

India-China ties among most important in world: Envoy Xu

Says Both Earnestly Enforcing Kazan Consensus, Hails Support For SCO Meet

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New Delhi: Chinese ambassador Xu Feihong said Sino-Indian ties are set for a reboot after the Modi-Xi meeting. NSA Ajit Doval had visited China in Dec for talks between the Special Representatives that took place after a gap of five years.

This was followed by foreign secretary Vikram Misri's visit to China during which India and China agreed to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, trans-border river cooperation and, in principle, direct air services.

"Since the meeting between President Xi Jinping and PM Narendra Modi in Kazan last year, the two sides have earnestly implemented the important consensus reached by the two leaders, engaged in active interac-

tions at various levels, and reached many common understandings on improving bilateral relations," said Xu, on the margins the third China-India Youth Dialogue.

Calling India-China relationship one of the most important in the world, the Chinese ambassador said that the two countries are promoting positive changes in the international balance of power.

For the first time in five years, Modi and Xi had met in Russia in Oct 2024 on the sidelines of Brics summit, days after the two countries reached an agreement to complete the military disengagement process in eastern Ladakh. India, however, wants to tread cautiously in normalising ties with China and, in his meeting with Wang last



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week, Jaishankar stressed the importance of restoring mutual trust in bilateral ties and jointly maintaining border peace.

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China will host SCO summit later this year and expects Modi

to participate. Appreciating India's contribution to the Eurasian bloc, Xu said China is willing to work with India to host a "friendly, united and fruitful" summit. China holds the rotating presidency of SCO this year.

According to the Chinese ambassador, the recent high-level engagements had created an important opportunity for the "reboot of China-India relations and provided a broader platform for exchanges and cooperation between the youth of our two countries".

Bangladesh army chief warns of national crisis amidst political tensions, law-and-order issues

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Bangladesh chief of army staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman on Tuesday warned that the country's independence and sovereignty would be at stake if instead of working together, people engage in fighting and mudslinging at each other.

Speaking at an event to mark the BDR carnage at Pilkhana in 2009, the army chief said, "I am warning you. You cannot later say that I did not warn you." Referring to Monday's attack on the Air Force base at Cox's Bazar by miscreants, he said, "Don't show attacking approach to-

Leader of July uprising quits Yunus cabinet, likely to take key post in new students party

Ahead of the launch of a new political party by the July uprising activists, Bangladesh interim gov't's information adviser and one of the key leaders of the students-led movement, Nahid Islam, on Tuesday resigned from the council of advisers led by Muhammad Yunus, reports **Ahsan Tasnim**. After submitting his resignation letter to Yunus, Islam, at a media briefing, said, "Given the current situation, the rise of a new political force is necessary. I have resigned from the advisory council to remain on the streets to consolidate the mass uprising." Islam was one of the three representatives of the movement, who were inducted into the council.

The party is scheduled to be launched on Feb 28 in Dhaka. It will participate in the national elections. Islam is likely to be its leader.

wards the army. Help us, inspire us, give us suggestions but don't hurt us." General Waker laid emphasis on na-

tional unity, otherwise, he warned, the country may fall into further trouble. "We don't want to head towards that."

The army chief said the country is moving towards holding a "free, fair and inclusive" national election. "Whenever I have discussed this with chief adviser Muhammad Yunus, he agreed that the elections should be held within Dec or close to that... My only desire is to keep the nation in a sound and stable position (till the elections). I had enough in last 7-8 months."

General Waker said those involved in crimes must be held accountable. "Otherwise, such incidents will recur. However, we must ensure that our actions do not undermine these institutions," he cautioned.

Telangana tunnel collapse: Experts from Army, Navy, NDRF, GSI roped in for ops



DRF personnel gear up for rescue work at the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project site where a portion of the tunnel collapsed, in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday. (PTI)

NAGARKURNOOL, Feb 25 (PTI)

TOP experts from the Indian Army, Navy, NDRF, GSI and other agencies made relentless efforts on Tuesday to find a breakthrough in the collapsed SLBC tunnel rescue work amidst threat to the lives of rescuers' with the continuous flow of silt and water.

Addressing media persons, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy cited experts, who described this as the most complex and difficult tunnel rescue operation in the world or at least in India as there is only one entry or exit to the SLBC tunnel.

He opined that the collapse

might have taken place due to a slight tectonic shift and as some geological fault lines have given way. It is the fourth day since eight persons have been trapped in the partially collapsed tunnel of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project.

"There is one problem. The flow of silt and water into the tunnel at a very high speed continues. So there was one opinion expressed by some experts that the people going into the rescue, even their lives could be endangered. So, we are a responsible government, we are taking the best expert opinion, and we will take a final call on that (on how to go about it)," he said.

Is 'Five Eyes' alliance in danger?

Report: Trump Adviser Has Proposed Removal Of Canada From Intel Group

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Donald Trump's MAGA-infused US is rupturing a long-standing Anglophone alliance.

From vice-president JD Vance describing Britain as the world's first "truly Islamist country" to have nuclear weapons (because of its growing immigrant Muslim population) to Peter Navarro reportedly proposing expulsion of the largely liberal Canada from the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network, there are growing signs that the Trump govt is ready to dump Washington's English-speaking allies if they do not embrace MAGA principles of curtailing immigration.

