

Wangchuk arrested, curfew on

LEH, Sept 26 (PTI)

POLICE on Friday arrested climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, two days after protests demanding Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule status left four

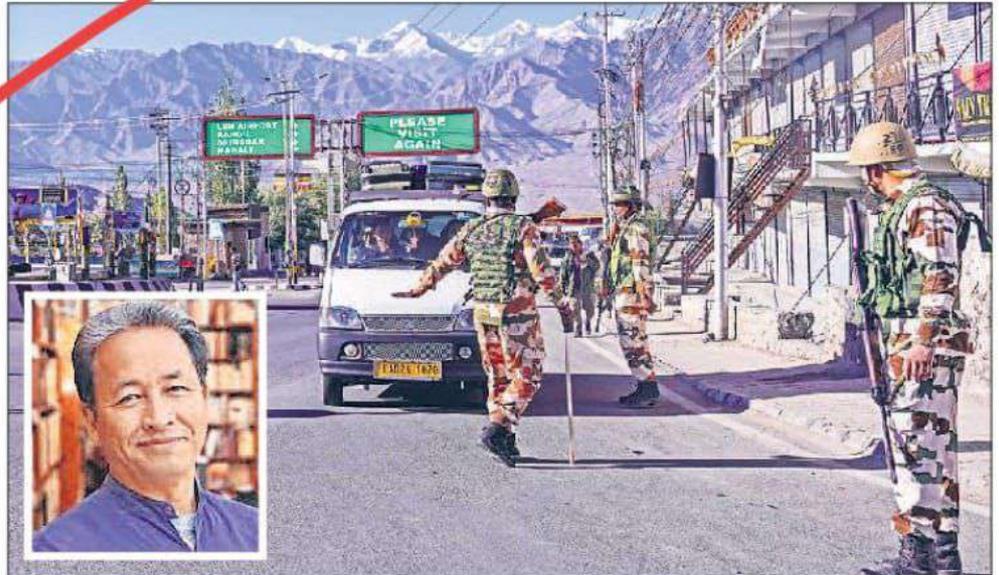
Read TIME & TIDE
LADAKH BURNING
on page 6

people dead and 90 injured in the Union Territory.

Wangchuk was taken into custody by a police party led by Ladakh Police chief S D Singh Jamwal at 2:30 pm, the officials said, adding that he has been shifted out of Ladakh.

While there was no official word on the charges pressed against Wangchuk, sources within the Ladakh administration indicated that the stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked against the climate activist. The administration also snapped mobile Internet services in the Leh area as a precautionary measure.

Wangchuk, a leading voice for the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading



Security personnel check a vehicle during a curfew in Leh, Ladakh on Friday. (Inset) Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. (PTI)

the five-year-long agitation for statehood and constitutional safeguards for the residents of Leh and Kargil, which form part of the Ladakh Union Territory carved out from erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

The Centre has strongly blamed him for inciting the recent violence but Wangchuk denied all the allegations.

"To say it was instigated by me is to find a scapegoat, rather than addressing the core of the problem, and this will lead us nowhere," Wangchuk said on Thursday, adding that the vio-

lence was a symptom of frustrated youth.

The arrest came a day after the Union Home Ministry cancelled the FCRA licence of the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), an organisation founded by Wangchuk, citing alleged financial discrepancies and a fund transfer deemed to be against "national interest".

CURFEW REMAINS IN FORCE FOR THIRD DAY IN LEH TOWN: A Home Ministry team held a series of meetings here to review
(Contd on page 3)

Netanyahu says Israel 'must finish the job' against Hamas in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26 (AP)

ENCIRCLED by critics and protesters at the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told fellow world leaders on Friday that Israel "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza, giving a defiant speech despite growing international isolation over his refusal to end the devastating war in Gaza.

"Western leaders may have buck-

led under the pressure," he said. "And I guarantee you one thing: Israel won't." He spoke after dozens of delegates from multiple nations walked out of the UN General Assembly hall en masse Friday as he began speaking.

Responding to countries' recent decisions to recognise Palestinian statehood, Netanyahu said: "Your disgraceful decision will encourage terrorism against Jews and against innocent people everywhere."

As the Israeli leader spoke, unintelligible shouts echoed around the hall. Applause rang out in other quarters as he spoke. The US delegation, which has backed Netanyahu in his campaign against Hamas, stayed put.

The few world powers in attendance, the US and the UK, did not send their most senior officials or even their UN ambassador to their section. Instead, it was filled out with more junior, low-level diplomats.

Pak PM, Army chief meet Trump at White House

NEW YORK/ISLAMABAD, Sept 26 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House, where they discussed regional security, counter-terrorism cooperation and other issues.

Shehbaz described Trump as a “man of peace” for his “sincere efforts” to end conflicts around the globe, according to a statement from the PM Office.

‘I WILL NOT ALLOW ISRAEL TO ANNEX WEST BANK’: TRUMP has said he will not allow Israel to annex the occupied West Bank, offering an unequivocal promise to block such a move that Arab leaders in the Middle East have also staunchly opposed.

Asked about Israel officials suggesting in recent weeks that their govern-



US President Donald Trump during a meeting with Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif (L) and Field Marshal Asim Munir (R) at White House in Washington. (PTI)

ment could move to seize control of at least some parts of the West Bank, a move that has been floated in response to a number of countries — including key US allies like the United Kingdom and Canada, to recognise a Palestinian state, Trump’s response was blunt.

MiG-21 flies through Indian skies for last time



CHANDIGARH, Sept 26 (PTI)

THE legendary Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of the Indian Air Force's combat fleet for more than six decades, streaked through Indian skies for the last time

on Friday -- its final adieu threaded through history and many a remembrance.

