

India-Singapore ties to get boost: MEA ahead of Modi's 2-day visit



NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (PTI)

BUILDING on “new anchors” of partnership identified under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework, the relations between the two countries is poised for an even bigger take-off, the MEA said on Monday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Singapore.

Prime Minister Modi is slated to visit Singapore on September 4-5 at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong.

Prior to that he is scheduled to visit Brunei on September 3-4 which seeks to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all existing sectors.

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar,

at a media briefing here said India and Brunei are working towards setting up a “joint working group in defence”. He said Prime Minister Modi is visiting Singapore after nearly six years. His last visit to Singapore was in his first term. And an early visit on his third term is something that has been “welcomed by the Singaporean side”.

“Also, this comes at a time when a new leader is in Singapore and this is an opportune time to set the stage for the next stage of our vibrant bilateral relations,” Mazumdar said. The Secretary (East) said India-Singapore ties have “evolved” and there is a “dynamic strategic partnership” encompassing various areas from shared history and people-to-people ties which form an important link between the two countries.

“Our trade and investment flows have shown a steady growth, we have a robust defence cooperation and growing exchanges in culture and education. We have identified new anchors of our partnership under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework,” he said.

Govt constitutes 23rd Law Commission

NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (PTI)

THE Government on Monday notified the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission for a period of three years, with serving Supreme Court and High Court judges as its chairperson and members.

The term of the 22nd law panel ended on August 31.

According to a law ministry order issued late Monday through a gazette notification, the panel will have a full-time chairperson and four full-time members including member-secretary. The secretary of the Department of Legal Affairs and the secretary of the

Legislative Department will be its ex-officio members. There cannot be more than five part-time members, according to the order. It said the chairperson /members of the Law Commission "who are serving judges of the Supreme Court /High Court shall perform their functions on a whole-time basis up to the date of retirement from the Supreme Court/High Court or expiry of the term of the Commission, whichever be earlier".

The time spent by them in the performance of such functions as chairperson/ Member of the Commission will be treated as "actual service".

Indian Navy's P8I aircraft in France for Exercise Varuna

PARIS, Sept 2 (ANI)

THE Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft has landed at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube in France, marking its first-ever deployment in Europe, to participate in the 22nd edition of Exercise Varuna with the French Navy.

This deployment comes 63 years after the Indian Navy's Alize aircraft, operating from the erstwhile INS Vikrant, last flew at Hyeres Airbase, according to a statement released by the Indian Navy. The India-France bilateral naval Exercise Varuna is set to be conducted in the Mediterranean Sea from September 2-4. The exercise will include advanced tactical



exercises underscoring the deepening synergy and interoperability between the navies of India and France.

In a post on X, an Indian Navy Spokesperson stated, "Soaring High in Indo-French

Cooperation! #IndianNavy's P-8I aircraft touched down at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube, marking its #firstever deployment in Europe for the 22nd edition of Exercise #Varuna with the #FrenchNavy."

"This deployment comes 63 years after the Indian Naval Alize aircraft, operating from INS Vikrant, last flew at Hyeres Airbase. This advanced tactical exercise underscores the deepening synergy & mutual respect b/n our navies," the spokesperson added.

The Indian and French Navy bilateral naval exercise was initiated in 1993. It was later christened as 'Varuna' in 2001 and has since become a hallmark of the robust India-France strategic bilateral relationship, the Ministry of Defence said in an earlier press release.

Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise provides an opportu-

nity to learn from each other's best practices and procedures, according to the Ministry of Defence earlier press release.

The exercise also facilitates operational-level interaction between the two navies to foster mutual cooperation for good order at sea, underscoring the shared commitment to ensuring security, safety, and freedom of the global maritime commons. The annually held 'Exercise Varuna' is an important part of the India-France strategic relationship in the 21st century. According to the Indian Navy 'INS Tabar' had already arrived in Toulon. INS Tabar will also be participating in the exercise.

