

# Kuki-Zo groups in Manipur sign **PEACE PACT** with Govt

NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (PTI)

**TWO** prominent Kuki-Zo groups on Thursday signed a 'suspension of operations agreement' with the Government on renegotiated terms and conditions under which they agreed on maintaining territorial integrity of Manipur, relocating designated camps away from vulnerable areas and working for a solution to bring lasting peace and stability in the State.

The signing of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) is also set to have a positive impact on peace efforts in Manipur, officials said. Separately, civil society group Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has

The move comes ahead of PM Modi's likely visit to Manipur next week



decided to open the National Highway-02, which passes through Manipur for free movement of commuters and essen-

tial goods. The move comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to  
*(Contd on page 5)*

## 'No drone zone' in Churachandpur

IMPHAL, Sept 4 (PTI)

**AMID** speculations that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Manipur later this month, 'no drone zone' was declared in Churachandpur district on Thursday.

According to an order issued by District Magistrate Dharun Kumar S, the decision has been taken to strengthen security "during the visit of the VVIP".

"...With a view to ensure  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# 'India-Singapore relations go far beyond diplomacy'

NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (PTI)

**INDIA** and Singapore on Thursday unveiled a roadmap to expand their comprehensive strategic partnership with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong underlining the need to bolster the ties to navigate the current geopolitical turbulence in the world.

Modi and Wong, who arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, held



wide-ranging talks covering the entire expanse of the bilateral ties. India-Singapore relations go far beyond diplomacy, Modi said in Wong's presence. The Prime Minister said both sides decided that cooperation between the two countries in areas of artificial intelligence, quantum and other digital technologies will be enhanced.

"We share common concerns regarding terrorism," Modi said

*(Contd on page 5)*

# India's postal system is now world's largest doorstep banking network: PM

NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted that India's postal system has now become the world's largest doorstep banking network, and the humble postman is playing the role of the harbinger of financial inclusion.

"With unprecedented efforts from the Government, our humble postman has become the harbinger of financial inclusion. With India Post Office and IPPB Online, India's postal system is



now the world's largest doorstep banking network, ensuring dignity and empowerment," wrote

PMO India on X.

He was responding to an article on India's postal system by

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. The Prime Minister praised the article for presenting a "broader vision" on the country's postal system.

Scindia said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, India Post Office and India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) Online have redefined one of the world's oldest postal networks into the globe's largest doorstep banking system. In consonance with this vision, the India Post Payments Bank is

bringing access, assurance, and aspiration directly to the doorsteps of 140 crore Indians."

The Minister has further stated in an article that the Department of Posts, with its network of 1,60,000 post offices, is writing its growth story. "Yesterday's postman now brings the promise of financial access and dignity to every doorstep in the country."

IPPB has quietly become a national pioneer by ensuring the digitalisation of all its rural accounts. By integrating tech-

nology, expanding partnerships and diversifying services, the IPPB has transformed post offices into comprehensive financial hubs, proving that even the oldest institutions can evolve step with a rapidly changing world.

Eight years ago, the IPPB was established with a commitment to ensure that no Indian, irrespective of geography, gender, or circumstance, is excluded from the formal economy. Beyond opening accounts, it was unlocking opportunities and empowerment.

# India and EU likely to seal FTA by December

**Modi speaks to EU's Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen**

**The three leaders also discussed holding next India-EU summit in India at an early date of mutual convenience and PM Modi invited Costa and von der Leyen for the same.**

NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (PTI)

INDIA and European Union on Thursday pledged to seal their much-awaited free trade deal by December with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 27-nation bloc's top leaders Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen pledging to promoting a rules-based global order, amid Washington's disruptive trade policies.

In a joint phone call with Costa and von der Leyen, Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and early restoration of peace and stability. The leaders underlined the role of the India-EU strategic partnership in jointly addressing global issues, fostering stability, and promoting a rules-based order for mutual prosperity, an Indian readout said.

The phone talks among the three leaders came as India looks to blunt the impact of the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

The three leaders also discussed holding the next India-

EU summit in India at an early date of mutual convenience and PM Modi invited Costa and von der Leyen for the same.

The Ukraine conflict also figured in the conversation with von der Leyen saying in a social media post that India has an important role to play in bringing Russia to end "its war of aggression and helping create a path towards peace".

The European Commission president welcomed India's continued engagement with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"This war carries global security consequences and undermines economic stability. So it is a risk to the entire world."

The phone call, largely focusing on India-EU free trade deal and the summit, came days before EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic's planned trip to New Delhi amid reports of both sides making significant headway towards finalising the trade pact.

India and the EU relaunched the negotiations for the free trade agreement (FTA) in June 2022 after a gap of over eight years.

"As the world's largest democratic forces, India and EU share a strong and close relationship built on trust, shared values, and a common vision for the future," the Indian readout said.

It said Modi, Costa and von der Leyen also welcomed progress in bilateral relations in key sectors such as trade, technology, investment, innovation, sustainability, defence, security and supply chain resilience, and reaffirmed the shared commitment for an early conclusion of the India-EU FTA negotiations and implementation of the IMEEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor).

# Indian envoy visits Tesla's China factory amid buzz over exports to India

BEIJING, Sept 4 (PTI)

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INDIA'S Consul General in Shanghai Pratik Mathur visited Tesla's factory in the city on Thursday amid growing speculation over the export of its China-made luxury electric vehicle models to India. India is emerging as a major market for Tesla and the EV (electric vehicle) revolution, the Indian Consulate in Shanghai said in a social media post.

During the visit to Tesla Shanghai Giga factory, Mathur toured the production line and experienced the company's Cybertruck, it said. Tesla plans to export its prime version Model Y to India. However, there is no clarity yet on when the exports will begin.

"Model Y introduces Tesla's benchmark EV technology (500–622 km range, world-class battery & software systems) directly to Indian customers," Mathur later told PTI.

The vehicles will be sourced from Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory, the world's largest EV plant, he said. The envoy said Tesla has committed to deploying its Supercharger network in India, beginning with Mumbai and Delhi, which will provide ultra-fast charging (267 km in 15 minutes) to local EV users.