The sun shone bright, the skies were cloudless and a brilliant blue, providing a picture perfect setting for the elaborate farewell to the Russian ori-

gin warhorse that was inducted into the IAF in the 1960s.

Describing the MiG-21 as a mighty machine and a national pride, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said there is deep attachment to the aircraft that shaped our confidence.

"MiG-21 is not only an aircraft or machine but also proof of deep India-Russia ties," the Minister said. "The history of military aviation is incredible. The MiG 21 added many proud moments in our military aviation journey," Singh told the gathering.

There has been no fighter jet in the history of global military aviation made in such big numbers, the Minister said. More than 11,500 MiG 21 aircraft were made. Of them, 850 fighter jets remained part of the IAF, he added.

(Contd on page 3)

India, US to continue engagement for early conclusion of trade pact

NEW DELHI, Sept 26 (PTI)

INDIA and the US have decided to continue negotiations for early conclusion of a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement, the Commerce Ministry said on Friday. The statement was issued after the return of the Indian official delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to New York for trade talks. The delegation returned on September 24 after holding three-day talks. Both sides held constructive meetings on various aspects of the trade deal, the Ministry said in a statement.

“Both sides exchanged views on possible contours of the deal, and it was decided to continue the engagements with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement,” it added. During the visit, the Minister held meetings with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Ambassador-designate to India

Sergio Gor. These deliberations were important as they took place after the US imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for purchasing Russian crude oil.

At present, a total of 50 per cent additional import duty is imposed on Indian goods. An official said that India has sought removal of the 25 per cent penalty as it would be important for a deal.

The next dates for the negotiations have not yet been finalised. The official also said US President Donald Trump's move to impose 100 per cent import tariffs on branded pharmaceutical drugs from October 1 is likely to have an impact on Indian exports and the Ministry is looking into it. Indian pharmaceutical companies supply a substantial proportion of drugs to US residents, with four out of ten of all prescriptions filled in the US in 2022 being supplied by Indian companies.

Afspa extended in parts of 3 NE states

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday extended validity of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in parts of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for six more months, maintaining status quo in terms of police stations and districts tagged as 'disturbed areas' in its notifications issued under Afspa six months ago.

Stating that a further review of the law and order situation in Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh had been undertaken, home ministry, in separate notifications issued for the three states, said the areas already declared as 'disturbed areas' would continue to be classified as such for a further period of six months from Oct 1. TNN

Bibi delivers defiant speech at UN after walkout by dozens of nations

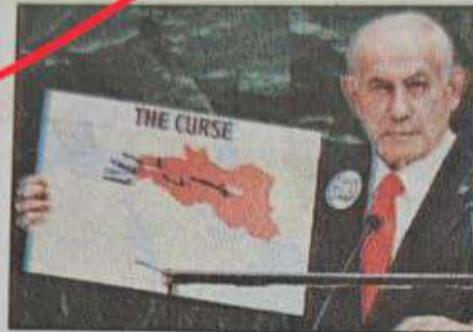
Says Israel Must Finish Job Against Hamas In Gaza, Tells West Backing Palestinian State Sends Message: 'Killing Jews Pays Off'

United Nations: PM Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel defended his country's attacks on its enemies and vowed to continue its campaign to "finish the job" against Hamas in a defiant address to the UN General Assembly on Friday morning.

The Israeli PM pushed back in his harshest terms yet against a flurry of diplomatic moves by leading US allies that deepened Israel's international isolation over war in Gaza. "This week, the leaders of France, Britain, Australia, Canada and other countries unconditionally recognised a Palestinian state," he said. "They did so after the horrors committed by Hamas on Oct 7 — horrors praised on that day by nearly 90% of the Palestinian population." Calling it a "mark of shame," Netanyahu said: "You know what message the leaders who recognise the Palestinian state this week sent to the Palestinians? It's a very clear message: murdering Jews pays off."

Netanyahu added, "Israel will not allow you to shove a terrorist state down our throats. We will not commit national suicide because you don't have the guts to face down the hostile media and antisemitic mobs demanding Israel's blood."

With more countries joining the list of those endorsing Palestinian independence, the



Bibi addresses UNGA on Friday. He will meet President Trump on Monday in Washington, their fourth meeting since Jan

Trump says Gaza deal near, hostages could soon be freed

President Donald Trump said on Friday that he is close to a deal to end the war in Gaza and bring hostages home. "It's looking like we have a deal on Gaza. I think it's a deal that gets the hostages back, it's going to be a deal that ends the war," Trump told reporters at the White House. He did not offer further details. REUTERS

most right-wing govt in Israeli history has made its strongest declaration in years that there will be no Palestinian state.

Scores of delegates walkout ahead of speech

Scores of delegates exited the hall as Netanyahu took the stage while some attendees in the balcony gave him a stan-

ding ovation. At the same time, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters blocked traffic near Times Square in New York.

"Over time, many world leaders buckled. They buckled under the pressure of a biased media, radical Islamist constituencies and antisemitic mobs. There's a familiar saying, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Well, for many countries here, when the going got tough, you caved," PM said. "Behind closed doors, many of the leaders who publicly condemn us privately thank us. They tell me how much they value Israel's superb intelligence services that have prevented, time and again, terrorist attacks in their capitals."

Netanyahu addresses hostages from rostrum

"Much of the world no longer remembers Oct 7. But we remember," Netanyahu said. Speaking in Hebrew, the Israeli PM directed his remarks to the hostages still held in Gaza: "We've not forgotten you — not even for a second." Near the start of his speech, Netanyahu said he had loudspeakers placed at the Israeli side of the Gaza border to broadcast the address into the Palestinian enclave in hopes that hostages held there would hear his vow that his government will not rest until they are free. AGENCIES