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Gor's tenure will further strengthen India-US strategic ties: PM Modi

Envoy also meets Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met US Ambassador-designate to India Sergio Gor and said he was confident that India-US ties will further strengthen during his tenure.

Gor is on a six-day visit to India after the US Senate confirmed his appointment as the American Ambassador to India. Gor is accompanied by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J Rigas. "Glad to receive Mr. Sergio Gor, Ambassador-designate of the US to India. I'm confident that his tenure will further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," Modi said in a post on X. "I had an incredible meeting with Prime Minister Modi. We discussed bilateral issues, including defence, trade and technology," Gor said after meeting the Prime Minister.

"We also discussed the importance of critical minerals," he said. The US greatly values its relationship with India, Gor said, adding President Donald Trump considers PM Modi as a great and personal friend. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also held talks with Gor amid continuing strains in the relations over Washington's imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports.

Gor, accompanied by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J Rigas, is on a six-day visit to New Delhi, days after the Senate confirmed his appointment as the US envoy to India. "Pleased to meet Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor of the US today in New Delhi. Discussed the India-US relationship and its global significance," Jaishankar said on social media. "Wish him the best for his new responsibility," he said.



China's reckless expansion turning Tibet into a climate catastrophe, warns Stockholm report

DHARAMSHALA, Oct 11 (ANI)

CHINA'S sweeping infrastructure expansion, militarisation, and resource extraction are driving the Tibetan Plateau into "severe ecological distress".

The study, released by the Stockholm Centre for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs ahead of COP30, warns that Tibet, often called the "Roof of the World", is facing environmental breakdown with global implications.

Tibet's role in climate discussions is crucial, as its rapid warming is impacting water, food, and energy security throughout the Indo-Pacific, as reported by Phayul.

According to Phayul, the research notes that Tibet is warm-

ing at more than twice the global average, with glaciers retreating and permafrost melting. Grasslands that sustain Asia's major river systems are deteriorating, endangering nearly two billion people downstream. The Stockholm paper blames Beijing's state-controlled model of development, marked by highways, railways, airports, and hydropower dams, for prioritising speed and militarisation over ecological balance. It further criticises China's

opacity and the suppression of independent environmental studies.

Study by Stockholm Centre for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs ahead of COP30, warns that Tibet, often called the "Roof of the World", is facing environmental breakdown with global implications

Evidence on the ground supports these warnings. In July 2025, China began constructing the Medog Hydropower Station on the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) in Tibet, a USD 170 billion project designed to produce massive energy outputs. While Chinese authorities claim minimal downstream impact, India, Bangladesh, and several NGOs fear potential disruptions

to river ecology, water flow, and regional biodiversity.

Experts also caution against the seismic risk, referencing the January 2025 earthquake in Tibet that killed more than 120 people and damaged multiple reservoirs, as highlighted by Phayul.

The growing concern over mining activities in Chamdo's Markham County and controversial incidents like a fireworks display in Shigatse by the outdoor brand Arc'teryx, part-owned by China's Anta Sports. Tibetan environmental defenders such as Tsongon Tsering and A-Nya Sengdra remain imprisoned for opposing illegal mining and corruption, highlighting the human cost of environmental advocacy under China's control, as reported by Phayul.

Cough syrup deaths: Probe against Coldrif manufacturer exposed lapses by TNFDA

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (PTI)

THE investigation against the Kanchipuram-based manufacturer of Coldrif cough syrup, linked to the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh, has brought to light lapses by the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration in enforcing basic regulatory norms, CDSCO sources said.

Licensed in 2011 by the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TNFDA), Sresan Pharma continued operations unchecked for over a decade despite its dismal infrastructure and multiple violations of national drug safety rules, they said.

A recent inspection by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) exposed the unit's appalling conditions



and total non-compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), the sources said.

"The CDSCO has not been involved in any of the audits at Sresan Pharma. Since the CDSCO was not involved and the State FDA did not inform the CDSCO about this company in any way, this company was not part of any of the CDSCO databases," a source said. TNFDA officials could not be reached for comment.

Another source at the CDSCO highlighted that Rule 84AB of D

and C Rules requires manufacturers to update all of their approved products on the 'Sugam' portal. The rule was notified to prepare a national database of all the approved products in the country to support better monitoring.

"The company did not register its products on the database. Thus, it did not comply with this rule. It is the State regulator's responsibility to get the rule executed in the State," the source said. Further, with the intent of making a centralised database of pharmaceutical manufacturers, the CDSCO sent communication to all manufacturers and the TNFDA in October 2023, requesting them to share their information through a Google form.

Trump threatens new 100% tariff on Chinese imports

WASHINGTON, Oct 11 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday threatened to place an additional 100 per cent tax on Chinese imports starting on November 1 or sooner, potentially escalating tariff rates close to levels that in April fanned fears of a global recession.

The President expressed frustration with new export controls placed on rare earth elements by China—and said on social media that “there seems to be no reason” to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping as part of an upcoming trip to South Korea.

Trump later told reporters he had not cancelled his meeting. “But I don’t know that we’re going to have it,” he said during an Oval Office appearance on another subject. “I’m going to be there regardless, so I would assume



we might have it.” Trump also suggested there may be time to ratchet down his steep new tariff threat. “We’re going to have to see what happens. That’s why I made it Nov. 1,” he said.

CHINA’S NEW RESTRICTIONS: On Thursday, the Chinese Government restricted access to rare earth minerals, requiring

foreign companies to get special approval for shipping the metallic elements abroad. It also announced permitting requirements on exports of technologies used in the mining, smelting and recycling of rare earths, adding that any export requests for products used in military goods would be rejected.

