

Jaishankar outlines five point blueprint for global stability in meet with Rubio



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks during an event hosted by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor at Roosevelt House in New Delhi. Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, and others, are also present. (PTI)

- India demands respect for international law and is against “weaponisation” of market shares and resources, Jaishankar told Rubio

NEW DELHI, May 24 (PTI)

INDIA and the US on Sunday sought to signal a reset in their strained ties as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his American counterpart Marco Rubio held frank discussions on thorny issues such as trade, visas, energy security, cross-border terrorism and the implications of the West Asia conflict.

Rubio, who is on a four-day visit to the country, described New Delhi as a major power and dismissed observations that the US-India relationship has lost its two-decade momentum, firmly asserting that the engagement will grow much stronger

by the end of the current administration’s tenure. In a clear statement of India’s foreign policy priorities, Jaishankar outlined a strategic five-point blueprint for global stability, asserting that India advocates dialogue and diplomacy to address conflicts, supports unimpeded maritime commerce, demands respect for international law and is against “weaponisation” of market shares and resources.

In their first comprehensive dialogue after the India-US ties witnessed major downturn, the two sides primarily focused on vigorously bolstering cooperation in areas of defence, critical minerals, high technology and economic engagement.

“The US-India relationship has not lost any momentum. I understand why some people might say that. I don’t understand, but I understand some people say that. This is not about India. This is about the United States in terms of trade,” Rubio

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Details of potential US-Iran deal emerge as US claims progress

CAIRO, May 24 (AP)

THE United States is close to reaching a deal with Iran that would end the war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and see Iran give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, with the details and timelines to be worked out later, regional officials told 'The Associated Press' on Sunday.

Iran has not publicly committed to giving up its uranium - a key demand of US President Donald Trump - and the sides have seemed close to a deal in recent weeks without clinching one. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a visit to India, said that "significant progress, although not final progress, has been made" in the negotiations, and that the world would no longer need to fear Iran getting a nuclear weapon, without elaborating.

Iran's embassy in India responded to Rubio on social media, saying Tehran has an "inalienable" right to nuclear technology. Iran has always insisted its program is peaceful while enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian told state TV they were ready "to assure the world that we are not after a



nuclear weapon."

The Strait's reopening would begin to address a worldwide energy crisis sparked by the surprise US and Israeli bombardment of Iran on Feb. 28, which led Tehran to effectively close the crucial waterway. Prices have spiked for oil, gas and several downstream products, jolting the world economy. Experts say it would take several weeks or even months for shipping and prices to recover to pre-war levels.

The US in recent weeks had threatened to resume its bombing campaign, which would have likely prolonged the closure and led to

Iranian retaliation against Israel and US-allied energy producers in the Gulf.

The emerging deal would include Iran giving up uranium: On Saturday, Trump said a deal had been "largely negotiated," after calls with Israel and other regional allies. "Final aspects and details of the Deal are currently being discussed, and will be announced shortly," he said on social media.

Under the potential deal, Tehran would agree to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, according to the two regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

One official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations, said that how Iran would give up its highly enriched uranium would be subject to further talks during a 60-day period. Some would likely be diluted, while the rest would be transferred to a third country, potentially Russia, the official said. Russia has offered to take it.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60 per cent purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Heatwave to persist over N-W India for next 4-5 days: IMD

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH, May 24 (IANS)

HEATWAVE conditions are expected to continue across large parts of Northwest India over the next four to five days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintaining a red alert for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and a yellow alert for Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

Meteorologist Akhil Srivastava told IANS that a western disturbance was currently centred over Jammu & Kashmir, which is likely to trigger thunderstorm activity in the hilly regions, especially Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"Today, a western disturbance was centred over Jammu & Kashmir. In view of this, thunderstorm activity is likely in the hilly regions, mainly across Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand," he said. Srivastava added that there

was also a possibility of a hailstorm at a few isolated places in Jammu.

Srivastava further noted that isolated thunderstorm activity may also occur in the plains,



People take shelter under the shade of a tree on a hot summer day, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. (PTI)

"There is also a possibility of a hailstorm at a few isolated places in Jammu. Keeping this in mind, an orange alert has been issued for J&K," he said.

but it is unlikely to bring any major relief from the prevailing heat.

The heatwave conditions currently prevailing over northwest

India are expected to continue for the next four to five days, as there is little likelihood of any significant change in maximum temperatures," he added.

Meanwhile, heatwave conditions continued across Chandigarh, Punjab and parts of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday, with residents reporting rising temperatures and difficult day-time conditions.

A Chandigarh resident told IANS that the increasing heat was becoming a concern not just for people but also for animals and the environment.

"The heat is increasing a lot, and the temperature is rising significantly. We all should take care of ourselves as well as birds, animals, and trees," the resident said.

The IMD has advised people in affected regions to avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during peak afternoon hours, stay hydrated, and take precautions against heat-related illnesses.

India, Russia advance military cooperation at high-level Army-to-Army talks

NEW DELHI, May 24 (ANI)

INDIA and Russia held discussions on further deepening their military partnership during the 5th Sub Working Group (Land) meeting.

Sharing the details in a post on X, the Indian Army said that the meeting took place under the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on Military & Military Technical Cooperation, marking another significant milestone in strengthening defence ties between the Indian Army and the Russian Land Forces.

The post added, "Both sides held productive deliberations aimed at enhancing mutual learning, operational synergy and bilateral military capabilities, further reinforcing the long-standing India-Russia defence

partnership."

As per the ADGPI, the delegation also visited the Shatrujeeet Brigade to explore additional avenues of defence cooperation.

As India and Russia continue to intensify the footprint of their "privileged strategic partnership," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during his visit to India in May, revealed that Moscow and New Delhi have engaged in "detailed discussions" spanning the high-stakes sectors of defence manufacturing, space exploration, and fertiliser cooperation.

Addressing a press conference in the capital following the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Lavrov underscored the depth of the diplomatic engagement, noting that he held an extended dialogue with PM Modi and External

Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

These deliberations, he noted, were anchored in the foundational agreements established during the India-Russia summit held in New Delhi last December between Russian President Vladimir Putin and PM Modi.

"During the talks with the Foreign Minister of India, S. Jaishankar, and during a lengthy reception and conversation with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, we discussed the key areas of our privileged strategic partnership," Lavrov stated.

The Russian Foreign Minister confirmed that the roadmap for the future includes the joint production of weapons and intensified collaboration in the space sector, alongside critical efforts to stabilise the supply of fertilisers.

India sends protective kits, medical supplies to Africa amid Ebola outbreak

NEW DELHI, May 24 (IANS)

AMID the Ebola outbreak in Africa, India on Thursday dispatched the first tranche of urgent medical supplies and protective kits to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar expressed India's commitment to supporting Africa in responding to the emerging Ebola public health emergency.

"India dispatched the first tranche of urgent medical supplies and protective kits to Africa CDC today. Committed to support Africa in responding to the emerging Ebola public health emergency," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.



A view of the first tranche of urgent medical supplies and protective kits being dispatched to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) amid the emerging Ebola public health emergency, on Sunday.

(ANI)

Ebola disease (EBOD) is a rare but severe illness in humans and is often fatal.

Meanwhile, the Indian Government on Sunday advised Indian citizens, currently resid-

ing in or travelling to Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, to strictly follow public health guidance issued by local authorities and maintain heightened precautions, in light of the reported outbreak of Ebola disease in these countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the situation to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

"In view of the evolving situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other affected countries, and in line with WHO's recommendations, Government of India advises all Indian citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan until further notice," Health Ministry said.