

Dassault Aviation ties up with Tata for Rafale fighter fuselage production in India

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems Limited have signed four Production Transfer Agreements to manufacture the Rafale fighter aircraft fuselage for India and other global markets.

Describing it as a significant step forward in strengthening the country's aerospace manufacturing capabilities and supporting global supply chains, Dassault Aviation said the facility represented a vital investment in India's aerospace infrastructure and would serve as a critical hub for high-precision manufacturing.

Under the agreement, Tata Advanced Systems will set up a production facility in Hyderabad for the manufacture of key structural sections of Rafale, in-



The first fuselage sections are likely to roll off the assembly line in 2028. REUTERS

cluding the lateral shells of the rear fuselage, the complete rear section, the central fuselage, and the front section.

The first fuselage sections are likely to roll off the assembly line in 2028, with the facility expected to deliver up to two complete fuselages per month.

"For the first time, Rafale fuselages will be produced outside France. This is a decisive step in streng-

thening our supply chain in India. Thanks to the expansion of our local partners, including TASL, one of the major players in the Indian aerospace industry, this supply chain will contribute to the successful ramp-up of the Rafale and, with our support, will meet our quality and competitiveness requirements," said Eric Trappier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dassault Aviation.

Sukaran Singh, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, said: "This partnership marks a significant step in India's aerospace journey. The production of the complete Rafale fuselage in India underscores the deepening trust in Tata Advanced Systems' capabilities and the strength of our collaboration with Dassault Aviation."

Modi to inaugurate Kashmir's first all-weather rail link with Delhi today

Vande Bharat service to Srinagar to begin tomorrow; projects estimated at ₹46,000 crore to be launched; security beefed up for PM's first visit to J&K since Pahalgam attack; Chenab and Anji Khad bridges have been hailed as engineering marvels

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kashmir is set to finally have a rail link with the rest of the country, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Srinagar-Jammu-Delhi rail link on Friday at Katra in Udhampur district of Jammu. The Vande Bharat Express between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar will begin regular operations from Saturday, officials said.

Boost to infrastructure

Mr. Modi, in a post on X, said: "Tomorrow, 6th June is indeed a special day for my sisters and brothers of Jammu and Kashmir. Key infrastructure projects worth ₹46,000 crore are being inaugurated which will have a very positive impact on people's lives."

Considered an engineering marvel, the Chenab rail bridge will improve connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar, he said. "The Anji bridge stands tall as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge in a terrain that is challenging," he added.



Security forces at the Nowgam railway station in Srinagar ahead of the launch of J&K's first Vande Bharat train on Friday. IMRAN NISSAR

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which will now be fully operational, ensures all-weather connectivity. "The Vande Bharat trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar will boost spiritual tourism and create livelihood opportunities," the Prime Minister said.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also shared his anticipation on X. "Visited the tallest railway bridge in the world, the Chenab Bridge, to review arrangements for the visit of the Hon PM Modi ji tomorrow. Tomorrow is a landmark day for J&K when, finally, the valley will be connected to the rest of the coun-

try by a railway link to be inaugurated at the hands of the Hon PM," he said.

"I have been waiting for this moment for a long time. This rail project began when I was in the 7th or 8th class. Now, even my children have started working after completing school and college. But better late than never," Mr. Abdullah said, expressing hope for the positive impact of the project on the region's economy. "Whenever the highway gets blocked, the airlines start selling tickets of ₹5,000 for ₹20,000. Such issues will be solved from now on. Our horticulture produce like cherry and apple will be ferried."

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw clarified that a direct rail service between Srinagar and Delhi would commence in September once platforms 5 and 6 are ready at the Jammu railway station. Meanwhile, from Saturday, following the inauguration by the Prime Minister, two pairs of Vande Bharat Express will begin regular operations between Katra and Srinagar.

Train schedule

Following the inauguration, two pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains – 26404/26403 and 26401/26402 – will run on the Srinagar-Katra-Srinagar route with intermediate stops at Banihal. The 26404 train will depart Srinagar at 8 a.m., halt at Banihal at 9.02 a.m., and reach Katra at 10.58 a.m. The return service (26403) will leave Katra at 2.55 p.m., reach Banihal at 4.40 p.m., and arrive in Srinagar at 5.53 p.m. These trains will run six days a week, with no run on Wednesdays.

