

Gabbard calls for stronger security ties with India

SATARUPA BHATTACHARJYA
New Delhi, 18 March

US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Tuesday said her country's relations with India could strengthen further.

During a short question-and-answer session after her speech at this year's Raisina Dialogue, a strategic affairs conference organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and New Delhi-based think tank Observer Research Foundation, Gabbard said the US and India would work closer.

Gabbard, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior government ministers and officials during her two-day visit to India, said she had heard "directly from her Indian counterparts about the very serious concerns" they have about India's security interests.

She, however, did not mention any third country by name. When asked about the bilateral relationship, particularly related to security, Gabbard said the US and India should look for the opportunities where they can build on "an already very strong partnership".

"And again take advantage of the new administration (Trump's) coming in, to pick up that momentum and find those other opportunities, from an intelligence-sharing standpoint, knowing that in our role, our responsibility is to make sure that we are providing the best, timely and relevant intelligence-reporting to our leaderships that they can make the best, informed decisions."

Gabbard said evolving cybersecurity needs and the vulnerabilities that exist have made working with emerging technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) necessary.

During her speech, Gabbard said US President Trump and Modi, who met in Washington, DC, in February, are "routed in our shared values of peace, freedom, security and prosperity". She quoted the former US



president John F Kennedy's 1963 "strategy of peace", which was a call for cooperation between the US and the erstwhile Soviet Union, and said Trump is committed to achieving peace through "a strategy of realism and pragmatism".

Gabbard said in the current world, where wars are being fought, such leaders are needed to "engage directly with friends and adversaries alike" in order to prevent an escalation of conflict.

"Just as President Trump is committed to 'America first', putting the safety, security and freedom of the American people at the forefront of his policies and his decisions, Prime Minister Modi is committed to 'India first', Prime Minister Luxon is committed to 'New Zealand first'."

"But this should not be misunderstood to mean that 'America first' is America alone," Gabbard said, adding that the new Trump administration is not "isolationist".

International order should be fair to all

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 18 March

Hitting out at the international order created by the West after World War II, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said the current scenario requires it to be fair before it can be effective. He said the virtues of the international order are exaggerated.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue multilateral conference here, the minister said the world needs a strong United Nations to uphold rule-based orders, but for that a fairer UN is needed. "It's important to audit the workings



Ukraine won't compromise on peace

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 18 March

Ukraine is seeking a just, comprehensive and long-lasting peace plan and is ready to negotiate in this regard under the Donald Trump administration, the country's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha (pictured) said in Delhi on Tuesday.

However, he added that the country



"IT'S THE WEST WHO HAS HOPE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER"

war costs the world dearly. Dialogue is the only way to end the conflict.