

'Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada': EAM

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Sept 30 (PTI)

HITTING out at Canada, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is necessary to call out things like violence, threats and intimidation against Indian diplomats and missions and wondered if this had happened to any other country would the world have taken it with equanimity.

"Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada," Jaishankar said during an interaction with Indian journalists here on Friday. His remarks came amidst simmering tensions with Ottawa following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian Government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side," he said. "We



have had smoke bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you

consider this normal? If this had happened to any other country, how would they react? Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada. It is important to call out what is happening there," Jaishankar said.

"What is happening in Canada, had it happened anywhere else, do you think world would've taken it with equanimity?" he asked. When asked about Trudeau's allegations, he said India has already pointed out to Canada that this is not the Government of India's policy.

Need for bringing the world together to address big global challenges: Jaishankar

WASHINGTON, Sept 30 (PTI)

THE big global challenges like climate change and economic progress cannot be effectively addressed in isolation and it has become even more important to bring the world together, EAM S Jaishankar has said.

His remarks came as he addressed an unprecedented gathering of hundreds and thousands of people here attending the Olympics-style World Culture Festival.

The event in its fourth edition is being held in the American capital at the majestic National Mall, the area between the US Capitol, the temple of democracy, and

the imposing National Mall.

Over the next three days, more than a million people from over 100 countries are expected to attend this mega-cultural event to witness the performances of more than 17,000 artists from over 180 countries. Congratulating the Art of Living which under the inspiration and guidance of spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has "brought us all together" Jaishankar said that global thought and international understanding are so visible as "I look around me."

Humanity, he said, is truly a diverse group and this is expressed through culture, traditions, heritage and identities.

Arunachal's Nechiphu tunnel ensures safe passage, improved connectivity

NECHIPHU TUNNEL, Sept 30
(PTI)

THE 500-metre tube Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district means more for Liza Debisow than merely improving connectivity. It also means that no one has to go through the harrowing experience her family had to endure when her brother was injured in a road accident in the area before the tunnel was constructed.

"It becomes very foggy in the area and driving is very perilous. My brother was once injured while taking the road home,"



Liza told PTI, expressing her happiness at the opening of the tunnel. "But now, we can drive safely. Not just the time, the risks have also come down

drastically," the teacher at a local school added.

The Nechiphu tunnel, built on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang road in West Kameng

district, is a D-shaped, single-tube, double-lane tunnel at an altitude of 1,630 metres and was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh through the virtual mode on September 12. For Sachin Bolusow, the tunnel means a safe passage in a faster mode.

"It is mostly foggy in this region and it becomes difficult to drive under such conditions. The tunnel has cut down driving time as well as made it safer," he said.

He also pointed out that the opening of the tunnel has made transit easier for the defence personnel.

Lt Gen Srinivasan takes over as new DG of BRO

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (PTI)

LT GENERAL Raghu Srinivasan assumed charge as the 28th Director General of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Saturday, the Defence Ministry said. His appointment to the top post in the BRO follows the superannuation of Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry.

Prior to his appointment as the 28th DG of the BRO, the general officer was holding the appointment of Commandant, College of Military Engineering, Pune, the ministry said in a statement.

Lt Gen Srinivasan is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1987.

“He has participated in Operation Vijay, Operation Rakshak and Operation Parakram during his illustrious service. He has a rich experience in serving along the border areas, especially Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir,” it said.

The General officer has held numerous key command and staff appointments during his career, having undergone the Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command and National Defence College courses, the Ministry said.

In his message to the BRO personnel after taking over, Lt Gen Srinivasan appreciated their efforts in maintaining and constructing vital roads and allied infrastructure in some of the most challenging and inhospitable conditions.

MoD organises conference on millets for military

- The conference is held to identify innovative ways to integrate millets into the diet of the Services

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (IANS)

MINISTER of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt on Friday inaugurated two-day National Conference on 'Millets for Military Ration and Specific Nutritional Requirements'.

The conference was organised by Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysuru-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The conference will deliberate on the scientific facts for the adoption of millets-based food for the services, exploring millets for sus-

tainable agro-processing practices at terrains of troop deployment, identifying and resolving the challenges in millet processing, preservation and storage for sustained nutritional and food security.

The Ministry of Defence said that conference will identify innovative ways to integrate millets into the diet of the Services for improved health and endurance and facilitate discussion on millets-based enterprises among research organisations, Government agencies, policy makers and supply chain managers.

The MoS said that the DFRL is not only spreading awareness among the public but also working towards ensuring the supply of millets to the Armed Forces personnel to meet their nutritional requirements.

S-W monsoon season ends with 'below-average' rain in El Nino yr

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (PTI)

THE south-west monsoon season concluded on Saturday with India receiving "below-average" cumulative rainfall -- 820 mm compared to the long-period average of 868.6 mm -- in an El Nino year. The India Meteorological Department, however, said positive factors, primarily the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), mitigated some of the deficiency caused by El Niño conditions and gave "near normal" precipitation.

Before 2023, India recorded "normal" and "above-normal" rainfall in the monsoon season for four years on the trot.

Rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) is considered normal.

El Nino conditions -- warming of waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America -- are associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. MJO is a large-scale atmospheric disturbance originating in trop-



ical Africa and travelling eastward, typically lasting 30 to 60 days. It is known for increasing convection in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

The IOD is defined by the difference in the sea surface temperatures between the western parts of the Indian Ocean near Africa and the eastern parts of the ocean near Indonesia. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay
(Contd on page 5)

RBI extends deadline to exchange, deposit Rs 2,000 notes till Oct 7

MUMBAI, Sept 30 (PTI)

THE Reserve Bank on Saturday extended the special drive to withdraw Rs 2,000 bank notes from the system by another week, till October 7.

The central bank said ever since it announced the move to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes on May 19, Rs 3.42 lakh crore of such notes have been received into the system either by deposition into bank accounts or exchanging, from the public.

The currency returned is 96 per cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes in circulation as on May 19, the Reserve Bank said in a statement, adding only Rs 14,000 crore of such notes are in circulation now.

Earlier, the deadline to deposit/exchange Rs 2,000 notes was September 30, 2023.

“...it has been decided to extend the current arrangement for



deposit/exchange of Rs 2,000 banknotes until October 07, 2023,” the central bank said in a statement.

In a surprise move, it had announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes in May, but maintained that it was not akin to the demonetisation carried out in November 2016 when Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were made illegal tender overnight.

In May 2023, RBI said the higher denomination notes were introduced for a faster remonetisation of the economy and the move had served its purpose. Since it had

(Contd on page 5)

9.2 lakh Km away, **Aditya-L1** successfully escapes sphere of **Earth's influence**

BENGALURU, Sept 30 (PTI)

ISRO said on Saturday the Aditya-L1 spacecraft has travelled beyond a distance of 9.2 lakh km from Earth, successfully escaping the sphere of Earth's influence. It is now navigating its path towards the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a statement on X.

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