

A UNIQUE PROBLEM

'China ties call for lens on investments'

EAM says very thin line between economics, security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, August 31

ASSERTING THAT INDIA has a "special China problem" which is over and above the world's "general China problem", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Saturday the border and the state of relations with the country call for investments from there to be scrutinised.

Jaishankar said that if people are complaining of trade deficit with China and "we are too", it is because decades ago, "we consciously overlooked the nature of Chinese production and the advantages which they enjoyed in a system where they got a level playing field with all the advantages they brought to bed". "China in many ways is a unique problem because it is a unique polity, it is a unique economy. Unless one tries to grasp that uniqueness and understand it, the judgments, the conclusions and the policy prescriptions flowing out of it can be problematic," he said at the ET World Leaders Forum in Delhi during a session titled

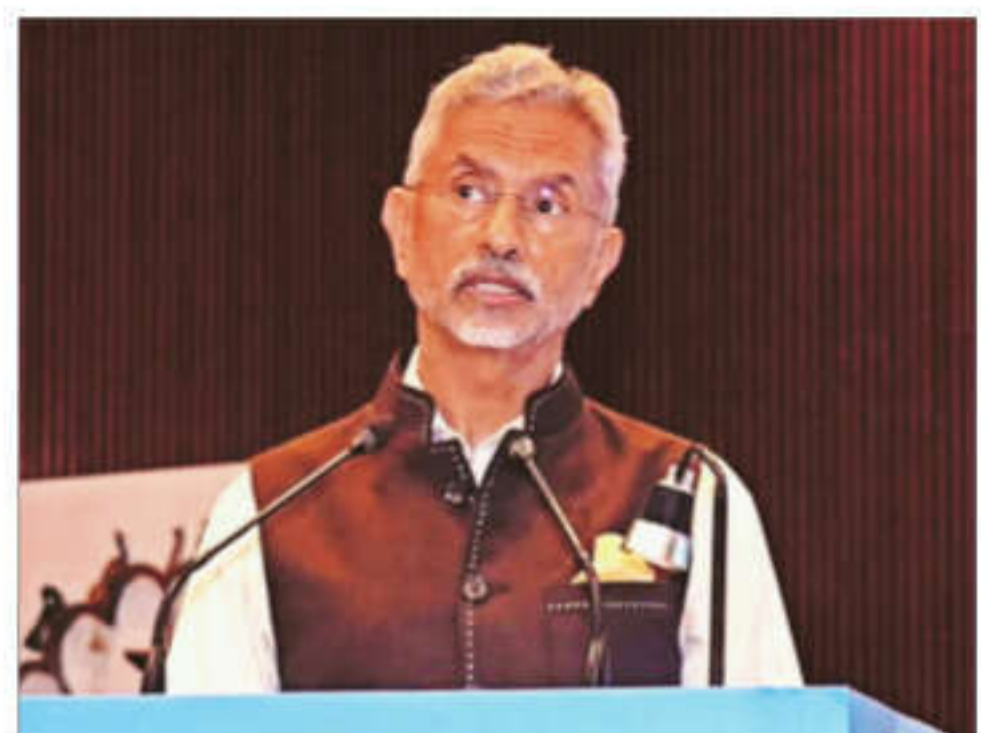
S JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

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'New India's Risks, Reforms and Responsibilities'

"There is a general China problem. We are not the only country in the world which is having a debate about China. Go to Europe, and ask them what is among their major economic or national security debates today. It is about China. Look at the United States (of America). It is obsessed with China, and rightly so in many ways," Jaishankar said. So, the fact is that it is not only India which has a China problem, he said.

"India has a China problem... a special China problem that is over and above the world's general China problem," Jaishankar



said. "When we look at trade with China, investments with China, exchanges of various kinds with China. If you neglect to take into account that this is a very different country with a very different way of working, I think your basics start to go off track," he said.

"Once you understand that because there is a general problem with China as well as our own situation, all of you know we have a very difficult situation at the border for the last four years. I think the sensible response to it is to take the precautions that a country like India is taking," the minister said. It has never been the gov-

ernment's position that it should not be having investments with China or doing business with China, he stressed.

"On the investments issue, it is common sense that investments from China would be scrutinised, I think the border and state of relations between India and China call for it," Jaishankar said.

But countries that do not have a border with China are also scrutinising investments from the country, he added.

"Europe does not have a border, America doesn't have a border with China and yet they are doing that. The issue is not do you have investments with

China or not, it is not a yes or no answer, it is what should be the appropriate level of scrutiny and how should you handle it," the minister said. "Sometimes when I read stuff where people write that we should clearly identify that this as national security, it doesn't work that way anymore because what is national security has expanded. If your telecom is based on Chinese technology, can you be impervious to it," he asked.

"In my view, at a certain level, with certain countries in certain situations, the line between economics and security is a very thin line," Jaishankar said. During the session, he also noted that there is a major war in Europe, a huge conflict in the Middle East, there are tensions in Asia and the revival of territorial claims and border frictions with each one of them mounts risks, he said. The focus of the world is on de-risking, Jaishankar asserted.

