

EAM asks UN member States not to allow 'political convenience' to determine responses to terrorism



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks at the General Debate of the 78th session of United Nations General Assembly, in New York, on Tuesday. (PTI)

■ Respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be “exercises in cherry picking”, says Jaishankar

■ **By Yoshita Singh**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday asked the UN member states not to allow “political convenience” to determine responses to terrorism, extremism and violence, in a veiled attack on Canada amidst the diplomatic standoff over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

Addressing the 78th UN General Assembly session here, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said respect for territorial integrity and

non-interference in internal affairs cannot be “exercises in cherry picking” as he asserted that the days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over.

“We must never again allow an injustice like vaccine apartheid to recur. Climate action too cannot continue to witness an evasion of historical responsibilities. The power of markets should not be utilised to steer food and energy from the needy to the wealthy.

“Nor must we countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Similarly, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercises in cherrypicking,” the Minister said, in an apparent reference to the US, which

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CPEC meeting report reveals China-Pak chasm on expansion

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Beijing has turned down several of Islamabad's proposals related to direct investments in multiple sectors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), including energy, tourism, water management and climate change, minutes of a key panel meeting indicate.

The signed minutes of the CPEC's Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) bring to fore the challenges both sides face in deepening economic ties. The JCC meet was held in October 2022 and its minutes were signed by the Chinese vice-premier and Pakistan's former planning minister Ahsan Iqbal on July 31 this year. The delay underscores the chasm. The draft shared with Beijing by Pakistan and the final minutes signed by both sides were different in many ways.

China disagreed with a host of measures Pakistan proposed. The final document indicates that Islamabad has given up its opposition to a number of Chinese demands in order to address Beijing's concerns. Details of the minutes reported by a local daily reveal that China had turned down cooperation in cross-border tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and coastal areas. China, the report suggested, also did not agree to Pakistan's push for inclusion of water resources management and climate change and urban infrastructure development in the CPEC framework. A plan for a new joint working group on water reso-



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urces management and climate change was also rejected.

A plan for a transmission line from Hub to Gwadar in Balochistan province to link the seaport city with the national grid in the CPEC framework did not get approval, either. The same happened to a proposal to include two hydel power projects in the CPEC energy cooperation list and its implementation by Chinese investors. Other Islamabad plans that did not make the grade with Beijing included a proposal to develop a policy framework for coal gasification for fertiliser projects based on coal in the southern Sindh province's Thar desert. Similarly, China did not agree to meet Pakistan's energy needs from indigenous resources and conversion of coal into other products for domestic demand as well as exports. Pakistan had proposed Chinese participation in a strategic underground gas storage project but it was not included in the final minutes. The minutes are also silent on a push to get Chinese technology for joint exploration of metallic minerals.

WHY IS TRUDEAU SO DESPERATE TO SOLVE NIJJAR KILLING CASE?

■ BY NANTOO BANERJEE

HAD Pierre Yves Elliott Trudeau, father of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, been alive today, he would have probably been a little embarrassed, if not distressed, to see his beloved country has become a home of small migrant Sikh terrorist groups hopelessly engineering to separate the Indian State of Punjab, almost 11,500 kms away, to make it an independent State of Khalistan. Pierre Trudeau himself spear-headed the role in decisively defeating the Quebec separatist movement of the 1970s and 1980s. A charismatic and controversial figure, Pierre Trudeau was arguably Canada's best-known politician, both at home and abroad.

Unfortunately, Pierre Trudeau did little to restrain illegal entry of Khalistani Sikh terrorists into his country even after they bomb-raked a fully loaded Air-India passenger flight in the mid-1980s. He also failed to take an exemplary action to nab and punish those Canada-based Sikh terrorists and their organisations involved in bombing the international passenger aircraft. He followed one principle to get the Quebec separatist movement demolished and another one to support the anti-India Khalistani movement by a small group of terrorists operating out of his beloved homeland, Canada.

