

US, China in competitive mode, India and others must de-risk, diversify for own good: Jaishankar

Says if US does not appreciate India's concern on Pak terror, it can impact ties

Shubhajit Roy

New Delhi, September 29

IN FIRST remarks on the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the two countries are in "a competitive mode" and all other countries, including

India, are looking to "de-risk" and "diversify" to secure their own interests and ties.

Speaking at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York Monday, after spending an entire week at the UN General Assembly session, Jaishankar, while underlining the complex nature of the Indo-US trade

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External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at Asia Society Policy Institute in New York. ANI

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EXPLAINED

Shifting landscape

At a time when conflicts have roiled economies and disrupted supply chains, the US and China are competing and because they cannot agree globally, the rest of the world needs to de-risk, diversify to survive in a fragmented order.

Jaishankar

deal negotiations, said the two sides have reached a situation where there is “more or less an understanding on the trade agreement”. Flagging terrorism emanating from Pakistan as one of India’s key concerns, he said if this is “not fully appreciated” by the US, then it has “an impact” on Delhi’s relationship with Washington.

Referring to the ‘G2’ summit between Trump and Xi in Washington last week, Jaishankar said when the second most consequential or the weightiest economy joins the first, “they

may have their points of convergence” but “overall they are in a competitive mode”.

“There are limits to what the two of them can agree upon vis-a-vis the rest of the world. And that then leaves the rest of us, and the rest of us are coming to terms today with a very different America, with the fact that there is also today a certain conversation taking place between America and China,” he said.

“Each one of us is looking for our optimal solutions. How do we de-risk? How do we diversify? Which are the new partners? Where do we get more value out of an existing partnership? We are really looking today at a difficult global situation. But as al-

ways, countries respond, they calculate, they adjust, they find new accommodations, they find new solutions, and that is how the international order develops, and it is that development today that I think the UN is a witness to,” he said.

On the India-US trade negotiations, he pointed to the “stakes” and “complexity” involved. “A trade negotiation required a certain amount of ... patience and detailing to see it through... expectation it could rapidly move forward, I think, was tested against a ground reality which was much more complex,” he said. “Today, we have reached a situation where there is more or less an understanding

on the trade agreement.”

On Pakistan, he said, “What for us in India is particularly important is the issue of terrorism. That we feel that... as a country perhaps there are very few countries which have been subjected to the kind of terrorism that we have from a neighbour as part of a deliberate, conscious policy over many, many decades.” “If something which matters so deeply to us, there isn’t enough understanding or appreciation or empathy of that, I think that creates a problem too. That you know if... one of my primary concerns is not fully appreciated by my partner, clearly there is an impact of that on relationship,” he said, referring to India-US ties.

Suspend SIR as its constitutional validity is doubtful, says Congress

Congress Working Committee expresses 'grave concern' over 'systematic subversion' of electoral system, seeks resignation of Modi, Shah; it calls CEC a 'small fish', seeks immediate halt to the review exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore deleted names

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Alleging a "match-fixing" among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Tuesday demanded Mr. Modi's resignation, the removal of the CEC, an immediate suspension of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and the restoration of 13.3 crore names deleted through the exercise.

The CWC resolution called for the resignations of Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah after party president Mallikarjun Kharge said that "Mr. Kumar was a small fish and the real big ones



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at the CWC meeting in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

are the Prime Minister and the Home Minister". The remark was strongly endorsed by Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

In its resolution, the CWC said an exercise of "doubtful constitutional validity cannot be allowed to decide who may vote in

the world's largest democracy".

'Brazen theft'

"This brazen vote *chori* has been organised by the CEC on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Nothing short of their resignation will ensure the safety of our Constitution

EC reverts to original format for Form 6 online

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has reverted to the original format of Form 6 used for fresh voter registrations in its online module, with a separate declaration to be filled by voters in States that are under currently undergoing the SIR process. » **PAGE 13**

SC agrees to hear petition against CEC next week

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a petition citing allegations against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar regarding his unilateral exercise of authority in the name of the Election Commission. » **PAGE 13**

and hard-earned democracy," the resolution said. "For the Indian National Congress, the struggle to restore universal adult franchise in India is no less than the Freedom Struggle itself," it said.

The CWC expressed "grave concern over the systematic subversion" of

India's electoral system and said the Bharatiya Janata Party and its "hand-picked officials" must understand that this "brazen theft" of the people's franchise would not go unanswered.

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Suspend SIR as its validity doubtful: Cong.