On social media, Trump described the export controls as “shocking” and “out of the blue.” He said China is “becoming very hostile” and that it’s holding the world “captive” by restricting access to the metals and magnets used in electronics, computer chips, lasers, jet engines and other technologies.

Trump said in a post that “starting November 1st, 2025 (or sooner, depending on any further actions or changes taken by China), the United States of America will impose a Tariff of 100% on China, over and above any Tariff that they are currently paying.” The President also said the US Government would respond to China by putting its own export controls “on any and all critical software” from American firms.

The Chinese Embassy in

Washington did not immediately respond to an *Associated Press* request for comment.

TRUMP IS KNOWN FOR USING THREATS AS A TACTIC: The S&P 500 tumbled 2.7 per cent on worries about the rising tensions between the world’s largest economies. It was the market’s worst day since April when the President last banded about import taxes this high. Still, the stock market closed before the President spelt out the terms of his threat. Not only could the global trade war instigated by Trump be rekindled, but import taxes being heaped on top of the 30 per cent already being levied on Chinese goods could, by the administration’s past statements, cause trade to break down between the US and China in ways that could cause growth worldwide to slump.

N Korea displays new long-range missile at military parade

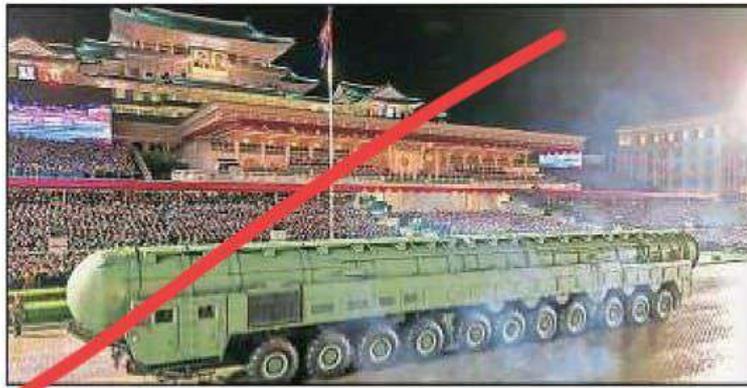
SEOUL, Oct 11 (AP)

AT A massive military parade attended by foreign leaders, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rolled out his nuclear-armed military's most powerful weapons, including a new intercontinental ballistic missile he may be preparing to test in the coming weeks.

The parade, which began on Friday night in the rain and marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party, highlighted Kim's growing diplomatic footing and his relentless drive to build an arsenal that could viably target the continental United States and his rivals in Asia.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the parade featured a new, yet-to-be-tested intercontinental ballistic missile called the Hwasong-20, which it described as the "most powerful nuclear strategic weapons system."

Other weapons on display included shorter-range ballistic,



cruise and supersonic missiles, which the North previously described as capable of delivering nuclear strikes against targets in rival South Korea.

In a speech at the parade, Kim said his military "must continue to evolve into an invincible force that eliminates all threats," but made no direct mention of Washington or Seoul, according to comments published by KCNA.

Photos and videos from Russia's 'TASS' news agency showed thousands of spectators packing the brightly lit Kim Il Sung Square,

named after Kim Jong Un's state-founding grandfather, as missile-mounted vehicles rolled past. KCNA said the columns of soldiers who marched during the parade included "the invincible overseas operations unit that fully demonstrated the spirit of the Korean people," suggesting they were troops Kim had sent to Russia to join the war effort against Ukraine.

The parade took place as Kim hosted a rare group of high-level foreign officials to attend the anniversary celebrations, including Chinese Premier Li Qiang; for-

mer Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, now deputy head of Moscow's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin; and Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary To Lam.

The optics are likely to be used by state media to highlight Kim's increasingly assertive foreign policy, as he embraces the idea of a "new Cold War" aimed at breaking out of isolation and seeks a larger role for North Korea in a united front against the US-led West.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kim has made Russia the priority of his foreign policy, sending thousands of troops and large shipments of weapons, including artillery and ballistic missiles, to help fuel Putin's warfighting. Kim also visited China last month, and shared centre stage with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Putin at a massive military parade, in another step aimed at strengthening his diplomatic leverage.

Modi launches **Rs 35,440 cr** two big farm schemes

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched two major agricultural schemes with an outlay of Rs 35,440 crore to boost pulses production and improve the farm sector growth in 100 low-performing districts, as he exhorted farmers to reduce the country's import dependence and increase exports.

Modi, in a special event at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa campus here, launched a Rs 24,000-crore 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' (PM-DDKY) and a Rs 11,440-crore 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'.

He also inaugurated projects valued at over Rs 5,450 crore in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, and laid foundation stone for additional projects worth around Rs 815 crore.



PM Modi during an interaction with farmers at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. (PTI)

During his 30-minute address, Modi attacked the Congress Governments for not having any vision and strategy for the growth of the agriculture and allied sectors, which weakened the farm

ecosystem. Talking about the two new big schemes, the Prime Minister said that the Centre would invest over Rs 35,000 crore in PM-DDKY and pulses mission, which he said would change

the "fate of crores of farmers". The two schemes, already approved by the Cabinet, will be implemented from the upcoming rabi (winter) season till 2030-31. Modi underscored that farmers have a critical role to play in realising the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

"You (farmers) have made India self-reliant in foodgrains post-Independence. Now, you have a crucial role in making India a developed nation (Viksit Bharat). On one hand, we have to become self-reliant (in food), while on the other hand we should produce for the global market. Friends, we need to knock the doors of the international market," Modi said, urging farmers to focus on crops that have global demand.

"We have to reduce our imports and we should not fall behind in increasing exports," he said,

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