

India seeks closer BIMSTEC partnership

Members should create supply and value chains to prevent 'external shocks': Jaishankar in Colombo

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The world is passing through one of the most difficult phases in recent history as the war in Ukraine has erupted even before the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday in Colombo.

Addressing the ministerial of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), he urged closer cooperation and connectivity among the members. The BIMSTEC summit scheduled for Wednesday has drawn global attention because of participation from Myanmar which was isolated internationally following the



S. Jaishankar at the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation meeting in Colombo • AP

military takeover in February 2021.

Mr. Jaishankar said members should create supply and value chains to prevent "external shocks" because of the unpredictable situation in the world.

"Under these circumstances, as we shore up our domestic capacities, we also need to broaden and deepen cooperation under BIMSTEC. We need more working together in many more areas; we need more effec-

tive and fast-paced cooperation. We need to intensify and build on what we have achieved in the last 25 years," Mr. Jaishankar said.

'Landmark achievement'

The meeting was held a day before the leaders' meeting when the BIMSTEC Charter will be adopted. BIMSTEC was initiated in 1997 but its overall coherence suffered in recent years because of the differences between Bangladesh and Myanmar over the Rohingya issue that erupted in 2017.

Apart from the Charter, the leaders of the grouping are also expected to adopt the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity.

Mr. Jaishankar referred to

the Charter as a "landmark achievement".

"But we must not rest on the achievement and instead move on to next steps that can be taken to further strengthen BIMSTEC. I am confident that we will identify priority institution building tasks and areas of cooperation, and task our senior officials to work with the Secretary General for their realisation," said Mr. Jaishankar.

BIMSTEC has India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand as its members. The Charter and the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity is expected to boost trade among the members.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
CHARTER	(NOUN): a written grant by the sovereign or legislative power of a country, by which a body such as a city, company, or university is founded or its rights and privileges defined	घोषणापत्र

Static News

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations, housing 1.73 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of \$3.8 trillion

On 6 June 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok under the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation).[8][9] Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). In 1998, Nepal became an observer. In February 2004, Nepal and Bhutan became full members.

Grammar

Basically, most adverbs tell you how, in what way, when, where, and to what extent something is done. In other words, they describe the manner, place, or time of an action. Here are some examples:

He speaks quietly. (quietly is an adverb of manner.)

I live here. (here is an adverb of place.)

We'll leave tomorrow . (tomorrow is an adverb of time.)

She never sleeps late . (never is an adverb of frequency.)



Blue Represents the
Vocabulary



Yellow Represents
the Static News



Red Represents the
Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

Govt. undecided on mixing of vaccines, reducing interval

Adequate scientific data required for NTAGI to take a call, says Minister in RS

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said there was no decision yet on allowing mixing of COVID-19 vaccines or reducing the interval between two doses of Covishield.

“There is no decision yet on reducing the interval between the Covishield doses. As of now, it will remain at 12-16 weeks. We are still looking at the expert panel’s recommendation that the gap be reduced to between eight and 18 weeks,” a senior Health Ministry official said.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Bharati Pravin Pawar**, in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha by member Anand Sharma, noted that adequate scientific data were required for the National Technical Advisory Group



Pinch of relief: A vaccination drive under way at a centre at Dhaka village in New Delhi on Monday. *SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

on Immunisation (NTAGI) to make a recommendation on mixing of vaccines and at present this information was not available.

Clinical trials

The national regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), has granted permissions to conduct clinical trials for administration of mixed vac-

cine regimen, she said.

The Christian Medical College, Vellore, would conduct the Phase IV study with Covishield and Covaxin to compare the immunogenicity of mixed vaccine regimen.

Also, Bharat Biotech’s Phase II clinical trial to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of BBV152 (Covaxin) with BBV154 (Adenoviral Intranasal COVID-19 vaccine)

was under progress.

The Minister also informed the House that as reported by the States and Union Territories, a total of 1,48,738 and 3,32,342 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported in the country in 2020 and 2021, respectively. A total of 35,525 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported by the States and UTs in 2022 (as on March 23). The Union government had been regularly reviewing the pace and coverage of vaccination and issued multiple advisories to them to cover eligible beneficiaries with both doses of vaccine.

