

Pak to appoint ambassador, upgrade ties with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN on Friday announced to upgrade its diplomatic ties with Afghanistan and appoint an ambassador to the country, a major indicator of improvement in ties between the two neighbours.

Pakistan had tacitly applauded the capture of Kabul by Taliban in 2021 with the hope that the regime would address its security concerns but it proved otherwise and cross border attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants increased manifolds.

The ties plummetted as a result and Islamabad began accusing Kabul of providing sanctuaries to the TTP rebels while demanding action against them. The breakthrough in ties came through the trilateral mechanism of talks involving Afghanistan, China and Pakistan when the foreign ministers of the three nations met this month in Beijing. It is believed that China played a key role in sorting out differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar made the formal announcement, saying that the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are on a positive trajectory after his visit to Kabul.

PTI

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump signaled renewed trade tensions with China on Friday, arguing that Beijing had "violated" a deal to de-escalate tariffs, at a time when both sides appeared deadlocked in negotiations.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform came hours after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that trade talks with China were "a bit stalled," in an interview with broadcaster Fox News.



Donald Trump speaks during a swearing in ceremony for US Attorney General | AFP

The world's two biggest economies had agreed this month to temporarily lower staggeringly high tariffs they had imposed on each other, in a pause to last 90 days, after talks between top officials in Geneva.

But on Friday, Trump wrote that: "China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, has totally violated its agreement with US," without providing further details.

Asked about the post on CNBC, US Trade Representative Jamieon Greer took aim at Beijing for continuing to "slow down and choke off things like critical minerals." He added that the United States' trade deficit with China "continues to be enormous," and that Washington was not seeing major shifts in Beijing's behavior.

On Thursday, Bessent had suggested that Trump and his Chinese coun-

terpart Xi Jinping could get involved in the situation.

He said there could be a call between both leaders eventually. Since Trump returned to the presidency in January, he has imposed sweeping tariffs on most US trading partners, with especially high rates on imports from China.

New tit-for-tat levies from both sides reached three digits before the de-escalation earlier this month, where Washington agreed to temporarily reduce its additional tariffs on Chinese imports from 145% to 30%.

China, meanwhile, lowered its added duties from 125 percent to 10 percent.

The US tariff level remains higher as it also includes a 20 percent levy that the Trump administration recently imposed on Chinese goods over the country's alleged role in the illicit drug trade - an issue that Beijing has pushed back against.

The high tariff levels, while they were still in place, forced much trade between both countries to grind to a halt, as businesses paused shipments to try and wait for both governments to reach an agreement to lower the levies. Trump's tariff plans are also facing legal challenges.

A trade court ruled this week that the president overstepped his authority in tapping emergency economic powers to justify sweeping tariffs.

Ukraine open to talks, seeks clarity from Russia

KYIV

UKRAINE is ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, following days of uncertainty over whether Kyiv would attend a further meeting proposed by Moscow. But Ukrainian officials have insisted that the Kremlin provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war before the two delegations sit down to negotiate.

"Ukraine is ready to attend the next meeting, but we want to engage in a constructive discussion," Andrii Yermak said in a statement on the website of Ukraine's Presidential Office late Thursday.

"This means it is important to receive Russia's draft. There is enough time - four days are sufficient for preparing and sending the documents," Yermak said. Ukraine and its European allies have repeatedly accused the Kremlin of dragging its feet in peace efforts, while it tries to press its bigger army's battlefield initiative and capture more Ukrainian land.

Kyiv's Western partners, including the US, are urging Moscow to agree to an unconditional ceasefire, something Kyiv has embraced while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Ukraine's top diplomat, Andrii Sybiha, also told reporters on Friday that Kyiv is waiting for Russia to clarify its proposals ahead of a next round of talks. "We want to end this war this year. We are interested in establishing a ceasefire, whether it is for 30 days, 50 days, or 100 days. Ukraine is open to discussing this directly with Russia," Sybiha said at a joint news conference in Kyiv with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan. Sybiha and Fidan also held the door open to a future meeting between Presidents Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin of Russia, possibly also including US President Donald Trump.

AP

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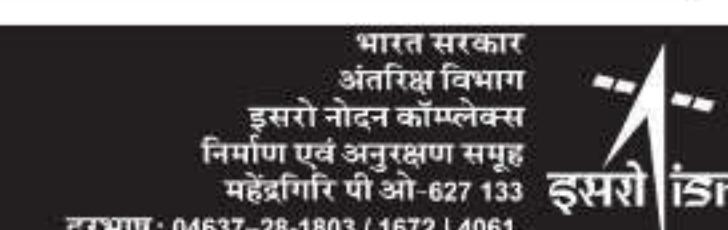
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Sl. No.	Name of Works [Civil works - Sl.no: 01, 02, & 03 : Electrical works - Sl.no: 04 & 05]	Estimated Cost (लाखों में) (in Lakhs)	Period of completion	EMD(₹)
1	एनआईटी सं-आईपीआरसी/ सीपीएस/ टीटी/ ई-28-एमआई-सीपीएस-07/2025-26 आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगढ़ी के आई. सी. ई. टी. विद्युत केंद्र में लिए लिए प्रयोग प्रदान करना। Providing Chain link fencing for ICET control centre at IPRC, Mahendragiri.	14.37	05 (पाँच महीने / Five months)	28,800
2	एनआईटी सं-आईपीआरसी/ सीपीएस/ टीटी/ ई-31-एमआई-सीपीएस-10/2025-26 आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगढ़ी के आई. ई. एस. एस. हाईवीम कलोनी में साईडेंस क्लिनिक विनाशक। Proposed Horizontal extension to kitchen in CISF Housing Colony at IPRC, Mahendragiri.	11.50	05 (पाँच महीने / Five months)	23,000
3	एनआईटी सं-आईपीआरसी/ सीपीएस/ टीटी/ ई-45-एमआई-सीपीएस-19/2025-26 आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगढ़ी के विभिन्न सुविधाओं के लिए सीमेंट कॉनेक्ट इंटरलॉकिं पैब्ल फ्लोरिंग for various facilities at IPRC, Mahendragiri.	24.00	06 (छह महीने / Six months)	48,000
4	एनआईटी सं-आईपीआरसी/ सीपीएस/ टीटी/ ई-37-एमडब्ल्यू-इंलैंड-03/2025-26 कार्यालयान्वयन एवं प्रौद्योगिकी पार्क (एसएमटीपी) के लिए स्वरूपण की स्थापना हुए विद्युत कार्य। Electrical works for establishment of Substation for Space Science and Technology Park (SSTP) at Kanyakumari.	331.94	09 (नीं महीने / Nine months)	6,63,900
5	एनआईटी सं-आईपीआरसी/ सीपीएस/ टीटी/ ई-19-एमएल-इंलैंड-13/2025-26 आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगढ़ी में सूखा कॉक सीमा द्वारा (समुद्र के क्षेत्र) में प्रवर्तित में सूखा। Improvement of illumination in security track boundary wall (Group D Area) at IPRC, Mahendragiri.	14.03	10 (दस महीने / Ten months)	28,100

अनिवार्य निवेदन करने की तिथि: Dates for Online Request : From 31-05-2025 [10:00 hours/ बजे] To 09-06-2025 [23:30 hours/ बजे] तक। [for s.no: 4 only]

निवार्य समय व प्रस्तुति कार्य की तिथि: Due Date & Time of Submission : 19-06-2025 [14:00 hours/ बजे] तक। [for s.no: 4 only]

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