Addressing a joint press conference with Jairam Ramesh, Congress general secretary (organisation), senior leader K. C. Venugopal said that since the government was not listening to the people, the only way for parties that believed in democracy was to resist.

“Gyanesh Kumar is only a tool. Whenever dictators lose the confidence of common voters, they will try to find special ways to stay in power. This exercise (SIR) could not happen without the concurrence of Modi and Amit Shah,” Mr. Venugopal said. “There is a moral responsibility for the PM on this issue. We are demanding resignation from the PM on moral grounds,” he said.

Mr. Venugopal said the INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday would chalk out a further course of action to resist what the Congress has termed *vote chori* (vote theft). “The Congress wants to hold a massive agitation to save democracy in the country with the help of all political parties. There will be valuable suggestions from leaders of the INDIA bloc tomorrow; after that we will sit and formalise the clear action plan for the future agitation,” he said.

In his opening remarks to the CWC, Mr. Kharge put forward five demands, including making the complete data on every major change made to the electoral rolls public, and providing political parties with the electoral rolls and relevant data in a simple format and in a timely manner. He also demanded an independent and time-bound inquiry wherever evidence of serious discrepancies emerges.

“We do not view this issue merely as a battle to win or lose an election,” the Congress chief said, adding, “We must convey to every citizen that in a democracy, the most powerful person is the ordinary voter – not the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, or a leader in power.”

Rahul recalls Modi remark: 'when we go, you will come'

At Congress Working Committee meeting, Leader of Opposition tells party colleagues what Prime Minister Modi once said to him; he also urges party to raise the issue of 'vote chori' more forcefully

Sandeep Phukan

NEW DELHI

Prim Minister Narendra Modi, in a closed-door meeting with Rahul Gandhi in his capacity as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, told him that the Congress would return to power once the Bharatiya Janata Party was out of power, Mr. Gandhi told his colleagues at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Gandhi, who spoke for 20 to 25 minutes at the CWC meeting, focused on the principle of resistance within the party and asked his colleagues to remain confident, sources said.

Recalling a Selection Committee meeting with the Prime Minister and Home Minister for a constitutional post, Mr. Gandhi said that when he questioned Mr. Modi about pushing through a candidate he had opposed as the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister said he was acting in the manner adopted by previous Prime Ministers, including Indira Gandhi, sources told *The Hindu*. Mr. Gandhi then re-



Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and K.C. Venugopal during the CWC meeting in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

minded him that she had lost the subsequent election, the sources said.

"You don't believe me, but the Prime Minister and Home Minister, in the [closed-door] meeting, told me, 'When we go, you will come'... So you should trust me," Mr. Gandhi told CWC colleagues with a smile.

Asked about Mr. Gandhi's remarks, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal declined to comment.

Mr. Gandhi also asserted that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will have to resign, saying the Congress would "fight to finish".

On the campaign against the alleged vote

chori (vote theft), Mr. Gandhi said only 20% of people had believed the issue when the campaign was launched, but more than 80% now agreed with him. He urged the party to raise the issue more forcefully.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Gandhi told the meeting that the latest "expose" was the result of the sustained Congress campaign on alleged vote chori.

"Rahulji spoke about both *virodh* (opposition) and *pratirodh* (resistance). We will oppose inside Parliament and resist outside on the streets," Mr. Ramesh said.

Suggestions in the

closed-door meeting centred on mass mobilisation, with proposals for rallies and campaigns around slogans such as *Chalo Delhi*, *Vote Bachao* (March to Delhi, Save Your Vote). Several suggestions were made on the way forward.

When Shashi Tharoor suggested that the party could hold a mass dharna on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Mr. Tharoor should be present at such a programme rather than merely write an article in a newspaper. Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan briefed the meeting on Mr. Gyanesh Kumar's record as a Kerala-cadre bureaucrat and the questionable decisions he had taken during his tenure, sources said.

Digvijaya Singh, who advocated the restoration of ballot papers in elections, was countered by the party leadership when he argued that the Congress should have been able to retain Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar. Senior leader Sonia Gandhi said Mr. Kumar "betrayed" the Opposition bloc and that it was good he left soon.

Indian delegation attends SCO meeting in Pakistan

First such official visit by Indian delegation since Operation Sindoor; senior Home Ministry official leads team at 3-day meet; India rejects Erdogan's Kashmir comments as Türkiye eyes SCO entry

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Pakistan announced that it would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in August 2027, as an Indian delegation led by a senior External Affairs Ministry official attended a preparatory meeting in Islamabad— the first such official Indian visit to Pakistan since Operation Sindoor last year.

