

Focus is on restoring trust, says Army chief

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

A day after India announced reaching an agreement with China on patrolling and disengagement in eastern Ladakh, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, sounded a cautionary note on Tuesday, stressing they were trying to "restore trust" and "reassure each other" and once that was done, other stages – disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of the Line of Actual Control – would follow.

"Trust will get restored if we are able to see each other. And we are able to convince each other... that buffer zones which are there, which have been created, we are not creeping. Both have to reassure each other. Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage. And as we restore the trust, the other stages will also follow through soon," General Dwivedi said.



COAS
Upendra Dwivedi

He was speaking at the 28th Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Lecture organised by the United Service Institution of India.

"As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to status quo of April 2020," he said. "Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of LAC. The normal management of LAC will not stop there. There are phases in that also."

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Modi meets Putin, offers all help to end conflict

Prime Minister reiterates that such disputes should be resolved through peaceful means; in his meeting with Iran's President, he expresses deep concern over the escalating conflict in West Asia

Kalol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India supports restoration of peace between Ukraine and Russia and is committed to providing "all possible assistance" to end the crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Modi took part in the meeting soon after reaching Kazan, where Russia is hosting the 16th BRICS summit against the backdrop of the conflicts in the Gaza Strip and Ukraine.

Mr. Modi later met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and called for the de-escalation of tensions in the West Asian region.

"We have been in con-



Continued engagement: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan, Russia on Tuesday. ANI

tinuous contact over the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As I have said before, we continue to believe that these disputes should be resolved through peaceful means. We support restoration of peace and stability as soon as possible. Our efforts

to prioritise humanity. India is ready to provide all possible assistance in the upcoming period," Mr. Modi said in his remarks.

His participation in the BRICS events in Kazan comes months after he travelled to Moscow for the annual India-Russia sum-

Modi to hold bilateral meeting with Xi today

KAZAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan on Wednesday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Tuesday, days after the two countries agreed on a border pact.

mit in July. Mr. Modi was received by Rustam Minnikhanov, head of the Republic of Tatarstan, and given a traditional Tatar welcome at Kazan, capital of Tatarstan.

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Air quality in Delhi remains 'very poor', govt. initiates action

Water sprinkling to be increased to control dust pollution, says Minister; Metro to operate more trips and DTC to increase frequency of buses

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air pollution in Delhi continued to be in the 'very poor' category on Tuesday. It is expected to remain at the same level till Friday, show official data.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 327 (very poor) at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, up from 310 (very poor) a day earlier, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) daily official bulletin. A higher value of AQI means an increase in air pollution.

A day after the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas directed NCR States to implement a list of measures to control air pollution under Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday announced a slew of measures.

Addressing the media, Mr. Rai said, "In today's meeting, it was decided



An anti-smog gun being used to sprinkle water to curb pollution in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

that to implement the first rule of GRAP Stage 2, water sprinkling will be increased to control road dust pollution. Additionally, 6,200 additional MCD workers will be deployed to clean the road dust, and water sprinkling at various hotspots in Delhi will be increased. Dust suppressant powder will also be mixed with the water used for sprinkling at these hotspots."

He said that to discourage private transportation, directions have been given

to the NDMC and the MCD to increase parking charges or explore other alternative methods.

"Metro services, which currently operate 4,200 trips, will increase by 40 additional trips from tomorrow, and DTC buses will reduce their intervals to further encourage public transport usage," he said. Mr. Rai also wrote to the Transport Ministers of NCR States, urging them to ensure that diesel buses from their States do not enter the national capital.

Navy has set up two task forces to develop niche technologies: Vice-Admiral

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The Navy has set up two special task forces headed by Rear Admirals for imbibing and inducting niche technologies, said Navy vice-chief Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan. He said they were looking for new technologies not only to plug the capability gaps but also to acquire the next level of technologies.

These task forces are in addition to the Navy's technology development accelerator cell (TDAC).

"We want to induct technologies as fast as possible. We ensured that the three task forces are not working on the same technologies. They are looking at fuses, radars, quantum computing, interface devices, electronic and weapon technologies, and in-



Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (right) during a press meet in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

digenisation of ammunition...," Vice-Admiral Swaminathan said in response to a question from *The Hindu* at the curtain-raiser to the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation seminar, Swavlamban, to be held next week.

The TDAC would continue the process of engaging with start-ups and MSMEs, while the special

task forces would work in smaller areas but hopefully with quicker turnaround times, he said.

Speaking on the highlights of Swavlamban 2024 scheduled to be held on October 28 and 29, the vice-chief said the event would showcase the remarkable indigenisation efforts of the armed forces, innovation partners and the Indian industry.