He highlighted that every government is now closely evaluating geopolitical risks, with the majority of efforts focused on de-risking. He emphasised that in the current global landscape, managing and mitigating risks has become a central concern in shaping international relations and policies.

Rubina Francis wins bronze in air pistol SH1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chateauroux, August 31

RUBINA FRANCIS SHOT down India's fourth medal from the shooting range, showing tremendous calm and composure in a high-class field to clinch a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol SH1 event in the Paris Paralympics on Saturday.

Competing in a top-class field consisting of the defending champion and world record holder among others, the 25-year-old held her own to score a total of 211.1 for a third-place finish in the eight-woman final.

She had qualified for the final at the seventh spot in the qualification round earlier in the day. Iran's Javanmardi Sareh won her third successive Paralympics gold with a total score of 236.8 while world record holder Ozgan Aysel of Turkey took the silver with 231.1 in a fierce competition between the two favourites. Rubina's medal was India's fourth in shooting and fifth overall at the Paris Paralympics. She is India's first woman pistol shooter to win a Paralympics medal.

She had secured the Paris Paralympics quota under the bipartite (wildcard) rule a few days before the contingent's departure for the French capital. In SH1 class, athletes are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position in a wheelchair or chair.

The daughter of a mechanic in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Rubina was born with an impairment to her leg, and she took up the sport inspired by her admiration for legendary Indian shooter Gagan Narang's Olympic achievements.

Her story is an example of resilience, determination, and the transformative power of sport in overcoming adversity. She was competing in her second Paralympics, having finished seventh in the final in Tokyo three years ago.

Rubina was consistent all through the final. She was third at the end of stage 1 of 10 shots with 97.6, with Ozgan leading with 99.5.

She briefly slipped to fourth spot at the end of the 14th shot. But she recovered and returned to the third spot in



Francis' bronze is India's fourth medal in shooting and fifth overall at the Paris Paralympics

On Friday, Avani Lekhara created history by successfully defending her women's 10m air rifle gold medal which she had clinched in Tokyo Paralympics, Mona Agarwal won bronze

series of 10 shots in the qualifying round, but gradually moved up and clinched a spot in the eight-shooter final with a score of 556.

Born into a lower-middle-class family, Rubina faced the added obstacle of leg dysfunction. Her father Simon, initially a mechanic, struggled to support her growing passion for shooting due to financial constraints. Her shooting journey began in 2015 as her determination and her father's tireless efforts led her to Gun for Glory Academy, founded by Gagan Narang, in 2017.

Under the mentorship of Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Subhash Rana, she made quick progress and was selected at the MP Shooting Academy.

At the MP Shooting Academy, her skills flourished. She won a gold medal at the World Shooting Para Sport Championships in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates in 2022.

the next series of two shots. On Friday, Avani Lekhara had created history by successfully defending her women's 10m air rifle gold medal which she had clinched in Tokyo Paralympics, with compatriot Mona Agarwal winning the bronze.

Manish Narwal then added a silver medal in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1). In the qualification round, Rubina trailed the top-eight shooters for the most part but picked up speed at the fag end to sneak into the medal round. She was placed 14th after the first

Magsaysay to Vietnamese doctor, Japanese animator

ASSOCIATED PRESS Manila, August 31

A VIETNAMESE DOCTOR who has helped seek justice for victims of the powerful defoliant dioxin "Agent Orange" used by US forces during the Vietnam War is among this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards — regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prizes.

The other winners announced on Saturday were a group of doctors who struggled to secure adequate healthcare for Thailand's rural poor, an Indonesian environmental defender, a Japanese animator who tackles complex issues for children and a Bhutanese academic promoting his country's cultural heritage to help current predicaments.

First given in 1958, the annual awards are named after the Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash, and honour



Winners (left to right): Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam), Karma Phuntsho (Bhutan), Miyazaki Hayao (Japan), Rural Doctors Movement (Thailand) & Farwiza Farhan (Indonesia)

"greatness of spirit" in selfless service to people across Asia.

Vietnamese doctor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong carried out extensive research into the devastating and long-term effects of Agent Orange which she said she first encountered in the late 1960s as a medical intern when she helped deliver babies with

severe birth defects as a result of the lingering effect of highly toxic chemical, according to the awards body. "Her work serves as a dire warning for the world to avoid war at all costs as its tragic repercussions can reach far into the future," the Magsaysay foundation said.

Miyazaki Hayao, a popular animator in Japan, was cited by

the awards body as a co-founder in 1985 of Studio Ghibli, a leading proponent of animated films for children. Three Ghibli productions were among Japan's ten top-grossing films.

The Rural Doctors Movement, a group of Thai physicians, won the award for their "decades of struggle... to secure adequate and affordable healthcare for their people, especially the rural poor," it said.

Karma Phuntsho from Bhutan, a former Buddhist monk and an Oxford-educated scholar, was cited by the awards body for his academic works in the field of Buddhism and Bhutan's rich history and cultural heritage that were being harnessed to address current and future problems in his country, including unemployment and access to high-quality education.

Indonesian Farwiza Farhan won the award for helping lead a group protect the Leuser Ecosystem, a 2.6-million-hectare forest on Sumatra Island in his country's Aceh province where some of the world's most highly endangered species have managed to survive, the foundation said.

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