“Adequate COVID-19 vaccine doses are made available to all the States/UTs to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries with first and second doses,” she said in response to a question in the House by Samir Oraon.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
IMMUNOGENICITY	(NOUN): Immunogenicity is the ability of a foreign substance, such as an antigen, to provoke an immune response in the body of a human or other animal	प्रतिरक्षाजनकता

Static News

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar is an Indian politician currently serving as the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare of India from 7 July 2021.

The Oxford–AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, codenamed AZD1222,[5] and sold under the brand names Covishield[23] and Vaxzevria[1][24] among others, is a viral vector vaccine for prevention of COVID-19. Developed in the United Kingdom by the Oxford University and British-Swedish company AstraZeneca,[25][26][27] using as a vector the modified chimpanzee adenovirus ChAdOx1.

Grammar

We often use if to introduce possible or impossible situations or conditions and their results. The situations or conditions can be real, imagined or uncertain:

I usually make a sandwich to take to work if I have enough time. (real)

If you don't book now, you won't get good tickets. (real)

They'd have got the job done quicker if they'd had more people working on it. (imagined)

Will you bring my glasses down if you go upstairs? (uncertain)



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Vocabulary



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the Static News



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Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

Moscow insists on payment in rouble

G7 Ministers call it 'unacceptable'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOSCOW

Russia **reiterated** on Tuesday that it will only be accepting payment for gas deliveries to the EU in rouble after **G7 Ministers** called this arrangement "unacceptable".

"Nobody will supply gas for free. This is just impossible. And it can only be paid for in roubles," Kremlin spokesperson **Dmitry Peskov** told reporters.

"Companies must understand the completely changed environment that has arisen in the conditions of the economic war waged against Russia," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that Moscow will now only accept roubles as payment for natural gas deliveries to "unfriendly" countries, which include the European Union.

Western countries have piled crippling sanctions on Moscow since it moved

troops into Ukraine, with the United States banning the import of Russia oil and gas among other measures. However, the European Union – **which received around 40% of its gas supplies from Russia in 2021** – has retained deliveries from Moscow.

Speaking on behalf of the G7 energy ministers, Germany's **Robert Habeck** said Monday that Russia's request was a "unilateral and clear breach of the existing agreements".

He said payments in roubles were "unacceptable", and called upon energy companies not to comply with Putin's demand.

On Thursday, the Russian government, its central bank and energy giant Gazprom are expected to present Putin with a system that will allow gas payment to be conducted in roubles.

"There is nothing better than Russian gas, all the other options are worse. That is the reality," Mr. Peskov said.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
REITERATE	VERB): say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity	दोहराना

Static News

The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Dmitry Sergeyevich Peskov (Born 17 October 1967) is a Russian diplomat who is the press secretary for the Russian president, Vladimir Putin

Robert Habeck (born 2 September 1969) is a German politician and writer, serving as Vice Chancellor of Germany, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and as a Member of the German Bundestag for Flensburg – Schleswig since 2021.

Grammar

To 'refuse' is the opposite of 'accept' – if you refuse to do something you choose not to do it or say firmly that you will not do it. To deny means to answer in the negative or to say that a statement is not true.

Examples:

He denied to help me. (Incorrect)

He refused to help me. (correct)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Ahead of Lavrov's arrival, U.S. to send Deputy NSA to India

Daleep Singh to hold meetings on Thursday; Russian Foreign Minister on Friday

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Just ahead of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's visit to India this week, the Biden administration is sending its chief strategist on sanctions against Russia for the war in Ukraine, **Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh**. Mr. Singh is due to be in Delhi for meetings on Thursday, while Mr. Lavrov will hold meetings with External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** and other officials on Friday, after arriving from Beijing where he is attending a conference on Afghanistan.