After inaugurating the train service, Mr. Modi is expected to visit the deck

of the Chenab bridge around 11 a.m., followed by a visit to the Anji Khad bridge. The Chenab rail bridge, which stands 359 metres above the riverbed – 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower – is being hailed as the world's highest railway arch bridge. The 1,315-metre-long structure, designed to withstand wind speeds of up to 260 kmph, is built at a cost of ₹1,486 crore.

The Anji Khad bridge, meanwhile, is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge. Towering 331 metres above the riverbed and stretching 725 metres, it features 96 high-tensile cables and a 193-metre inverted Y-shaped pylon.

Central Reserve Police Force personnel have been deployed for security across the USBRL, especially on the Katra-Baramulla stretch and around the Chenab bridge. The Army, Railway Protection Force, and Government Railway Police are involved in the security arrangements. This visit marks Mr. Modi's first trip to J&K since the Pahalgam terror attack.

Maoist leader Sudhakar killed in Bijapur encounter

Shubhomoy Sikdar

RAIPUR

In a “significant blow” to the Maoist leadership, security forces gunned down Gautam, alias Sudhakar, of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) Central Committee in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district on Thursday, the police said. The Central Committee is the outfit’s highest decision-making body.

Sudhakar, 67, carried a reward of ₹40 lakh on his head, announced by the Chhattisgarh government. He was killed a fortnight after the death of CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Kesava Rao alias Basavaraju in another security operation.

“Senior Maoist cadre, Central Committee Member (CCM) Gautam, alias Sudhakar, was neutralised in an exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists in the National Park area of Bijapur District. One AK-47 rifle,

Facing the heat

Bodies of 186 Maoist cadres have been recovered in the Bastar Range in 2025 so far, according to a police statement

Major encounters in 2025:

February 9: 31 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur

March 20: 30 Maoists killed in two operations in Bastar

April-May: 31 Maoists killed in 21-day-long operation along the Kareguttalu Hill

May 21: 27 Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, the general secretary of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), gunned down in Narayanpur



Gautam alias Sudhakar, who was killed in an encounter on Thursday.
THE HINDU ARCHIVES

along with a large quantity of other explosive materials, arms, and ammunition, was also recovered during the search operation,” P. Sundarraj, Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range), said.

‘Ideological trainer’

According to the police, Sudhakar was responsible for various violent incidents that resulted in the deaths of numerous tribal civilians and security per-

sonnel. He was in charge of the tech team and the Regional Political School that carries out the indoctrination of new cadres for the CPI (Maoist).

“As the in-charge of the Maoist ideological training school, he [Sudhakar] was involved in radicalising the youth with violent and anti-national ideologies,” Mr. Sundarraj said.

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Unease in India as Pak to chair, co-chair UNSC anti-terror panels

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

PAKISTAN'S APPOINTMENT to key counter-terrorism bodies at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) — chair of the sanctions committee against Taliban, vice-chair of counter-terrorism panel formed after 9/11, and a working group on the UN sanctions regime — has left many red faces in New Delhi.

According to sources, there is a “sense of disquiet” and “unease” in South Block, since this goes contrary to India's efforts to portray Pakistan as the epicentre of terrorism — just over a month after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which was followed by Operation Sindoor that led to four days of military confrontation between India and Pakistan.

Last month, India sent multi-party delegations to various foreign capitals, including all current and upcoming members of the UNSC, in an attempt to rally support for its war against terror emanating from Pakistan.

Sources said Pakistan was appointed to these key panels on May 29, but the matter was made

public in the last couple of days, while the Indian teams were touring these countries. An Indian delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor visited New York last month, and is again in Washington DC for engagements with the US Congress, think tanks and media.

Appointment to these panels must have the concurrence of both permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC. The development signals that Pakistan has been able to get its way, with the help of China and other members of the UNSC.

Significantly, a high-level Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by Senate Chairman and former Pakistan PM Yousuf Raza Gilani, concluded a visit to the UN headquarters in New York earlier this week. The delegation held a series of meetings with senior UN officials and diplomats from various member states.

Pakistan has also sent a high-level multi-party political delegation to New York, Washington DC, London, Brussels and Moscow, led by its former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, to canvas for support in its favour.

Islamabad will now chair the UNSC committee established un-

der Resolution 1988 (2011), which oversees the implementation of sanctions against the Taliban. It has also been named vice chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), which monitors implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001), a core component of the UN's global counter-terrorism architecture.

