

Justice Surya Kant appointed next CJI

To assume charge on Nov 24

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (PTI)

JUSTICE Surya Kant was on Thursday appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India and he will assume charge on November 24.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing his appointment.

Justice Surya Kant succeeds Justice Bhushan R Gavai, who demits office on November 23.

He will be the CJI for nearly 15 months and will demit office on February 9, 2027 on attaining the age of 65 years.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to

appoint Shri Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November 2025," Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a post on X.

"I convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to him," he added.

Justice Kant, born in a middle-class family on February 10, 1962 in Hissar district of Haryana, became a top court judge on May 24, 2019.

He brings to the country's top judicial office a wealth of experience spanning two decades on the Bench, marked by landmark verdicts on abrogation of Article 370, free speech, democracy, cor-

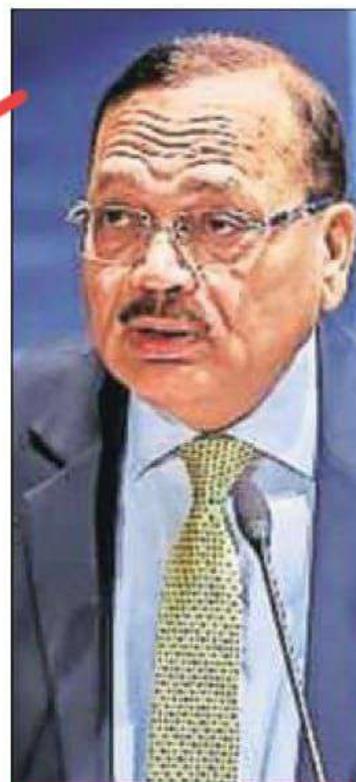
ruption, environment and gender equality.

Justice Kant was part of the historic bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be registered under it until a government review.

He also nudged the Election Commission to disclose details of 65 lakh excluded voters in Bihar, showing his commitment to electoral transparency. He made history by directing that one-third of seats in Bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association, be reserved for women.

Justice Kant was part of the bench that appointed a five-member committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe

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JUSTICE SURYA KANT

Indian firms get licenses to import rare earth magnets from China

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (IANS)

MINISTRY of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday that some Indian companies have received licenses for importing rare earth magnets from China. At least three Indian companies—Continental India, Hitachi, and Jay Ushin—have received initial Government approval to import the magnets. These firms supply components for India's automotive and electronics industries.

This is the first set of clearances since Beijing imposed tight controls on the export of these magnets earlier in April. The move is intended to alleviate supply issues that have impacted key industries in India.

Jaiswal also said, "We have to look at how the US and China talks will play into our domain."

The import licenses have specific conditions attached. The imported magnets cannot be re-exported to the United States and cannot be used for defence-

related purposes.

The MEA had previously confirmed in June 2025 that it was in discussions with China to secure the supply of rare earth materials and bring predictability to the trade supply chain. The Indian Government and industry bodies have been working to find a solution to the supply bottlenecks. The automotive sector, especially manufacturers of electric vehicles (EVs), was particularly affected by the export restrictions. This

initial grant of licenses is expected to ease some of the pressure.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Thursday announced that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping have agreed on a one-year deal for the supply of crucial rare earth materials. The announcement came after the two leaders met at Busan in South Korea, on the sidelines of the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting -- their first in-person meeting in six years.

India, Cyprus are trusted friends, reliable partners: EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (IANS)

HAILING the relations between India and Cyprus, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called the two nations “trust friends and reliable partners”. He expressed India’s support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus and for a bizonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

In his opening remarks during his meeting with Cyprus Foreign Minister Constatinos Kombos in New Delhi on Thursday, EAM Jaishankar noted that the ties between two nations have developed into a comprehensive partnership anchored in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a joint strategic vision. He extend-

ed a warm welcome to Constatinos Kombos and his delegation to India.

He said, “Your visit takes place at a time when Cyprus is preparing to assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January 2026. Strengthening ties with both Cyprus and the EU remains a key

priority for India, and we certainly value your steadfast support in that regard. India and Cyprus are trusted friends and reliable partners. Trust and time-tested are not easy adjectives to use nowadays, but certainly I think I can do that with a great deal of confidence and assurance for this relationship.”



