

# Adani Green commissions world's largest battery storage system

AHMEDABAD, May 26 (IANS)

**ADANI** Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) on Tuesday said it has commissioned a cumulative 3.37 gigawatt-hour (GWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), the world's largest single-location battery storage deployment outside China and among the fastest executed globally.



The deployment includes the 1.37 GWh capacity commissioned in March 2026, taking AGEL's total operational

BESS capacity at Khavda, Gujarat to 3.37 GWh, the Adani Group company said in a statement.

“Large-scale energy storage will play a defining role in the next phase of India's clean energy transition. As renewable energy capacity scales rapidly, storage infrastructure becomes critical  
*(Contd on page 3)*

# TO CURB SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS

## 'Govt to install anti-drone systems within 6 months'

BIKANER, May 26 (PTI)

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that the Government is in the process of installing anti-drone systems within the next six months as part of increased vigilance to curb the smuggling of narcotics and weapons through drones.

However, he stressed that since drones land in the Indian territory, close coordination with the local police and civil administration is essential to identify those receiving such consignments and to neutralise the threats effectively.

A multi-layered "four-point security grid" involving the Border Security Force (BSF), Armed Forces, the local administration and citizens is essential to ensure comprehensive border security, he added.

"It is our responsibility to remain strongly vigilant to curb the smuggling of narcotics and weapons through drones and other modern equipment. The Government is taking steps to install anti-drone systems within the next six months," Shah said while addressing BSF personnel at the Sanchu border outpost in Rajasthan's Bikaner district.

The Union Minister said strong coordination among security forces, civil authorities and alert citizens can create a robust security framework along the borders.

"Unless this four-dimensional coordination is achieved, the vision of a fully secure border cannot be realised," he said.

He added that while monitoring threats originating across the border remains crucial, equal attention must be paid to internal elements aiding such threats within the country. He said strict legal action should be taken against those involved.

Referring to ongoing efforts, the official said a series of meetings is being held with state Governments and local administrations in border regions, including Bihar, Gujarat, Tripura and West Bengal, to strengthen coordination and implement the "four-point security grid".

Shah praised the BSF for its role during Operation Sindoor, saying the force not only guarded the border firmly but also boosted the morale of the people living in frontier districts.

Shah paid tribute to more than 2,000 BSF personnel who have laid down their lives since the force was raised.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma during a Sentry Conference at the Sanchu border post of the Border Security Force in Bikaner.

(PTI)

# PM reaffirms stability, prosperity in Indo-Pacific in meetings with foreign ministers of Aus, Japan

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

INDIA and Australia will continue to work for a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday after he held discussions with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi also met Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and reaffirmed the vital role of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in advancing peace, stability and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Earlier in the day, India hosted the Quad foreign ministers' meeting here, chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, which was attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi.

“Happy to receive Senator

Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. We discussed the growing India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in areas such as defence, trade, technology and ensuring supply chain resilience. India and Australia will continue to work for a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific,” Modi posted on X.

In another post, Modi said, “Delighted to receive Mr Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Reaffirmed the vital role of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in advancing peace, stability and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.”

Seeking to inject fresh momentum into the grouping, the Quad on Tuesday announced energy security and critical minerals frameworks to mitigate supply chain disruptions and unveiled major measures to upgrade maritime surveillance and port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific.

# INDIA STRONGLY REJECTS 'UNWARRANTED' references to J&K in China-Pak statement

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday strongly rejected "unwarranted" references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan, reiterating that the Union Territory and Ladakh "have been, are and will" remain an integral part of the country and that no other nation has the locus standi to comment on it.

India's position is consistent and well known to the concerned parties, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan," he said.

The joint statement was issued

during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China.

"The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same," Jaiswal said.

He was responding to media queries on the issue. India also criticised the mentioning of projects under the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the joint statement, and said New Delhi rejects any moves to reinforce or legitimise Islamabad's illegal occupation of territories.

The CPEC passes through Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir. "As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which

are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

Randhir Jaiswal said this has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times.

"We have also seen references to the so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' between China and Pakistan. As the two countries do not share any boundary, the question of so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' does not arise," he said.

"India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement between Pakistan and China," he added.

# India, Canada looking at concluding trade agreement talks by year end

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

**INDIA** and Canada are looking at concluding negotiations for a free trade agreement by the end of this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. Goyal is in Canada for a three-day official visit, starting May 25. He is leading a delegation of industry leaders from over 100 companies.

“Our Prime Ministers have tasked us not only with completing the free trade agreement with a comprehensive outlook before the end of this year or earlier -- but also tripling our trade from a current USD 17 billion level to USD 50 billion by 2030,”

Goyal said, while jointly addressing the media in Ottawa with Canada’s Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu on Monday.

