

# India, Germany to deepen cooperation in AI, quantum technologies, says Minister

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (IANS)

**INDIA** and Germany have agreed to expand their partnership in emerging technologies such as



Union Minister Jitendra Singh during a meeting with Bavaria's Minister-President Markus Soder in New Delhi on Sunday.

artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, and green hydrogen, with a focus on inno-

vation-driven growth and sustainable development, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Dr Singh highlighted the strong and long-standing partnership between India and Germany in the field of science, technology and innovation (STI).

"The two countries can collaborate more closely in key areas like clean energy, biotechnology, cyber-physical systems, electric mobility, and green hydrogen," he said after meeting with Bavaria's visiting Minister-President Markus Soder in the national capital.

Dr Singh said India is moving ahead with mission-mode programmes under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, where the goal is to find economic and sustainable solutions through science and technology.

# INS Sunayna enters Port of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania

## Set to participate in Exercise Aikeyme

DAR ES SALAAM, Apr 13 (ANI)

**INS** Sunayna, designated as an Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar ship, entered the Port of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania on April 12 and will participate in the harbour phase of Exercise Aikeyme, according to the Ministry of Defence press release.

The ship will depart Dar-es-Salaam on April 15 for the next port of call, Nacala, Mozambique to continue with the IOS Sagar mission. The ship sailed from Goa's Karwar on April 5, along with 44 naval personnel from nine Friendly Foreign Nations (FFNs) of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

who were embarked as part of the ship's crew.

The FFN includes Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and South Africa. Rear Admiral AR Hassan, Chief of Tanzania Navy; Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna, ACNS (FCI); and Commodore Agyapal Singh, Defence Attache for Tanzania, alongside dignitaries from the Indian High Commission and Tanzania People Defence Force, accorded a warm welcome to IOS Sagar.

Earlier, on April 5, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off INS Sunayna from Karwar.

# Israel strikes hospital in Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH (Gaza), Apr 13 (AP)

ISRAEL struck a hospital in northern Gaza early on Sunday, forcing patients to evacuate as attacks intensified.

The pre-dawn strike hit Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, after Israel issued an evacuation warning, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health. One patient, a girl, died during the evacuation because medical staff were unable to provide urgent care, it said.

The hospital is run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, which condemned the attack in a statement, saying it happened on "Palm Sunday, the start of the Holy Week, the most sacred week of the Christian year". Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Israel said it struck a command and control centre used by Hamas



The outpatient and laboratory wards of the Al-Ahli Arab Baptist hospital are seen after being hit by an Israeli Army strike, following a warning issued by the army to evacuate patients, in Gaza City on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

at the hospital to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers, without pro-

viding evidence. It said prior to the strike, steps were taken to mitigate harm, including issuing

warnings, and using precise munitions and aerial surveillance. Hours later, a separate strike on a car in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, killed at least seven people — six brothers and their friend — according to staff at the morgue of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies. The Israeli military also said they targeted another command and control centre in the area of Deir al-Balah when many Hamas militants were present and planning to carry out an attack against Israeli soldiers. This was not connected to the strike on the car in the same area, which the army said it was looking into.

The strikes came hours after Israel's defence minister said that military activity would rapidly expand across Gaza and that people would have to evacuate from "fighting zones".

# India test-fires laser-directed energy weapon system, joins select group of nations

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (PTI)

**INDIA** on Sunday carried out a successful trial of a laser-directed energy weapon system, joining a select group of nations having the new-age armament used to bring down hostile drones and unmanned aircraft.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said the weapon system was tested at Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool.

India is among very few countries which are developing directed energy weapon systems to deal with future security challenges. The US, China and Russia are known to have developed directed energy weapon systems.

"CHESS DRDO conducted a



The Mk-II (A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system. (ANI)

successful field demonstration of the Land version of Vehicle mounted Laser Directed Weapon (DEW) MK-II(A) at Kurnool today," the DRDO said in a social media post.

"It defeated the fixed wing UAV and Swarm Drones successfully causing structural

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# TARIFF EDGE: India edges over China in smartphone exports to US

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (PTI)

**EXPORT** of iPhones, smartphones, tablets, laptops from India to the US will be cheaper by 20 per cent compared to those shipped from China following the exemptions given by the Trump administration, industry body ICEA said on Sunday.

The US Government on Saturday amended its tariff order to exempt smartphones, tablets, laptops, and some other electronic devices from the new taxes.

"China still has 20 per cent of iPhones, laptops, tablets,



and watches. Only reciprocal tariff has been removed for China. India has zero tariff on iPhones and all smartphones, laptops and tablets exported to the US. Vietnam also has zero tariff on all Samsung and other smartphones, laptops and tablets exported to the US. So India and Vietnam are

similarly placed on tariffs on these products and both enjoy a 20 per cent tariff advantage over China," ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo told PTI.

India Cellular and Electronics Association represents major smartphone companies and their manufacturers, including Apple, Foxconn, Dixon, etc.

Apple's iPhone ecosystem in India has become the largest job creator in India and is one of the top exported items from the country.

According to ICEA, mobile  
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## Tariff war opens door for India to emerge as global toy export hub

KOLKATA, Apr 13 (PTI)

**AS THE** US-China tariff war intensifies, the Indian toy industry leaders are calling the situation a "golden opportunity" to position India as a major export hub for toys, especially to the United States, a trade body official said on Sunday.

The US recently imposed a steep 145 per cent tariff on toy imports from China — a move that could reshape the



global toy trade.

China, which previously accounted for nearly 77 per cent of US toy imports, is expected to see a significant drop in exports due to the high tariff, opening up space

for alternate suppliers, an official said. Akshay Binrajka, President of the Toy Association of India, told PTI that India is well-positioned to fill the emerging vacuum.

"The US toy market, valued at around USD 41.7 billion, offers a massive opportunity for Indian manufacturers," he said, adding that Indian products can now compete with Chinese offerings on both quality and price.

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