

STRONGLY CONDEMN CROSS-BORDER terror at SCO summit in China: India

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday said it expects the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to strongly condemn cross-border terrorism at its annual summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin next week, comments that came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China.

Modi will begin a four-day visit to Japan and China from

August 29 to September 1. In the first leg of his trip, he will travel to Tokyo to hold the annual India-Japan summit with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. The two Prime Ministers will also meet outside Tokyo as well.

After concluding his trip to Japan, Modi will visit Tianjin to participate in the SCO summit on August 31 and September 1. At a joint media briefing with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri,

Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry, Tanmaya Lal, said New Delhi is working with other SCO member nations and partners to ensure strong condemnation of terrorism in the summit declaration.

"The SCO was established with the primary goal of countering three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism, which continue to remain a challenge," he said.

It's T-Day: India braces for impact as Trump's 50% tariff kicks in today

US Govt Singles Out India In Notification

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The United States on Monday declared what is effectively a limited trade war on India, notifying a 50% tariff (25% taxes plus 25% penalty) on most goods

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imports from India.

The department of homeland security notification said the tariffs are in response to "threats to the US by gov't of the Russian Federation", and it is implementing a presidential order that had determined it is "necessary and appropriate" to impose tariffs on India, "which is directly or indirectly" importing Russian oil.

The notification was India-specific and made no mention of China, which imports more

TEXTILES, JEWELLERY TO BEAR BRUNT

Country	Additional Duty (%)
India	50
Canada	35
China	30
Mexico	25
Vietnam	20
Indonesia	19
Japan, EU	15



India's Trade With The US

Figures in \$bn	Exports	Imports	Trade Surplus
2022-23	79	51	28
2023-24	78	42	36
2024-25	87	46	41

► Sensex fell sharply, dropping 849 points to close below the 81,000 level, wiping out ₹5.41 crore of investor wealth

► Sectors likely to bear the brunt include garments, gold & silver jewellery, cut & polished diamonds, shrimp, carpets, footwear, chemicals, machinery, auto parts

► Exporters seek Covid-like aid from gov't; US retailers keen to move new orders out | P 24

How Trump's Tariffs will Hit India Inc, Company by Company | P 16

2+2 dialogue amid tariff tension

Hours after the tariff notification, the state department issued a statement saying US and India held a 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue, with the virtual talks between officials focused on trade and investment, critical minerals, and energy security, including strengthening civil nuclear cooperation. P 12

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Modi avoided 4 Trump calls: German newspaper

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: PM Modi refused to take four calls from US President Trump in recent weeks amid a raging trade dispute, a German newspaper has reported, as ties between Washington and New Delhi have soured rapidly, testing what both sides repeatedly said was the most consequential relationship of the 21st century.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung did not cite the source of its claim, but opined the trade clash illustrated that India will not bow to American pressure and New Delhi wants to manage its relations with both Washington and Beijing in its own way. A Japanese newspaper, Nikkei Asia, carried a similar report about Modi avoiding the US president's calls, "heightening Trump's frustration".

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PM Modi in Ahmedabad with Suzuki Motor Corpn president Toshihiro Suzuki on Tuesday

Mission Mfg India's top priority: PM

India is prioritising 'Mission Manufacturing' to make local production globally competitive, PM Modi said in Ahmedabad while flagging off Suzuki and Maruti's first EV Tuesday. He highlighted capacity building in 'futuristic industries' such as semiconductors, and rare earth magnets. P 12

Targets were Hamas camera, militants, not hosp: Israel military

Jerusalem: A deadly Israeli strike on a Gaza hospital that killed 20 people, including five journalists, was targeting what the military believed was a Hamas surveillance camera, as well as people identified as militants, the Israeli military said Tuesday.

The military issued the statement as part of its initial inquiry into the attack, which Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu called a "tragic mishap."

The military said the back-to-back strikes on southern Gaza's largest hospital were ordered because soldiers believed militants were using the camera to observe Israeli forces and because Israel has long believed Hamas and other militant groups are present at hospitals, though Israeli officials rarely give evidence.

The military's chief of general staff acknowledged several "gaps" in the investigation so far, including the kind of ammunition used to take out the camera.

