

# India gifts 4 BHISHM cubes to Ukraine

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (PTI)

**INDIA** has decided to gift four Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM) cubes, a mobile hospital aimed at providing emergency medical care, to Ukraine, officials on Friday said.

Under the umbrella of Project Aarogya Maitri, a programme to provide essential medical supplies to developing countries as humanitarian assistance, the Government has created the BHISHM initiative, which provides the means to



deliver all basic facilities and equipment for providing emergency medical care in an easy to use and rapidly deployable manner, they noted.

The decision to gift four such cubes to Ukraine was taken prior to the visit by PM Modi to Ukraine. The mobile hospital is made through packing all essential medicines and equipment in cubical boxes (15 inches each) in a well-organised manner, and arranged according to the types of injuries and medical issues.

# As India celebrates first National Space Day

## ISRO scientists say, PM Modi wants to spread scientific knowledge to younger generation

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (ANI)

INDIA is celebrating its first-ever National Space Day to mark the anniversary of the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Senior ISRO scientists shared their experiences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly during the Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 missions.

B N Ramakrishna, Director, ISRO Telemetry, Tracking & Command Network (ISTRAC) told ANI, "Chandrayaan-2 was another big mission, which we were all aiming to land, soft landing at the Moon (on) South Pole. So that time when Modi ji

had come... we had made a lot of arrangements. The most important point, I would like to bring here is he wanted to spread the scientific knowledge to the younger generation."

He recalled they had arranged for two or three children from each State to witness this landing event.

"So we had arranged the children from all over the India. I think from each State there were two or three students who had come to ISTRAC Bengaluru to watch this landing event. We had made good arrangements for Prime Minister ji. He was sitting in the visitor's Gallery. Constantly monitoring the various parameters of



PM Modi at ISRO's command centre in Bengaluru. ISRO chief S Somanath and other scientists are also seen. (PTI/file)

Chandrayaan-2. Everything was going so smoothly. He was feeling very good about that. And the school children were also watching."

Pavithra Shinde, the ISRO Scientist told ANI, "I am, here in ISRO for 38 years. The main difference I am seeing in the approach of ISRO is that earlier what we do, how we do, was not known to anybody. Only the outcome of that as a service was made available to the concerned departments. So, it was only, concentrating on the outcome. But nowadays, what we are seeing is that not only the outcome is essential, but what we are doing also should reach the public, known to the pub-

lic." He said that PM Modi had promised the ISRO Chairman that he would virtually attend the event.

"That is the change I am seeing in the recent years. Actually, Chandrayaan-3, we had planned that the Prime Minister should be here at the time of landing. Unfortunately, G-20 meeting was scheduled at South Africa. He could not miss that and come. But he did promise to the Chairman, that he would be available via video conferencing." Following the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3, PM Modi declared August 23 as National Space Day and named the landing site 'Shiva Shakti Point'.



President Droupadi Murmu presents the awards to the winners of the 'Robotics Challenge' and (R) 'Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon' during the first National Space Day celebrations as Union Minister of State Science and Technology Jitendra Singh and ISRO Chairman S Somanath look on at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI/(PTI))

## India will emerge as global space leader, say experts

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (IANS)

WITH apt support from Government and private investments, India will emerge as a global space leader, said experts on Friday on the first National Space Day. The day aims to honour the landmark achievement of the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft, which made India the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to reach its southern polar region on August 23, 2023.

Led by ISRO, India has in the previous decade pushed the boundaries leading to a string of groundbreaking achievements, including the Mangalyaan mission, the record-breaking launch of 104 satellites, Chandrayaan 3, and Aditya L-1.

The country's private space sector has also seen significant growth in the last decade. Experts attribute this to progressive policies by the government, including the India Space policy, and the formation of NewSpace India (NSIL).

"While challenges like funding and infrastructure exist, the overall outlook is optimistic. With sustained government support and private investments, India has the potential to emerge as a global space leader," Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri, CMD, Ananth Technologies and President SIA-India, told IANS.

"India's space sector has undergone a transformative journey, evolving from modest beginnings to a global leader in space exploration and innovation," added Vishesh Rajaram, Managing Partner at Speciale Invest.

"India has now truly become an enabler of everyone's space tech dreams and is already well on its way to becoming a global leader in all aspects of space technology," Srinath Ravichandran, Co-founder and CEO of Agnikul Cosmos, told IANS.

Agnikul Cosmos recently launched the world's 1st rocket with a fully 3D-printed engine. The startup also set up a private launchpad on the ISRO premises.



## From the Modi Archive

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's space vision has revolutionised governance from Gujarat to nation which now plans to have its own space station by 2035.

From education to agriculture, and even water management, Gujarat under PM Modi's leadership was ahead of its time, demonstrating how technology can be tailored locally to address specific needs.

It's impressive how they used satellite data not just for high-level projects but also for practical, everyday applications that directly benefited the people of the State.

This highlights the innovative approach, Gujarat took, under PM Narendra Modi's leadership in integrating space technology with governance. The emphasis on localising technology while maintaining universal scientific principles is a powerful reminder of how innovation can be effectively harnessed for regional development.

Modi Archive posted on social media platform X: "A young @narendramodi once scribbled in his diary - 'Science must be universal, but technology must be local.'"

