charge came a day after Gandhi accused PM Modi of having "compromised" India's "prestige" and asked him why he sacrificed the nation's interests by agreeing to halt military hostilities against Pakistan.

## Heartening that **America's involvement** made difference in stopping close to full-scale war between India, Pak: US

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, May 23 (PTI)

**THE** US said it is "heartening" that America's "involvement and assistance" made a difference in stopping a "close to full-scale war erupting" between India and Pakistan.

"...what has been a generational concern about violence and terrorism in that region, certainly, with the troubles between India and Pakistan -- is that there is a ceasefire," State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing on Thursday.

"Obviously we know -- very close to full-scale war erupting, and what's very exciting and heartening is that America's involvement and assistance made a difference in that stop-

ping and a ceasefire that has continued, but of course, with-in that one expects, as the world noticed, again, that that has not been resolved, that the potential of having these long-term problems resolved has returned," Bruce said.

She was responding to a question on US-India relations and terrorism emanating against India from Pakistan.

"And it is an opportunity, and the good news is -- that, unlike some other regions, there has been a commitment to a ceasefire," Bruce said.

After the horrific April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.



# Trump threatens 50% tariffs on EU and 25% penalties on Apple as his trade war intensifies

■ By Josh Boak

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)

**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 50% tax on all imports from the European Union as well a 25% tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in America.

The threats, delivered over social media, reflect Trump's ability to disrupt the global economy with a burst of typing as well as the reality that his tariffs are not producing the sufficient trade deals he is seeking or the return of domestic manufacturing he has promised voters.

The Republican President said he wants to charge higher

import taxes on goods from the EU, a long-standing US ally, than from China, a geopolitical rival that had its tariffs cut to 30% this month so Washington and Beijing could hold negotiations.

Trump was upset by the lack of progress in trade talks with the EU, which has insisted on cutting tariffs to zero even as the president has publicly insisted on preserving a baseline 10% tax on most imports.

"Our discussions with them are going nowhere!" Trump posted on Truth Social. "Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% Tariff on the European Union, starting on June 1, 2025. There is no Tariff

if the product is built or manufactured in the United States."

That post had been preceded by a threat of import taxes against Apple. Apple now joins Amazon, Walmart and other major US companies in the White House's crosshairs as they try to respond to the uncertainty and inflationary pressures unleashed by his tariffs.

"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhone's that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else," Trump wrote. "If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the US."