

Govt to bring national **COUNTER-TERRORISM** policy soon: Shah

Govt moving with a solid strategy against terrorism: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

THE Government will soon bring a national counter-terrorism policy and strategy to fight terrorism, terrorists and their ecosystem, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

Addressing an Anti-Terrorism Conference here, Shah also said that while law and order is a state subject and states have the geographical boundaries and constitutional limitations, terrorism doesn't and hence all security agencies -- Central and

States -- must work in close coordination, chalk out joint strategies and share intelligence.

He said the Government has come up with a vision on model anti-terrorism squad (ATS) and model special task force (STF) for the States and Union Territories, which, if adopted, will work as a common structure and platform to deal with the menace of terrorism.

"We need to work together to fight terrorism, terrorists and their ecosystem. And that's why, we will soon bring a new nation-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being presented a sapling by Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Sadanand Date during the inaugural session of 'Anti-Terror Conference', in New Delhi on Thursday. Home Secretary Govind Mohan is also seen. (PTI)

al counter-terrorism policy and strategy in which you all will play a key role," he said at the conference being attended by chiefs of state police forces and other top security officials of States and the Centre.

The Home Minister said the new policy will help States and Central agencies to work in close coordination to deal with terrorism.

On the model ATS and STF, he said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being shared with the states and they can tweak according to their respective requirements.

Shah said to make India developed by 2047 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, everyone has to deal with all security chal-

lenges and have a unified terror-fighting ecosystem.

"This (adopting model ATS and STF) doesn't reduce the rights of states," he said.

The Home Minister said the Modi Government is committed to eradicating terrorism in the country and moving forward with a solid strategy against it.

Security forces have to well equip young officers and use technology to combat terrorism, he said.

"After Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, the country has been moving forward with a solid strategy against terrorism. We are committed to eradicating terrorism," he said.

(Contd on page 5)

India offered use of Chabahar Port to Afghanistan: MEA

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

IN A significant move, an Indian delegation met Afghanistan's acting Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob and offered the use of Chabahar Port in Iran to businesses in his country, and also discussed extending humanitarian assistance to Kabul.

The delegation was led by J P Singh, the Joint Secretary of the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division in the External Affairs Ministry.

During a weekly media brief-



JP Singh, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for PAI, meets Afghanistan's Acting Defence Minister Maulvi Mohammad Yaqub Mujahid, in Kabul. (PTI)

ing here, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said that apart from Mohammad Yaqoob, the delegation also met with former President Hamid Karzai and other senior ministers, along with the heads of UN agencies.

"They had discussions on India's humanitarian assistance, also how the Chabahar Port can be utilised by the business community in Afghanistan for transactions and for export and import and any other thing that they would like to do," Jaiswal said in

response to a question.

India does not recognise the Taliban regime that has been ruling Afghanistan since 2021.

"I also want to recall here that providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan is an important part of our assistance programme and so far in the last few months, and few years, we have dispatched several shipments of humanitarian assistance. We have long-standing ties with people of Afghanistan, and these will continue to guide our approach towards country," Jaiswal said.

Climate finance to take centre stage at upcoming climate COP

CLIMATE finance will be on top of the agenda when world leaders gather in Baku, Azerbaijan, this month for the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to discuss future climate action. They will negotiate the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance, an upcoming



target to support developing countries with financial contributions to tackle climate change.

The NCQG was introduced at COP21 in Paris in 2015 to set a new goal for climate finance. The three-year process to deliberate the NCQG on Climate Finance was agreed upon at COP26 in

Glasgow in 2021, and negotiations are expected to conclude at the end of 2024, at the upcoming COP29.

However, statements by countries and blocs on the climate finance goals underline conflicting positions on finance among negotiators. The developing countries are expecting a transparent and predictable deal that meets their needs. Meanwhile, the Council of the European Union (EU) statement indicates the expectation to expand the group of contributors to the climate finance goal. The divergence in these statements indicates that primarily, consensus needs to be built on the issues related to the quantity of finance, quality of finance, and contributor base.

