

Xi calls for **'ELEPHANT-DRAGON TANGO'**

BEIJING, Apr 1 (PTI)

IN A message marking 75th anniversary of their bilateral relations, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed on partnership between India and China for "mutual achievement" and the need to do the "dragon-elephant tango" to serve their fundamental interests.

Apart from President Xi's message to his counterpart Droupadi Murmu, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Prime Minister Narendra Modi too exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the occasion, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced here.

In her message, Murmu said a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship will benefit both countries and the world, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The development comes amid the efforts to reset the ties after over four years of freeze due to the eastern Ladakh military standoff. President Xi, in his message to Murmu, said China and India, both ancient civilisations, major developing countries and important members of the Global

South, are at a critical stage of their respective modernisation efforts.

"The development of China-India relations demonstrates that it is the right choice for China and India to be partners of mutual achievement and realise the 'dragon elephant tango,' which fully serves the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples," Xinhua said.

Xi called on both sides to view and handle bilateral relations

from a strategic height and long-term perspective, seek a way, which features peaceful coexistence, mutual trust, mutual benefit and common development, for neighbouring major countries to get along with each other, and jointly promote a multi-polar world and greater democracy in international relations.

For her part, Murmu said India and China are two major neighboring countries that are home to one-third of the world's population, noting that a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship will benefit both countries and the world.

75th anniversary of India, China bilateral relations

India, China made promising beginnings; rebuilding ties depend on 3-fold formula: Foreign Secy

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (PTI)

INDIA and China have made “promising” beginnings to repair their ties in the last five months and a “durable base” for rebuilding the relations depends on a threefold formula of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Tuesday.

As two large neighbours in an important part of the world, a stable bilateral relationship between India and China would contribute to humanity as a whole, he said.

The Foreign Secretary was speaking at an event hosted by the Chinese embassy on the occasion of the establishment of the 75th anniversary of diplo-

matic relations between the two countries.

It was for the first time that a high-level Indian official attended an event hosted by the Chinese embassy since the ties between the two neighbours came under severe strain following a clash at Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June 2020. At the event, Misri said, “The path forward may be a difficult one, but it is the one that we are prepared to walk and it is on the basis of these steps that we have already taken in the last five months that we have seen promising beginnings, which we should turn into tangible benefit for the people of our two countries.”

“This will make today’s celebration even more meaningful for the future,” he said.

Waqf Amendment Bill to be tabled in Lok Sabha today

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (PTI)

THE Lok Sabha will take up the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill for discussion and passage on Wednesday, setting the stage for a showdown between a government determined to push it through and an opposition united in condemning the proposed law as unconstitutional.

Rajya Sabha is expected to take it up on Thursday, with the two Houses allocated eight hours each for debating the proposed law.



Some BJP allies, sources said, continue to push for more changes in the bill. A senior member of a BJP ally expressed hope that the BJP will accommodate their views, stressing that some

of their concerns were addressed by the Joint Committee of Parliament which scrutinised the bill.

However, he emphasised that the NDA will remain united on the issue. TDP and JD(U), the two biggest constituents of the NDA after the BJP, issued whips to their MPs asking them to support the government stand.

The Opposition INDIA bloc also presented a united face on Wednesday as its parties discussed their joint strategy to oppose the bill at a meeting in

the Parliament House.

Minorities and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the Lok Sabha's

Read Editorial
NAILING THE LIE
on page 8

business advisory committee (BAC), which includes leaders from all major parties, chaired by Speaker Om Birla agreed on an eight-hour debate, which

(Contd on page 5)

India charges 100% tariff on agri goods, time for reciprocity: WH

US President Says Will Be 'Kind' With Taxes As Deadline Looms

Chidanand Rajhatta | TNN



A Feb 13 photo of Trump after he signed EO for reciprocal tariffs. On Tuesday, Trump said he had heard that India is going to be dropping its tariffs very substantially. 'I said why didn't somebody do this a long time ago,' he added snippily

Washington: The Trump White House on Monday unloaded on India's effort to protect its agricultural sector ahead of across-the-board-tariff (taxes) on all imports that it plans to announce on April 2, claiming the US is being ripped off by rest of the world.