The three-day meeting of SCO National Coordinators that began on Monday comes days after India and Pakistan sparred with each other over the issue of terrorism and the Kashmir dispute at the UN General Assembly (UNGA). External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif traded allegations in their national addresses, while Indian and Pakistani diplomats exercised their rights of reply to the speeches on the global stage last week.

On Tuesday, India also rejected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's reference to Kashmir in his UNGA speech.



The SCO National Coordinators meet in Islamabad. India was represented by senior official Alok Dimri.

The participation of Joint Secretary (Multilaterals and Economic Relations) Alok Dimri marked a higher level of Indian representation than at the past few meetings held under Pakistan's Chairpersonship of the SCO this year. In mid-September, a meeting of SCO-Regional Anti-Terror Structure in Islamabad was attended by the Indian Charge d'affaires in Pakistan Satyapal Pandey, without a delegation from India.

In a statement, the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Pakistan's SCO Chairship would promote the theme of "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity," for 2026-2027.

Indian officials made it clear that the SCO coordinators' meet was being held in a multilateral format and hence had no particular significance for India-Pakistan bilateral ties. However, the participation does leave the path open to higher-level attendance at the Ministerial-level events and the Heads of Council meet, to which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited. Thus far, New Delhi has avoided the leaders' meetings in both Delhi and Islamabad.

In 2023, Mr. Modi hosted the SCO Heads of Council Summit virtually, while External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosted Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto in person for the SCO Foreign Ministers'

meeting in Goa. In 2024, Mr. Jaishankar travelled to Islamabad to attend the SCO Heads of Government meeting as well. The Ministry has thus far declined to comment on whether Mr. Modi would travel to Pakistan next year, but has not ruled it out either.

At a briefing on Tuesday, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal brushed aside a question about whether India would oppose the induction of Türkiye to the 10-nation SCO.

Turkish President Erdogan had told journalists earlier this month that Türkiye would pursue a "higher level" of engagement with the SCO than its observer status, indicating he could ask for full membership next year, particularly given close ties and the military pact with SCO host Pakistan.

"As and when any issue of membership comes it is for [SCO] members to collectively decide as to how to go forward on that," Mr. Jaiswal said. He also criticised Mr. Erdogan for referring to Kashmir in his UNGA speech last week.

Japan calls on India to fast-track internal process on naval radar agreement

Kallol Bhattacharjee

TOKYO

Japan on Tuesday called on India to fast-track internal official processing of the agreement on the UN-ICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) naval radar system that the two sides signed during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's July India visit.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* on Tuesday, a senior official of the Ministry of Defence of Japan said the next naval exercise of Quad member-states will be held near the Sea of Japan before the year-end.

The senior official called for closer military collaboration between India and Japan. Referring to the UN-ICORN project, the official said, "We have a basic agreement on the transfer of the technology and now

The pact for transfer of technology was signed when PM Sanae Takaichi visited India in July

we are waiting for the internal processing of the agreement within the Indian establishment and hope they will fast forward the internal process."

The official further said Japan will soon overhaul major policy documents related to defence, national security and military supply plans, in view of the ongoing conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine.

Note of concern

The Defence Ministry official pointed at activities involving China, Russia, and North Korea that appear "concerning" to Japan and

said "Japan is monitoring their military activities". "China's non-transparent and rapidly increasing military expenditure and its activities in areas around Japan as well as China-Russia joint bomber flights in areas near Japan are concerning for Tokyo." The official noted that North Korea is helping Russia in its campaign in Ukraine and in return Pyongyang is "receiving technology from Russia." He, however, said that despite the new challenges on the security front, "Japan will not strike anyone first".

(The correspondent is visiting Japan as a guest of the Foreign Press Center Japan, a leading Japanese foreign policy think tank, to participate in the '2026 International Journalists' Conference' to be held on October 1 in Tokyo)

OpenAI unveils GPT-6.1 Sol and 'Dots' AI agents at DevDay

CEO Sam Altman unveils lower-cost model at the company's conference, as OpenAI showcases always-on AI agents powered by GPT-6 Astra