The proposed finance goal, supposed to be agreed at COP29, will directly affect the third round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs)—plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts, that countries have to submit by February 10, 2025. The new NDCs will set for 2035 a goal ambitious enough to keep the 1.5 degree target within reach.

(Read full story at <https://india.mongabay.com/2024/10/climate-finance-to-take-centre-stage-at-upcoming-climate-cop/>)

-- Curated by Kartik Lokhande

Centre doubles fines for stubble burning in Delhi-NCR region

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

THE Centre has doubled the fine for farmers burning crop residue in view of the deteriorating air quality in the



Delhi-NCR region, the penalty going up to Rs 30,000 for those with more than five acres of farmland.

According to the notification, which was published on Wednesday and comes following the Supreme Court's tough stance on the issue, farmers with less than two acres of land will now have to pay environmental compensation of Rs 5,000, up from Rs 2,500. And those with land between two and five acres will be fined Rs 10,000 instead of Rs 5,000.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions combined with vehicular emissions, paddy-straw burning, firecrackers, and other local pollution sources contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during late autumn and winters.

According to a Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) analysis, the city experiences peak pollution from November 1 to 15 when the number of stubble-burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana increases.

President witnesses naval operations off Goa coast



President Droupadi Murmu onboard INS Vikrant during the 'Day at Sea' event in Goa. President Droupadi Murmu aboard naval aircraft Mig 29K during the operational demonstration by the Indian Navy at sea on Thursday.

(PTI)

PANAJI, Nov 7 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu

on Thursday witnessed the operational demonstrations by the Indian Navy off the coast of Goa

on aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. The President arrived at INS Hansa, the naval air station in

Goa, where Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, and Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh,

the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, the navy spokesperson said. "A 150-men ceremonial 'Guard of Honour' was also paraded on her arrival," he said.

The President then boarded INS Vikrant, operating in the company of 15 frontline warships and submarines of the navy, he added.

"This was President Murmu's maiden visit to Indian navy ships at sea," he said, adding that she was given a briefing on the navy's role and charter. Murmu witnessed several naval operations, including deck-based fighter take-offs and landings, missile firing drills from a warship, submarine operations, flypasts of over 30 aircraft, and culminating with traditional steam-past of warships, he said.

UK imposes package of 56 new sanctions on Russia to restrict war against Ukraine

■ By Aditi Khanna

LONDON, Nov 7 (PTI)

THE UK on Thursday imposed a wave of 56 new sanctions against Russia's military-industrial complex to restrict the supply of vital military equipment for its war with Ukraine.

This is being dubbed as the largest package targeted at President Vladimir Putin's "war machine" since May last year.

New targets include suppliers supporting Russia's military production, Russian-backed mercenary groups operating in Sub-Saharan Africa and a GRU Russian spy agent involved in the use of a Novichok nerve agent in the UK city of Salisbury.

Entities based in China, Turkiye and Central Asia are among those covered in the package for their involvement in the supply and production of goods, including machine tools, microelec-

tronics and components for drones needed by Russia. The package also targets three private mercenary groups with links to the Kremlin, including Africa Corps, and 11 individuals associated with Russian proxies.

These targets have direct links to the Kremlin, have threatened peace and security in Libya, Mali and the Central African Republic, and have committed widespread human rights abuses across the continent, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said.

"Today's measures will continue to push back on the Kremlin's corrosive foreign policy, undermining Russia's attempts to foster instability across Africa and disrupting the supply of vital equipment for Putin's war machine; and smashing the illicit international networks that Russia has worked so hard to forge," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

"Putin is nearly 1,000 days into a war he thought would only take a few. He will fail, and I will continue to bear down on the Kremlin and support the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom," he said.

The announcement coincided with the European Political Community (EPC) Summit in Budapest this week, where the Russia-Ukraine conflict will be among the items on the agenda for Prime Minister Keir Starmer to reaffirm the UK's "unwavering" support for Ukraine.

The FCDO added the latest set of sanctions will bear down on Russian "malign activity" in Libya, Mali, and Central African Republic (CAR), exposing and combatting Russia's illicit activity in Africa as it attempts to exploit the fragile security environments and natural resources in these countries for its gain and "expand the Kremlin's sphere of influence".