Justin Trudeau appears to be 'like father, like son.' The Khalistani Sikh terrorist groups continue to prosper in Canada, despite violent inter-group rivalries, killings and attacks on non-sikh Indian settlers and students in the country. Without exception, all killings deserve strong condemnation and speedy investigation. While Trudeau's deep concern for the June 18 killing of Canada-based Hardeep Singh Nijjar, known to be a top leader of Khalistan Tiger Force, is understandable, it is not clear why he wants India's official "cooperation" in his Government probe. As of now, there is nothing to establish that there was an Indian Government hand in the

While Trudeau's deep concern for the June 18 killing of Canada-based Hardeep Singh Nijjar, known to be a top leader of Khalistan Tiger Force, is understandable, it is not clear why he wants India's official "cooperation" in his Government probe. As of now, there is nothing to establish that there was an Indian Government hand in the Nijjar killing. It is possible that Trudeau may have little faith in the investigation capability of his own Government agencies, which took nearly two decades to close the case of the mid-air bombing of a Air India's Boeing 747 flight from Toronto to Bombay by Khalistani terror groups on June 23, 1985, killing 329 passengers, of which 280 were Canadian citizens. Why is Trudeau so desperate to solve the Nijjar killing case, involving only a single Canadian citizen?

Nijjar killing. It is possible that Trudeau may have little faith in the investigation capability of his own Government agencies, which took nearly two decades to close the case of the mid-air bombing of a Air India's Boeing 747 flight from Toronto to Bombay by Khalistani terror groups on June 23, 1985, killing 329 passengers, including 22 crew members, on board. This was despite the fact that of those killed, 280 were Canadian citizens. Why is Trudeau so desperate to solve the Nijjar killing case, involving only a single Canadian citizen, so quickly?

For reasons unknown to India's 22-million strong Sikh community, known for both their gallantry and strong business acumen, Canada has been the most important operating ground for groups of Sikh terror outfits wildly dreaming to convert Punjab into Khalistan. Sikhs combine as one of India's top nationalist communities. It is believed that Guru Nanak, the teacher of the faith, promoted the religion to protect Hindus against Moslem insurgencies in the 15th century. The Indian Army's Sikh regiment is the country's highest decorated



infantry regiment boasting over 80 gallantry awards since 1947. Over 95 per cent of India's Sikh population consider themselves as

proud Indians. Punjab, sharing borders with other Indian States such as Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Gujarat, is also one of India's wealthiest State economies. Punjab is a major producer of wheat, rice, and other crops, and its agricultural prowess has played a significant role in the State's economic growth. Overall, the community has nothing to do with the Canada-based Khalistan movement. Thus, Canada's support for and protection of the Sikh separatist groups is inexplicable. The country's lethargic investigation into the Air-India bombing case in the 1980s and 1990s and the current fast forward probe into the Khalistani terrorist murder incident are contradictory and inexplicable if not with a mischievous intent. Although a handful of people were arrested and tried in the Air India bombing case, the only person convicted was Inderjit Singh Reyat, a dual British-Canadian national, who pleaded guilty in 2003 to

manslaughter.

The Air India bombing is considered the worst mass murder in Canadian history. The subsequent investigation and prosecution lasted nearly 20 years, making it the most expensive in Canadian history at nearly \$130 million.

Under the circumstances, Trudeau's personal initiative in the Nijjar killing investigation seeking India's "cooperation" may look somewhat unnatural if not purely politically motivated and dubious.

It is true that Canada's 770,000-plus Sikh citizens form a strong political force in the country. Canada is home to nearly 1.4 million people of Indian ethnic or cultural origin, making up about 3.7 per cent of the nation's total population. Furthermore, a large number of individuals identify their religion as Sikhism, accounting for roughly two per cent of Canada's inhabitants.

The centre-left to Left Wing New Democratic Party, led by Jagmeet Singh, is Canada's fourth largest political party having 25 MPs in the 338-member Canadian Parliament. The party is running almost neck and neck with Yves-Francois Blanchet-led third placed Bloc Québécois (32 MPs), championing the cause of Quebec's sovereignty, social democracy and regionalism.

Trudeau's Liberal Party (158 MPs) is the largest, followed by the right wing Conservative Party (117 MPs). Two ministers in Justin Trudeau's cabinet are turbaned Sikhs — Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains and Emergency Preparedness Minister Harjit Sajjan (formerly Defence Minister).

The strong presence of a generally wealthy Indian Diaspora could be a reason behind Trudeau's somewhat disjointed political reaction to the Nijjar killing investigation. It is rather surprising that Trudeau ignored the diplomatic and economic consequences of trying to implicate India in the Nijjar murder case without a prima facie evidence. Flaring India-Canada tension threatens to impact the multi-billion dollar trade between the two countries. (IPA)

Russia shows Black Sea fleet commander in clip whom Kyiv 'killed'

Ukraine's military said on Tuesday that it was "clarifying" whether the commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet had died in a recent missile strike on Moscow's naval headquarters in Crimea, acknowledging uncertainty after Russia released a video appearing to show him at a meeting of top defence officials. The authenticity and timing of the heavily edited video released by Russia's defence ministry could not be verified, but Russian media said the meeting took place Tuesday.

