

Belousov assures Rajnath of timely delivery of S-400 systems to India

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a comprehensive bilateral meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov in Qingdao, China, over cooperation in defence and aviation sectors between the two countries.

In Thursday's meeting, a discussion was also held over the timely delivery of S-400 air-defence systems to India, and the Russian Minister assured his Indian counterpart of the same, sources said.

In Indian service, the S-400 has been officially named "Sudarshan Chakra" after the mythological weapon of Lord Krishna. The S-400 has capability of engaging targets at ranges



An initial order of five S-400 air defence systems was placed and three were delivered. The remaining two units are on track. AFP

of up to 400 km.

An initial order of five S-400s was placed by India and three have been delivered. The remaining two S-400 units are on track, with deliveries expected to be completed in the stipulated time frame, sources said. Of the remaining two units, one is expected to be

delivered next year and the final system in 2027.

Both sides agreed to a bilateral cooperation in defence and other sectors such as aviation. A detailed discussion was also held to further strengthen the supply chain between the two countries. They also showed interest in ex-

change of technologies in the aviation sector.

During Operation Sindoor, the Russian-made S-400 systems played a critical role in intercepting and neutralising missiles and drones launched by Pakistan.

India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumf, which can intercept fighter jets, ballistic missiles, and drones, making it a vital part of India's arsenal.

Mr. Singh is in Qingdao to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting on June 25-26.

On the sidelines of the multilateral summit, he will also hold bilateral talks with his counterpart from China.

Ax-4 docking successful, Shukla sets foot in ISS

IAF Group Captain is the pilot of the much-delayed mission and will spend two weeks in the space station; he is one of the four astronauts designated to take part in Gaganyaan mission

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force created history on Thursday afternoon by becoming the first Indian to enter the International Space Station.

As the Dragon crew capsule carrying Mr. Shukla and three other astronauts as part of Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) circled earth, he greeted people back home with a “*Namaskar* from space”. The spacecraft then docked with the ISS at 4.01 p.m. IST as it passed over the north Atlantic Ocean.

For Mr. Shukla, this is the first step to a more ambitious mission as he is one of the four astronauts designated to take part in Ga-



Mission update: Shubhanshu Shukla and his fellow astronauts being welcomed aboard by the ISS crew. PTI

ganyaan, India's first human spaceflight mission. The Indian Space Research Organisation, which expects to conduct the first crewed flight under this mission no earlier than 2026, paid more than ₹500 crore for the Ax-4 mission to include Mr. Shukla and Prasanth Nair, another Gaganyaan designate who

was part of the back-up crew for the Ax-4 mission.

On Thursday's flight, Mr. Shukla was the mission pilot. A live videolink from NASA showed the spacecraft approaching the station, with the docking sequence being completed at 4.15 p.m. At the lift-off on Wednesday evening from Florida, Axiom Space –

which is orchestrating the mission – had said the capsule would attempt docking in about 28 hours.

“Shubhanshu stands at the threshold entrance of International Space Station... as the world watches with excitement and expectation,” Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh wrote in a post on X.

The four astronauts aboard will spend the next two weeks at the ISS conducting scientific experiments, including eight from ISRO, and helping with the station's upkeep.

Axiom Space had targeted a May 29 launch date for Ax-4 but had to postpone it multiple times.

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Pahalgam excluded: India declines to sign SCO statement

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in China, and pushed for including tougher language on terrorism that would reflect the Indian position, particularly since the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the document on Thursday as it did not mention the Pahalgam attack but included militant activities in Balochistan. Pakistan and China were trying to divert attention from terrorism, and the document would have diluted India's position on critical issues, particularly terrorism and regional security, sources added.

Randhir Jaiswal, Ministry of External Affairs spo-



Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun. ANI

kesperson, said: "We understand that the member countries could not reach consensus on certain issues and hence the document could not be finalised. India wanted concerns on terrorism reflected in the document which was not acceptable to one particular country. As such the joint statement was not adopted."

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India declines to sign SCO statement



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking at the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao, China. ANI

In his address at the SCO meet in Qingdao, Mr. Singh said a terror group, The Resistance Front, had carried out a “dastardly and heinous attack” on innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, killing 26 innocent civilians, including a Nepali national. Victims were shot after they were profiled based on their religious identity.

The TRF, a proxy of the UN-designated Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility for the attack, he said.

‘No place for double standards’

“Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups. Dealing with these challenges requires decisive action. It is imperative that those who sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism for their narrow and selfish ends must bear the consequences. Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide shelter to terrorists. There should be no place for such double standards. SCO should not hesitate to criticise such nations,” Mr. Singh said.