Additionally, Pakistan will serve as co-chair of two important subsidiary bodies: the Informal Working Group on Documentation and the newly formed Working Group on Sanctions. The documentation group works to enhance the UNSC's transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness, while the sanctions group is tasked with evaluating and improving the structure and effectiveness of the UN's sanctions regimes.

With Pakistan's appointment to these key UNSC counter-terror panels, sources said there is a “real risk” of Islamabad trying to project India as a source of terrorism, especially in Balochistan. The counter-terror committee could ask for reports on terrorist activities in Balochistan.

While this is concern for Delhi, sources said Algeria is the

chair of the committee, while France and Russia are also vice-chairs with Pakistan. “So we have some checks, through our friends and strategic partners, trying to keep Pakistan's moves in check,” said sources.

India has friends on the Taliban sanctions committee, too, where Guyana and Russia are vice-chairs. The working group on sanctions has Greece as a co-chair. This is important since India has been trying to get a number of Pakistan-based terrorists sanctioned, while Beijing and Islamabad have been blocking such moves.

New Delhi is hoping that these co-chairs and vice-chairs will act as a counter-balance and counter-weight to keep Pakistan's anti-India propaganda moves in check.

Sources said the most important counter-terrorism committee, under UNSC Resolution 1267, is, however, led by Denmark as chair and Russia and Sierra Leone as co-chairs. Earlier, India chaired the UNSC 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee in 2022, responsible for monitoring and implementing sanctions against individuals and entities associated with the two outfits.

Jaishankar stresses need to boost India-Central Asia links

More resources are required for that, the External Affairs Minister says, presses for intensifying trade through Chabahar port; he also calls for 'mutual settlement of trade' in national currencies

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

More efforts and resources need to be invested in improving India's connectivity with Central Asia, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday highlighting the need to intensify trade through the Chabahar port in Iran.

At the India-Central Asia Business Council meeting ahead of the fourth India-Central Asia Dialogue scheduled for Friday, Mr. Jaishankar expressed support for "mutual settlement of trade" in national currencies.

"We are discussing this under the Joint Working Group on Chabahar Port under the India-Central Asia platform," said Mr. Jaishankar at the event organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), referring to the requirements to energise the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and greater use of Chabahar port to reduce travel distance and costs between India and Central Asia. Mr. Jaishankar spoke at the event which was also addressed by Murat Nur-



S. Jaishankar and Kazakhstan Deputy Prime Minister Murat Nurtleu signing an MoU to strengthen bilateral ties. @DRSJAISHANKAR/X

tleu, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan; Sirojiddin Muhridin, Foreign Minister of Tajikistan; Rashid Meredov, Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan; and Saidov Bakhtiyor Odilovich, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.

At Friday's dialogue, the Ministers are expected to discuss trade, connectivity, technology, and development cooperation. "They will also share perspectives on challenges to regional security and other regional and global issues of mutual interest," said the Ministry of External Affairs in an announcement regarding the Minister-level meeting. The Foreign Minister-

level dialogue is being seen as significant as it comes a month after India conducted Operation Sindoor against terror targets in Pakistan and reached out to the Taliban administration in Afghanistan.

'Come up with ideas'

Mr. Jaishankar further urged the business chambers to come up with ideas for enhancing bilateral ties between India and Central Asia ahead of a possible India-Central Asia leadership summit that he said could be held "sometime in the not so distant future". In the near future, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel for the Shanghai Cooperation Or-

ganization (SCO) meet in Tianjin, China. The first India-Central Asia summit was held in virtual mode on January 27, 2022 when Mr. Modi had hosted the heads of governments of the Central Asian countries. The third meeting of the Foreign Ministers was held during December 18-20, 2021 in New Delhi.

"I would say closer engagements between our banks and financial sector will definitely strengthen our economic interaction. Some beginnings have been made in terms of opening of Special Rupee Vostro Accounts in Indian banks by Central Asian banks and there has also been some discussions about use of UPI [Unified Payment Interface]. I would certainly support that very strongly as also the steps we could take to facilitate mutual settlement of trade in our national currencies," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar said India-Central Asia bilateral trade had touched \$2 billion and added the figure did "not reflect full potential". "The need to address this is today more urgent because of the uncertainties of the international economy," he said.

As Lavrov plans India visit, Putin aide ruffles feathers on mediation

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected to visit New Delhi this month, even as a controversy brewed over Russia repeating U.S. President Donald Trump's claim, which India has denied, that Washington mediated the India-Pakistan cease-fire last month.

First visit after ceasefire

This is the first visit to India by a Foreign Minister from one of the UN Security Council's permanent member nations since Operation Sindoor. Diplomatic sources suggested that Mr. Lavrov could travel as early as next week, to discuss strategic and economic ties with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Significantly, Mr. Lavrov



Sergey Lavrov

will be arriving in India after holding a meeting with Pakistan's Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi in Moscow on Tuesday, and before a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin in July if both leaders travel to the upcoming BRICS summit in Brazil.

On Thursday, however, a comment by Mr. Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov raised

eyebrows. While speaking about Mr. Trump's conversation with Mr. Putin on Ukraine, he mentioned that other issues were also discussed, including the Middle East, "as well as the armed conflict between India and Pakistan, which has been halted with the personal involvement of President Trump".

When asked about this, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that it had "clarified [India's] position fair and square" about the four-day conflict after India launched strikes on Pakistan's terror infrastructure in Operation Sindoor on May 7. "The cessation of hostilities (May 10) happened bilaterally and was done by the two DGMOs [Directors General of Military Operations]," the MEA spokesperson said on Thursday. It is unclear

whether Mr. Ushakov simply repeated Mr. Trump's claims during the conversation with Mr. Putin *ad verbatim*, or whether Russia had any other source of information on the subject, but officials are expected to clarify India's position again during Mr. Lavrov's visit.

Apart from discussing the details of Operation Sindoor, where the success of Indian military hardware – including those supplied by Russia, such as the S-400 air defence systems – was seen, Mr. Lavrov is expected to call for speeding up Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the sources said.

The EAEU is a common market and customs union that has been in talks with India since 2015.

A Eurocentric reset, a gateway for India

In a diplomatic move, with far-reaching consequences, United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer's new agreement with the European Union (EU) signals a powerful "reset" of their relations, resuming cooperation on food standards, fishing rights, defence and border checks. While this development may appear Eurocentric, it opens a gateway to possibilities and challenges for India that demand urgent attention.

The U.K. and the EU are among India's most important trade and diplomatic partners, and their renewed alignment could redraw India's global strategy map. For Indian exporters, this could simplify compliance and revive supply chain fluidity. For policymakers, this presents an opportunity to strengthen strategic alliances. For the diaspora, this could reshape education and migration prospects. In short, the U.K.-EU reset is not just a regional recalibration. It is a moment that could redefine India's trade corridors, diplomatic engagements, and soft power leverage in the West.

A reshaping of India's export dynamics

The renewed collaboration in areas such as food safety, customs coordination and fisheries is poised to significantly influence Indian exports to both regions. In FY2024, India's exports to the EU stood at \$86 billion, while exports to the U.K. totalled \$12 billion, highlighting their strategic role in India's external trade.

Post-Brexit, Indian exporters have grappled with navigating two separate regulatory regimes, especially in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, seafood, and agro-based products. A harmonised U.K.-EU regulatory framework could simplify compliance, reduce redundancy and lower operational costs. India, a significant



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The U.K.-EU reset has the potential to redefine India's trade, diplomatic engagements and soft power leverage in the West

supplier of generic medicines to the U.K., fulfilling over 25% of its pharmaceutical needs, would benefit from a unified approval mechanism that accelerates clearances and enhances cost efficiency.

Similarly, Indian seafood exports, valued at ₹60,523.89 crore (approximately \$7.38 billion) in FY2024, could face fewer trade barriers if the food standards and fishing policies are aligned. However, tighter common standards might challenge Indian Small and Medium Enterprises, which often lack the capital and technical know-how. To remain competitive, India must strengthen its export ecosystem through initiatives such as the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

A stronger voice in global diplomacy

Beyond trade, the geopolitical dimensions are significant for India. A more synchronised U.K.-EU foreign policy, particularly in defence and the Indo-Pacific, offers India an avenue to enhance its multilateral coordination with the EU. India already operates under the EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025, and in 2022, it renewed its Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the U.K., covering cyber security, climate action, and maritime security.

