

MEET WITH 16 GOVERNORS IN TOKYO

Modi calls for deeper India-Japan state-prefecture cooperation

TOKYO, Aug 30 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi

on Saturday met Governors of 16 Japanese prefectures in Tokyo and called for strengthening

too can be beneficial," he added. The Ministry of External Affairs also shared details of the inter-

SMEs, the Ministry added. According to the MEA statement, Modi, in his address underlined

that India-Japan ties, drawing vitality from age-old civilisational linkages, continue to flourish.



'Done a lot in last 10 years': Indian diaspora in Japan hails Modi's visit

JAPAN, Aug 30 (IANS)

THE Indian diaspora in Japan on Saturday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the country, saying he has done a lot of development in the last 10 years and brought pride to Indians living abroad.

Speaking to IANS, several diaspora members shared their thoughts. Pradeep from Pune living in Japan echoed the sentiment, saying, "I feel proud whenever PM Modi visits Japan. What he has done in the last 10 years—there are no words to describe it."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a meeting with the Governors of various Prefectures of Japan in Tokyo. (PTI)

state-prefecture cooperation under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"This morning in Tokyo, interacted with the Governors of 16 prefectures of Japan. State-prefecture cooperation is a vital pillar of India-Japan friendship. This is also why a separate initiative on it was launched during the 15th Annual India-Japan Summit yesterday," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. "There is immense scope to cooperate in areas like trade, innovation, entrepreneurship and more. Futuristic sectors like Startups, tech and AI

action in a post on X saying, "Taking greater strides in the steadfast India-Japan ties. PM Narendra Modi met with the Governors of 16 prefectures in Tokyo." PM highlighted the potential of states-prefectures collaboration and in this regard urged action under the State-Prefecture Partnership Initiative launched during 15th India-Japan Annual Summit for shared progress, it said.

Discussions focused on ways to further deepen the growing partnerships between Indian states and Japanese prefectures in the fields of technology, innovation, investment, skills, start-ups and

Vintage precious stone bowl set with silver chopsticks: Modi's gift to Japanese leader

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has gifted ramen bowls made of precious stone with silver chopsticks to his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba.

During his visit to the country, Modi presented Ishiba's wife with a pashmina shawl in a papier mache box.

Officials said the vintage precious stone bowls set with silver chopsticks are a blend of Indian artistry and Japanese culinary tradition.

Featuring a large brown moonstone bowl with four smaller ones and silver chopsticks, it draws inspiration from Japan's donburi and soba rituals, they said. The moonstone, sourced from Andhra Pradesh, glows with adularescence and symbolises love, balance, and protection, while the base of the main bowl is makrana marble inlaid with semi-precious stones in the traditional parchin kari style of Rajasthan.

Pashmina shawl, made from the fine wool of the Changthangi goat in Ladakh, is valued worldwide for being light, soft, and warm, they noted.



PM Modi reaches China

TIANJIN, Aug 30 (PTI)

AFTER a gap of over seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in China on Saturday evening on a keenly watched visit that assumed greater significance in view of a sudden downturn in India-US ties triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariff.

Modi is visiting this northern Chinese city primarily to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on August 31 and September 1.

However, his scheduled meeting with Chinese

President Xi Jinping on Sunday on the margins of the summit has assumed greater significance in the face of Washington's tariff tussle that has impacted almost all leading economies across the world.

In the talks, Modi and Xi are expected to take stock of India-China economic ties and deliberate on steps to further normalise relations that came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row.

"Landed in Tianjin, China. Looking forward to deliberations at the SCO Summit and meeting various world leaders," the Prime Minister said in

(Contd on page 5)

**All eyes on
Modi-Xi
talks today**

India ready to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia: Zelenskyy after dialling PM Modi

TIANJIN (China), Aug 30 (PTI)

INDIA supports all efforts for peaceful settlement of the Ukraine conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a phone conversation on Saturday.

Modi is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with Putin on Monday on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this Chinese city. The Ukraine

conflict is expected to be one of the focus areas of the talks.

Zelenskyy dialled Modi and conveyed his readiness for a meeting with the top leadership of Russia and that the end of the war must begin with an immediate cease-fire. In a social media post, the Ukrainian President said India is ready to make the necessary efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia.



Zelenskyy also briefed Modi on his August 18 meeting with US President Donald Trump in the White House that took place three days after Trump held a summit with Putin in Alaska.

“Thank President Zelenskyy for his phone call today. We exchanged views on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspect, and efforts to restore
(Contd on page 5)

Drones critical to modern warfare, need to be part of policy: Rajnath

UP has allocated 12,500 acres of land for defence manufacturing nodes: CM Adityanath

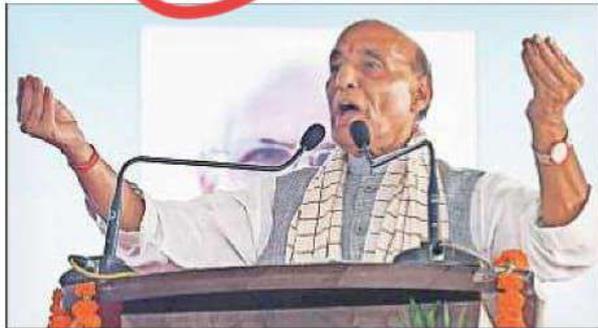
NOIDA, Aug 30 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday stressed the need for incorporating drones into war policy, calling them critical to modern warfare strategy.

