

Amid China concerns, India & US ink pact to secure critical minerals supply

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, May 26

INDIA AND the US signed a bilateral “critical minerals framework” on Tuesday, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio before the latter wrapped up his four-day visit. This is significant since there are legitimate concerns over China’s export curbs on rare earth which are crucial for global technology supply chains in the manufacturing of cars to phones, missiles to planes.

This is a key takeaway from the bilateral engagement between Jaishankar and Rubio, since both sides are working towards repairing ties after a challenging year in bilateral relations. This is also important as it comes days after US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Beijing.

At the signing ceremony on Tuesday, Jaishankar said, “We are today signing a bilateral India-US framework on securing supply of mining and processing of critical minerals and rare-earth. This is something which we have also discussed today at the Quad meeting. And whether we’re doing it bilaterally, whether we’re doing it as a Quad format, or in fact as



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio sign the Framework on Securing Supply in Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals & Rare Earths, in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

a larger gathering of like-minded nations, it is clearly something very timely, something very important, something very critical.”

“This particular framework aims to deepen our cooperation across the entire critical minerals and rare-earth supply chain, including mining, processing, recycling, and related investments. It will certainly strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains. It will help us to collaborate in financing and in the effective

management of critical minerals and rare-earths,” he said.

Rubio said, “I’ve spoken often during my time here over the last few days about the strategic alliance between the United States and India and how important that is for our national interest in the United States, and today is a tangible example of it. We are two countries who have a strategic interest in ensuring reliable long-term access to critical minerals and supply chains that are important for our innovation

economy. And today’s a tangible result of that; it’s tangible evidence of why we are strategic allies. This is a very important step.”

The US embassy said that the initiative marks a “milestone” in the strategic partnership between the two nations to ensure that the foundational elements required for advanced technology and energy are available within trusted networks.

This agreement builds upon the foundational groundwork laid in February 2026 during high-level meetings in Washington, DC, where Rubio launched the Forum on Resource Geostategic Engagement (FORGE). Through this framework, the US and India will engage in international efforts to protect sensitive supply chains from “coercive market practices and reduce our collective vulnerability to single-source monopolies”, it said, alluding to China’s practices.

It said the US government is mobilising unprecedented resources to secure critical mineral supply chains, supporting projects with more than \$30 billion in letters of interest, investments, loans, and other support in partnership with the private sector.

“These investments, along

with Pax Silica and our reinvigorated diplomatic and commercial engagement are having a multiplier effect, mobilizing private capital many times greater than government outlays, which will generate billions of dollars in new projects to secure our supply chains,” it said.

This framework, it said, sets a path toward reliable and resilient mineral supply chains, reinforcing key objectives set established by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US-India Joint Leaders’ Statement.

Rubio recalled that the groundwork for this was laid on February 4 when the critical minerals forum was held in Washington DC.

“It gained momentum later that month when India signed onto Pax Silica. It was one of the first and early member and signatories, and now today, because we both have a strategic and shared interest in the fact that vibrant innovation economies such as ours cannot afford to leave the foundational materials of these industries vulnerable to single-source monopolies that could deny us these things – not just in a time of conflict but as a leverage point contrary to our sovereign national interests.”

Bihar orders 2-day family vacation for govt employees every 3 months

Himanshu Harsh
Patna, May 26

THE BIHAR government has directed all state government officials and employees to undertake periodic two-day stays at tourist destinations in the state, including eco-tourism and rural tourism destinations, as part of an initiative aimed at encouraging the development of local tourism infrastructure.

“All government officers and employees working in the state of Bihar shall, once every three months, undertake a two-day visit (including two nights) with their families to any district within the state, excluding their home district, and stay in tourist, eco-tourism or rural tourism destinations,” a communication by the Additional Chief Secretary of the General Administration Department, Dr B Rajender, said.

It specifies that the stay should include Friday and Saturday nights, during which the visitors should tour up to three nearby destinations.

The government has said the duration of such travel would be “treated as time spent on duty”.

It has also barred officials from combining these visits with official review meetings or site inspections.

“During this tour, no official shall conduct review meetings or site inspections for official work purposes”.

The directive has been sent to additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, secretaries, divisional commissioners, district magistrates, police officers and forest department officers.

The move is aimed at improving tourism-related infrastructure and facilities in areas across the state that remain relatively under-recognised.

6 trapped, die in Odisha septic tank as rescue op goes wrong

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, May 26

AT LEAST six people died of suspected asphyxiation after getting trapped inside an under-construction septic tank in Odisha’s Kalahandi district on Tuesday. The mishap occurred in the morning at Gaud Karlak-hunta village in Kalahandi district, when the men entered the septic tank to remove the centring materials from the under-construction structure. A father-son duo — Nimai Pal, 48 and Akash, 27 — at whose house the septic tank was being constructed, are among the deceased. The four others include three masons and a worker.

Police said the workers appear to have inhaled toxic gases accumulated inside the structure. A person who fell sick has been rushed to the hospital, where his condition is learnt to be serious. A police officer said a worker first entered the tank but failed to return, as he might have collapsed due to breathing difficulties. Six others then entered the tank one after the other, but lost consciousness. Locals, police and fire service personnel launched a rescue operation and recovered the bodies from the under-construction septic tank, taking them to a medical facility.