As the U.K. realigns its policies with the EU, India could benefit from cohesive western support on global platforms, such as the United Nations, the G-20, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Strategic ties with France, Germany and the U.K. are vital to India's defence modernisation and technological ambitions, especially regarding naval power.

Notably, India-France bilateral trade reached \$15.1 billion in 2024-25; landmark defence

agreements with Germany and the U.K. have focused on technology transfer and joint development. A coordinated U.K.-EU defence policy could open doors for deeper trilateral or multilateral engagements in the Indo-Pacific, where shared concerns over China's assertiveness persist.

Additionally, India's leadership in the Global South – spotlighted during its G-20 presidency in 2023 – can be amplified by leveraging the U.K.-EU thaw to drive collective action on climate finance, digital infrastructure and global governance reforms. A unified West could become a more dependable ally for India if it engages with India, strategically and assertively, in the future

Enhancing trade and talent power

On the mobility front, India has the world's largest diaspora, which includes large communities in the U.K. and across the EU. In 2024, the U.K. issued more than 1,10,000 student visas to Indian nationals, placing India among the top sources of international students.

While post-Brexit restrictions limited access for Indian professionals to EU markets, renewed U.K.-EU border coordination could enable partial mobility, creating a semi-integrated talent corridor. This could also bolster India's migration pacts with Germany, France and Portugal by embedding them within a broader U.K.-EU framework.

These converging shifts – trade liberalisation, mobility reintegration, and foreign policy alignment – present rare diplomatic and economic opportunities. To seize these opportunities, India must accelerate reforms, modernise its export infrastructure, and assert its role in global governance.

Trump revives controversial travel ban against 12 nations

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump signed a new travel ban targeting 12 countries that comes into effect on Monday, reviving one of the most controversial measures from his first term. The move bans all travel to the U.S. by nationals of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen, according to the White House.

Mr. Trump said on Wednesday that the measure was spurred by a makeshift flamethrower attack on a Jewish protest in Colorado that U.S. authorities blamed on a man they said was in the country illegally.

Mr. Trump also imposed a partial ban on travellers from seven other countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos,



Gates closed

The U.S. President's revival of immigration policy from his first term bans citizens of 12 countries from travelling to the U.S., while entry restrictions are imposed on those from 7 countries

Ban applicable to citizens of:	Partial entry restrictions to affect nationals from:	Countries affected by the 2017 restrictions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Afghanistan ■ Myanmar ■ Chad ■ The Republic of Congo ■ Equatorial Guinea ■ Eritrea ■ Haiti ■ Iran ■ Libya ■ Somalia ■ Sudan ■ Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Burundi ■ Cuba ■ Laos ■ Sierra Leone ■ Togo ■ Turkmenistan ■ Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Iraq ■ Syria ■ Iran ■ Sudan ■ Libya ■ Somalia ■ Yemen

Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. Some temporary work visas from those countries will be allowed. The ban will not apply to athletes competing in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which the U.S. is co-hosting with Canada and Mexico, as well as the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Mr. Trump's order said. With seven of the 12 countries banned being from Africa, the African Union said the move would

harm "people-to-people ties, education exchange, commercial engagement, and broader diplomatic relations" and urged "constructive dialogue".

The ban could yet face legal challenges, as have many of the drastic measures Mr. Trump has taken since his return to office.

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U.S. President revives controversial travel ban

The ban will not apply to athletes competing in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which the U.S. is co-hosting with Canada and Mexico, as well as the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Mr. Trump's order said.

"The recent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, has underscored the extreme dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted," Mr. Trump said in a video message from the Oval Office posted on social media platform X. "We don't want them."

Chad's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul said the government was "surprised" by the ban and said it "completely disregards" N'Djamena's commitment to tackling terror.

In Myanmar, one student affected by the ban only got her U.S. study visa two days ago and said it would hit many young people's dreams of escaping oppression.

Trump holds 'positive' talks with Xi, to resume U.S.-China talks over trade

Xi urged Trump to withdraw the 'negative measures' the U.S. has taken against China, while Trump 'welcomed Chinese students' to study in America; the Republican also said Xi 'graciously' invited him and first lady Melania Trump to China

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that his first call with Chinese leader Xi Jinping since returning to office was "very positive," announcing that the two countries will hold trade talks in hopes of breaking an impasse over tariffs and global supplies of rare earth minerals.