"Fast forward to 2009, and this vision was already in full swing!" "Under the leadership of then Gujarat CM Modi, the State was not just ahead of the curve but setting it when it came to using space technology for everyday life."

Modi Archive also shared a newspaper clipping from 2009, in which the then ISRO Chairman, G Madhavan Nair, emphasised Gujarat's pioneering role in applying satellite data in ways that no other region in India had even imagined. From tele-education to forecasting crop production and mapping minerals to exploring groundwater, remote sensing of gases, urban morphology and identifying fisheries zones - Gujarat was transforming governance using space tech.

"And get this - Gujarat was the FIRST State to use satellite data and 3D imaging for laying out pipelines and check dam routes. By then, CM Modi had already mapped 300,000 check dams across the State!"

# Jaishankar defends PM Modi's hug diplomacy

KYIV, Aug 23 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday defended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hugging of Russian President Vladimir Putin, a gesture that had drawn much criticism from the West.

Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy here with a warm hug that came barely six weeks after Modi had similarly hugged the leader of

Ukraine's arch-enemy, President Putin. After Modi met with Putin in July, the Western media was full of news with headlines such as 'Modi's Embrace of Putin Irks Biden Team Pushing Support for Kyiv' while the BBC in one of its reports said, "Photos from Moscow showed a beaming Mr Modi hugging the Russian president." Zelenskyy himself had posted on X then without naming names: "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating

blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day."

On Friday, during a media briefing after the Modi-Zelenskyy talks, Jaishankar was asked about the 'embrace' in a question meant to seek comments on apparent linkages with Modi's meetings with Putin earlier and Zelenskyy now.

# India in touch with Qatar over seizure of Guru Granth Sahib

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (IANS)

**THE** Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that it remains in touch with the Qatar Government following reports of Guru Granth Sahib being seized by the local authorities.

“We have seen reports regarding the Guru Granth Sahib seized by the Qatari

authorities and the demand for their release by the Sikh community.

Government has already taken up the matter with the Qatar side and our Embassy has kept the Sikh community in Doha abreast of developments in this regard,” said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in response to media queries regarding the issue.

“It is important to note that two swaroops of Guru Granth Sahib were taken by Qatar authorities from two individuals/groups who were charged for running religious establishment without the approval of Government of Qatar. Our Embassy rendered all possible assistance within the ambit of local laws and regulations,” he added.

# INDIA, US SIGN TWO key defence deals

WASHINGTON, Aug 23 (PTI)

**INDIA** and the US have signed two key agreements as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh began his official visit to Washington to further boost the comprehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries.

The agreements signed on Thursday pertain to the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers. "Two important



Rajnath Singh

documents have been signed in Washington DC as Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh's visit to the United States begins. Senior defence officials from both sides concluded the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA), and Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers," the Ministry of Defence (MoD) shared in a post on X on Friday, along with some photographs of the event.

Singh arrived here on Thursday on a four-day visit to the US. The US and

India entered into a "bilateral, non-binding Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)", the US Department of Defence (DoD) said in a press release on Thursday. Through this SOSA, the US and India agree to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that promote national defence. The Arrangement will enable both countries to acquire the industrial resources they need from one another to resolve unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet national security needs, it said.

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# Engage to end war: India to Ukraine, Russia

## India will help in 'all possible ways' to bring peace in region: PM Modi to Zelenskyy

KYIV, Aug 23 (PTI)

UKRAINE and Russia need to engage with each other to find a solution to the ongoing conflict between them, India said on Friday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy here under the shadow of the raging war.

In the discussions, Modi reiterated the need for "practical engagement" between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability in the region. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the Prime Minister conveyed to Zelenskyy India's willingness to contribute in "all possible ways" to facilitate an early return of peace to Ukraine.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, at Marinskyi Palace in Kyiv, Ukraine on Friday. (PTI)

It was a very detailed, open and in many ways constructive discussion, he said, adding the talks revolved around to some extent the military situation, on concerns like food and energy

security, and on "conceivable pathways to peace". The Ukrainian side wanted continued involvement of India with the Global Peace summit, he said.

Jaishankar said there was also a discussion on what could be effective ways of taking the discussions forward.

"It is India's view that the two sides (Ukraine and Russia) need to engage with each other to find a solution," he said.

The External Affairs Minister said the two leaders reiterated their readiness to continue cooperation to

India, Ukraine ink 4 agreements on cooperation in areas of agriculture, food industry, medicine, culture and humanitarian assistance

uphold principles of international law such as respect for territorial integrity and protect the sovereignty of states.

Modi also spoke about his discussions recently with

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## PM highlights Gandhi's message of peace

KYIV, Aug 23 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday underscored the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's eternal message of peace in building a harmonious society, as he paid floral tribute to the statue of the iconic Indian leader here in war-torn Ukraine.

Modi paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's statue in 'Oasis of Peace' park in Kyiv.

On his arrival following a nearly 10-hour train journey from Poland, Modi was accorded a warm welcome by members of the Indian community at the Hyatt Hotel.

Soon after, Modi visited the multimedia Martyrologist exposition on children at the National Museum of History in Kyiv. Zelenskyy warmly hugged and shook hands with Modi at the exposition. The Prime Minister was deeply touched by the poignant exposition set up in memory of children who have lost their lives in the conflict, MEA said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a visit to 'Martyrologist' Exposition to honour the memory of children in Kyiv on Friday. (PTI)