Indian shuttler Kumar Nitesh wins maiden Paralympics Gold

PARIS, Sept 2 (PTI)

INDIA'S Kumar Nitesh clinched his maiden gold medal at the Paralympics, defeating Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in a gripping men's singles SL3 badminton final here on Monday.

The 29-year-old from Haryana showcased incredible resilience and tactical brilliance, overcoming Tokyo silver medallist Bethell in a nail-biting contest that lasted an hour and 20 minutes, with the



final scoreline reading 21-14, 18-21, 23-21. "I still don't feel it. Maybe when I go to the podium and the national anthem is played, it will sink in," Nitesh said after the match.

Competing in the SL3 category, which is reserved for players with severe lower limb disabilities and requires to play on a half-width court, Nitesh's journey to gold was anything but ordinary.

(Contd on page 5)

RAIN HAVOC: 31 killed in Andhra, T'gana



People wade through a waterlogged road following heavy rainfall, in Vijayawada on Monday. (ANI)



A NDRF man carries a child on his shoulders during evacuation of people from a flood-hit area in Andhra. (PTI)



A railway track washed away due to the heavy rains in Mahabubabad, Telangana on Monday. (ANI)

HYDERABAD/VIJAYAWADA, Sept 2 (FTI)

TORRENTIAL downpour in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh left 31 persons dead, battered roads and rail tracks snapping connectivity, submerged thousands of acres of agricultural crops and left peo-

ple scampering for daily needs as rescue agencies were pressed into rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

The two Telugu speaking States were reeling under the impact of the rains on Monday, as 16 persons were killed in Telangana and 15 others in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh,

Four killed as heavy rains pound Marathwada region. Home Guard jawan dies after being swept away in Gujarat rains.

which particularly bore the brunt of the rain fury.

A portion of gravel under the railway track near

Kesamudram in Telangana was washed away due to floodwaters. Nearly 4.5 lakh people were affected in Andhra, even

as heart-wrenching scenes of people struggling to ensure essentials, including milk were witnessed in the worst affected Vijayawada. The most affected districts included NTR, Guntur, Krishna, Eluru, Palnadu, Bapatla and Prakasam, said an official press release.

Twenty SDRF and 19 NDRF teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations. Life was completely thrown out of gear in Vijayawada following torrential downpour over the past three days and with more than 24 hours of power cuts in several parts of the city.

(Contd on page 5)

B'desh Parliament Speaker Shirin resigns

■ By Anisur Rahman
DHAKA, Sept 2 (PTI)

BANGLADESH Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury resigned on Monday, nearly four weeks after President Mohammad Shahabuddin dissolved the house following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangabhaban presidential palace officials said Chaudhury tendered her resignation to the President.

Her resignation comes as she was accused in a murder case over the death of a jewellery

worker during the anti-Government protests.

The case against Chaudhury is one of a series of others against Ministers of the former Cabinet and Awami League leaders. Deputy speaker of Parliament Shamsul Haque Tuku is in prison, facing identical charges after his arrest.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court on Monday debarred eight Ministers and eight lawmakers of the ousted regime from leaving Bangladesh on separate petitions filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Interim Govt to re-investigate 2009 paramilitary BDR mutiny

DHAKA, Sept 2 (PTI)

BANGLADESH interim Government on Monday said it will "soon" start re-investigation and fair trial into the 2009 mutiny in the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that had killed 74 people, including 57 Army officers serving in the force.

Home and Agriculture Affairs Advisor to the interim Government Lt Gen (retd.) M

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that as a citizen and a former member of the military, he was committed to ensuring justice for the tragic event.

The mutiny started on February 25-26, 2009, when Army officers refused to fulfil the demands made by the BDR jawans. The rebel soldiers staged the revolt at the BDR's Pilkhana headquarters in Dhaka and it quickly spread

to sector headquarters and regional units of the frontier force across the country.

The rebellion saw the paramilitary soldiers turn their guns to their commanders, shooting them from close ranges or hacking and torturing them to death, hiding their bodies in sewers and hurriedly dug graves and captivating and humiliating their frightened family members in barracks.