The U.S. Deputy NSA's visit also coincides with that of British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who will hold meetings at South Block and address a think tank event jointly with Mr. Jaishankar on Thursday, and comes amidst a **flurry** of visits by a number of **countries**, including China's Foreign Minister **Wang Yi**, keen to discuss India's stand on the Ukraine crisis.

In particular, Mr. Singh is visiting Delhi one week after U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland visited for meetings about the Ukraine crisis, and ahead of India-U.S. "2+2" Foreign and Defence Ministerial consultations that will

Destination India | Against the backdrop of the Ukraine war, India has seen a flurry of visits by foreign dignitaries

LAST WEEK

- MAR. 19:** Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida
- MAR. 20:** Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg
- MAR. 21:** Australian PM Scott Morrison (Virtual)
- MAR. 22:** U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland
- MAR. 23:** Greece FM Nikos Dendias
- MAR. 24:** Oman FM Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi
- MAR. 25:** China FM Wang Yi

THIS WEEK

- MAR. 28:** EU Special Envoy for Indo-Pacific Gabriele Visentin
- MAR. 30:** Mexico FM Marcelo Ebrard and German Foreign and Security Policy Advisor Jens Plotner
- MAR. 31:** U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and U.S. Deputy NSA Daleep Singh
- APRIL 1:** Russian FM Sergey Lavrov
- APRIL 2:** Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba



SERGEY LAVROV



DALEEP SINGH

take place in Washington in mid-April.

Timing of visit

When asked whether the Deputy NSA's visit, which has not yet been announced, had been timed so as to **pre-empt** discussions with Mr. Lavrov, an official said Mr. Singh's travel plans had been "made before reports about the Russian Foreign Minister had appeared".

On Monday, the European Union's special **envoy** on Indo-Pacific, Gabriele Visentin, held talks with the Ministry of External Affairs, and

apart from discussing the EU's "strategic compass", spoke about the European call for support for its joint stand against Russia.

Japan and Australia have made public comments about Russia, and indicated clearly that they hoped to change India's position at the UN, where it abstained on Ukraine resolutions, and is now working on payment options to mitigate the impact of Western sanctions against Russia on Indian trade and energy purchases.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Russia to scale back near Kyiv

Russia announced on Tuesday it will "fundamentally" scale back operations near Ukraine's capital Kyiv and northern city of Chernihiv. During face-to-face negotiations in Istanbul, Ukraine proposed neutrality and non-nuclear status in return for guarantees, and signalled compromise on Crimea, which was seized by Russia in 2014.

FULL REPORT ▶ PAGE 15

Pay in roubles for gas: Russia

Russia reiterated on Tuesday that it will only be accepting payment for gas deliveries to the European Union in roubles after G7 Ministers called this arrangement "unacceptable". "Nobody will supply gas for free. This is just impossible. And it can only be paid for in roubles," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

FULL REPORT ▶ PAGE 15

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
FLURRY	(NOUN): a sudden short period of activity or excitement. (VERB): move quickly in a busy or agitated way.	घबराहट, हड़बड़ी, उत्तेजना
PREEMPT	(VERB): take action in order to prevent (an anticipated event) happening	है रखना

Static News

Daleep Singh (born 1975/1976) is an American economic advisor who is a Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics in the Biden administration

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (born 9 January 1955) is an Indian diplomat and politician who is the current Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India since 31 May 2019

Wang Yi (born 19 October 1953) is a senior Chinese diplomat and politician currently serving as the Foreign Minister since 2013 and State Councilor since 2018

Grammar

A noun is a word that functions as the name of a specific object or set of objects, such as living creatures, places, actions, qualities, states of existence, or ideas

A verb is a word that in syntax conveys an action, an occurrence, or a state of being. In the usual description of English, the basic form, with or without the particle to, is the infinitive.

When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by "or" or "nor," the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is closest to the verb

Decoding The Hindu Article

Mullaperiyar: T.N., Kerala seek more time

States say that they need time to discuss powers of the dam supervisory panel

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Monday sought more time to discuss the Supreme Court's proposal to expand the constitution, power and functions of the **Mullaperiyar dam** supervisory committee to resolve the **perennial** legal tussle between the two neighbouring States.