Hours after Trump publicly trolled Canada's PM Justin Trudeau by referring to him as 'Governor Trudeau' in his pursuit of making it the 51st American state, the US' northern neighbour got another



Peter Navarro called report 'nonsense', but it is no secret that US is on rampage against Canada. Five Eyes intel-sharing network has been a centrepiece of their close ties. It also includes UK, Aus & NZ

shock Tuesday from news that a top Trump aide has proposed jettisoning Canada from the Five Eyes intelligence network, one of the closest and most successful intel alliance that also includes UK, Australia and New Zealand.

The proposal has reportedly come from Trump adviser Peter Navarro as part of pressure tactics to persuade Canada to merge with the US. Navarro subsequently denied the Financial Times report, calling it "nonsense", but it is no secret that Washington is on rampage against Canada, accusing it of milking the US for decades.

The US and Canada have been neighbours and allies

for more than a century, with the Five Eyes intel group a centrepiece of close ties — so close that the two nations coordinated their moves in cornering India over the alleged trans-continental operations against Sikh radicals in America. The five Anglo powers spy on rest of the world and share intel to such an extent that the CIA-led Pine Gap satellite station in central Australia, which collects intelligence about China, was subject of a fictional Netflix series.

But all is not well with the alliance with the return of Trump to the White House, with his MAGA base increasingly suspicious of the demographic changes in Canada,

the UK, and Australia under Liberal/Labour dispensations. Trump and his minions are now openly canvassing for regime change in these countries to bring in more nativist govts aligned with MAGA and its core principles of curtailing immigration.

In one stunning rebuke of Britain, whose capital London is now referred to by some nativists as 'Londonistan' for its large Muslim population, JD Vance, shortly before Trump picked him as a running mate, suggested the UK, not Pakistan, deserved the title of being the first Islamist country with nuclear weapons. Trump himself called London's Mayor Sadiq Khan a 'stone cold loser' before a state visit in 2019. Australia too has fallen off the US radar after its Labour Party PM Anthony Albanese disparaged the MAGA supremo, and New Zealand is too far to care for returning Trump govt.

Putin offers rare minerals to US from Russia, occupied Ukraine

Dangles Biz Deal For Trump As Kyiv, Washington Near Agreement

Russian President Putin on Monday said US companies could do lucrative business deals in Russia and even help mine rare earths in Russian-occupied Ukraine, further amplifying the Kremlin's message to President Trump that there was money to be made from a better relationship with Moscow.

Putin, in an interview with Russian state TV, said Russia had an "order of magnitude" more rare earth metals than Ukraine and that Moscow was "ready to work with our foreign partners, including the Americans", in developing those deposits.

He said the invitation applied to Russian-occupied Ukraine, as well, adding that US companies could also "make good money" by helping to develop aluminum production in Siberia. "There is something to think about here," Putin said, referring to aluminum, "as well as about joint work on rare earth metals and in other areas, for example, energy". The interview showed Putin working hard



LE BROMANCE WITH A TOUCH OF TENSION: Macron and Trump

Macron interrupts & fact-checks Trump

They hugged, they gripped hands, they touched knees and they backslapped. But they did not agree on everything. French President Macron and US President Trump rekindled the most touchy-feely bromance in world politics as they met on Monday. The pair have a long history of public displays of affection dating back to Trump's first term in power. But tensions over Trump's sudden pivot to Russia over the Ukraine war bubbled up to the surface. Macron interrupted his 78-year-old counterpart when Trump repeated a false claim that Europe was merely loaning Ukraine money and would get it back. "No, in fact, to be frank," he said, touching Trump's arm to stop him mid-sentence, "We paid 60% of the total effort and it was — like the US — loans, guarantees, grants." Trump smirked and said: "If you believe that, it's ok with me." AFP

to appeal to Trump's interest in profits and deal-making.

It came as Trump has swung US foreign policy in Putin's favour at dizzying speed, as underscored by the US siding with Russia in votes at the United Nations on Monday about the war in Ukraine.

Trump has been pressuring Ukraine to agree to grant

the US a share of its revenue from mining rare earth metals and other natural resources. The two sides were closing in on such an agreement on Monday. Rare earths are a group of 17 metals used to make magnets that turn power into motion for electric vehicles, cell phones, missile systems, and other electronics.

Kremlin denies Trump claim Putin OK with peacekeepers plan

The Kremlin, asked about an assertion by US President Trump that Russia was open to European peacekeepers being deployed in Ukraine, referred reporters to an earlier statement that such a move would be unacceptable to Moscow. Asked about Trump's comment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refrained from publicly contradicting the US president, but effectively reaffirmed Russia's opposition to the idea. "There is a position on this matter.. I have nothing to add to this," said Peskov. Trump said on Monday that both he and Putin accepted the idea of European peacekeepers in Ukraine if a settlement was reached to end the war. "Yeah, he will accept that," Trump said. "I specifically asked him that question. He has no problem with it." REUTERS

But the interview also showed that Putin appears to be in far less of a hurry than Trump to end the war in Ukraine as Russia continues to slowly gain ground on the battlefield. "We touched on problems related to the Ukraine crisis, but it itself was not substantively discussed," he said of the US-Russia talks. NYT