Goyal also called on Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney. Both sides expressed optimism about the early conclusion of the trade pact negotiations.

In a social media post, Carney said, “We’re negotiating a free trade deal with India. This will be a game changer for Canadian workers and businesses - unlocking a massive new market. We’re working fast - I met Minister @PiyushGoyal to review our progress so far and explore the opportunities ahead for both our countries in energy, agri-food,

# IAF's Surya Kiran Team turns 30

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

THE Indian Air Force's elite Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), an ensemble of iconic red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, known for performing jaw-dropping manoeuvres in skies, completed 30 years on Tuesday.

From its debut in 1996, it has been part of over 800 breathtaking displays across India and abroad, including marquee events in the country - Aero India and Air Force Day.

"Celebrating 30 years of precision, passion and pride. The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force commemorates its 30th Anniversary on 26 May, 2026, at Air Force Station Bidar, Karnataka," the IAF posted on X.

"From its debut in 1996 to over 800 breathtaking displays across India and abroad, SKAT continues to inspire with unmatched



professionalism, precision flying and teamwork. Living by their motto 'Sadaiva Sarvottam' meaning 'Always the Best', the team symbolises the spirit and excellence of the Indian Air Force," it said. The IAF also shared a video clip marking the anniversary, in which the force described SKAT

as "the ambassadors of the Indian Air Force". On May 11, the team performed over the skies of Somnath in Gujarat, to mark the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav which commemorated 75 years since the inauguration of the rebuilt temple by the then President Rajendra Prasad.

# QUAD ramps up Indo-Pacific surveillance

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

**THE** QUAD grouping on Tuesday expanded cooperation in critical minerals and energy while unveiling new measures to boost maritime surveillance and port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific against the backdrop of

China's growing military posturing in the region.

The new measures were announced following a meeting of the grouping's Foreign Ministers here, chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio,

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

We affirm our support for a free and open Indo-Pacific that allows countries to develop resilience and strengthen capacity to determine their own paths. To that end, we concur on further

enhancing cooperation and advancing concrete initiatives to deliver tangible benefits to the region, the Ministers said in a joint statement.

The QUAD Foreign Ministers called for uninterrupted flow of global commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, criticised Iran's

imposition of tolls on commercial shipping in the region and voiced serious concern over the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea.

"We reiterate our strong opposition to any destabilising or unilateral actions, including by force or coercion, that threaten peace

and stability in the region," the Ministers said in the statement, sending a message to China.

"We express our serious concerns regarding dangerous and coercive actions, including interference with offshore resource (Contd on page 3)

## 'Indo-Pacific must remain driver for global growth'

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

**THE** Indo-Pacific must remain a driver for global growth and stability, and the QUAD must work towards ensuring maritime security and promoting economic choices in the region, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks at the QUAD Foreign Ministers' meeting, he specifically called for "trusted and transparent" partnerships to bring peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific. The New Delhi meeting was attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, with Jaishankar presiding over it.

"Our focus will clearly be on the Indo-Pacific, which is the specific limit of the QUAD," the External Affairs Minister said in his televised opening remarks.

**The QUAD Foreign Ministers called for uninterrupted flow of global commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, criticised Iran's imposition of tolls on commercial shipping in the region and voiced serious concern over the situation in East China Sea and South China Sea**



From left, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a joint press conference after attending the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. (PTI)

## India, US sign landmark pact to secure critical minerals supply chain amid China concerns

NEW DELHI, May 26 (PTI)

**INDIA** and the US on Tuesday firmed up a key framework for cooperation in ensuring steady supplies of critical minerals, a move that comes amid growing concerns over China's export controls on rare earth elements and strategic metals vital for global technology supply chains.

The framework on securing supplies of mining and processing of critical minerals was signed on the sidelines of the QUAD Foreign Ministers' meeting here.

"It is something very timely and critical," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in presence of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

"This framework aims to deepen our cooperation across the entire critical minerals and rare earth supply chain, including mining, processing, recycling and related investment,"

he said.

The External Affairs Minister said the framework will strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains, help finance projects, and ensure effective management of critical minerals and rare earths.

"It is one more sign of how close our cooperation has been in a world where there are so many challenges but also so many opportunities," he said.

In his remarks, Rubio highlighted the strategic partnership between the US and India and its importance for the respective national interests of both countries.

"It is a tangible example of that," Rubio said referring to the inking of the pact.

"We are two countries that have strategic interests in ensuring reliable long-term access to critical minerals and supply chains that are important for our innovation economy," he said.