

Bilateral agenda progress steady: Jaishankar after Blinken meet

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Sunday held "wide-ranging" talks with his American counterpart Antony Blinken against the backdrop of an unease in India-US ties following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia three weeks back. "Our bilateral agenda progresses steadily. Also had a wide ranging discussion on regional and global issues," Jaishankar said in a post on X. It is learnt that the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the overall situation in Gaza figured in the talks. Both Jaishankar and Blinken are in Tokyo to attend a meeting of foreign ministers

of Quad. The talks between the external affairs minister and the US secretary of state also came amid Washington consistently seeking accountability from New Delhi in the case relating to the alleged foiled plot to kill Sikh extremist Gurupatwant Singh Pannun in New York. It is not immediately clear whether Prime Minister Modi's visit to Russia and the murder-for-hire plot figured in the Jaishankar-Blinken talks. The US and several of its allies were outraged over the timing of Modi's July 8 to 9 visit to Moscow as it coincided with the NATO summit.