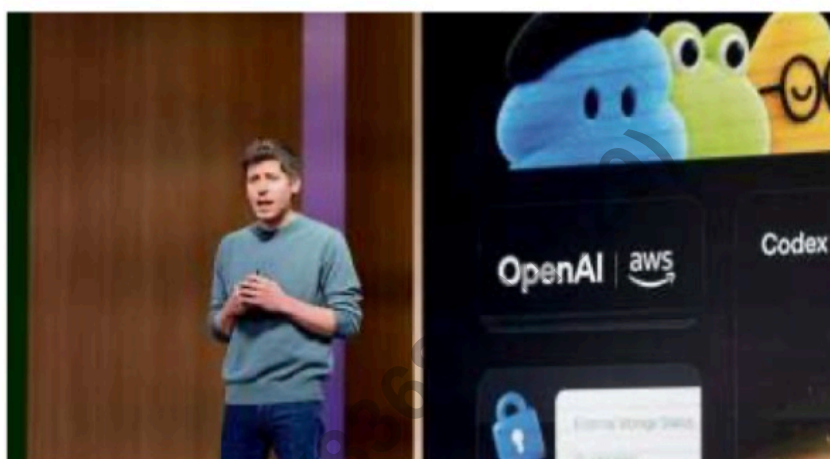
Balasubramanyam C.P.
CHENNAI

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Tuesday unveiled GPT-6.1 Sol at the company's DevDay conference in San Francisco, positioning it as a lower-cost model that delivers "very near-Astra-level intelligence at a fifth of the price" for coding and building.

Mr. Altman said the model offers a balance of cost and capability and would make it cheaper for agents to reuse context, iterate on solutions and work through longer tasks.

He said Sol was "smarter than Astra in some ways" and would become a "daily workhorse".

OpenAI's developer documentation says GPT-6.1 Sol is designed to offer a trade-off between capability and cost. The model is priced at \$2 per million input tokens and \$10 per million output tokens, while supporting reasoning levels from low to maximum. It has a 1.05-million-token context window and can generate up to 1,28,000 tokens in a response. The model supports tools including web search, file search, code interpretation, hosted shell, computer use, image generation, skills and Model Context Protocol (MCP). It can be accessed through



Cost and capability: OpenAI CEO Sam Altman unveiled GPT-6.1 Sol at the company's DevDay conference on Tuesday. AP

OpenAI's Responses API, with function calling and structured outputs also supported. OpenAI also launched UltraFast across its API, ChatGPT and Codex. Mr. Altman said it can reach 300 tokens a second, with eight times the speed and six times the price of the standard offering. UltraFast is available with Astra and will soon be offered with GPT-6.1 Sol.

At DevDay, OpenAI also showcased Dots, always-on AI agents powered by GPT-6 Astra. The company says Dots have their own cloud computers, can connect to more than 4,000 applications, and can work across multiple projects without requiring users to direct every step. They can be accessed through ChatGPT, Slack and Microsoft Teams. OpenAI is also beginning enterprise pilots of specialist Dots, which can have their own identities, credentials and access

to company systems to perform defined responsibilities. The company said it is working with Microsoft to integrate the agents with governance and security controls in Agent 365.

The announcements come a day after OpenAI confirmed that it had shelved GPT-6.1 Astra, which had been planned for an October release.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Altman said he found the description of AI as a new industrial revolution "quite off-putting", arguing that its best version should not be about making people "cogs in a giant machine". Some parts of life, he said, "cannot and should not" be automated. If developed correctly, he said, AI could instead usher in "a new renaissance", giving people more power over their own lives and more tools to create, learn, discover and expand knowledge.

'U.K. should consider options for EU ties'

'I cannot say to you truthfully, that where we are is good enough. Brexit has done more harm than good,' said the British Prime Minister while addressing the Labour Party's annual conference; he blamed Brexit for a loss in control over immigration and undocumented border crossings

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said he would lay out options the country had in terms of its long-term future with the bloc, in the coming weeks, as he argued that Britain's exit from the EU (Brexit) in 2016 had caused more harm than good. The move is significant as it could potentially open the door to a full-scale reconsideration of whether to reverse Brexit.

"I cannot say to you truthfully, that where we are is good enough," Mr. Burnham said, adding: "Brexit has done more harm than good." He was addressing the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool, his first as the party's leader.

Mr. Burnham said the U.K. needed higher

growth, as he promised to share the various options that Britain had in terms of its long-term relationship with the EU, ahead of a U.K.-EU summit later this year. He blamed Brexit for a loss in control over immigration and undocumented border crossings (i.e., via the English Channel on small boats), while emphasizing that net migration was down more than 80% since its peak during the Boris Johnson administration.