Flashing graphics showing tariffs imposed by various countries, including India, on US farm products, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said it is the time for "reciprocal tariffs" and President Trump would make a "historic change" to the dynamic on Wednesday. "If you look at the unfair trade practices - we have 50% (tariff) from the European Union on American dairy and a 700% tariff from Japan on American rice. You have a 100% tariff from India on American agricultural products and nearly 300% from Canada on American butter and cheese," Leavitt said, complaining that this makes it virtually impossible for US products to be exported to these markets and it has put a lot of Americans out of business and out of work over the past several decades.

Trump himself indicated

that the tariffs he is going to roll out, ironically in the White House Rose Garden, won't be prickly or reciprocal, promising to be relatively "very kind."

"We are going to be very nice by comparison to what they were. The numbers will be lower than what they have been charging us, and in some cases, maybe substantially lower," Trump told reporters at the Oval Office, amid reports of aides preparing an across-the-board 20% tax on imports.

Trump also said that he had heard that India is going to be dropping its tariffs very substantially. "I said why didn't somebody do this a long time ago," he added snippily.

New Delhi is reported to have offered to lower tariffs on select goods, including farm products such as some fruits and nuts, oats and quinoa, while protecting its cereal sector (mainly wheat and rice) that employs a majority of its 46%

Trump admin to review billions in funding for Harvard over 'anti-semitism' on campus

The Trump administration said Monday it was reviewing roughly \$9 billion in federal grants and contracts awarded to Harvard University, claiming the school had allowed anti-semitism to run unchecked on campus. The administration said it was examining about \$256 million in contracts, and an additional \$8.7 billion in what it described as "multiyear grant commitments." The announcement suggested Harvard had not done enough to curb anti-semitism but was vague about what it could do to satisfy Trump gov't. "In a message to the Harvard community, Alan Garber, Harvard's president, said Harvard would work with federal gov't "to ensure they have a full account of the work we have done and actions we will take going forward." "If this funding is stopped, it will halt life-saving research and imperil important scientific research and innovation." NYT

agricultural work force. India's taxes on US farm produce is also widely seen as an effort to develop, given its historical experience with famine and shortage, basic food security and not rely on imports - the same arguments US is now making in the pharma sector.

According to experts, White House gaslighting on the issue also glosses over the more than \$16 billion in annual subsidies to the US farm sector from the federal gov't, while discounting historical experiences, economic vulnerabilities, and cultural sensitivities in other countries.

For instance, New Delhi is dead set against US dairy products (milk and cheese) not only to protect its retail dairy sector that employs millions of poor people, but also because of American proclivity to grow its cattle on ruminant feed like bonemeal and bloodmeal. India also has reservations on the

quality of industrial grade American chicken - grown at corporate broiler farms - but is believed to have reluctantly agreed to make some concessions to allow import of chicken legs despite protests from the poultry sector.

By some accounts, American farmers receive an average of \$16 billion annually in direct payments through the farm bill, with total farm support from 2018-2022 reaching a staggering \$162.4 billion.

Despite the heavy White House spin that tariffs will turn out well for the US and make it even more prosperous, there is widespread concern across America that taxing imports will result in higher prices and inflation. Some experts have warned of economic havoc, but the White House is besotted with the idea that the taxes will bring in \$6 trillion in revenue in the long run no matter the pain it will bring in the short-term.

A Cornell student

India & Chile to start talks on comprehensive economic deal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sanjeev Rastogi

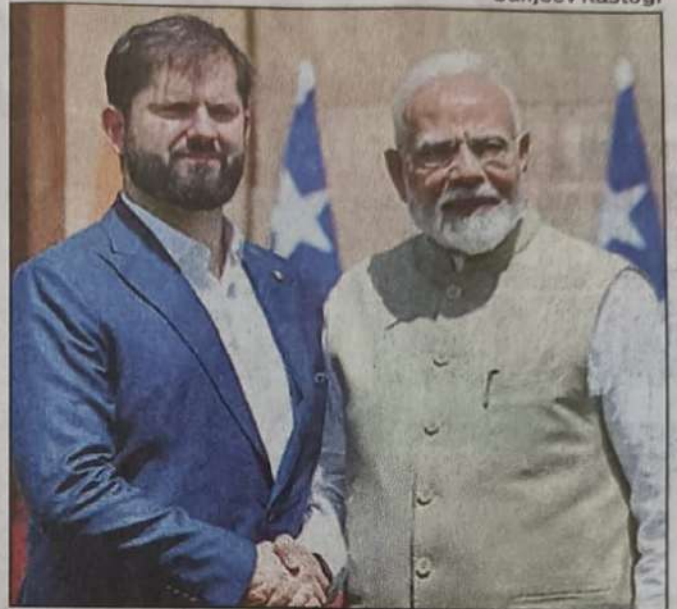
New Delhi: India and Chile agreed to start negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, and to ramp up defence and security cooperation, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Chilean President Gabriel Boric for bilateral talks. India also signed four agreements with Chile, including one for cooperation in Antarctica.

Modi described the Latin American country as India's gateway to Antarctica. "We welcome the expansion of mutual trade and investment and we agree that there is untapped potential for further collaboration. Today, we have instructed our teams to initiate discussions on a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement," said the PM.

He stressed that partnerships in the field of critical minerals will be emphasised. "Efforts will be made to establish resilient supply and value chains. In agriculture, we will collaborate to enhance food security by leveraging each other's strengths," said Modi.

Modi also lauded increasing cooperation in the field of defence, saying it's a symbol of deep mutual trust. "In this area, we will move forward to create defence industrial manufacturing and supply chains as per each other's needs," he said, adding that both sides will increase cooperation to face common challenges like organised crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

The PM also said India and Chile



PM Narendra Modi with Chile's President Gabriel Boric in New Delhi on Tuesday

agree that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through dialogue, while underlining the need for UNSC reforms. "We are unanimous in saying that to face global challenges, reform of the United Nations Security Council and other institutions is necessary. Together, we will continue to contribute to global peace and stability," he said. The Chilean side reiterated its support for India's candidature for a permanent membership in UN Security Council.

Both the leaders agreed that terrorism must be combated through concerted global actions, according to a joint statement. "Both countries reiterated their commitment to work together in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), No Money For Terror (NMFT) and other multilateral platforms to combat terrorism," the statement said.

Govt working on 4-5 US tariff fallout scenarios for India

Early Retaliation Unlikely, Will Pursue Talks

Sidhartha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Anticipating US reciprocal tariffs, govt is working on four-five scenarios on the possible fallout on Indian goods but is unlikely to initia-

► **EDIT PAGE: Trump tariff turmoil good for India?**

te any counter measures as it pursues talks for a bilateral trade deal with the US.

While White House announced that the tariffs, to be announced at 4pm (EST) Wednesday, will kick in immediately, govt officials said it's unclear how it will be rolled out.

For instance, the levies could be sectoral or country spe-

WILL BE KIND: DON

► World's leading economies on edge as US prepares to unveil raft of tariffs on Wednesday. Trump promises to be 'very kind' when addressing what he calls America's 'Liberation Day'

► Day before imposing reciprocal tariffs, US report raises concerns over India's trade practices, ranging from 'localised internet shutdowns' & data localisation conditions to high levies on automobiles, alcohol, farm products

cific. Besides, Trump has warned that there could be secondary tariffs on countries such as those buying oil from Venezuela or retaliatory tariffs, a threat that he issued to Canada after announcing an additional 25% levy on automobiles and components.

► **Related report, P 7**