

Rubio to visit in May, India may host Quad meet

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: US secretary of state Marco Rubio will visit India next month, said ambassador Sergio Gor after a meeting that Rubio had with visiting Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri. This will be Rubio's first visit to India since he assumed office after the return of President Donald Trump to the White House.

Welcoming Misri to the White House, Gor said that the foreign secretary had a productive meeting with Rubio that focused on the bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad. "Secretary Rubio looks forward to visiting India next month!" Gor added in a post on X.

While the visit will offer an opportunity for a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation by both sides, diplomatic sources said efforts are on to also schedule a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers around Rubio's visit. No dates have been finalised yet either for Rubio's visit or the possible Quad meeting. However, both Japan and Australia are said to be keen



Misri with Rubio (centre) and Gor at the White House

on restarting high-level Quad meetings.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi on Friday and discussed developments in West Asia, including international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Stressing de-escalation, Motegi welcomed the ceasefire and expressed hope that a final agreement will be reached promptly through negotiations between the US and Iran. Gor had earlier announced an Indian trade delegation will visit the US later this month to resume negotiations for the bilateral trade agreement. Misri also met deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau and under-secretary of state for political affairs Allison Hooker.

2cr (13.2%) voters deleted, 13.4cr in UP's final poll roll

No. Dropped Almost Equals Lanka's Popn

Arvind.Chauhan @timesofindia.com

Lucknow: A chunk of the UP electorate nearly the size of Sri Lanka's population of 2.3 crore was removed from voter rolls during the 166-day special intensive revision (SIR) that came to a close Friday with the Election Commission publishing the final list of 13.39 crore voters.

While a little over two crore names (about 13.2% of the pre-SIR population) were deleted following hearings, the collated total represents an increase of 84 lakh over the draft rolls published on Jan 6, which had pegged the state's electoral strength at 12.55 crore voters. Chief electoral officer Navdeep Rinwa said Lucknow reported the most deletions among districts — over 9.1 lakh, constituting

STEEPEST FALL



around 22.9% of its pre-SIR electorate. Ghaziabad was a close second, with 20.2% failing to make the cut.

Prayagraj's electorate shrank 8.2 lakh (17.6%) and Kanpur 6.8 lakh (19.4%). Agra with 6.3 lakh deletions (17.7%), Meerut's 5.1 lakh (18.8%) and Bareilly's 4.5 lakh (13.4%) were other high-burn districts. Among assembly constituencies, Sahibabad registered over 3.1 lakh (30.3%) deletions, followed by Noida 1.8 lakh (23.8%), Lucknow North 1.5 lakh (31%), Agra Cantt 1.4 lakh (30.4%) and Allahabad North 1.4 lakh (34%).

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Noida, Gzb shed around 1 in 5 voters after SIR

Ashni.Dhaor@timesofindia.com

Noida: The two NCR districts of Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad now account for 37.7 lakh registered voters. The drive has downsized the electorate with 9.3 lakh deletions — 5.7 lakh in Ghaziabad and 3.6 lakh in Gautam Budh Nagar. The two districts are among the top five in UP in percentage terms to see a reduction in electorate size.

In Gautam Budh Nagar, the final roll recorded 15.1 lakh voters across its three assembly constituencies, up from 14.2 lakh in the draft list after around 86,000 new names were added during the extensive revision drive. The number is significantly lower than the 18.7 lakh registered voters the district had last year, with around 1 in five registered voters removed from the rolls.

Two assembly constituencies in NCR recorded the highest deletions in absolute numbers — Sahibabad with 3.1L names and Noida with 1.8L

By assembly constituency, the second-highest deletions in GB Nagar were in Dadri at 1.2 lakh. There were around 55,000 deletions in Jewar. Among the three assembly segments, Dadri now has a higher voter count at 6.1 lakh than Noida's post-SIR 5.9 lakh. The district's final electorate comprises 8.2 lakh male voters, 6.8 lakh female voters and 50 third-gender voters. The gender ratio stands at 828.

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Jaishankar, Japan Foreign Minister Motegi discuss Hormuz security

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (PTI)

AS THE world grappled with the cascading fallout of the West Asian conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday spoke to his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi largely focusing on passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Motegi also conveyed Japan's condolences on the killing of a number of Indians in the conflict. Since the hostilities began on February 28, eight Indian nationals have been killed and several others injured in the region.

"Good to speak with FM Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan. Discussed developments in West Asia, including international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Appreciate his condo-

lences for the Indian lives lost in the conflict," Jaishankar said on social media.

Motegi said he and Jaishankar discussed the current situation in West Asia including ensuring the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Japanese Foreign Minister welcomed the recent announcement by the US and Iran on a two-week ceasefire.

"He also stated that what matters most is that de-escalation, including the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, is steadily achieved, and expressed his hopes that a final agreement will be reached promptly through the negotiations between the United States and Iran," according to a Japanese readout.

Motegi further stated that he

would like to closely coordinate with the international community, including India on the issue.

"In response, Minister Jaishankar stated that India will continue to work closely with Japan so that de-escalation of the situation would be realised, including the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz," the Japanese readout noted.

"Both Ministers concurred that Japan and India will continue to communicate closely with each other. Furthermore, both ministers concurred on promoting multilateral cooperation, including Japan and India, to enhance the resiliency of energy and resource supply," it said.

Global oil and gas prices had surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz.

US STRIKES DEGRADED IRANIAN MILITARY, BUT CAPABILITIES REMAIN

Photos: AP, Reuters

Independent data from Armed Conflict Location & Event Data, a US-based group that tracks conflicts, shows Iranian strikes persisted at a relatively steady and uninterrupted pace since the war began on Feb 28. Here's a look at what the US says has been targeted, has been degraded or remains from Iran, by the numbers:

AIR DEFENCE

80% of Iran's air defence systems destroyed

1,500+ air defence targets struck

An Iranian cluster munition missile explodes in the sky over northern Israel earlier this week



450+ ballistic missile storage facilities struck



800 one-way attack drone storage facilities struck



'All of these systems are gone,' said Gen Dan Caine. Yet, Iran 'can still shoot,' conceded defence secy Pete Hegseth.

The remaining **20%** of defences are unaccounted for

NAVY
90%+ of Iran's regular Navy fleet sunk

Only half of the Revolutionary Guard's small attack boats sunk

95%+ of Iran's naval mines destroyed

WEAPONS FACTORIES
90% of Iran's weapons factories attacked

80% of Iran's nuclear industrial bases hit

150 Iranian ships at the bottom of the ocean

However, the remaining 5% of naval mines are still a threat. Revolutionary Guard have reportedly placed mines in Strait of Hormuz

'We destroyed Iran's defence industrial base,' said Caine. But Caine didn't rule out Iran rebuilding or obtaining weapons elsewhere. Trump warned of tariffs for countries arming Iran

Source: AP



US, Iran ceasefire talks today

Vance leaves for Pak, no word on Iranian delegation



Displaced families extend their hands for donated food beside the tents they use as shelters after fleeing Israeli bombardment in Beirut, Lebanon. (AP/PTI)

■ **By Sajjad Hussain**
ISLAMABAD, Apr 10 (PTI)

US VICE PRESIDENT JD Vance on Friday left for Pakistan to par-

ticipate in peace talks with Iran to end their war, even as there was no official word about the arrival of the Iranian delegation in Islamabad, which has been

Ex-Iranian Foreign Minister killed

DUBAI, Apr 10 (AP)

A FORMER Iranian Foreign Minister who once suggested Tehran could seek a nuclear weapon died late on Thursday after being wounded in an airstrike last week, Iranian state television reported.

Kamal Kharazi had served as a Foreign Minister for Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami, then as a Foreign Affairs Adviser to the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

placed under high security.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while announcing a two-week
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GAGANYAAN: ISRO **conducts second** **integrated** **air drop test**

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (PTI)

SPACE agency ISRO has successfully conducted the second integrated air drop test (IADT-02) for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission at the space station in Andhra's Sriharikota.

The system is essential to ensure safe recovery of the crew module -- the capsule



in which astronauts sit during a human flight -- during re-entry and landing.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh congratulated ISRO for successfully conducting the test. The IADT-02 follows the successful completion of the first IADT, which took place on August 24, 2025 at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Air drop tests recreate the last leg of a spacecraft's return to the Earth. An aircraft or helicopter drops the spacecraft from a height to test various systems under different scenarios.

Chinese President Xi meets Taiwan's Oppn leader Cheng; Says peace common wish

BEIJING, Apr 10 (PTI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Friday said peace is the common wish of the people of both sides as he met Taiwan's Opposition leader Cheng Li-wun in Beijing ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to China next month. Cheng is the first Kuomintang (KMT) chairperson to visit China in a decade amid Beijing's efforts to ramp up military and diplomatic pressure on Taiwan to reintegrate with the mainland. China claims Taiwan as part of it and pledges to reunite it with the mainland.

Meeting Cheng in Beijing, Xi said, "compatriots on both sides are both Chinese, and we need peace, we need development, we need communication, and we need cooperation. This is a com-



mon wish."

He expressed full confidence that people across the Taiwan Strait would ultimately get closer and get together.

"The historical trend that compatriots of both sides of the strait will get closer and get together will not change, this is a certainty of history, and we are fully confident," Xi said in the beginning of his meeting with Cheng, the

Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Their meeting marked the first time a sitting KMT chairperson had met with the Communist Party leadership since November 2016, when then-KMT chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu visited the mainland.

Her meeting with Xi is being closely watched around the world as the Chinese leader stepped up efforts to reunify Taiwan, strictly enforcing its One-China policy since he took over in 2012, giving high military and diplomatic priority to it.

Cheng's visit is also regarded as significant as it comes ahead of US President Donald Trump's trip to Beijing on May 14-15, during which Taiwan is expected to figure prominently in his talks with Xi.