

Carney to replace Trudeau as Canada's PM

TORONTO, Mar 10 (AP)

FORMER central banker Mark Carney will become Canada's next Prime Minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him its leader Sunday as the country deals with US President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threat, and a federal election looms.

Carney, 59, replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but remains Prime Minister until his successor is sworn in in the coming days. Carney won in a landslide, winning 85.9 per cent of the vote.

"There is someone who is trying to weaken our economy,"



Liberal leader Mark Carney smiles as he delivers his victory speech during the Liberal leadership announcement in Ottawa, Ontario, on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

Carney said. "Donald Trump, as we know, has put unjustified tariffs on what we build, on what we sell and how we make a living. He's attacking Canadian families, workers and businesses and we cannot let him succeed and we won't."

Carney said Canada will keep retaliatory tariffs in place until "the Americans show us respect."

"We didn't ask for this fight. But Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves," Carney said. "The Americans, they should make no mistake, in trade, as in hockey, Canada will win."

Carney navigated crises when he was the head of the Bank of Canada.

Keen to boost ties with India

OTTAWA, Mar 10 (PTI)

FORMER central banker Mark Carney, who is set to become Canada's next Prime Minister, recently said he would rebuild his country's relationship with India if he takes charge.

"What Canada will be looking to do is to diversify our trade relationship with like-minded countries," Carney said last Tuesday in Calgary before being elected.

N Korea fires ballistic missiles into sea after US, S Korea began military drills

SEOUL, Mar 10 (AP)

NORTH Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea on Monday, South Korea's military said, hours after South Korean and US troops kicked off their large annual combined drills, which the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile firings, North Korea's fifth missile launch event this year, were detected from the North's Hwanghae province but gave no further details such as how far they flew.

Earlier on Monday, the South Korean and US militaries began

their annual joint military exercises, which are scheduled to last 11 days.

The Freedom Shield command post exercise began after the South Korean and US militaries paused live-fire training while Seoul investigates how two of its fighter jets mistakenly bombed a civilian area during a warm-up drill last week.

The drills' start drew the condemnation of nuclear-armed North Korea, which issued a Government statement calling the exercises a "dangerous provocative act" that increases the risks of military conflict.

About 30 people were injured,

two of them seriously, when two South Korean KF-16 fighter jets mistakenly fired eight MK-82 bombs on a civilian area in Pocheon, a town near the North Korean border, on Thursday.

The bombing occurred while South Korean and US forces were engaging in a live-fire drill ahead of the larger Freedom Shield exercise. In a background briefing to domestic reporters on Monday, the South Korean air force repeated its initial assessment last week that one of the KF-16 pilots had entered the wrong coordinates for a bombing site. The unidentified pilot didn't recognise the error during a pre-takeoff check.

DHARMA GUARDIAN: India-Japan joint military exercise concludes

FUJI, Mar 10 (ANI)

THE 6th edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, Dharma Guardian, concluded successfully at the East Fuji Training Area in Japan, a statement by the Indian Army said.

The exercise, held from February 24 to March 9, marked a significant milestone in bilateral defence cooperation, as it was conducted on an enhanced scale with the participation of troops at the company-strength level, the statement said.

The closing ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Toriumi Seiji, Commanding General of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) 1st Division, who conveyed his



India, Japan Army personnel during closing ceremony of joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' in Mount Fuji, Japan. (PTI)

appreciation to the participating troops for successfully meeting all objectives of the exercise.

General Toriumi expressed his

satisfaction with the joint training, which has further strengthened the operational readiness of both Armed Forces and deep-

ened the India-Japan defence relationship. As per the statement, he emphasised the exercise's role in fostering greater cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations' defence forces.

The joint exercise focussed primarily on counter-terrorism operations in urban terrain, a key area of collaboration. Additionally, activities related to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), were also rehearsed. Troops engaged in a series of tactical drills, exchanged knowledge and expertise on operational conduct, and forged lasting ties of friendship and trust.

New Zealand PM Luxon to visit India from March 16 to 20

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (PTI)

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will pay a five-day visit to India beginning March 16 to shore up bilateral coop-



eration in key areas, including trade and investment.

It will be Luxon's first visit to India as Prime Minister.

Besides holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he will grace the inaugural session of the 10th Raisina Dialogue on March 17 in New Delhi as the chief guest and deliver the keynote address, according to the MEA. The New Zealand PM will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials, business leaders, media and members of the Indian diaspora community. Luxon will also visit Mumbai from March 19 to 20.

Visit to Mauritius will open 'new and bright' chapter in ties: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (PTI)

AS HE embarks on a two-day trip to Mauritius, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the visit will open a "new and bright" chapter in the ties between the two nations.

Modi is visiting Mauritius



on March 11 and 12 at the invitation of Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam primarily to grace the island nation's national day celebrations.

In his departure statement, the Prime Minister said he was looking forward to engaging with the leadership of Mauritius to elevate "our partnership in all its facets and strengthen our enduring friendship for the progress and prosperity of our peoples".

A contingent of Indian armed forces will participate in the celebrations along with a warship of the Indian Navy and the Akash Ganga skydiving team of the Indian Air Force.

"Mauritius is a close maritime neighbour, a key partner in the Indian Ocean, and a gateway to the African Continent. We are connected by history, geography and culture," Modi said. "Deep mutual trust, a shared belief in the values of democracy, and celebration of our diversity are our strengths," he said.

The PM said the close and historical people-to-people connection between the two sides is a source of shared pride.

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India's AI sector poised to surpass 2.3 mn job openings by 2027: Report

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (IANS)

THE Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector is poised to surpass 2.3 million job openings by 2027, according to a report on Monday.

The report by Bain and Company showed that reskilling and upskilling existing talent is key to meeting the growing demand in the country.

It showed that the AI talent pool in India is expected to grow to around 1.2 million, presenting an opportunity to reskill more than 1 million workers.

"India has a unique opportunity to position itself as a global AI talent hub. However, by 2027, the job openings in AI are expected to be 1.5-2x of the talent availability. The challenge -- and opportunity -- lies in reskilling and upskilling a significant portion of the existing talent base on emerging technology tools and skillsets," said Saikat Banerjee, Partner and leader in Bain and Company's AI, Insights, and Solutions practice in India.

Banerjee noted that while "AI talent shortage is a significant challenge, it is not invincible".

"Addressing it requires a fundamental shift in how business-



es attract, develop, and retain AI talent. Companies need to move beyond traditional hiring approaches, prioritise continuous upskilling, and foster an innovation-driven ecosystem," he said.

Globally, AI-related job postings have surged by 21 per cent annually since 2019, with compensation growing 11 per cent annually over the same period.

Yet the number of qualified candidates has not kept pace, creating a widening talent gap that is slowing AI adoption worldwide. Nearly half (44 per cent) of executives cited a lack of in-house AI expertise as a key barrier to implementing generative AI. This talent gap is expected to persist

through at least 2027, with its impact varying in severity across global markets.

The report predicted that in the US, one in two AI jobs could be left unfilled by 2027.

In the next two years, AI job demand in America could reach up to more than 1.3 million, while supply is on track to hit less than 645,000 -- implying the need to reskill up to 700,000 workers in the country. Germany could see the biggest AI talent gap, with around 70 per cent of AI jobs unfilled by 2027. With an estimated 62,000 AI professionals available to fill 219,000 job openings in 2027, there is a clear opportunity for reskilling employees in Germany.