

# Spain bans Israel-bound weapons ships, planes; Tel Aviv calls move anti-semitic

**Madrid:** Spain on Monday banned ships and aircraft carrying weapons to Israel from calling at Spanish ports or entering its airspace due to Israel's military offensive in Gaza, measures the Israeli foreign minister denounced as anti-semitic. Spain, which recognised a Palestinian state in May 2024 and has been a vocal critic of Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip, responded to Gideon Saar's comments by summoning its ambassador in Tel Aviv back for consultations.

On top of the ban on ships and aircraft delivering wea-



Spain's PM Pedro Sanchez

apons or military-grade jet fuel to Israel, PM Pedro Sanchez's govt said it would not allow anyone who has participated directly in "genocide" in Gaza to enter Spain. Israel has strongly denied that its actions in Gaza amount to genocide.

Saar accused Sanchez of using the measures in an attempt to divert attention from domestic corruption scandals, and announced an entry ban on Sanchez's deputy, Yolanda Diaz, and youth minister Sira Rego. Both belong to hard-left party Sumar, the junior partner in Sanchez's coalition govt. Spain's foreign ministry said Israel's entry ban was unacceptable, adding that Sanchez's measures were in line with public sentiment in Spain and reflected Madrid's support for peace, human rights and international law. REUTERS

# France to get 5th PM in less than 2 years as parliament votes to oust Francois Bayrou

Reuters

**Paris:** France's parliament voted Monday to bring down the govt over its plans to tame the ballooning national debt, deepening a political crisis and handing President Emmanuel Macron the task of finding a fifth prime minister in less than two years.

Francois Bayrou, 74, took office as prime minister only nine months ago. He will tender his resignation on Tuesday, his office said, leaving Macron to face a narrowing set of options, with financial markets signalling worry at France's political and fiscal crisis.

Bayrou had called the confidence vote unexpectedly to try to win parliamentary support for his strategy to lower a deficit that stands at nearly double the EU's 3% ceiling and to start tackling a debt pile equivalent to 114% of GDP. But opposition parties were in little mood to rally behind his planned savings of 44 billion euros (\$51.51 billion) in next year's budget, with an election for Macron's successor looming



French PM Francois Bayrou

in 2027. They forced Bayrou out, with 364 votes against him and only 194 backing him.

"This moment marks the end of the agony of a phantom government," far-right leader Marine Le Pen said, pushing for a snap parliamentary election, which Macron has so far ruled out. "Today is a day of relief for millions of French people, of relief over your departure," Mathilde Panot of the hard-left France Unbowed told Bayrou in the debate before the vote. The next govt's most pressing task will be to pass a budget — the same challenge Bayrou faced when he took office. REUTERS



NDA nominee,  
C P  
Radhakrishnan



Opposition  
nominee,  
B S Reddy

# Stage set for Vice Presidential elections today

NEW DELHI, Sept 8 (PTI)

**THE** stage is set for a direct contest between ruling NDA nominee C P Radhakrishnan and joint Opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy for Tuesday's vice-presidential election, with the BJP-led alliance having a clear edge in the poll necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Members of both Houses of Parliament will cast their votes in the Parliament House between 10 AM and 5 PM on Tuesday. Counting votes will begin at 6 PM, and the results will be announced late evening.

Members of Parliament are not bound by party whips to vote in the Vice Presidential election, which takes place under a secret ballot system.

The BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led Opposition grouping held separate meetings with their respective MPs on poll eve to sensitise them about the election process and also held mock polls.

The MPs will be handed out ballot papers containing the names of the two contesting candidates and will have to mark their preference by writing the figure '1' opposite the name of the candidate of their choice.

*(Contd on page 5)*

## INDIAN VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTION

**System of election:** Proportional representation by means of single transferable vote through a secret ballot

### The Electoral College consists of

Total number of voters: 788

#### Rajya Sabha Members:

Elected: 233

(6 seats are vacant)

Nominated: 12

#### Lok Sabha Members:

Elected: 543

(1 seat is vacant)

Place of poll:  
**Parliament  
House**

Value of  
each vote:  
**One**



KBK Infographics

## BJD, BRS to **abstain** from voting

BHUBANESWAR, Sept 8 (PTI)

**ODISHA'S** principal Opposition party, Biju Janata Dal (BJD), on Monday announced that its MPs will abstain from voting in the September 9 vice presidential elections. The party, headed by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, said it took the decision as part of its policy of "maintaining an equal distance" from both the BJP-led NDA and Congress-led INDIA bloc at the national level.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) also announced on Monday that it has decided to abstain from the Vice-Presidential election.