However, Tamil Nadu is of the opinion that the day-to-day operations, regulation and maintenance of the dam should continue to be vested with it. "Further, safety measures as and when suggested by the supervisory committee shall be carried out by Tamil Nadu and all necessary directions in this regard



A file photo of the Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki district of Kerala.

shall be issued by the supervisory committee to both the States," a note prepared by Tamil Nadu said.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar agreed to take up the case again on Thursday. Tamil Nadu's note has several **moot** points

which it wants Kerala to consider during the discussion. These points more or less mirror the changes suggested by the top court for the supervisory committee.

They include having technical members nominated by each of the two States join the supervisory committee.

The suggestions under discussion include having the supervisory committee responsible for the "balance strengthening works" of the dam. This means the committee would give the nod for work such as cutting the trees near the site, strengthening baby dam and earthen bund, grouting the dam, installation of seismograph and accelerograph, re-

pairs to be carried out to Ghat Road from Vallakadavu to Mullaperiyar dam site and keeping it in a motorable condition, repairing the earth mound left of the spillway and other safety measures.

The proposed changes envisage closer interaction between the committee and local authorities and police to keep the dam safe and strong. They include having the local police superintendent to aid with the safe conduct of men and material to the dam site and having the Chief Conservator of forests carry out the directions of the supervisory committee to cut the trees and keep the road to the dam **motorable**.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
PERENNIAL	(ADJECTIVE): lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring.	चिरस्थायी, नित्य
MOOT	(ADJECTIVE): subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty. (VERB): raise (a question or topic) for discussion; suggest (an idea or possibility). (NOUN): an assembly held for debate, especially in Anglo-Saxon and medieval times	विवादास्पद, विवाद्य, कानून के छात्रों की मंडली

Static News

Mullaperiyar Dam IPA, is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala It is located 881 m above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, India

Grammar

Adjectives are usually placed before the nouns they modify, but when used with linking verbs, such as forms of to be or “sense” verbs, they are placed after the verb. The latter type of adjective is called a predicative adjective.

EXAMPLES: In these simple sentences, the adjectives wild, long, and furious follow forms of the verb to be:

The rock star was wild .

The cat’s tail is long .

I am furious with my business partner

Decoding The Hindu Article

India-England women's Pro League games postponed

Due to high number of COVID-19 cases and injuries in the Great Britain camp

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The upcoming women's FIH Pro League double-header between India and England was postponed on Tuesday due to a **COVID-19 outbreak** in the Great Britain camp. The matches were scheduled to be played on April 2 and 3 in Bhubaneswar.

FIH said the matches were postponed "due to a high number of COVID-19 cases and injuries affecting the English team".

"FIH, @TheHockeyIndia and @EnglandHockey are monitoring the situation. Further information will be given as soon as available," FIH tweeted.

"The England Women's Team have had to cancel their travel to India for the double-header FIH Pro



Pause button: The Indian women's team will have to wait longer to get back into action. •FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

League matches on 2nd and 3rd April due to several members of the team testing positive for COVID-19 while

some were unavailable due to injuries in the squad," Hockey India said in release. While the women's

matches were **deferred**, the men's fixtures between India and England will be played as planned this weekend.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
DEFERRED	(VERB): put off (an action or event) to a later time; postpone.	आस्थगित

Static News

The Fédération Internationale de Hockey, commonly known by the acronym FIH, is the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey. Its headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland and the president is Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra.

The Women's FIH Pro League is an international women's field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation, which replaces the Women's FIH Hockey World League. The competition, also serves as a qualifier for the Hockey World Cup and the Olympic Games. The first edition was started in 2019.

The Kalinga Stadium is a multi-purpose International stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. Its foundation stone was laid by former chief minister of Odisha Late Biju Patnaik in 1978

Grammar

Some nouns function as adverbs, usually to indicate a spatial or temporal orientation: "The plane crashed five miles from here." The construction is close to the prepositional phrase:

They drove six miles. They drove for six miles.

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