

# EAM raises with Wang trade curbs, dam on Brahmaputra

► Continued from P 1

The Indian side noted that China also cooperates with Taiwan in these very domains," the ministry said.

India was among the first non-socialist countries to recognise People's Republic of China in 1950. While it never abandoned its One China policy, India stopped publicly articulating the same 15 years ago amid growing differences with Beijing on issues related to J&K and Arunachal Pradesh. Like most other countries, India doesn't have formal diplomatic or political ties with Taiwan.

Jaishankar also underlined India's concerns with regard to the mega dam construction being undertaken by China in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra), which will have implications for lower riparian states, said MEA.

In the meeting on Monday, Jaishankar for the second time this year raised issues related to trade restrictions imposed by China. He had flagged it last month in a meeting with Wang on the margins of the SCO foreign ministers' meeting.

China announced in April its decision to implement export controls on certain rare earth items. According to MEA, govt remained in touch with the Chinese side, in Beijing as well as in Delhi, to bring "predictability in supply chain for trade consistent

**TOI** LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



with international practices". India's rare earth magnet import dependency on China has hovered at 80%-85% in the past three years. India has set up National Critical Mineral Mission to increase domestic capacity and build supply chain resilience in critical minerals.

India had earlier also taken up with China the issue of restricted fertiliser supplies. Indian companies had in fact signed long-term agreements with their Saudi counterparts last month for continued supplies of DAP, the fertiliser most used in India after urea. China is one of the countries India has been dependent on for DAP supplies.

A foreign ministry spokesperson in Beijing did not confirm if China was going to review export licences or if it was making an exemption for India but said China stood ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with relevant countries and jointly keep global industrial and supply chains stable.

In his meeting with Jaishankar, Wang had said "in today's world, the changing situation is evolving rapidly; unilateral bullying practices are rampant, and free trade and the international order face severe challenges". Jaishankar too had underlined the imperative of working towards ensuring a stable global economy.

New D  
of pro  
chair i  
day sa

# Acquisition of another 97 Tejas, 6 AEW&C aircraft gets CCS nod

## Will Help Tackle Pakistan-China Twin Threat

Rajat.Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India on Tuesday gave the final nod for acquisition of another 97 indigenous Tejas fighter jets and six advanced airborne early-warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft or "eyes in the sky", collectively worth around Rs 85,500 crore, which will be crucial to tackle the collusive and 'fused' challenge from China-Pakistan in the years ahead.

The PM-led cabinet committee on security (CCS) approved the Rs 66,500 crore deal for 97 "improved" Tejas Mark-1A fighters to be produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which will add to the 83 such single-engine light combat aircraft already ordered from defence PSU under a Rs 46,898 crore deal inked in Feb 2021, top sources told TOI.

"The first two jets of the 83 ordered earlier are fully ready. The final weapons firing trials (including Astra



Timely induction of the 180 Tejas Mark-1A fighters is needed to stem rapid depletion in the number of IAF fighter squadrons

air-to-air missiles) are slated for Sept. With the order for another 97 jets, HAL will be able to expand and stabilise its supply chains," a source said.

Faced with flak from IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh for huge delays in deliveries, HAL has promised to progressively scale up production to 20 Tejas per year, and then to 24-30 per year, with the third production line now fully functional in Nashik to add to the two existing ones at Bengaluru, apart from private sector supply chains.

The project for six AEW&C aircraft, which will entail mounting active electronically scanned array antenna-based radars, electronic and signal intelligence systems on second-hand Airbus-321 planes bought earlier from Air

India, in turn, will cost Rs 19,000 crore. "All six AEW&C aircraft will be delivered by 2033-34," the source said.

Timely induction of the 180 Tejas Mark-1A fighters is needed to stem rapid depletion in the number of IAF fighter squadrons (each has 16-18 jets), which will go down to its lowest-ever figure of 29 squadrons next month after retirement of the 36 old MiG-21s still in service.

IAF, incidentally, is authorised 42.5 combat squadrons. Pakistan now has 25 fighter squadrons, and is slated to get at least 40 J-35A fifth-generation stealth jets from China in the near future. China, of course, has more than four times the number of fighters, bombers and force-multipliers as compared to India.

In the AEW&C arena, which are required to boost surveillance capabilities along the borders as well as help direct friendly fighters during air combat with enemy jets, India lags far behind even Pakistan. IAF currently has just three Netra AEW&C Mark-1 planes, with indigenous sensors mounted on Brazilian Embraer-145 jets for 240-degree radar coverage, and three Israeli 'Phalcon' radars mounted on Russian IL-76 aircraft.

The new AEW&C project will involve the A-321 narrow-body aircraft first being "hardened and modified" in Spain and then being equipped with an antenna in the nose in addition to the main dorsal antenna to give 300-degree radar coverage.