*(Contd on page 5)*

# Army, Navy conduct high-altitude diving training in Sikkim

KOLKATA, Sept 8 (PTI)

INDIAN Army's para special forces and Navy's marine commandos Marcos conducted a week-long joint scuba and combat diving exercise in chilling conditions at an altitude of 17,000 feet in Sikkim, a Defence official said on Monday.

He maintained that exercises of this nature also enhance jointmanship between the services, sharpen specialised combat skills, and ensure that India's elite forces remain mission-ready across diverse terrains - from high Himalayas to deep seas.

During the high-altitude training, participants carried out open circuit air diving, closed circuit pure oxygen diving, dives up to a depth of 17 metres in extreme cold-water



conditions and combat night diving, he said.

"The high-altitude environment added unique challenges, reinforcing operational readiness and

expanding the limits of combat diving capability," the official said.

Conducted amidst treacherous terrain and freezing waters between August 30 and September 5, the

exercise showcased exceptional professionalism, adaptability and courage of the special forces of the Indian Army and the elite marine commandos of the Indian Navy, the official said in a statement.

Asserting that such training is essential to prepare soldiers for future battlefields where unpredictability is the only constant, he said that operating in rarefied high-altitude conditions, executing precision tasks in freezing waters and integrating combat diving into joint operations strengthens resilience and versatility.

Addressing the participants, the team commander stated, "Training in these extreme conditions tests every aspect of a soldier's endurance, skill and mental strength."

# Op Rahat: Army's relief, restoration efforts in flood-hit regions

CHANDIGARH, Sept 8 (PTI)

THE Indian Army's Western Command, under 'Operation Rahat', has been conducting extensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions in the flood-affected regions of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir -- the States where nature's fury has claimed several lives and caused devastation.

During the past fortnight, 82 HADR missions have been executed with the deployment of 59 Army columns, including 17 Engineer Task Forces, leading to the evacuation of more than 6,000 citizens that includes approximately 300 paramilitary force personnel.

Over 13,000 citizens have received medical assistance, including emergency evacuation of critical cases.



Security personnel and volunteers use sand bags to repair a broken embankment as a preventive measure against erosion, at a flood-affected area in Ghonewala village of Ajnala, in Amritsar district on Monday. (PTI)

Essential supplies having medicines, water and 48 tons of rations, have been delivered to these flood-affected areas via air

drops and ground columns, an official statement giving details about HADR operations said on Monday.

## PM Modi to visit calamity-hit Himachal Pradesh, Punjab today

NEW DELHI, Sept 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh and Punjab on Tuesday to review the flood situation there.

He will undertake an aerial survey of the flood and landslide-hit areas in Himachal Pradesh, officials said. Modi will visit Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and meet officials and chair a high-level review meeting on the situation.

Army aviation and Air Force assets comprising of three Advanced Light Helicopters, six MI 17s, six Cheetah helicopters

The Prime Minister will also meet the flood-affected people and NDRF, SDRF and Aapda Mitra Team in Kangra.

Modi will also conduct an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Punjab. He will visit Gurdaspur and hold discussions with senior officials and chair a review meeting on the ground situation.

He will also interact with flood-affected persons as well as NDRF, SDRF and Aapda Mitra Team in Gurdaspur.

and one Chinook helicopter have flown numerous sorties for more than 250 hours to support relief efforts.

The Army is working in close coordination with civil administration, NDRF and SDRF to ensure timely relief, restoration of essential services and re-building of infrastructure.

**12 KILLED IN HOUSE COLLAPSE INCIDENTS IN HARYANA DUE TO HEAVY RAINS:** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said 12 people have lost their lives in house collapse incidents recently in different parts of the State due to heavy rains.

An ex-gratia of Rs 48 lakh -- Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of deceased persons -- has been released to provide financial assistance to the bereaved families, he said.

In the house collapse incidents due to heavy rains in the State, 12 people have lost their lives, Saini, who was giving details about relief measures in the flood affected areas, told reporters.

# Xi calls for **united response by BRICS** countries to Trump's trade challenges

BEIJING, Sept 8 (PTI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Monday called for a unified response by the BRICS countries to trade challenges posed by the US, saying that Washington's tariff wars severely disrupted the world economy and undermined international trade rules.

Speaking via a video link to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) leaders' meeting convened by Brazilian President Lula De Silva, Xi said, "as we speak, transformation unseen in a century is accelerating across the world".

"Hegemonism, unilateralism, and protectionism are getting more and more rampant. Trade wars and tariff wars waged by some country severely disrupt the world economy and undermine international trade rules," he said, without directly naming the US or its President Donald Trump, whose steep tariffs against India, Brazil, China and Russia caused turmoil in the emerging economies.