EAM Jaishankar in meeting with Cyprus Foreign Minister Constatinos Kombos and others in New Delhi on Thursday.

Xi refutes Trump's claim that China was **NOT INVOLVED IN ENDING THAI-CAMBODIA CONFLICT**

BEIJING, Oct 30 (PTI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday refuted his US counterpart Donald Trump's claims at their summit meeting in Busan that China was not involved in establishing peace between Cambodia and Thailand.

At the much-publicised summit, Xi said that he appreciated Trump's "great contribution to the recent conclusion of the Gaza ceasefire agreement". However, Xi rebutted Trump's assertion that China was not involved in establishing peace between Cambodia and Thailand. Xi told Trump that Beijing had been helping the two Southeast Asian

neighbours to settle their border dispute "in our own way".

Xi's assertion outlines Beijing's redlines as China too seeks to play a dominant role in Southeast Asia, where it has established strong security and trade links with countries of the region, including Thailand and Cambodia. During the height of the Thailand-Cambodia confrontation, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held closed consultations to persuade the two countries to end their conflict.

During his current tour of Asia, Trump has presided over a 'peace deal' agreement ceremony between Thailand and Cambodia, who have a long-

standing border dispute. The US President termed the deal 'historic'.

After the ceremony, Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow refused to call it a peace agreement. "I would call it a pathway to peace" instead, he told the BBC.

While Trump called the agreement 'a monumental step', the title of the pact signed by the leaders of the two countries in the presence of Trump in Malaysia referred to it as a "Joint Declaration of Relations between Thailand and Cambodia".

Thai officials have taken pains not to call it a peace agreement, according to a BBC report.

Trump cuts tariffs on China after meeting Xi

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE, Oct 30 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump described his face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of Rare Earth elements and start buying American soybeans.

The President told reporters aboard Air Force One that the US would lower tariffs implemented earlier this year as punishment on China for its selling of chemicals used to make fentanyl from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. That brings the total combined tariff rate on China down from 57 percent to 47 per cent. "I guess on the scale from 0 to 10, with ten being the best, I would say the meeting was a

12," Trump said. "I think it was a 12."

Trump said that he would go to China in April and Xi would come to the US "some time after that." The President said he also discussed the export of more advanced computer chips to China, saying that Nvidia would be in talks with Chinese officials.

Trump said he could sign a trade deal with China "pretty soon." "We do not have too many major stumbling blocks," Trump said.

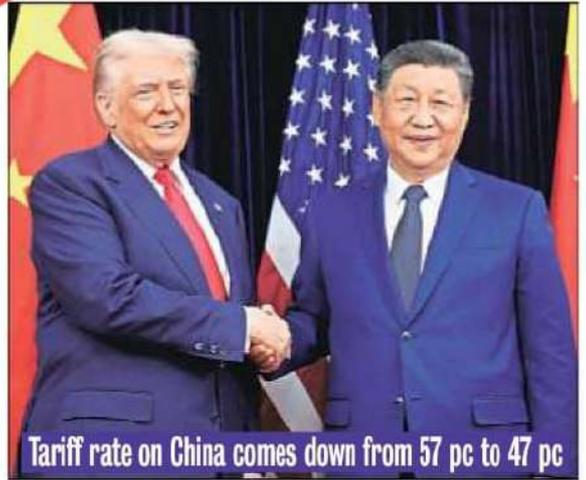
Sources of tension remain

Despite Trump's optimism after a 100-minute meeting with Xi in South Korea,

the US continues to be the potential for major tensions between the world's two largest economies. Both nations are seeking dominant places in manufacturing, developing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and shaping world affairs like Russia's war in Ukraine. Trump's aggressive use of tariffs since returning to the White House for a second term, combined with China's

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Beijing had agreed to allow the export of Rare Earth elements and start buying American soybeans



Tariff rate on China comes down from 57 pc to 47 pc

President Donald Trump, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands before their meeting at Gimhae International Airport in Busan, South Korea on Thursday. (AP/PTI)