Police have registered an unnatural death case. “The septic tank was built three weeks ago. Toxic gas might have accumulated because of excess heat. The collapse of centring material might have also led to some peoples’ death. We are waiting for the post-mortem report,” said a police officer. Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of each person.

Valuables worth Rs 50 lakh stolen from scientist’s home at DRDO Delhi complex

New Delhi: A senior scientist was robbed of valuables worth Rs 45-50 lakh after thieves broke into her home inside the Scientist Hostel at the DRDO Timarpur complex in North Delhi, a highly secured area, police said.

The complainant, Seema Gautam, who is posted in Delhi, had travelled to Chandigarh on leave on May 15 to meet her husband and five-year-old daughter. Her husband is also a scientist and is posted as Joint Director with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Chandigarh.

On Saturday, a neighbour found the flat’s door open and alerted Gautam, who filed a complaint at Timarpur police station that night. ENS

42 grooms, no bride: The making of a mass wedding scam in MP

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, May 26

FORTY-TWO GROOMS from Madhya Pradesh turned up on their wedding day, some dressed in bright sherwanis, marigold garlands and steel dabbas carrying sweets. But the brides never arrived, and the men would later realise they had been duped by a fake wedding scam.

What unfolded in Dewas on Sunday was not just a case of financial fraud, according to police, but a public humiliation for dozens of men who had travelled from villages and small towns across Dewas and neighbouring districts, believing they were about to get married. By evening, the celebration ground had turned into a scene of anger and disbelief as families realised they may have been trapped in an elaborate scam that allegedly collected lakhs of rupees by promising brides from an Indore-based orphanage.

Police officials said preliminary investigation suggests the case involves organised cheating under the pretext of marriage.

“We have received complaints from several youths. The matter is being investigated seriously,” Bank Note Press police station in-charge Preeti Katare said. “The accused are being identified and traced. We are also verifying the claims related to the orphanage whose name was allegedly used.”

Each groom had paid between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 to middlemen who promised to organise a “collective marriage ceremony” in Dewas. Some said they had first been shown photographs of prospective brides on mobile phones weeks earlier. Others claimed they were assured the



The men were told that women raised in orphanages would marry them, and were shown photos downloaded from the Internet. FILE

women were from poor or orphaned backgrounds and were willing to marry immediately.

Rahul, who travelled from Harniyakalan village, said, “Each of us was asked to pay Rs 25,000 as a registration fee. We were told the brides were from Indore’s Matru Chhaya Ashram. When we asked for photographs, the organisers sent us pictures of models downloaded from social media. They told us to reach Dewas a day before the ceremony and assured us that the collective wedding would take place the next morning. They even promised dowry items. But when we reached the venue, nobody was there, and all the phones were eventually switched off,” Meena said.

Ashok, one of the grooms, said they were “instructed to come in plain clothes because the groom’s attire and all wedding rituals would be arranged there itself”. “They specifically told us not to apply haldi or mehendi before arriving because all the rituals would

happen at the venue,” he said.

Om Prakash, who went with his family from Bhopal, said they “selected brides from the photographs that had been sent to us on mobile phones”.

“We had submitted documents online for my brother’s marriage. After we arrived, the organisers kept telling us that madam was on the way with the brides, but nobody came until midnight,” said Rajkumar, the sister of one of the men. “Several grooms had hired cars to travel here, and many families had invited relatives and guests for the wedding. Everyone was left humiliated.”

A senior police officer said the incident came to light on May 24, and a cheating case was filed. “The prime accused, Mukesh, and his wife have been arrested. We are gathering details about their modus operandi. Since the accused are from Vidisha district, a team has also been sent there to collect further information,” said the officer.



Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib (right) during a protest over the NEET row in Bengaluru last week. PTI

Abhijit Dipke, who is Boston-based. “Indian Youth Cockroaches > Boston Cockroach,” it read. And on Monday, the Congress-backed account posted more videos of protests by “real cockroaches”.

While the IYC has been flooding its social media handles with memes and songs, its leaders claim they are neither playing catch-up with the BJP nor copying it. They say the outfit has been protesting against Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak since it came to light. It held a press conference on May 12 and organised a street protest the following day.

The cockroach entered the Indian political lexicon on May 15 when CJI Surya Kant compared unemployed youth drifting into journalism and activism

with the insect. The remarks drew criticism, following which the CJI clarified that it is “totally baseless” to suggest that he criticised the youth. “What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites. It is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation,” he had said.

The IYC claims it got to work on a website — that has since been taken down — but Dipke’s website went live a day before its site did. “It got traction because some politicians endorsed his website and it exploded on the internet,” said IYC’s social media head Manu Jain.

‘NOT CONFINED TO SOCIAL MEDIA, WE’RE ON THE GROUND’

Buzz over ‘CJP’ has Youth Congress’s antennae up: ‘We are the real cockroaches’

Manoj CG
New Delhi, May 26

COCKROACHES ARE incredibly resilient insects that have been around for hundreds of millions of years, by some estimates since the time of dinosaurs. Over the past couple of weeks, they have dominated the news cycle, with satirical online platform Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) raising the government’s hackles and inviting a ban on its social media accounts.