“India’s zero tolerance for terrorism was demonstrated through its actions. It includes our right to defend ourselves against terrorism. We have shown that epicentres of terrorism are no longer safe and we will not hesitate to target them.”

The pattern of the Pahalgam attack was similar to the LeT’s previous attacks in India, Mr. Singh added.

On the sidelines of the SCO, Mr. Singh met the Defence Ministers of Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

In response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India on May 7 launched “Operation Sindoor” to dismantle cross-border terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

India seizes 39 containers with Pak-origin goods routed via UAE

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

THE ANTI-SMUGGLING arm of the Finance Ministry, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), has seized 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonnes of goods worth around Rs 9 crore, of Pakistani origin, that were being routed to India via the UAE in the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attacks, the government said in a statement on Thursday.

This came after the government had terminated direct trade with Pakistan, marked by the closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari on April 24, following the Pahalgam terror attack. Later the government banned direct or indirect import or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan on May 2.

"DRI launched an operation codenamed Operation Deep Manifest, targeting the illegal import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE. The operation has so far led to the seizure of 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonnes of goods valued at approximately Rs 9 crore. One of the partners of an importing firm was arrested on June 26," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. *The Indian Express* had reported on May 16 that the DRI had



File

OPERATION DEEP MANIFEST

■ This came after the government had terminated direct trade with Pakistan, marked by closure of Integrated Check Post at Attari on April 24, following the Pahalgam terror attack

begun seizing in-transit goods originating from Pakistan after Customs authorities increased scrutiny in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The Ministry of Commerce had last year raised the issue of Pakistani dates and dry fruits entering India through the UAE after the two countries signed a free trade agreement in 2022.

Despite these stringent measures, some importers have attempted to bypass the policy by "misdeclaring the origin of goods" and manipulating related shipping documents, the statement said. "In two separate cases, these consignments were seized at

Nhava Sheva Port. The consignments were falsely declared as being of UAE origin, masking their Pakistani provenance. However, investigations revealed that these goods actually originated from Pakistan and were merely trans-shipped via Dubai for import into India," the Ministry said.

The government stated that investigations conducted so far had uncovered cargo movement trails from Karachi Port, Pakistan, and transshipments at Jebel Ali Port, Dubai — en route to Indian ports. Furthermore, money transfers and financial linkages with Pakistani entities were traced, raising serious concerns about illicit financial flows.

"The entire modus operandi was orchestrated through a complex web of transactions involving Pakistani and UAE nationals, aimed at obscuring the true origin of the goods — namely Pakistan." According to estimates by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), around \$10 billion worth of Indian goods reach Pakistan via trans-shipment hub routes.

Tensions between the two countries — particularly after the 2019 Pulwama attack — reduced bilateral trade from Rs 4,370.78 crore in 2018–19 to Rs 2,257.55 crore in 2022–23. However, trade rebounded to Rs 3,886.53 crore in 2023–24, the highest in the past five years.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

World Bank says 5.75% Indians live in abject poverty: How to read this data

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

IN RECENT months, some notable data have been released on India's poverty rate, that is, the ratio of people who are officially considered poor.

On April 25, a Government of India press release used the World Bank's "Poverty and Equity Brief" of April 2025 to state that "171 million [people were] lifted from extreme poverty in 10 years".

Earlier this month, the World Bank came out with an update on the methodology, based on which it stated that just 5.75% of Indians now live under abject poverty, down from 27% in 2011-12.

What do latest World Bank data show?

According to new estimates, India was not as poor in the past as previously estimated. For instance, in 1977-78, India's poverty level was not 64% but 47%.

The second key change was the adoption of a new poverty line — \$3 a day. With this, the proportion of Indians living in abject or extreme poverty has fallen from 27% in 2011-12 (around 34.44 crore Indians) to just under 6% (around 7.5 crore) in 2022-23.

As heartening as this news is, there are several common misconceptions about the interpretation of this data.

For instance, should the \$3-a-day poverty line be multiplied by 85 (the current market exchange rate for US\$ and the Indian rupee) to arrive at Rs 255 a day? That would be incorrect, because the \$3 poverty line is calculated on a purchasing power parity (PPP) basis.

So, what is a poverty line and how is it calculated?

A poverty line is simply the level of income used as a cut-off point for deciding who is poor in any economy. The context (both time and location) is critical to arriving at a meaningful poverty line.

For instance, a salary of Rs 1,000 a month may not have been considered poor in 1975, but today that income (Rs 33 a day) will barely buy anything. Whether that money is earned in a big city, where the cost of living is higher, or a small town also matters.

