

PM meets Guterres, Sunak, Lula, other world leaders on **COP28** sidelines



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the COP28, in UAE, on Friday. (PTI)

DUBAI, Dec 1 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the UN climate summit here and highlighted India's initiatives and progress in achieving climate goals. During the meeting, Modi thanked Guterres for his support during India's G20 Presidency.

Modi had a hectic day-long schedule as he addressed four sessions at the UN's climate change conference here, met various world leaders and also held some bilateral meetings. Along with other world leaders, he also participated in what was described as the 'Family Photo'.

The Prime Minister met his British counterpart Rishi Sunak, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio

Modi meets Macron

DUBAI, Dec 1 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed a wide range of issues including climate financing and civil nuclear cooperation.

PM MODI LEAVES FOR INDIA: Prime Minister Modi on Friday evening left here for India after a day packed with summit speeches, bilateral meetings.

Lula da Silva, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Ex-Navy personnel on DEATH ROW in Qatar

- All of the former Navy officers had “unblemished stints” of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (PTI)

NAVY Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Friday said the Government is putting all-out efforts to bring back eight former naval personnel from Qatar, who were handed death sentence by a Qatari court.

“We are working closely to ensure that their interests are looked after,” Admiral Kumar said at a media briefing.

Government making efforts to bring them back: Navy Chief

“The Government of India is putting all-out efforts to ensure they are brought back,” he said.

The Indian nationals were on October 26 given death sentence by Qatar’s Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as “deeply” shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. An appeal has already been filed against the death sentence and a higher court in Qatar has already admitted the plea.

The appeal has been filed by the legal team of the detained Indian nationals. The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case of

espionage. Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public. In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) last month said that it is attaching “high importance” to this case and is exploring all legal options.

The charges were filed against the eight Indian navy veterans on March 25 and they were tried under Qatari law. All of the former Navy officers had “unblemished stints” of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and had held important positions, including that of instructors in the force, former military officials had said.

EVEN AS

**CEASEFIRE
EXPIRES**

32

killed in Israeli
airstrikes in
Gaza: Hamas



Rockets fired toward Israel from Gaza Strip on Friday. (AP/PTI)

DEIR AL-BALAH, Dec 1 (Agencies)

MEDIATOR Qatar said on Friday that efforts are continuing to renew an Israel-Hamas truce and expressed “deep regret” over the resumption of Israeli bombardments after a week-long ceasefire expired earlier on Friday.

Israel and Hamas have traded blame, with each saying the other side violated the terms of the truce. Qatar, which has served as a mediator along with Egypt, appeared to be singling out Israel’s role in the resumption of violence. Qatar’s Foreign Ministry said that “the continued bombing of the Gaza Strip in the first hours after the end of the pause complicates mediation efforts and exacerbates the humanitarian catastrophe” in the territory.

Meanwhile, Israeli fighter jets hit targets in Gaza Strip minutes after the truce expired, as the war resumed in full force.

According to the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry in Gaza claimed that Israeli airstrikes has killed 32 people in the besieged enclave so far.

Earlier, the Ministry had said 14 people were killed, reports CNN. A Ministry official said the majority of those killed were women and children.

In a separate statement, the Ministry of Interior confirmed that Israeli strikes had resumed across Gaza. Black smoke billowed from the besieged territory and Israel dropped leaflets over parts of southern Gaza urging people to leave their homes, suggesting it was preparing to widen its offensive. Renewed hostilities heightened concerns for the about 140 hostages who remain in Gaza, after more than 100 were freed as part of the truce.

(Contd on page 3)

India seeks enhanced Interpol cooperation

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (PTI)

INDIA has sought "concerted action" through Interpol channels to combat and prevent on "real-time basis" transnational crimes such as terrorism, online radicalisation and cyber-enabled financial fraud, officials said on Friday.

At the 91st General Assembly of the Interpol in Vienna, the Indian delegation led by CBI Director Praveen Sood also stressed on the need to abolish any safe havens for crime, criminals and proceeds of crime as well as coordinated strategies to curtail operations of transnational criminal organisations.



The five-member team included NIA Director General Dinkar Gupta. The four-day

assembly, which began on November 28, also celebrated the centenary year of the inter-

national police cooperation organisation which was formed in 1923. Increased leveraging of Interpol channels and relationships with law enforcement agencies globally to combat crime and criminals saw 24 criminals and fugitives wanted by India brought back this year, the highest ever in a year, the spokesperson of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said here.

"Further, India has also geolocated more than 184 criminals in various countries and initiated formal proceedings for their return," he said.

During discussions with law enforcement agencies from multiple countries, India

sought for enhanced coordination through the Interpol with a view for "concerted action" to combat organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, online radicalisation, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and to "prevent these crimes on a real-time basis", the spokesperson said.

"India has stressed on the need to deny any safe haven for crime, criminals and proceeds of crimes. The need for coordinated strategies to curtail criminal organisations, which operate across international jurisdictions, was deliberated," according to a statement.

Disputes in Indo-Pacific could get out of control: Navy Chief Hari Kumar

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (PTI)

THE disputes in the Indo-Pacific do have the possibility of getting out of control and turning into conflict, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Friday against the backdrop of growing global concerns over China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.

In a media briefing ahead of Navy Day on December 4, he also said India has been closely monitoring Chinese activities in the Indian Ocean and that his force deployed surveillance assets, ships, aircraft, submarines and drones to boost its



presence. "We try to keep the extra-regional forces which are present in the region under surveillance as we would like to know what are their activities and what are the intentions," he said, referring to Chinese forays into the Indian Ocean.

"That is why we deploy our sur-

veillance assets and ships, submarines, aircraft, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) etc. They are deployed regularly to keep our area of interest under observation to see that we are aware of all the happenings that are taking place."

On the Indo-Pacific, the Chief of Naval Staff said all like-minded nations must work together to ensure peace and stability in the region. "In the Indo-Pacific what we see -- there are disputes. These disputes do have the possibility of getting out of control or getting elevated and then they can go into conflict," he said.

NOVEMBER

Power consumption grows 8.5 pc to 119.64 billion units

- The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (PTI)

THE country's power consumption grew nearly 8.5 per cent to 119.64 billion units (BU) in November, showing a surge in electricity demand due to festivities and increased economic activities.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 110.25 BU, higher than 99.32 billion units recorded in November 2021, according to the Government data.

The peak power demand met - the highest supply in a day - rose to 204.60 GW in November. The



peak power supply stood at 187.34 GW in November 2022 and 166.10 GW in November 2021. The Power Ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched

238.19 GW in August. In September this year, it was 240.17 GW. The peak demand was 222.16 GW in October 2023.

Industry experts said power consumption was affected in March, April, May, and June this year due to widespread rainfall. They said power consumption grew in August, September, and October, mainly due to humid weather conditions and also perk up in industrial activities ahead of the festive season. They stated that an 8.5 per cent growth in power consumption in November reflects the impact of festivities and better economic activities.

There were Dhanteras, Diwali, Bhaiya Dooj and Dev Deepavali festivals in November. The experts are expecting steady growth in power consumption growth in the coming months due to improvements in economic activities.