"At this critical juncture, BRICS countries, standing at the forefront of the Global South, should act on the BRICS Spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, jointly defend multilateralism and the multilateral trading system, advance greater BRICS cooperation," Xi said in his speech released by the



Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

Describing the BRICS leaders' meeting as "very relevant", Xi said, "We should uphold multilateralism to defend interna-

tional fairness and justice... It provides an important underpinning for world peace and development."

Also, BRICS countries should actively promote greater democracy in international relations and increase the representation and voice of the Global South countries, he said.

"We should improve the global governance system through reform so as to fully mobilise resources from all quarters and tackle more effectively the common challenges for humanity," he said.

The BRICS countries should

uphold openness and win-win cooperation to safeguard the international economic and trade order, he said.

"Economic globalisation is an irresistible trend of history. Countries cannot thrive without an international environment of open cooperation, and no country can afford to retreat to self-imposed isolation," he said.

"No matter how the international landscape may evolve, we must stay committed to building an open global economy, so as to share opportunities and achieve win-win outcomes in openness," he said.

## Right idea to impose tariffs on countries making deals with Russia, says Zelenskyy

NEW YORK, Sept 8 (PTI)

UKRAINE'S President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that it is the "right idea" to impose tariffs on countries making deals with Russia, without naming India.

"I think the idea to put tariffs on the countries who continue to make deals with Russia... I think this is right idea," Zelenskyy said in an interview aired on ABC News' "This Week" on Sunday.



Zelenskyy was asked if he thinks that the plan to put sanctions backfired when he saw pictures of Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

US President Donald Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

# Accept Aadhaar as voter ID proof, SC directs EC

## It's Not A Proof Of Citizenship, Court Clarifies

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Accepting a major demand of the opposition, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Election Commission to accept Aadhaar cards, in addition to the 11 documents specified under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), as a proof of identity of a person to enable him to file application for inclusion in the Bihar electoral roll.

After hearing senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who complained that EC was acting contrary to a series of directions by SC to accept Aadhaar as proof of identity, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bag-

### ADDED TO LIST OF 11 BIHAR SIR DOCUS

SC order implies that Aadhaar can be submitted as a standalone document for inclusion in voters list, just as any of the other 11 documents specified by EC for SIR exercise in Bihar

“ Authorities will verify genuineness of Aadhaar cards like any other document given by a person seeking inclusion in voter list... Aadhaar won't be considered proof of citizenship  
— SC BENCH

“ EC must be named and shamed for brazen non-compliance with SC's directive on Aadhaar... Today, for the third time, SC reiterated that Aadhaar must be accepted as valid ID  
— JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG

“ The ECI is the final arbiter. Aadhaar is only a proof of identity (Section 23(4) of the Representation of People Act, 1950), and ECI has always treated it as such  
— AMIT MALVIYA | BJP

chi ordered, “Aadhaar cards shall be accepted as proof of identity of a person for filing applications for inclusion/exclusion of names from the voter list. It shall be treated as the 12th document (under SIR).”

The direction for inclusion of Aadhaar as a document in addition to the 11 allowed by EC came after the poll panel's

strong resistance to the petitioners' repeated pleas for acceptance of Aadhaar as an identification document. Justices Kant and Bagchi said Aadhaar card is not alien to the Representation of People Act as one of its provisions provides for Aadhaar as identity proof.

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# Nepal lifts social media ban after 19 die in Gen Z protests

## Home Min Quits, But Stir Likely To Continue

Vishant V Agarwala & Agencies

Nepal revoked the ban on social media it had imposed after violent protests by youths rocked the country on Monday, with police's use of force leaving at least 19 people dead and over 300 others injured, and home mi-

► **EDIT: Olympian Low**

nister Ramesh Lekhak resigning over the situation.

Swati Thapa, central committee member of the opposition Rastriya Prajatantra Party, told TOI, "All 26 social media platforms have been restored — but lifting the ban



Some protesters entered the Parliament complex, prompting police to use water cannon, tear gas, and live rounds to disperse crowds

alone is not sufficient. What matters is accountability. The state has brutally murdered unarmed and peaceful young people — some of them in school uniform. Though the home minister has resigned, that does not settle matters.

The govt must face the court of law and be held responsible for this mass murder of innocents. And we will not be silent — Gen Z will return to the streets on Tuesday to protest these atrocities and RPP will stand with them."

The army was deployed in the capital after the situation deteriorated. Army personnel have taken control of the roads surrounding the parliament complex. Earlier, thousands of youths, including school students, under the banner of Gen Z, staged a massive protest in front of Parliament in the heart of Kathmandu and shouted anti-govt slogans demanding immediate revocation of the ban.

The protests, which also broke out in other parts of Nepal, were the most extensive in a single day in the country's recent history. The violent response by security forces added to pressure on the govt of PM K P Sharma Oli, as both the opposition and a few members of the governing coalition called for his resignation.

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