To make up numbers, defence ministry in March also accorded the initial "acceptance of necessity" to a separate project for six Netra Mark-1A on Embraer-145 jets, with more advanced technologies than the first three Mark-1 aircraft.

On the Tejas front, IAF till now has got 38 of the first 40 Tejas Mark-1 fighters ordered for Rs 8,802 crore under two contracts inked in 2006 and 2010.

# 'BORDERS HAVE BEEN QUIET'

## NSA Doval to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang



NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (PTI)

**THERE** has been an “upward trend” in India-China relations in the past nine months as peace and tranquillity prevailed along the border, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said on Tuesday as he held talks with

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on de-escalation of the frontier and related issues.

Doval and Wang held the 24th round of talks under the framework of the Special Representatives mechanism, a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his visiting

Chinese counterpart.

In a readout, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Indian side strongly raised the issue of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and recalled that one of the original objectives of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was to counter the evil of terrorism. China is hosting the annual SCO summit in less than a fortnight.

Jaishankar also underlined India's concerns with regard to the construction of a mega dam by China in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra river) as it will have implications for lower riparian States, it said, adding the need for utmost transparency in this regard was strongly underlined. The MEA said the discussions at the Special Representatives (SR) dialogue covered issues related to “de-escalation, delimitation and boundary affairs”.

Wang landed in Delhi on  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# EAM Jaishankar begins 3-day visit to Russia

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (PTI)

---

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday embarked on a three-day visit to Moscow to further strengthen the “time-tested” India-Russia partnership.

The visit comes against the backdrop of strains in India’s ties with the US following President Donald Trump doubling tariffs on Indian goods to 50 pct that included an additional penalty of 25 pc for purchasing Russian crude oil. The MEA, announcing Jaishankar’s trip, said he will co-chair the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) to be held on Wednesday.

# 'US tariffs to impact \$48 bn of India's exports'

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (IANS)

IF AMERICA imposes additional 25 per cent on India, around \$48.2 billion of India's merchandise export to the US is likely to be subject to those tariffs, the Parliament was informed.

Reciprocal tariff at the rate of 25 per cent has been imposed on certain goods exported from India to the US, starting from August 7. Further, additional rate of duty of 25 per cent with effect from August 27 has been imposed on certain goods exported from India.

"The Government has taken note of tariff imposition by the US. It is estimated that around \$48.2 billion of India's merchandise export to the US will be subject to the above additional tariffs," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

He further said that the Government is committed to secure and advance country's national interest and protect the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections.

# Relief for India as China agrees to lift curbs on rare earth, fertiliser exports

Sachin.Parashar  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar's meeting with counterpart Wang Yi saw efforts by both sides to address each other's concerns and interests, with Beijing agreeing to remove curbs on export of fertilisers, rare earth minerals and tunnel boring machines to cater to India's needs. Indian authorities said these were three key concerns raised in the meeting.

Both sides also agreed to re-opening border trade through designated trading points, namely Lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La.

Wang brought up Taiwan

## STEADY PROGRESS IN TIES, SAYS PM

> Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi conveys President Xi Jinping's invite to PM Modi for SCO summit

> Modi confirms participation, to arrive in Tianjin on Aug 31 for his first visit to China in more than seven years

> Wang tells PM there is 'new consensus' on border management, maintenance of peace and on starting boundary delimitation talks

> Agrees countering terrorism should be given highest priority. To visit Pak this week

Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, India-China relations have made steady progress... I look forward to our next meeting in Tianjin on sidelines of SCO Summit

—PM Modi | P 15



and Jaishankar stressed there had been no change in India's position. Like most other countries, India follows a One-China policy. However, as external affairs ministry said, India emphasised that

like the rest of the world it has a relationship with Taiwan focused on economic, technology and cultural ties, and this would continue.

▶ Continued on P 15

## Expert group for early deal on boundary limits

Following talks between NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi Tuesday, both sides agreed to set up an expert group to explore 'early harvest' in boundary delimitation. Another group will be set up to advance effective border management to maintain peace and tranquillity.

India and China will enable creation of General-level mechanisms in eastern and middle sectors, in addition to that in the western sector. **TNN**

# India-China relations made steady progress: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday underlined the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the frontier with China and reiterated India's commitment to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution to the boundary question as he met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Modi said stable, predictable and constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and that he was looking forward to meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping on the margins of the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin.



Wang who landed in Delhi on Monday on a two-day visit, handed over a message and an invitation to the SCO

Read Editorial  
**'THREE MUTUALS'**  
on page 8

summit from President Xi to Prime Minister Modi.  
The signal of a renewed

momentum in India-China relations came amid strain in ties between New Delhi and Washington over President Donald Trump's policy on tariffs. In a social media post following his meeting with the Chinese foreign minister, Modi said India-China relations have made steady progress, guided by respect for each other's interests and  
*(Contd on page 5)*