

# India to continue dialogue with US on totalisation pact: Piyush Goyal

WASHINGTON, Oct 4 (PTI)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India will continue to engage with the US on the proposed social security or totalisation pact and it will take time. The proposed agreement seeks to do away with the requirement for an expatriate in either country to pay for social security schemes of the host country.



He said that the issue should have been resolved earlier when the dimensions were manageable. "Now the dimension of the money collected by the (US) Treasury is so large that for any government, this will be a major decision," he told reporters here. He added that when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government came to power in 2014, the country held discussions with the US on the matter.

"The subject that has festered far too long and is not going to resolve over night. So we will continue to have the dialogue with the US. It's going to take time, we recognise that," Goyal said.

He noted that the President Joe Biden administration has sent some "very" detailed questionnaire to India about the social security systems in India, which have all been responded to. "The social security coverage details that we have shared with them, cover about 930 million people in India, more than the required threshold. So we are eligible for a dialogue and resolution of totalisation and bringing in Social Security Agreement," he said.

At the invitation of the United States Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, Goyal visited America during September 30-October 3. Goyal co-chaired with Raimondo the India-USA CEO Forum on October 2 and the 6th India-USA Commercial Dialogue on October 3.

# US, India sign MoU on critical minerals supply

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Oct 4 (PTI)

**MINISTER** of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo held the 6th Commercial Dialogue here on Thursday during which they reviewed the progress made in semiconductors supply chains, innovation handshake, energy-industry network and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

A day earlier, the two leaders signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo during the signing of an MoU at the 6th India-US Commercial Dialogue in Washington, DC, USA.

(PTI)

chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector.

Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually beneficial commercial development of the US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling and recovery, a media release said.

During the commercial dialogue, Goyal and Raimondo praised the two sides' continuing efforts to

*(Contd on page 6)*

# 28 Naxals gunned down in Bastar

DANTEWADA, Oct 4 (PTI)

IN ONE of the biggest operations against Maoists in Chhattisgarh, security personnel killed 28 Naxalites in a fierce encounter in the Bastar region on Friday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thukhuli and Nendurvilages in Abhujmaad on the Narayanpur-Dantewada inter-district border, when a joint

**Security forces eliminated 185 Maoists so far in year 2024**

team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P told PTI over the phone. Personnel belonging to the State Police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said.

Sundarraj said that 28 Naxalites were gunned down in the encounter. Along with 28 bodies, a cache of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle and one SLR (self-loading rifle),

were recovered from encounter spot, he said.

Earlier, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai had said that around 30 Naxalites were killed in the gun battle.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said, the 'double engine' Government is determined to eliminate the menace.

In a post on X, CM Sai said, "There is news of 28 Naxalites gunned down in an encounter

*(Contd on page 6)*

# Israeli airstrikes rock southern Beirut

Massive strikes cut off key crossing between Lebanon and Syria



Flames rise from Israeli airstrikes in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon on Friday. (AP/PTI)

BEIRUT, Oct 4 (AP)

**I**SRAEL carried out another series of punishing airstrikes on Friday, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing the Israeli bombardment of the Hezbollah militant group.

The overnight blasts in Beirut's southern suburbs sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings kilometres away in the Lebanese capital.

Additional strikes sent people running for cover in streets littered with rubble in the

Dahiyeh neighbourhood, where at least one building was levelled and cars were burned out.

The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah's central intelligence headquarters around midnight. It did not say who it was aiming for or if any militants were killed in that strike, but it claimed to have killed 100 Hezbollah fighters in the last 24 hours.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the area. Some 1,400 Lebanese, including Hezbollah fighters and civilians, have

Read Editorial  
**'... THEY HAVE TO'**  
on page 8

been killed and some 1.2 million driven from their homes since Israel escalated its strikes in late September aiming to cripple Hezbollah and push it away from the countries' shared border.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched about 100 rockets into Israel on Friday, the Israeli military said.

The Israeli military also said that a strike in Beirut the day before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafi, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafi was "a

(Contd on page 6)

## Iran's attack on Israel completely legal and legitimate: Khamenei

TEHRAN, Oct 4 (IANS)

**LEADING** the Friday prayers from Tehran's Grand Mosalla Mosque, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei hailed Iran's attack on Israel earlier this week, calling it "completely legal and legitimate work".

Khamenei delivered a part of his sermon in Arabic as a message for the entire Islamic world, "especially Lebanon and Palestine", as thousands gathered at the venue to hear him and also attend the commemoration ceremony of Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah who was killed in Israeli Air Force's strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut, last week.

"The brilliant work of our armed forces two or three nights ago was completely legal and legitimate work," the Iranian Supreme Leader told the huge gathering which also included the country's President, Masoud Pezeshkian. "The enemy of Iran is the enemy of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, and Iraq. The

(Contd on page 6)



# India assures support in SL's economic rebuilding



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Friday. (PTI)

COLOMBO, Oct 4 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and discussed "ways to deepen ongoing cooperation and strengthen India-Sri Lanka ties," and assured India's continued support to the island nation's economic rebuilding.

Jaishankar, who is here on a day-long visit, less than a fortnight after President Dissanayake was sworn in, also met Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya and his counter-

part Vijitha Herath.

Jaishankar is the first foreign dignitary to visit Sri Lanka since the National People's Power (NPP) Government led by Dissanayake came to power on September 23. "Honoured to call on President @anuradissanayake today in Colombo. Conveyed warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar posted on X.

"Appreciate his warm sentiments and guidance for the India-Sri Lanka relations. Discussed ways to deepen  
(Contd on page 6)