"Our respective teams will be meeting shortly at a location to be determined," Mr. Trump wrote on his social media platform after the call, which he said lasted an hour and a half.

Treasury Secretary



Comparing the bilateral relationship to a big ship, Xi told Trump that two sides need to steer carefully in a good direction. REUTERS

Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will represent the U.S. side in negotiations.

The Republican Presi-

dent, who returned to the White House for a second term in January, also said Mr. Xi "graciously" invited him and first lady Melania Trump to China, and Mr. Trump reciprocated with

his own invitation for Mr. Xi to visit the United States.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Mr. Trump initiated the call between the leaders of the world's two biggest economies.

Xinhua, the Chinese state media outlet, said Mr. Xi asked Mr. Trump to "withdraw the negative measures" that the U.S. has taken against China.

It also reported that Mr. Trump said Chinese students were welcome to study in the U.S., although his administration has vowed to revoke some of their visas.

Comparing the bilateral relationship to a big ship, Mr. Xi told Mr. Trump that the two sides need to steer

carefully in a good direction and for them to "eliminate all kinds of interference and even sabotage," according to *Xinhua*.

Mr. Trump had declared one day earlier that it was difficult to reach a deal with Mr. Xi.

"I like President XI of China, always have, and always will, but he is VERY TOUGH, AND EXTREMELY HARD TO MAKE A DEAL WITH!!!" Mr. Trump posted on Wednesday on his social media site.

Trade negotiations between the United States and China stalled shortly after a May 12 agreement between the two countries to reduce their tariff rates while talks played out.

US vetoes Security Council demand for Gaza ceasefire

Fifth US veto since the start of war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 5

THE UNITED States on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza because it was not linked to the release of hostages, saying it would embolden Hamas militants.

All 14 other members of the council voted in favor of the resolution, which described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as “catastrophic” and called on Israel to lift all restrictions on the delivery of aid to the 2.1 million Palestinians in the territory. The resolution before the U.N.’s most powerful body also did not fulfill two other U.S. demands: It did not condemn Hamas’ deadly attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, which ignited the war, or say the militant group must disarm and withdraw from Gaza.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea, speaking to the council immediately before the vote, said the resolution would undermine the security of Israel, a close U.S. ally, and diplomatic efforts to reach a ceasefire “that

reflects the realities on the ground.” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the resolution would only have empowered Hamas. “Hamas could end this brutal conflict immediately by laying down its arms and releasing all remaining hostages,” he said in a statement.

Israel’s UN Ambassador Danny Danon thanked the United States for refusing to abandon the hostages. He said the resolution’s failure to make the release of hostages a condition for a ceasefire would have put all the pressure on Israel and handed Hamas “time, leverage and political cover.” But the US veto of the resolution — its fifth since the start of the war — was roundly criticized by other members of the council, who accused the United States of providing Israel with impunity.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel has armed some local clans of Palestinians in Gaza in the fight against Hamas. The announcement came hours after a political opponent criticised him for arming unofficial Palestinian groups.

WITH REUTERS INPUTS

Bengaluru police chief out; FIR registered against RCB

CM suspends all jurisdictional police officials over stampede during victory celebration, orders a judicial probe by former HC judge; FIR also names State Cricket Association and event managers

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

A day after a stampede claimed the lives of 11 and left 56 injured at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here during revelry to celebrate the victory of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in IPL-2025, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Thursday that Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda and all police officials responsible for the jurisdiction where the stadium is, have been suspended, pending inquiry.

The Chief Minister also announced a judicial inquiry by a one-man commission headed by former Karnataka High Court judge Michael D'Cunha.

The State government



Chaos impact: Damaged grilles seen at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, a day after the RCB victory celebration. SUDHAKARA JAIN

also told the High Court that the probe into the case would be handed over to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Earlier in the day, the city police registered an FIR against the RCB franchise; DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.,

an event management company; and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for culpable homicide, illegal assembly, and other serious charges.

Addressing a press conference after a special meeting of senior Ministers, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that “*prima facie* de-

reliction of duty and negligence of police officials were noted and a decision to suspend them was taken”. He also said police officials had been directed to take stringent action and arrest representatives of RCB, the KSCA, and DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

According to a complaint filed by Girish A.K., police inspector of Cubbon Park station, the KSCA had approached the police on June 3, even before the tournament final was held, seeking permission to hold a celebratory event at the stadium on June 4 evening if RCB won the match.

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