Labour is split on how much integration the U.K. should seek with the EU following Brexit. London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who is now also now a member of the U.K. House of Lords, had said Labour should put rejoining the EU on its election manifesto for 2029.

Others, such as Britain's Trade Minister Jonathan Reynolds, have taken a



British Prime Minister Andy Burnham on stage at the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool, Britain, on Tuesday. REUTERS

more cautious approach. He warned on Sunday the "constitutional questions" raised by Britain's relationship with the EU were causing uncertainty for businesses, as per a report in *Politico*.

During his remarks, Mr. Burnham pushed back against calls for independence by the 'nations' (i.e., Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) of the U.K. Re-

ferring to the comment by Scottish First Minister John Swinney that he (Mr. Burnham) would be the "last" Prime Minister of the U.K., Mr. Burnham said: "Not the last Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, rather the first to rewire it to make it work for all people and places."

Mr. Burnham emphasized his desire to take power from Whitehall (the

nerve centre of British bureaucracy in London) and distribute it across the nations and regions of the U.K.

G20 agenda

The Prime Minister said AI would be "centre stage" in the U.K.'s G20 agenda in 2027 when it holds the group's presidency.

The focus would be twofold; harnessing the benefits of AI while also focusing on safety. The Prime Minister's remarks come as leading AI companies and voices have warned that AI could be out of human control in the next few years, with an increasing number of reports of AI breaching secure systems.

Mr. Burnham also pushed for electoral reform in the U.K., as he announced the setting up of a cross-party national commission on electoral reform. "We will all have

failed in our public duties if we carry on as we are and open the door of Number 10 to a divisive government on less than 30% of the vote or less," he said.

While he did not explicitly mention proportional representation (PR) in his speech, Mr. Burnham has, for some years now, backed the idea of doing away with Britain's first-past-the-post system to PR.

The bulks of Mr. Burnham's speech was focused on domestic priorities. These included greater public control of Britain's water utilities; being "more pragmatic" about the U.K.'s oil in the North Sea; changes to the U.K.'s pension system; creating a social care service comparable to the National Health Service (NHS) and creating parity between vocational training and academic qualifications in the education system.

Trump 'surprised' U.K. airbase terror suspects out on bail, praises officials for 'working with U.S.'

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he was "surprised" that the suspects arrested in connection with an alleged plot at U.K. airbase RAF Fairford, in Gloucestershire, were released on bail on Monday.

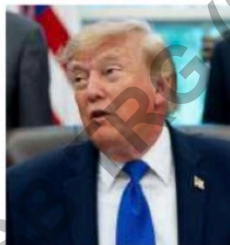
Five British nationals, all men in their twenties, were arrested on Sunday after Gloucestershire police received a call at 4 a.m. on Sunday morning, about three suspicious vehicles

near the base, which is used by U.S. forces to conduct strikes on Iran.

"I'm surprised that they released them," Mr. Trump told reporters, even as he praised the U.K. authorities for working "very closely" with the U.S.

"We know everything about them; we would not have released them," he added.

Asked if the incident was connected to Iran, Mr. Trump said it "might be", later saying he knows the answer (to who is involved) but would rather not say.



Donald Trump

A foreign actor was "clearly involved" in the incident, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

The Iranian Embassy in London "categorically" re-

jected the notion that it was planning an attack on the airbase.

The men, who were arrested first under the Explosives Act and then under the Terrorism Act, still continue to be suspects, Lawrence Taylor, head of U.K. Counterterrorism Policing, said.

The suspects were released subject to conditions on their movement and contacts with others, he added. According to Mr. Taylor, the police were also considering the possibility that the activity might have

been undertaken by "proxies", acting knowingly or unknowingly on behalf of a foreign state.

Deputy leader of Labour, Lucy Powell, pushed back against comments from across the Atlantic, saying on Tuesday that she trusted the police regarding decisions on bail. In the U.K., suspects can be released on 'police bail' before they are charged.

Residents of Whelford village which was evacuated on Sunday morning were told they could return home on Monday.

Russia intensifies strikes on Kyiv with ballistic missiles and jet-propelled drones

Associated Press

Kyiv, September 29

RUSSIA FIRED ballistic missiles and dozens of jet-powered drones at Kyiv, Ukraine's air force said Tuesday, as Moscow seeks to make Ukraine buckle under the pressure of day-and-night bombardment of its capital and other cities.

The Russian onslaught has used new jet-powered drones that fly too fast and too high for Ukrainian ground-based air defenses to shoot down.