IMF retains India's growth projection at 7% for FY25

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

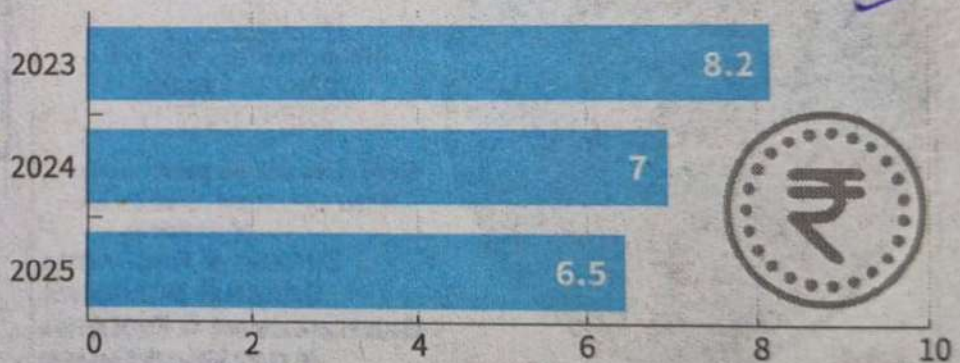
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its June growth rate projects for India in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday, to kick off the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington.

The multilateral lender expected India to grow at 7% in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 and 6.5% in the next fiscal year (FY2025-26). World output was expected to grow at 3.2% in 2024 as well as 2025.

The drop in India's growth from 8.2% in 2023 is "because pent-up de-

Growth decelerates

The chart shows India's growth rate in 2023 and its projected growth rates in 2024 and 2025, as per the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook report



mand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential," the report said.

The U.S. is projected to grow at 2.8% this year and 2.2% next year, an upward revision from the July WEO update.

Globally, inflation has been on the way down. "The global battle against inflation has largely been won, even though price pressures persist in some countries," the IMF said.

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India's fourth nuclear submarine launched with advanced arms

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4*, was launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam last week, official sources confirmed. This submarine is bigger and more capable than the first, *INS Arihant* (S2).

The S4* was launched into water on October 16 at SBC, multiple sources confirmed. It has significant indigenous content, with Indian industry being extensively involved, according to a source.

India currently has two SSBNs operational. *INS Arihant* was quietly commissioned into service in August 2016. The second SSBN, *INS Arighaat* (S3), was commissioned end-August. The third SSBN *Aridhman* (S4) is currently

undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year, sources said.

Responding to questions on the launch at a press conference on Tuesday, Vice Chief of the Navy Vice Adm Krishna Swaminathan, without directly commenting, said, "The SSBN programme is a successful one. Two submarines have been commissioned, and it is natural that others will follow."

INS Arihant is presently armed with 750 km range K-15 SLBM. The S4* carries the advanced 3,500 km range SLBM K-4, that was tested for the first time in 2020. The K-4 will be the mainstay of India's under-sea nuclear deterrence as it provides standoff capability, to launch nuclear weapons while submerged in Indian waters, till a 5,000 km range SLBM is developed and fielded.

Omar, 85 newly elected members take oath as MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

An oath-taking ceremony was held in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday after 10 years. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and 85 newly-elected members took their oaths as MLAs of the Union Territory in Srinagar. The last elections were held in 2014.

Pro tem Speaker Mubarik Gul administered the oath to the elected members of the Assembly. CM Omar Abdullah was the first to take the oath in Kashmiri. Mr. Abdullah, who contested and won from the Ganderbal and Budgam Assembly constituencies, has decided to resign from the latter.

Bharatiya Janata Party's 29 MLAs, who boycotted the swearing-in function of Mr. Abdullah as Chief Minister in Srinagar last week, also took oath on Monday.

"Today 29 MLAs of the BJP took their oaths to fulfil the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding development and peace in J&K. Our party strongly condemns the unfortunate terrorist attack in Ganderbal on innocent



CM Omar Abdullah was the first to take the oath in Kashmiri.

IMRAN NISSAR

workers and urges the security agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice," Sunil Sharma, BJP leader and MLA from Kishtwar, said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, after taking the oath, said the government should work to undo the actions of the government on August 5, 2019.

'Address issues'

Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) MLA Sheikh Khurshid, also the brother of Member of Parliament Engineer Rashid, said, "I hope the first session of the Assembly will see CM Abdullah not only raise the issue of Article 370 but also address the long-standing issues faced by the common people of Jammu and Kashmir."

'Drones, misuse of AI among security challenges ahead'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing the Police Commemoration Day function in New Delhi on Monday. @AMITSHAH

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that 216 police personnel were killed in the line of duty in the past one year. He flagged the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create unrest and conspiracies to provoke religious feelings to fan communal tensions among the emerging internal security challenges.

"Emerging threats from drones, narcotics, misuse of AI to disrupt peace and conspiracy to provoke religious feelings to fan communal tensions, cyber-crime, infiltration, smuggling of arms and terrorism are some of the challenges ahead," Mr. Shah said on the occasion

Day.

The Home Minister said that in the past 10 years, considerable success had been achieved in the three theatres of concern – Left wing extremism, Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast. He said the police forces were safeguarding India's borders.

He said the implementation of the three new criminal laws passed by the Parliament had already begun in all the States and Union Territories. Once the laws were fully implemented, after a crime was registered in any corner of the country, justice would be served within three years. Mr. Shah emphasised that the path to overcoming these challenges lies in the implementation of the