Governments, especially in developing and poor countries, want to identify the extent of poverty in their countries to shape

TABLE 1

VARYING ESTIMATES OF INDIA'S POVERTY RATE (IN %)

METHOD	2011-12	2022-23
Tendulkar methodology@	21.90	9.9*
World Bank's latest poverty line for lower middle-income countries [int-\$4.2 a day (Rs 87 a day)]#	57.70	23.90
World Bank's latest poverty line for upper middle-income countries [int-\$8.30 a day (Rs 171 a day)]#	92.50	82.10
Bhalla and Bhasin (using World Bank's int-\$1.9 a day poverty line)^	12.20	2.00

@ The last officially recognised methodology on poverty estimates (2009) | # 2021 PPP estimates | ^ 2017 PPP estimates **Note:** In purchasing power parity terms, 1 international dollar is equal to Rs 20.6

Source: World Bank, Bhalla et al (2024), Indian Express Research

TABLE 2

INDIA'S POVERTY LINE (PER PERSON PER DAY), IN CONTEXT

₹62	World Bank's poverty line for abject poverty in India. In 2022-23, 7.5 crore Indians (5.25% of total population) lived at this level or less
₹63	Price of a litre of Amul milk in 2022
₹87	World Bank's poverty line for "lower middle-income" countries, such as India. In 2022-23, 34.23 crore Indians (that is, 23.89% of all Indians) lived below this daily expenditure level
₹171	This is the World Bank's poverty line for "upper middle-income" countries. In 2022-23, 117.57 crore (or 82.7% of India's population) lived below this daily expenditure level

welfare policies. The data also help governments, policymakers and analysts understand whether existing policies have actually worked over time to reduce poverty.

Why is India using the World Bank's poverty line?

Historically, India was a leader in poverty estimation and data collection, influencing the rest of the world in how to study poverty. However, India's last officially recognised poverty line was in 2011-12, built on a 2009 formula recommended by Delhi School economist Suresh Tendulkar.

Since then, the method has not been updated, and India has increasingly used either the NITI Aayog multidimensional poverty index (which is fundamentally different in how

it measures poverty) or relied on the World Bank's poverty line.

How is the World Bank poverty line calculated?

The World Bank's poverty line is based on purchasing power parity calculations.

Its first-ever poverty line was set at a dollar a day. It came about after examining national poverty lines from some of the world's poorest countries, and converting them into a common currency by using PPP exchange rates.

It ensured that the same quantity of goods and services was priced equivalently across countries. "Once converted into a common currency, they found that in six of these very poor countries around the 1980s the value of the national poverty line was

about \$1 per day per person (in 1985 prices)," according to the World Bank.

Over time, as prices went up globally, the World Bank had to raise its poverty line to \$3-a-day. The PPP exchange rate for Indian rupees in 2025 is 20.6. Thus, the poverty line delineating abject or extreme poverty for an individual in the United States is an income of \$3 a day, while for India it is Rs 62 a day.

What about India's domestic poverty lines?

India's domestically formulated poverty line in 2009 (before the Tendulkar recommendation) was Rs 17 a day per person for urban areas and Rs 12 a day per person for rural areas.

In 2009, Tendulkar raised it to Rs 29 and Rs 22 per day per person, respectively, and later to Rs 36 and Rs 30 in 2011-12. In 2014, the Rangarajan committee recommended raising the domestic poverty line to Rs 47 per person per day in urban areas and Rs 33 in rural areas. But this was never implemented.

Economists have shown that in the absence of a robust and updated domestic poverty line and given the gaps and changes in data collection, India's poverty estimates exhibit wide variation, creating both confusion and controversy (Table 1). Poverty in India could be as low as 2% or as high as 82% depending on the choice of poverty line and methodology.

So, how should poverty estimates be viewed in India?

For a country with so many people at low levels of income and consumption, India's poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

Does only 5.75% of the population live in abject poverty (based on the World Bank poverty line of \$3-or-Rs62-a-day)? Or is a third of the population, which is provided free food under the National Food Security Act, actually poor? Table 2 provides some context, alongside official government data.

There are two mutually non-exclusive ways to look at the World Bank data. One, to celebrate the reduction in the proportion of Indians living in "abject poverty" (\$3 or Rs 62). Two, to pause and understand the actual state of economic well-being (or the lack of it) of an average person when as many as 83% of Indians are living off Rs 171 a day.

LONGER VERSION ON
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Bangladesh talks can happen in conducive environment: India

External Affairs Ministry's remarks come a day before parliamentary panel holds a special meeting on neighbouring nation with four experts

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India is willing to discuss all issues with Bangladesh in a "conductive" environment, said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, while emphasising that established modalities exist between Dhaka and New Delhi that can deal with a full spectrum of bilateral relations.

The remarks came as former diplomats and experts are set to address the Standing Committee on External Affairs to discuss the "Future of the India-Bangladesh Relationship".

Sources told *The Hindu* that the experts are former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, Lieutenant-General Ata Hasnain (retd), former High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, and Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Amitabh Mattoo.

"We are prepared to engage with Bangladesh on



Mending ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. FILE PHOTO

all matters in an environment that is conducive for mutually beneficial dialogue," Mr. Jaiswal said, responding to a question on the renewal of the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty of 1996.

Responding to another question about Bangladesh joining trilateral consultations with Pakistan and China on June 19, Mr. Jaiswal said that India maintains a "constant watch on the developments in our neighbourhood that have a bearing on our interest and our security. Our relations with individual countries,

while they stand on their own footing, take into account the evolving context as well".

Mr. Jaiswal's remarks came a day before the parliamentary panel holds a special discussion on Bangladesh with the four experts.

According to preliminary preparation documents, the experts are expected to address questions about the political situation under the interim government led by Mohammed Yunus, rise of religious fundamentalism, among others.

Defiant Khamenei hails 'victory', downplays impact of U.S. strikes

In his first appearance since the ceasefire, Iran's Supreme Leader says his country 'dealt a severe slap to the face of America'; Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has hailed a 'historic victory'; Trump says U.S. and Iranian officials will meet next week

Agence France-Presse

TEHRAN

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday said U.S. President Donald Trump "exaggerated" the impact of American strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, in his first appearance since a ceasefire in the war with Israel took hold.

In a statement and a televised speech carried by state media, he hailed his country's "victory" over Israel and vowed never to surrender to the United States, while claiming that Washington had been dealt a "slap" after striking Iranian nuclear sites.



Strong remarks: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a televised address in Tehran on Thursday. AFP

Mr. Khamenei's remarks come two days after a ceasefire ended a 12-day war between Iran and Israel, the foes' deadliest and most destructive confrontation in history.

"The American President exaggerated events in unusual ways, and it turned out that he needed this exaggeration," Mr. Khamenei said.

The U.S. "has gained

nothing from this war," he said, adding that American strikes "did nothing significant" to Iran's nuclear facilities. "The Islamic republic won, and in retaliation dealt a severe slap to the face of America," he said, a reference to Iran's missile launch targeting the largest U.S. base in Qatar and Iraq.

"I want to congratulate the great Iranian nation... for its victory over the fallacious Zionist regime," he added, claiming that Israel had "almost collapsed" because of Iran's strikes.

Both Iran and Israel had already claimed they won, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailing on Tuesday a "historic

victory" for Israel.

The Israeli military said it had delivered a "significant" blow to Iran's nuclear sites but that it was "still early" to fully assess the damage.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said that "nuclear installations have been badly damaged, that's for sure".

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump said American and Iranian officials will talk next week, giving rise to cautious hope for longer-term peace.

"We may sign an agreement, I don't know," Mr. Trump said. "The way I look at it, they fought, the war is done."

US pulls funding from global vaccines group, RFK Jr says it has 'ignored science'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, JUNE 26

US HEALTH Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr said the country is pulling its support from the vaccines alliance Gavi, saying the organisation has "ignored the science" and "lost the public trust."

A video of Kennedy's speech was shown to participants at a Gavi meeting in Brussels on Wednesday, where the vaccines group was hoping to raise at least \$9 billion for the next five years.

Gavi is a public-private partnership including WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation and the World Bank. It has paid for more than 1 billion children to be vaccinated through routine immunisation programmes, saving an estimated 18 million lives.

Kennedy called on Gavi "to re-earn the public trust." He said the US would not deliver on a \$1.2 billion pledge made by the Biden administration.

Kennedy said Gavi continues to make "questionable recommendations," like advising pregnant women to get immunized against COVID-19 and funding the roll-out of a vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in poorer countries.

Gavi said in a statement that its "utmost concern is the health and safety of children." The organisation said any decision it makes on vaccines to buy is done in accordance with recommendations issued by WHO's expert vaccine group.

John Mahama, the president of Ghana, told the summit about his younger brother, who was disabled by polio, when "access



US Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr

EXPLAINED

UK

largest

donor now

BRITISH SECRETARY of State David Lammy committed \$1.7 billion to Gavi over the next four years, more than anticipated, which will make Britain the largest donor, now that the US is gone. the vaccines group was hoping to raise at least \$9 billion for the next five years.

to vaccines was close to zero in our part of Africa." Today vaccination coverage in Ghana is at 97%, and the country will buy all of its own vaccines by 2030, he said.

Mahama also made a veiled reference to the funding choices of the Trump administration. "One B-2 Spirit bomber that dropped bombs on Iran recently cost \$2.13 billion," he said. "If you work the math, what Gavi is seeking is the value of four of those B-2 bombers. Surely the world can afford the value of four B-2 bombers to save 500 million children."

WITH NYT

2036 Olympic Games host selection paused



An artist's impression of what the venues planned for the 2036 Olympics in Ahmedabad would look like. India is yet to officially name its choice of host city. *Special arrangement*

IOC forms working group to 'review how hosts are selected and when' before Indian delegation's visit

MIHIR VASAVDA

MUMBAI, JUNE 26

INDIA'S AGGRESSIVE bid to stage the 2036 Olympics hit a speed bump on Thursday after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) 'paused' the selection process for future hosts following the meeting of its Executive Board.

The IOC's decision came days before a high-level Indian delegation, including representatives of the Union and Gujarat governments as well as the Indian Olympic Association, was scheduled to travel to Lausanne to make a pitch for the 2036 Games. The world body's president, Kirsty Coventry, who took charge on Monday, said the IOC's meeting with Indian officials will go ahead as planned from June 30 to July 2.

The ongoing process to select future hosts was halted after IOC members expressed reservations about the current rules, in which they have virtually no say. Coventry said a working group will be formed to 'review how the future hosts are selected and when'. The IOC has 107 active members, which include royalty, Oscar winners, heads of state and industrialists. Nita Ambani, Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, is the only IOC member from India. Approximately 70 of them were part of a meeting that decided to pause the process to choose future Games hosts.

"There was overwhelming support from the IOC members for a pause to be done and a review of the future host election process and we will be setting up a working group to look into this," Coventry said after chairing her maiden Executive Board meeting in Lausanne. "Firstly, members want to be engaged more in the process and secondly, there was a very big discussion on when the next host will be awarded."

Until the Tokyo Olympics, the IOC members picked a host

country by voting. In 2019, the process was replaced with a Future Host Commission, which engaged in dialogues with interested nations and aimed to reduce expenses, as countries sought to outbid one another in the previous procedure.

However, the IOC members considered the selection process under the Future Host Commission opaque and inconsistent. For instance, Brisbane was named the host of the 2032 Olympics 11 years in advance. By comparison, the French Alps were given just six years' notice for the 2030 Winter Games. The long preparation phase for Brisbane, too, has led to unique problems relating to funding and

"There was overwhelming support from the IOC members for a pause to be done and a review of the future host election process and we will be setting up a working group to look into this."

KIRSTY COVENTRY,

IOC PRESIDENT

infrastructure development.

Coventry said IOC members felt the experience of already decided future hosts needed to be studied before proceeding on future proposals. "There was a lot of discussion on when is the appropriate time to elect a future host. And also how we should be selecting a future host," she added. The IOC had earlier said that the number of countries interested in hosting the 2036 Summer Games was in 'double digits'. Apart from India, Qatar, Indonesia, Turkey and Germany are some of the other countries eyeing to stage the edition.

Setting the ball rolling

Last October, IOA president PT Usha formally sent a letter — drafted in consultation with the government and with the help

of international experts — to the world body declaring its 'intent to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Bharat (India)'. The IOA highlighted the country's religious and cultural diversity, the impact on the South Asian region and a message of peace to the 'world at a time when it is needed the most' as key themes in its pitch.

Following the letter, India had moved to the 'continuous dialogue' phase under the procedure that is now under review. The country's officials had multiple meetings with the Future Host Commission and the visit to Lausanne next week was seen as another important step.

The eight-member Indian delegation comprises Gujarat home and sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi, PT Usha, union sports secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, principal secretary of Gujarat's Urban Development Department Ashwini Kumar, principal secretary of Gujarat sports department M Thennarasan, Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Panim, IOA CEO Raghuram Iyer and Usha's executive assistant Ajay Narang.

India has yet to officially name a host city. And while Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta recently expressed interest in hosting the Games, there is little doubt that Ahmedabad will remain central to the project, given the presence of Gujarat government officials in the Indian delegation to the IOC headquarters.

The state government is in the process of constructing two main venue clusters for the Games — the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Sports Enclave, a 355-acre area adjacent to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, and Karai Sports Hub, with a 'site area of 143 acres, augmented by reclaimed riverfront.'

Last December, the Gujarat Sports Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited floated tenders inviting bids to appoint consultants for developing these two projects.