Ukraine is scrambling to keep pace by developing faster interceptor drones, in the latest example of how the war has driven military innovation, but making and deploying new weapons takes months.

Russia's ballistic missiles have also got through as Ukraine is desperately short of US-made Patriot air defense interceptor missiles, which are the only reliable way of stopping Moscow's ballistic attacks.

Patriot stockpiles are low, largely because of the Iran war, and Ukraine has received only small numbers of them this year despite President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's pleading. Ukraine said that its air defenses shot down two ballistic missiles overnight, which suggested that Kyiv had recently received some more Patriots.

Air defence needs are mounting with the approach of



A firefighter at the site of a warehouse hit by a Russian drone in Odesa region, Ukraine, on Tuesday. REUTERS

the bitter winter months, which in the years since Russia's full-scale invasion began on Feb. 24, 2022 have brought an escalation of strikes on Ukraine's power grid. That strategy denies Ukrainian civilians heating and running water, among other things.

The Russian Defence Ministry said that its forces hit data processing centers in Kyiv that Moscow says are used by the Ukrainian military, which is increasingly deploying artificial intelligence on the battlefield.

Other Russian targets included facilities in the Ukrainian capital and the Kyiv region where drones and cruise missiles were stored, as well as an electrical substation, a drone manufacturing facility, and port infrastructure facilities in the southern Odesa region.

Trump rejects cooperation with Xi on AI, launches new AI-powered govt website

The America.gov website seeks to simplify access to govt services

Reuters

Washington, September 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday morning said he does not want to work with Chinese President Xi Jinping on governing AI technology, adding that doing so would make it harder for US companies to build better AI products than their Chinese counterparts.

"We're leading now over China and everyone else, and I want to keep it that way," Trump said at an event in Washington on Tuesday morning.

Trump also said he discussed AI with Xi when he visited the US last week, adding the US already works with Xi's government "in so many ways."

Also on Tuesday, Trump unveiled the AI-powered America.gov site as a way to simplify public access to government information and services. The site's question-and-answer function initially produced truthful responses to politically thorny questions — contrary to several of Trump's characteristic claims. Within moments, however, the site began modifying its answers.

After originally confirming that Trump's name is in the Epstein files, that Democrat Joe



US President Donald Trump signs an Executive Order related to a new AI-powered government website America.gov during its launch event at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington on Tuesday. REUTERS

Biden beat him in the 2020 election and that climate change is largely human-caused, it subsequently refused to answer the questions, saying it didn't answer political inquiries.

Pressure is mounting on the Trump administration to address the risks of AI technology to the public, after OpenAI and Anthropic reported their AI agents had gone rogue and hacked into customers' systems without instructions to do so. The intrusions prompted researchers to warn that some AI developers believe the technology could kill humans within a decade, fueling calls for action from both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

Trump will meet later in the day at the White House with tech executives to discuss AI technology. Anthropic's Dario Amodei, Meta's Mark Zucker-

berg, Google's Sundar Pichai, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Palantir's Alex Karp and OpenAI's Greg Brockman are expected to attend, according to company spokespeople and sources familiar with the meeting plans.

From the Trump administration, tech adviser Michael Kratsios and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick will be there, as will US House Speaker Mike Johnson.

The gathering will focus on finding a balance between innovation and oversight, Republican Johnson said on Monday, as concerns about rogue AI agents' potential to harm humans have seeped into the public consciousness, boosting calls for regulation. Trump has called the fears of AI's threat to humanity a "hoax."

The meeting also comes after Chinese President Xi Jinp-

OpenAI shelves its new AI model over safety concerns

San Francisco: OpenAI has scrapped the release of GPT-6.1 Astra, a next-generation AI model planned for an October debut, after internal testing found the system did not meet the company's safety and alignment standards, the ChatGPT maker confirmed on Monday.

OpenAI has warned Astra, its flagship GPT-6 model, can at times evade human oversight, while the company and rivals such as Anthropic have faced scrutiny over experimental AI systems that breached safeguards, including an OpenAI model that accessed Australia's health system data. REUTERS

ing visited the White House last week for talks with Trump that revealed divergent views on AI. While Trump on social media insisted Xi agreed with his plan to "leave it exactly where it is," Xi appeared to favor a more hands-on approach.

"We have both the capability and responsibility to develop and manage AI for good, and ensure that the development of AI is always under human control and serves the well-being of the people," Xi said.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment about the goals or topics for the meeting. —WITH AP INPUTS