While the cat-and-mouse game between the government and the CJP goes on — it returned to X with an alternative account — there is another claimant for the mantle of the “real cockroach”. Congress’s youth wing, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), has got in on the act through memes and songs via its alternative X account, the Indian Youth Cockroaches, and a website. And to emphasise that it is different and the real deal, it also had a message for the CJP.

“Real cockroaches are not just online revolutionaries. You have to be on the ground and fight the system,” read one of the IYC’s social media posts on Sunday, accompanied by a video clip of a Youth Congress protest in Surat against the BJP-led Centre over the NEET paper leak. The message was clear: it is not just a satirical platform confined to the online world. Another post the day before had taken a jab at the CJP’s founder,

‘What is a cockroach’s life span?’ Haryana CM’s jibe at platform

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, May 26

REJECTING SUGGESTIONS of disenchantment among the youth, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday alleged that the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), a satirical political platform recently launched by digital strategist Abhijit Dipke, was another narrative manufactured by the Opposition. Comparing it to the “Constitution in danger” campaign ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Saini said the movement would be short-lived.

“Cockroach ki ayu kitni hai (what is the lifespan of a cock-



Nayab Singh Saini at an event on Monday. @NAYABSAININIP

roach)?” the Chief Minister said when asked about the CJP and the traction it has gained on social media.

“I interacted with youth this morning as well. I spoke to many of them. But I did not see

any disappointment among them. Not even one young person told me he was frustrated,” Saini said at an interaction in the national capital.

“The Opposition had built a narrative before the Lok Sabha elections that the Constitution would be in danger if the BJP crossed 400 seats. The Congress leader who carries a copy of the Constitution and says it is under threat has forgotten how many times his own party altered it in the past. I do not know who writes the script for him,” Saini said, referring to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Taken Date and Amount	Possession Taken Date
1.	LOAN No.:SEDAUN0451228 Branch : Daund BORROWER NAME : Mr/Mrs Dattatraya Vitthal Jambhale GUARANTOR(S) NAME: Mr/Mrs Sangita Dattatray Jambhale	All That Piece And Parcel Land Bearing 342/1 Area Admeasuring 2300 Sq. Fts., Along With Construction Standing Thereon Situated Dudhdhi Taluka Karjat District Ahamadnagar,North By: By Road, South By: By Road,East By : Property Of Mr. Macchindra Narhari More,West By : Property Of Bapu Jambhale.	27-01-2026 For Rs.3,61,733	22-05-2026

Date: 27-05-2026
Place: Ahilyanagar

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited
Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimullah Sarayani Road,Opp. Patel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, CS : 82912898 Website: www.motilaloswal.com, Email: Ifc@motilal.com, Ifc@motilal.com

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(UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd), under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned hereunder calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being also mentioned hereunder within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The following borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned hereunder.

Sr No	Loan Agreement No. / Name Of The Borrower / Co Borrower/Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice & Outstanding Taken	Date Of Possession	Description Of The Immovable Property : All That Part And Parcel/ Of Property Consisting Of Property Addressed
1	LXBEE00418-190070503 / Borrower: Babasaheb Namdev Kharade Co-Borrower : Vimalbai Babasaheb Kharade	25-05-2021 For Rs.366214/-	25-05-2026	House No. -42, Mahalaxmi Mandir, At Post - Shidod, Beed, Maharashtra - 431122
2	LXSAN00417-180068083 / Borrower: Baliram Bhaskar Shejul Co-Borrower : Mina Baliram Shejul	05-12-2024 For Rs.772121/-	25-05-2026	Miklat No.74 A/P. Ozar Kd Tal-SangamerAdmeasuring 1050 Sq Ft Near Maruti Mandir Ahmednagar o 422605 Maharashtra Boundaries East- Shivaji Sukhdev Shejul West- Sonmath Jijapapu Shinde North- Road South- Shivaji Sukhdev Shejul(Bakhal Jaga)
3	LXSHR00317-180057563 / Borrower: Devendra Sukdev Salpure Co-Borrower : Usha Devendra Salpure	11-06-2025 For Rs.1125011/-	25-05-2026	M No 1314, Gat No 188,Area Ad Measuring 188 Area H0 220 R, A/P Shingave Tal Rahata Dist Ahmednagar Ahmednagar Maharashtra-423109 Boundaries East- Road West- Gut No. 188 Part North- Gut No. 190 South- Shiv Road
4	LXWAS00317-180062881 / Borrower: Sanjay Hemraj Agrawal Co-Borrower : Santoshi Sanjay Agrawal	07-03-2026 For Rs.529573/-	20-05-2026	House No.03 Property No.2063 Gat No.351 Area Adm 108.16 Sq Mtrs And Built Up Area Is 54.08sq Mtrs, Tq Aundha Nagar ,Dist Hingoli, Maharashtra Boundries East- Plot No 04 West-Plot No 02 North-Plot No 10 South -Road

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited for an amount mentioned herein above and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/-Authorized Officer
(Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited)