

Amid POK unrest, India slams Pakistan's 'exploitative policies'

New Delhi: Amid raging protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, India hit out at Pakistan for its "exploitative policies" denying the local people rights over their own resources.

India believes that the protests are a natural consequence of Pakistan's continued policy of systemic plundering of resources from these territories which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation, said foreign ministry at a media briefing. "Such exploitative policies deny the local people rights over their own resources and the benefits thereof," said spokesman Randhir Jaiswal while reiterating that Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall always remain integral parts of India.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar had said earlier this week there's a ferment happening in POK. "You can see it on social media or television. The analysis of it is very complex but definitely, I have no doubt in my own mind that someone living in POK is comparing their situation with someone actually living in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that how is it that people today are actually progressing there," Jaishankar had said.

AFP



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Dawn newspaper earlier reported that all businesses, including banks, remained closed, and traffic and vendors were off the roads in three districts of Muzaffarabad in POK. A police officer was killed and more than 100 people, mostly policemen, injured in violent clashes between security forces and protesters agitating against high prices of wheat flour and electricity in POK, according to local media reports. TNN

Lower EV import duty not just for new entrants

Govt Says Cos Like BMW & Hyundai Too Can Gain From New Policy With Fresh Investment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As it awaits word from Tesla on its India plans, govt on Friday said companies such as Vinfast, which has announced domestic manufacturing plans, BMW and Hyundai, which are already in India, can take advantage of the lower import duty regime by investing in new production capacity to gain from new electric vehicle policy targeted at high-end cars.

Based on inputs from the auto industry, the ministry of heavy industries is expected to release a fresh set of FAQs before it invites applications from prospective investors. The ministry has already held consultations with industry representatives. The new EV policy announced by govt ahead of polls sought to target vehicles that cost upwards of \$35,000 and allowed import of up to 26,000 units annually if the company committed to invest Rs 4,150 crore in setting up a manufacturing facility. A govt official said existing

players or those who have already committed to invest in India need not set up subsidiaries to route their investment but can do so through fresh investments.

strike a balance to ensure that domestic players such as Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors, which have lined up ambitious EV plans, are not impacted by imports.

AMID TESLA'S SILENCE

➤ Govt on Friday said cos that are already in India (like **BMW & Hyundai**) and those like **Vinfast** that have announced mfg plans can take advantage of the lower import duty regime by investing in new production capacity



➤ While the policy's prime focus appeared to be Tesla, its founder **Elon Musk** decided to postpone his India trip, which included a meeting with PM Modi. A few days later, he flew to **China**, raising questions about the co's intent to invest in India

"Investment has to be a green field. The company doesn't have to be greenfield," the official said.

Companies that had started investing in the EV ecosystem before the announcement of the policy are also eligible for incentives. "What matters is when they start spending money. It is not that they would have invested much so far. Whatever they invest theoretically is legit," the official added.

The policy had sought to

At the same time, the focus was on seeking to get companies such as Tesla and its value chain to invest in India as localisation norms are also part of the policy.

While the prime focus appeared to be Tesla, its founder Elon Musk decided to postpone his India trip, which included a meeting with PM Narendra Modi, citing his commitments. A few days later he flew to China, raising questions about the company's intent to invest in India.

EAM to India Inc: Use 'national security filter' in China deals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar called upon Indian businesses to use what he described as a national security filter in their dealings with China, urging them to source from domestic manufacturers where possible. Addressing the CII annual summit, the minister also said it must be recognised that India's economic priorities will have to align with its strategic interests, whether speaking of market access, investments, technologies, or even education and tourism. This will be even more so as 'Make in India' gathers more steam in domains like defence, semiconductors and digital, he said.

Jaishankar said Indian firms should look at the national security sensitivities in their dealings with China, even as he acknowledged that it does not mean that nothing can be sourced from the neighbouring country.

"Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country — manufacture in India, source in India, procure



Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country to make in India, source from India, procure from India, Jaishankar said

from India," Jaishankar said. "We have not completely and utterly prohibited people working with China, but frankly, we would much rather you work with Indian companies if there is an Indian option available to you. That I think is good for our national security, we hope you think that it is good for your own business in the long term," he added.

Jaishankar highlighted concerns over the "weaponisation" of economic activity and how access to raw materials or even stability of tourism are being utilised to exert political pressure.

Jaishankar said the current times call for something more than business as usual.

India needs a new set of border pacts, says Arunachal guv

New Delhi: India needs a new set of border agreements and protocols for China, which can be implemented with clarity and also "create arguments to dispel Chinese dynastic claims with our civilisational counter-claims", Arunachal Pradesh governor Lt-General K T Parnaik (retd) said on Friday.

"We have a peculiar situation with (existing) agreements and protocols mainly framed to suit the PLA, with no settlement of boundary cartographic invasions and an invisible non-designated line to defend," Lt-Gen Parnaik said. "With 'No Use of Weapons', we are disadvantaged along LAC. Frequent PLA intrusions violating the agreements is a critical and sensitive issue that needs a firm sense of reciprocity and leverage, whether (through) a 'Quad' as part of diplomatic/strategic partnership or a tactical 'QPQ' (quid pro quo) in an unmarked boundary situation," he added. TNN

US recognises Chabahar's key role in Af: MEA

'Project Aids Landlocked Central Asia, Humanitarian Supply'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The US has shown an understanding of the importance of the Chabahar Port operations for continued humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan and to provide Afghanistan with economic alternatives, govt said Friday.

The US had earlier this week, after India signed a long-term contract with Iran for development of the port,

reminded India of potential risks from sanctions.

"I would like to reiterate what EAM (Jaishankar) had earlier said that we should not take a narrow view of this issue. The project will benefit the entire region, particularly landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia. The US has in the recent past appreciated the larger relevance of the Chabahar project, particularly in the context of humani-



India has signed a long-term contract with Iran for the development of Chabahar Port, which govt has said will benefit the entire region

tarian supplies to Afghanistan," said foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal.

The official said India's commitment towards the Chabahar Port is to realise its

potential as a connectivity hub for Afghanistan, and Central Asian countries, which are landlocked. The Indian company, India Ports Global Limited, has been operating the port since 2018 on an interim lease.

"Now, we have concluded a long-term agreement which is essential for port operation. Since then, we have provided humanitarian assistance including 85,000 metric tonnes of wheat, 200 metric tonnes of pulses and 40,000 litres of pesticide Malathion, to Afghanistan through this port," he said.

After dy PM quits, Nepal PM to seek 4th confidence vote in 18 months

Kathmandu: Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will seek a vote of confidence in parliament on May 20, the fourth within 18 months of taking office, days after a coalition partner withdrew support. Prachanda belongs to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), the third largest party in the House of Representatives.

The decision to seek the vote came after the Upendra Yadav-led Janata Samajbadi Party Nepal on May 13 withdrew its support for the govt following a split in his party. He also resigned as deputy PM. The PM is required to take a vote of confidence within 30 days if the party he is representing splits or if a member of the coalition govt withdraws support. The govt requires at least 138 votes in the 275-member House to win the trust vote.

Last year, Prachanda faced a floor test after former PM KP Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew its support to the Prachanda-led govt following a rift over backing the main opposition party's candidate for the presidential poll. Prachanda's support has notably declined in successive confidence votes.

In Jan 2023, he obtained 268 votes, followed by 172 in March of the same year. His support further dwindled to just 157 votes in the third-floor test. PTI