Ukraine's special operations forces claimed Monday to have killed the commander of the Black Sea Fleet in an attack last week. After Russia released the video appearing to show the commander, Adm. Viktor Sokolov, the Ukrainian forces issued a statement reiterating its claim that 34 Russian officers had been killed, but added that since the "Russians were forced to publish a response with Sokolov allegedly alive," it was "clarifying the information" about the admiral. "According to available sources, the commander is among the dead," it said. "Many have not yet been identified due to the fragmentation of body parts."

In the video clip, Sergei Shoigu, the defence minister, is seen discussing a drill that he said Russia's Pacific Fleet completed Monday. An officer who appears to be Sokolov is seen on a video screen, seemi-



Statues around a cathedral in Ukrainian city of Lviv are wrapped up in an effort to protect them from being damaged by Russian attacks

Turkiye links Sweden Nato bid to F-16 deal

President Erdogan said the Turkish parliament will abide by his pledge to ratify Sweden's accession to the Nato if the US sticks to its commitments to deliver F-16 fighter jets to Ankara. Ankara wants a quick resolution to its request for F-16s from Washington, where US legislators led by Democratic senator Robert Menendez have so far blocked progress. Graft charges against him last week created an advantage that Turkiye wants to seize, Erdogan said. Menendez temporarily stepped aside as foreign relations committee head. BLOOMBERG

ngly from another location, but doesn't speak in the footage. The death of Sokolov, if confirmed, would be one of the biggest blows to the Russian navy since Ukrainian forces sunk the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet last year. NYT

'Nepal PM declines to endorse Xi's security doctrine'

Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who is on an 8-day visit to China, has apparently declined to endorse President Xi Jinping's security doctrine. A joint statement issued after Prachanda's talks with Xi and Chinese Premier Li Qiang only referred to the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Xi's other two doctrines – the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which advocates a common global security paradigm; and the Global Cultural Initiative (GCI) for promotion of culture — were conspicuously missing. Reports from Kathmandu said Prachanda sidestepped China's pressure to welcome Xi's GSI and GCI but endorsed the GDI. Ahead of his China visit, Prachanda had said the GSI is not in the interest of Nepal, which wants to maintain a strategic balance between India, China and the US. PTI

'Need reforms in UNSC in line with G20 admitting AU'

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Sep 26 (PTI)

INDIA'S initiative under its G20 Presidency to admit the African Union as a permanent member of the grouping is a "significant step" in reform that should inspire the "much older" United Nations to make the Security Council contemporary, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

At the G20 Summit in New Delhi earlier this month, the grouping of emerging and developed economies adopted the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration through consensus and included the African Union as a permanent member of the bloc. Addressing the General Debate at the 78th high-level session of the UN General

Assembly, Jaishankar said the African Union's inclusion in the G20 was a "significant step."

"It was also noteworthy that at India's initiative, the African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20. By doing so, we gave voice to an entire continent which has long been its due," Jaishankar said.

He said that "this significant step in reform should inspire the United Nations, a much older organisation, to also make the Security Council contemporary. Broad representation is a prerequisite for both effectiveness and credibility."

In a significant milestone under India's G20 presidency, the African Union became a new permanent member of the grouping of the largest economies of the world dur-



Foreign Minister S Jaishankar addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. (AP/PTI)

ing the summit in Delhi. It was the first expansion of the influential bloc since its inception in 1999. All member countries of the G20 accepted Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to bring the key bloc of the Global South to the high table of the world's top economies. Jaishankar added that the "most populous nation and the fifth largest economy knows that its progress makes a real difference to the world."

"Especially so when so many nations identify with us for reasons of history, geography and culture. They follow our experiences closely and evaluate our solutions for their larger relevance." Jaishankar said that as the United Nations itself symbolises, finding common ground is imperative. "To listen to others and to respect their viewpoints, this is not weakness; it is the basics of cooperation. Only then can collective efforts on global issues

be successful." He noted that even as Delhi encourages collective endeavours, India also seeks to promote cooperation with diverse partners. "From the era of non-alignment, we have now evolved to that of Vishwa Mitra (a friend to the world). This is reflected in our ability and willingness to engage with a broad range of nations. And, where necessary, harmonise interests."

"It is visible in the rapid growth of the Quad, a mechanism today so relevant to the Indo-Pacific. It is equally apparent in the expansion of the BRICS grouping of independent-minded nations. Or in fact, the emergence of the I2U2 combination," he said referring to the India, Israel, UAE and US grouping.