

Jaishankar, Rubio mull framework for critical minerals exploration

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External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a visit to Washington DC, met US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday morning. Jaishankar and Rubio “welcomed” the India-US trade deal that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump announced on Monday evening.

Jaishankar and Rubio also discussed “formalising” bilateral cooperation on critical minerals exploration and mining. Jaishankar is in the US to attend the inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial meeting, which is to take place on Thursday.

“Facets of India-US Strategic Partnership discussed included trade, energy, nuclear, defence, critical minerals and technology. Agreed on the early meetings of various mechanisms to advance our shared interests,” Jaishankar



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (left) with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a meeting in the US on Wednesday

PHOTO: PTI

posted on X. According to the readout of the meeting by the US State Department, Jaishankar and Rubio “welcomed the trade deal reached between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders emphasised the importance of our democracies working together to unlock new economic opportunities and advance our

shared energy security goals.” They “discussed formalising bilateral cooperation on critical minerals exploration, mining and processing.” Jaishankar and Rubio also discussed India-US bilateral and multilateral cooperation through the Quad, and “acknowledged that a prosperous Indo-Pacific region remains vital to advancing our shared interests.”

During their meeting, Jaishankar and Bessent, discussed the “advancement of India-US economic partnership and strategic cooperation,” the EAM said in his social media post.

India will lower tariffs on vast array of US industrial, agri goods to 0%: USTR Greer

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told *CNBC Squawk Box* on Wednesday that India will lower tariffs on a “vast array” of American industrial and agricultural goods, such as “fruits” and “vegetables” to zero per cent under the trade deal, and termed the deal as a “big win”.