

India, Japan exchange of memorandum of cooperation in health, medical devices

NEW DELHI, May 6 (PTI)

THE Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) on Wednesday exchanged a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) in the field of health and medical devices.

The development took place during a meeting between Union minister Jitendra Singh and Kimi Onoda, Japan's minister of state for science and technology policy.

In a statement, Singh said, "India and Japan share a natural synergy in science and technology. While Japan brings advanced technological capabilities, India offers a vast pool of talented human resources.

"Together, we can accelerate innovation in frontier areas and translate research into impactful societal outcomes."

During the meeting, a letter of intent on cooperation in quantum science and technology was also signed between the Cabinet Office of Japan and DST.

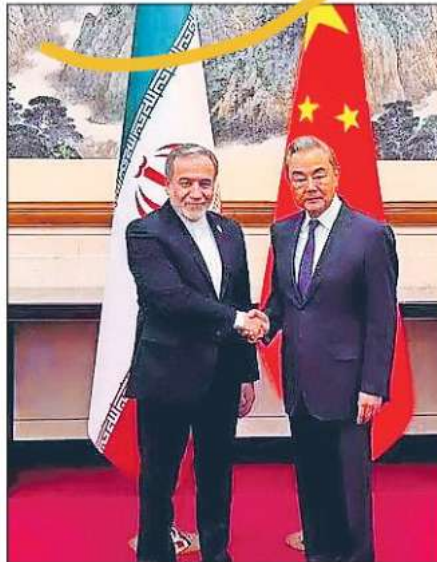
China asks Iran to reopen Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible

Comprehensive ceasefire needed: China to Iran

BEIJING, May 6 (PTI)

CHINA on Wednesday called on Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz "as soon as possible" as it appreciated Tehran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, a prime demand of US President Donald Trump to end the war against the Islamic Republic.

"On the issue of the Strait, the international community shares a common concern over restoring normal and secure navigation through the Strait, and China hopes relevant parties will respond as soon as possible to the strong call from the international community," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi during their talks here.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Araghchi during their talks here.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday told his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi that China was "deeply distressed" over the war that has lasted more than two months and said a "comprehensive ceasefire" was needed.

Significantly, Wang appreciated Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons. Trump has been demanding Iran hand over stockpiles of enriched uranium and a 20-year commitment from Tehran not to develop nuclear weapons.

China appreciates Iran's not-to-develop-nuclear-weapons commitment, and affirms Iran's legitimate right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, Wang told Araghchi.

India, South Korea likely to hold FTA review talks on May 25

NEW DELHI, May 6 (PTI)

INDIA and South Korea are expected to hold negotiations on May 25 regarding the review of the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), which was implemented in January 2010, an official said.

The deliberations are important as India has suggested Korea to consider negotiating a fresh bilateral trade agreement to make it more contemporary and address concerns of the trade deficit. "The officials of the two countries are meeting on May 25 for the FTA review," the official said. Last month, in a bilateral meeting here, Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal made the suggestion to negotiate a fresh FTA to his Korean counterpart Yeo Han-koo. The Minister, on multiple occasions, flagged India's concerns over the widening trade deficit between the two countries.

India's exports to Korea declined 9.3 per cent to USD 5.81 billion in 2024-25 from USD 6.41 billion in 2023-24. Imports fell marginally by 0.34 per cent to USD 21 billion in 2024-25, leaving a trade deficit of USD 15.19 billion. It was USD 8 billion in 2020-21. The two countries aim to double their two-way commerce to USD 54 bn by 2030 from the current USD 27 bn while ensuring a balanced trade relationship.

Trump threatens Iran with bombing if it doesn't reopen Strait

Iran launches new system to regulate shipping through Strait: Report

TEHRAN, May 6 (IANS) — IRAN has launched a new system to control ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported, continuing a maritime standoff that now involves a US blockade and threats of military action.

Under the new rules, all ships planning to pass through the narrow waterway must receive permission via email from Iranian authorities, reports 'Xinhua news agency', quoting state-run Press TV. Iran is calling the initiative a "sovereign governance system."

■ By E Eduardo Castillo and Elena Becatoros
WASHINGTON, May 6 (AP)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump threatened Iran with more bombing on Wednesday if it doesn't reopen the Strait of Hormuz after a report that an agreement is emerging to end war.

Trump posted on social media that the war with Iran could soon end and oil and natural gas shipments could restart. But that all depends on Iran accepting a reported agreement that the US President did not detail.

"If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump said.

Trump said it was "perhaps a big assumption" that Iran would agree to the terms being offered by the United States.

TRUMP PAUSES PROJECT FREEDOM, CLAIMS GREAT



PROGRESS FOR FINAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN: President Donald Trump has suspended "Project Freedom," to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, claiming progress in negotiations with Iran toward an agreement to end the war.

In a post on Truth Social on Tuesday, Trump said, "Great progress has been made toward a complete and final agreement with representatives of Iran."

"Based on the request of Pakistan and other countries, the tremendous Military success that we have had during the campaign against the country of Iran and, additionally, the fact that great progress has been made toward a complete and final agreement with representatives of Iran, we have mutually agreed that, while the blockade will

Iran has not attacked UAE in recent days: Top military command

TEHRAN, May 6 (IANS) — IRAN'S main military command, Khatam al-Anbiba Central Headquarters, said that the country's Armed Forces have carried out no missile or drone operation against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the past days, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Headquarters spokesman Ebrahim Zolfaghari made the announcement on Tuesday (local time), stressing that if Iran had taken such actions, "we would announce it decisively and explicitly."

He rejected a report by the UAE that accused Iran of launching drone and missile attacks against the country, calling on the UAE's officials and statesmen not to let their country fall into the trap laid by the United States and Israel, reports Xinhua news agency. Zolfaghari also urged them not to wage a "media invasion" against Iran and hurl "unjustified accusations" against the country, noting that the UAE has become one of the main bases of the United States and Israel in the West Asia region and is home to a major part of their troops and military equipment.

remain in full force and effect. Project Freedom (The Movement of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz) will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the agreement can be finalised and signed," he said.

Project Freedom was launched on Monday to escort ships, stranded due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, out to safety. Trump had announced the

operation on Sunday and the US Central Command began implementing it the next day.

However, the Project led to friction in the vicinity of the narrow seaway, a key route for transporting one-fifth of the global oil supplies, with the UAE claiming that its ships were attacked by Iran. The US also claimed to have destroyed several Iranian small boats.

US, Gulf allies threaten Iran with sanctions in UN proposal if it

US, Gulf allies threaten Iran with sanctions in UN proposal if it doesn't release Hormuz chokehold

UNITED NATIONS, May 6 (AP)

THE United States and its Gulf allies have proposed a UN resolution threatening Iran with sanctions or other measures if it doesn't halt attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz, stop imposing "illegal tolls," and disclose the placement of all mines to allow freedom of navigation.

The draft Security Council resolution, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, also demands that Iran "immediately participate in and enable" United Nations efforts to establish a humanitarian corridor in the strait for the delivery of vital aid, fertiliser and other goods.

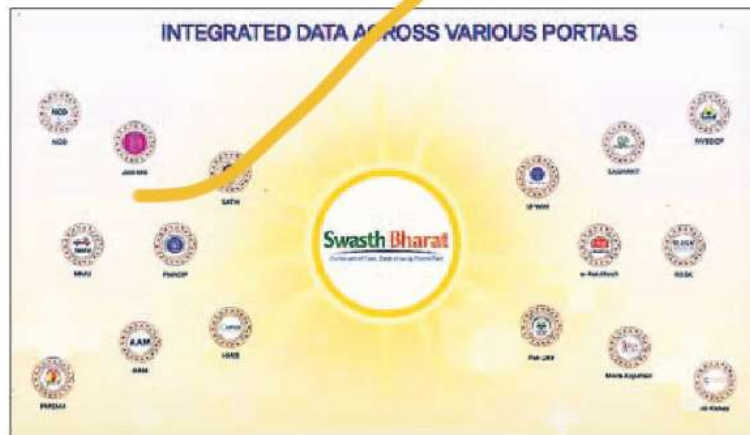
It is the latest diplomatic effort by the US and its Gulf allies after a watered-down resolution aimed at opening the strait was vetoed by China and Russia hours before Washington and Tehran announced a temporary ceasefire in early April.

India launches Swasth Bharat Portal to integrate multiple digital health systems

NEW DELHI, May 6 (IANS)

THE Government launched Swasth Bharat Portal to integrate multiple national health programme applications into a single interoperable platform, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The application has been designed as an API-based aggregator platform to eliminate siloed systems, fragmented datasets, sub-optimal utilisation of resources and duplication of efforts. It will reduce duplicate data entry and ease administrative burdens on frontline health workers. It enables interoperability and convergence, creating a unified digital layer across programmes. Envisioned as a one-stop integrated platform, it brings multiple national health programmes onto a single interface, eliminating the need for



multiple logins and repetitive data entry, while enhancing efficiency at all levels.

India's frontline health workers, including accredited social health activists (ASHAs), auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), community health officers (CHOs), and medical officers (MOs), often spend considerable time navigating multiple appli-

cations for program reporting.

The newly-launched portal addresses this issue by providing a single platform for easy access, along with data visualisation tools and the use of data at the local level for monitoring and evidence-based planning.

The platform is Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)-compliant and supports inte-

gration with Ayushman Bharat Health Account for seamless and secure exchange of patient health records.

It is designed to evolve into a comprehensive and interoperable digital health ecosystem, further integrating with national registries such as the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR).

The Ministry estimated that efficiency gains from consolidation will extend to an infrastructure savings of about 20-30 percent, reductions in repetitive data entry of roughly up to 40 per cent and similar declines in human-resource duplication.

The statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda unveiled the application during the 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity.

India continues its ban on bilateral sports ties with Pak

...But Allows Participation In Global Events

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has decided to continue its ban on bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan, while permitting participation of its athletes in multilateral tournaments in the country, the sports ministry said on Wednesday. The policy, which was first introduced in Aug last year, has again drawn a clear distinction between bilateral series and international competitions governed by global sporting bodies.

In a circular issued to Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and national federations (NFs), the ministry reiterated that Indian teams

will neither travel to Pakistan for bilateral competitions nor host Pakistani teams for such events in India. "In so far as bilateral sports events, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the statement said.

However, the govt clarified that the restriction does not extend to multilateral competitions such as world championships or continental events. Indian athletes will continue to compete in international tournaments featuring Pakistani participants, regardless of venue. Likewise, Pakistani athletes will be allowed to compete in events hosted in India under the framework of international sports federations.

The officials emphasised adherence to the Olympic Charter's principles of inclusivity as the country prepa-

res to host 2030 Commonwealth Games and is pursuing bids for major events like 2036 Olympics and 2038 Asiad.

"To position India as a preferred destination for hosting international sporting events, the visa process for sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies shall be simplified. In respect of office-bearers of such bodies, a multi-entry visa shall be granted on priority basis for the duration of their official tenure, subject to a maximum period of five years," the statement added.

The govt's current stance follows tensions after the Pahalgam terror attack in 2025 and controversy surrounding India's participation in the Asia Cup in the UAE. Bilateral cricket between the two nations has remained suspended since 2012-13.

Short paper, long odds: Iran peace hinges on 1-pg memo

Tehran Wants 'Fair Deal' In 14-Point MoU

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The United States and Iran are edging closer to a diplomatic breakthrough, with both sides working to finalise a one-page memorandum that could open the door to longer-term negotiations and end the three-month-long global ordeal.

Senior US officials told Axios a draft document — a 14-point MoU — is now closer to finalisation than at any point since hostilities began in late Feb, following a flurry of back-channel contacts and mediated exchanges over the past 12 hours.

Leaks about the one-page memo have come from only Washington, with Iran remain-

TALK OF DEAL LIFTS SENSEX, RUPEE

➤ Days before Xi-Trump meeting, China's foreign minister Wang Yi meets Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, calls for swift reopening of Strait of Hormuz 'as soon as possible'

➤ Possibility of US, Iran inching closer to deal pulls down crude prices sharply, boosts rupee against \$, lifts Sensex 941pts; global markets later turn jittery after Trump's renewed threat

➤ An email permitting transit will be a pre-condition for ships to pass through Strait of Hormuz, reports Iran's state-run Press TV

ning circumspect about it. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran — which appears to hold the diplomatic upper hand despite being militarily pulverised — is holding out for a “fair and comprehensive agreement”, without directly confirming acceptance of the draft memo.

The proposed memo, seemingly an initiative from the US — whose president Donald Trump is trying to extricate himself from a war he expected to be short, swift and easy — is reported to be deliberately thin, a framework rather than a full treaty. But its elements are far-reaching.

'Massive hit to US infra in Iran strikes'

Iranian airstrikes have damaged or destroyed at least 228 structures or pieces of equipment at US military sites across West Asia since the conflict began, hitting hangars, barracks, fuel depots, aircraft and key radar, communications and air defence equipment, as per a Washington Post analysis of satellite imagery. The destruction is far larger than what has been acknowledged by the US govt or previously reported. **P16**

At its core is a mutual de-escalation deal: While the US would roll back economic and military pressure, lift sanctions, unfreeze Iranian assets and end its blockade, Iran would accept significant curbs on its nuclear programme.

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Smoke rises following an Israeli strike in southern Lebanon's Yohmor village on Wednesday

Photo: Reuters