"Generally, when we hear the word 'aircraft', images of Tejas, Rafale and fighter jets come to mind. This is natural, as these are all combat aircraft. However, in today's changing times, drones have emerged as a significant force in this field. Drones are now being deployed even in areas where large equipment cannot reach," he said.

"If you closely observe the Russia-Ukraine conflict, you will notice that drones have been used extensively - earlier, now, and continuously. This proves that understanding the importance of drones and incorporating them into our war policy has become absolutely essential," Singh added.

He was speaking at the inauguration of Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd's defence equipment and engine-testing facility in Noida.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking at the inauguration of Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd's defence equipment and engine-testing facility in Noida. (PTI)

"A strong reflection of the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat was seen here today," Singh said after inaugurating the private

facility. Highlighting the history of drones, Singh said that in their early days, they were used only for surveillance and reconnais-

sance. "Later, some countries began developing combat drones, and many nations started deploying them in border con-

flicts," he said.

"Countries that invested in drone technology have gained a significant edge in this field, while many others have been left behind. From my six to six-and-a-half years of experience (as defence minister), I can say that the reality of today's defence sector rests on aircraft technology and drones," Singh added.

The Defence Minister further said it was a matter of great pride that India is rapidly advancing in this domain. "Earlier, we had to import drones, but today we are designing, developing, and manufacturing them domestically," he said.

"Many entrepreneurs in the country are contributing to this progress, and no praise is enough for their efforts," Singh added.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present at the event.

Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the State has allocated 12,500

acres of land for defence manufacturing as part of the country's two upcoming defence industrial corridors, one of which is being developed in the state.

Speaking at the inauguration of Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd's defence equipment and engine-testing facility in Sector 80, Noida, Chief Minister Adityanath said the UP corridor is being developed across six nodes, including Aligarh, Kanpur, Agra and Chitrakoot.

He also thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for bringing the BrahMos missile-manufacturing facility to Lucknow, adding that the missile system "displayed its might during Operation Sindoor."

"India has faced challenges since 1947, and the nature of those challenges keeps evolving. If you have power, the world bows before you. This ancient concept remains relevant today," the chief Minister said.

Sudarshan Chakra mission will be a game-changer: Rajnath Singh

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies

NEW DELHI, Aug 30

INDIA'S defence architecture should not be dependent on any uncertain "foreign interference", and it should be based on its own capabilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

He said the Government plans to provide complete aerial security to all important installations across the country under the proposed 'Sudarshan Chakra' air defence system within the next 10 years.

In an address at the NDTV Defence Summit, Singh said the air defence shield will comprise both defensive

and offensive elements to deal with any enemy threats.

"As we saw during Operation Sindoor, the importance of air defence capability in today's wars has increased to a great extent. In such a scenario, the 'Sudarshan Chakra' mission will certainly prove to be a game changer," he said.

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the ambitious air defence project. The announcement came days after Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir reportedly hinted at targeting Indian assets along the border in case of any future military confrontation between the two

countries. Singh said, the shifting geopolitics has also made it clear that external dependency in the field of defence is no longer an option. "In the current situation, self-reliance is essential for both our economy and our security," he said.

"Today, the defence sector is not only the foundation of national security but has also become a pillar in strengthening our economy and securing its future," the Defence Minister said. "It is not just about the safety of people, the protection of land, or the defence of borders, but it is also becoming a responsible sector for the protection and security of our entire economy," he said.

Piyush Goyal meets UAE counterpart; discusses bilateral trade, other key issues

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (IANS)

MINISTER of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Friday met the visiting UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, and held discussions on several key issues concerning the two nations, including bilateral trade, while reaffirming the commitment to deepen the India-UAE partnership.

Taking to X, Piyush Goyal wrote: "Honoured to welcome H.E. Dr. @ThaniAlZeyoudi, the UAE's Minister of Foreign Trade, and congratulated him on assuming his new role. Our discussions focused on expanding bilateral trade and investment in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy and technology. We reaffirmed our shared commitment

to deepening the India-UAE partnership and unlocking new avenues of growth together."

Notably, the UAE Minister's visit comes at a time when India is looking to diversify trading partnerships to counter the impact of US tariffs. The UAE is among India's top trading partners.

Though many details related to the talks were not immediately available, according to sources, the discussions are expected to build on the strong economic ties fostered under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The CEPA has completed three years since its signing on February 18, 2025.

An official statement notes that the CEPA is a full and deep agreement which was signed on 18th

February 2022, during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It entered into force on May 1, 2022.

Since the signing of CEPA, bilateral merchandise trade has nearly doubled from \$43.3 billion in FY 2020-21 to \$83.7 billion in 2023-24. During the cur-



Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal visited UAE, to meet Minister of Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi for bilateral trade discussions.

rent FY till January 2025, it reached \$80.5 billion. CEPA has been successful in realising its potential for diversification of the trade basket as non-oil trade touched \$57.8 billion

in FY 2023-24, accounting for more than half of the total trade. In terms of India's exports, non-oil exports reached \$27.4 billion in FY 2023-24, recording an average growth of 25.6 per cent since CEPA entered into force.