

# China, India share far more common interests than differences, says Chinese FM

BEIJING, Mar 28 (ANI)

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasised that China and India share far more common interests than differences as he met with outgoing Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat in Beijing.

During their meeting on Thursday, both sides highlighted the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties amid a shifting global landscape.

According to a statement issued by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, in remarks during the farewell call, Wang commended Rawat's efforts and contributions to the development of China-India relations during his tenure. He noted that under the strategic guidance of the leadership in both nations, the relationship has "embarked on the right track of improvement and development". Wang reiterated Beijing's readiness to work with New Delhi to implement key understandings reached by the two countries' leaders.

Against the backdrop of a complex international environment, he said China is committed to



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi with outgoing Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat in Beijing.

viewing India as a development opportunity rather than a threat and as a co-operative partner rather than a competitor.

"As two major neighbouring countries and two major emerging economies, China and India share far more common interests than differences. Without modernisation of China and India, there will be no global modernisation," the statement read.

# Pakistan, IMF strike deal over disbursement of \$1.2 billion fund

ISLAMABAD, Mar 28 (PTI)

PAKISTAN and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) for the disbursement of approximately USD 1.2 billion under two separate arrangements.

The two sides successfully concluded the third review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), the IMF said on Saturday.

The IMF mission held talks with Pakistani officials in Karachi and Islamabad from February 25 to March 2, but left without an

agreement. The talks continued in virtual format, and an agreement was reached.

The fund confirmed the development through a statement, saying "IMF staff and the



Pakistani authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on the third review under Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility

(EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)."

"IMF reaches Staff-Level Agreement on the Third Review for the 37-month Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Second Review for 28-month arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)," Pakistan's Ministry of Finance said on X.

IMF mission chief Iva Petrova said, subject to IMF board approval, Pakistan will have access to about USD 1.0 billion (SDR 760 million) under the EFF and about USD 210 million (SDR 154 million) under the RSF.

# Adani Defence delivers 1st batch of 2,000 'Prahar' light machine guns to Army

NEW DELHI/GWALIOR, Mar 28  
(IANS)

ADANI Defence & Aerospace, a leading player in India's aerospace and defence, has delivered 2,000 indigenously manufactured 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) 7.62 mm to the Indian Army, marking a significant milestone in India's small arms manufacturing capability, it was announced on Saturday.

Looking ahead, the Gwalior facility is also geared to manufacture close quarter battle (CQB) weapons for the Indian



Armed Forces, further expanding India's indigenous small arms capability.

The historic delivery of the

first batch of LMGs was completed in seven months, 11 months ahead of the contracted schedule.

# Jaishankar meets Macron on sidelines of G7 Summit

PARIS, Mar 28 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Summit here and said he valued the discussion and his many insights.

The External Affairs Minister paid a formal visit to President Macron on Friday. "An honour to call on the President @EmmanuelMacron of France last night," Jaishankar said in a social media post on Saturday.

The External Affairs Minister said he conveyed the warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra



EAM Jaishankar interacts with French President Emmanuel Macron during a meeting on Friday night, in France. (PTI)

Modi. "Value the discussion and his many insights," Jaishankar added. He arrived in Abbaye des

Vaux-de-Cernay in France on Thursday to participate in the two-day G7 foreign ministers'

meeting with partner countries.

While India is not a G7 member, it has been invited as a partner country by France, the current chair of the powerful bloc.

In an address at a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in France on Thursday, Jaishankar flagged the concerns of Global South nations over energy, food, and fuel security, while underlining the urgent need for global governance reforms.

The External Affairs Minister also spoke about the importance of resilient trade corridors and supply chains against the backdrop of the uncertainties arising from the conflict in West Asia.



## Piyush Goyal calls for consensus-based decision making at WTO meet

NEW DELHI, Mar 28 (IANS)

**UNION** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has stressed the importance of consensus-based decision-making and addressing structural imbalances in global trade as WTO members deliberated on reform issues during the second day of the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14)

in Cameroon.

Leading the Indian delegation, Goyal said that consensus remains the bedrock of the WTO's legitimacy and cautioned against undermining the sovereign right of members to not be bound by rules they do not agree to.

Speaking on decision-making and past mandates, he stressed the need to rebuild trust among members to

overcome the current impasse, while calling for a comprehensive stocktaking of its underlying causes.

India also stressed that discussions must remain transparent, inclusive and member-driven, warning that fragmentation within the institutional framework would weaken the multilateral trading system, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

On ensuring a level-playing field, India highlighted the need to address asymmetries stemming from the Uruguay Round and prioritise long-pending issues such as food security, public stockholding (PSH), special safeguard mechanism (SSM) and cotton before taking up new subjects, according to the Ministry.

# Yemen's Houthis launch missile attack on Israel

DUBAI, Mar 28 (AP)

**ISRAEL'S** military said it intercepted a missile launched from Yemen toward Israel early Saturday, the first time it had faced fire from that country. The Iranian-backed Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack, which calls into question whether the rebel group backed by Tehran will again target commercial shipping travelling through the Red Sea corridor.

Sirens went off around Beer Sheva and the area near Israel's main nuclear research centre for the third time overnight Friday into Saturday as Iran and Hezbollah continued to fire on Israel overnight.

The Houthis have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014, and so far have stayed out of the war as the rebels have had an uneasy ceasefire for years with Saudi Arabia, which launched a war

against the group on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015.

Attacks on vessels during the Israel-Hamas war upended shipping in the Red Sea, through

which about USD1 trillion worth of goods passed each year before the war. The rebels also fired drones at Israel.

Israel struck Iran's nuclear *(Contd on page 5)*

## 5 Indians injured in UAE by debris: Report

DUBAI, Mar 28 (PTI)

**FIVE** Indians were injured in the UAE by the fall of debris in the vicinity of the Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) following interception of a ballistic missile by the country's air defence system, local

media reported on Saturday.

The Abu Dhabi Media Office in a social media post said the authorities confirmed that the incident resulted in injuries to five individuals of Indian nationality, ranging from moderate to minor.

"The competent authorities

urge the public to obtain information from official sources only, and to avoid circulating rumours or unverified information," it said.

Earlier, it reported that the authorities were responding to two fire incidents in the *(Contd on page 5)*

## Zelenskyy visits UAE for talks on security situation



DUBAI, Mar 28 (AP)

**UKRAINE** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the UAE and met his Emirati counterpart Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday, to discuss regional security in the Middle East.

“For Ukraine, this is also a matter of principle: terror must not prevail anywhere in the world. Protection must be sufficient everywhere,” Zelenskyy said in a post on X following his meeting with the Emirati leader. He said they discussed “the security situation in the Emirates, Iranian strikes, and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which directly affects the global oil market.”

The Emirates News Agency said the two leaders discussed “security developments in the region amid ongoing military escalation and their implications for regional and international peace and security, as well as their impact on international navigation and the global economy.”

During his visit to Saudi Arabia a day before, Zelenskyy said the two countries have agreed to “an important arrangement” on defence cooperation.

Zelenskyy, in a social media post Friday, said the document “lays the foundation for future contracts, technological cooperation, and investment”, providing no further details.

Zelenskyy said last week that Kyiv is helping the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan to counter drone attacks on their territory.