The initial findings emerged Tuesday as a surge of outrage and unanswered questions mounted, after international leaders and rights groups condemned the strikes. AP



Demonstrators block a highway in Israel during a protest on Tuesday seeking the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas and calling for the end of the war

Aus blames Iran for antisemitic attacks, expels ambassador

Melbourne: Australian PM Anthony Albanese accused Iran of organizing two antisemitic attacks — on the Lewis Continental Kitchen in Sydney, in Oct 2024 and on Melbourne's Adass Israel Synagogue two months later. Canberra also cut off diplomatic relations with Tehran on Tuesday. Shortly before the announcement, the Australian govt told Iran's Ambassador Ahmad Sadeghi that he would be expelled. It also withdrew Australian diplomats posted in Iran to a third country, the PM said. AP

Sri Lankan court grants bail to Wickremesinghe

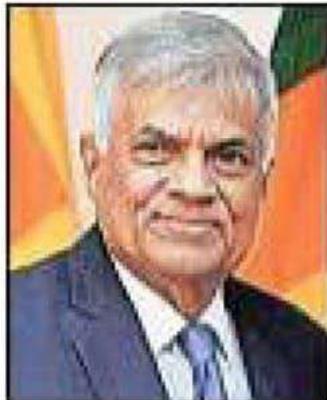
COLOMBO, Aug 26 (PTI)

A Sri Lankan court on Tuesday granted bail to former President Ranil Wickremesinghe in a case relating to alleged misuse of state funds. Colombo Fort Magistrate Nilupuli Lankapura ordered that the 76-year-old leader be released on bail with three sureties of LKR 5 million each.

Wickremesinghe joined the proceedings virtually from the Intensive Care Unit of the Colombo National Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. His lawyers cited deteriorating health conditions, seeking his release on bail, while state attorneys opposed the plea and argued that he should remain in

remand custody until the trial concludes.

The case will be taken up again at the end of October, the court said. President's Counsel Thilak



Marapana, Anuja Premaratne, Upul Jayasuriya and Ali Sabry appeared on behalf of Wickremesinghe, while Additional Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris represented the Attorney General.

Submitting Wickremesinghe's medical reports, Premaratne told the court that three of the four main arteries of the 75-year-old former president's heart were blocked, his heart tissues had suffered necrosis, and he was also battling a lung infection along with long-standing diabetes.

Air defence system, **SUDARSHAN CHAKRA** will work as '**SHIELD AND SWORD**': CDS Chauhan

■ By Manash Pratim Bhuyan

MHOW (PTI), Aug 26 (PTI)

INDIA'S proposed air defence system -- Sudarshan Chakra -- will entail a colossal amount of integration of sensors, missiles, surveillance apparatus and artificial intelligence tools, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Tuesday as he articulated the broad contours of the ambitious project.

The Chief of Defence Staff said the air defence system will work as "a shield and a sword", and suggested it will be on the lines of



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan delivers the keynote address at 'Ran Samwad', themed 'Impact of Technology on Warfare', at the Army War College in Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh. (PIB via PTI)

Israel's Iron Dome all-weather air defence system, known as a very effective missile shield.

General Chauhan's comments on the proposed missile shield at a defence conclave here are the first from the military after Prime Minister Modi announced the 10-year project during his Independence Day address.

In his address at the 'Ran Samwad' -- a tri-services seminar on war and warfighting -- General Chauhan also briefly delved into Operation Sindoor and said a number of lessons have been

(Contd on page 3)

Navy's new sea guardians

Rajnath commissions multi-mission stealth frigates

VISAKHAPATNAM (Andhra Pradesh), Aug 26 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday commissioned two multi-mission stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, here at the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.

Udaygiri and Himgiri come from the Indian Navy's latest state-of-the-art Project 17A and the commissioning marks the first occasion when two front-line surface combatants constructed at two different shipyards were commissioned simultaneously.

This development under-



scores the growing maritime importance of India's eastern seaboard. The two are follow-on ships of the Project 17

(Shivalik) class frigates, and both the vessels incorporate significant improvements in design, stealth, weapon and sensor sys-



tems, capable of executing a full spectrum of maritime missions in 'blue water' conditions, according to Defence officials.

"Two state-of-the-art combatant platforms join the Indian Navy fleet, fortifying India's (Contd on page 3)

'Navy's role not only limited to guarding, but also providing economic security'

VISAKHAPATNAM, Aug 26 (PTI)

THE role of Navy is not limited to the protection of the sea, but it is also a major pillar of the economic security as Indian energy requirements such as oil, natural gas depend on the security of the region to a great extent, (Contd on page 3)