

PM Modi to visit Bhutan next week

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Bhutan on Tuesday on a two-day visit to further strengthen bilateral ties and inaugurate a mega hydroelectric project jointly developed by the two countries.

Modi will meet Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay during the November 11-12 visit. The Prime Minister will also attend celebrations to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the former king of Bhutan. "The visit seeks to strengthen the special ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday.

Modi and King Wangchuck will jointly inaugurate the 1020 mega watt Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project developed jointly by India and Bhutan, it said.

The PM will attend the celebrations dedicated to the 70th birth anniversary of Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth King of Bhutan, the MEA said. "India and Bhutan share a unique and exemplary partnership marked by deep mutual trust, goodwill and respect for each other," it said.

US to boycott G20 in South Africa: Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 8 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Friday that no US Government officials would be attending the Group of 20 summit this year in South Africa, citing the country's treatment of white farmers.

Trump had already announced he would not attend the annual summit for heads of state from the globe's leading and emerging economies. Vice President JD Vance had been scheduled to attend in Trump's place, but a person familiar with Vance's plans who was granted anonymity to talk about his schedule said Vance would no longer travel there for the summit.

"It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa," Trump said on his social media site. In his post, Trump cited



"abuses" of Afrikaners, including violence and death as well as confiscation of their land and farms.

The Trump administration has long accused the South African Government of allowing minority white Afrikaner farmers to be

persecuted and attacked. As it restricted the number of refugees admitted annually to the US to 7,500, the administration indicated that most will be white South Africans who it claimed faced discrimination and violence at home.

Winter session of Parlt from Dec 1 to 19

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (PTI)

THE Winter session of Parliament will be held from December 1 to 19, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced on Saturday, in what the opposition has described as an “unusually delayed” and truncated session.

The three-week session will have 15 sittings in all and is expected to be stormy as it comes in the midst of the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union territories, an exercise against which several Opposition parties have raised objections.

The Monsoon session of Parliament also saw vociferous protests by several opposition parties over the SIR in Bihar that led to daily disruptions in Parliament.

“The Hon’ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu ji has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the #WinterSession of Parliament from 1st December 2025 to 19th December 2025 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary business),” Rijiju said on X.

“Looking forward to a constructive and meaningful Session that strengthens our democracy

and serves the aspirations of the people,” he said.

The tone for the Winter session will be set by the results of the Bihar Assembly elections on November 14 where the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is locked in a stiff battle with the Opposition Mahagathbandhan coalition.

Several Opposition parties are

ing the session is “unusually delayed and truncated”.

“It will be just 15 working days. What is the message being conveyed? Clearly the Government has no business to transact, no Bills to get passed, and no debates to be allowed,” Ramesh said in a post on X.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O’Brien alleged that the



also likely to seek answers from the Government on repeated claims made by US President Donald Trump on helping end hostilities between India and Pakistan over trade, after India launched ‘Operation Sindoor’.

Soon after the announcement of the session dates, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hit out at the Government, say-

Government has “Parliament-Ophobia”, describing it as a fear of facing the Parliament.

“PARLIAMENT-OPHOBIA. PM Narendra Modi and team continue to suffer from the acute condition called Parliament-ophobia, a morbid fear of facing Parliament.

“15-day Winter Session announced. Setting dubious records,” he said in a post on X.

Afghanistan-Pakistan talks end without agreement



■ By Sajjad Hussain
ISLAMABAD, Nov 8 (PTI)

PEACE talks between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban ended without any agreement to tackle the thorny issues of cross-border terrorism as the deadlock persisted, according to top officials.

Six killed in Afghanistan in Pakistani military attack

KABUL, Nov 8 (IANS)

AT LEAST six civilians, including women and children, were killed, and five others injured after the Pakistani military struck three residential homes in Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar

The third round of talks began on Thursday and continued for two days but it failed to get a written commitment from Kabul to take action against Tehreek-i-

Province, local media reported on Saturday.

The latest attack came amid the third round of peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Istanbul, which reportedly ended in a deadlock.

Speaking to Afghan media outlet 'TOLO news', Afghan cit-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants accused of launching an attack against Pakistan by using Afghan soil.

Pakistan's Defence Minister

izen Hayatullah, whose mother was killed and daughter injured, said, "Two or three mortar shells hit our home. My mother was martyred, and this child was injured in the arm."

Meanwhile, another resident, Abdul Manan, said that two artillery shells struck his home.

Khawaja Asif told a private TV channel on Friday night that the negotiations were suspended, with "no programme for the fourth round of talks".

India urges clarity and predictability in EU's CBAM and new steel regulation

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (ANI)

INDIA has emphasised the need for clarity in and predictability in the implementation of emerging EU regulatory measures, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the proposed new steel regulation, during the recently concluded India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation round held in New Delhi.

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, a senior team of negotiators from the European Union (EU) visited New Delhi from November 3 to 7, 2025, for negotiations with Indian counterparts on the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The week-long negotiations concluded yesterday.

The week-long discussions were part of ongoing efforts to advance negotiations towards a compre-

hensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade agreement. The deliberations covered a wide range of chapters, including goods, services, investment, trade, sustainable development, rules of origin, and technical trade barriers.

As part of the negotiations, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held detailed meetings with Sabine Weyand, Director-General for Trade at the European Commission, to take stock of the progress achieved across the negotiating tracks.

The two-day stocktake meetings, held on 5-6 November 2025 in New



Delhi, reviewed key outstanding issues in the India-EU FTA negotiations. Both sides agreed to accelerate further efforts towards achieving a balanced trade agreement.

The Commerce Secretary reaffirmed India's commitment

to achieving an outcome that promotes economic growth and development while ensuring a fair and balanced distribution of benefits.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the substantive progress made across several negotiating areas and agreed to sustain the positive momentum. The discussions helped narrow divergences, and a common understanding was reached on many issues.

Indian Army conducts joint aerial operations in forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR, Nov 8 (ANI)

IN A striking demonstration of operational preparedness, the Indian Army's attack helicopters under the Spear Corps conducted intensive joint flying operations with infantry formations in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

The exercise showcased the formidable strike capability and all-weather readiness of these advanced platforms to operate effectively by day and night.

In a post on X, the Spear Corps of Indian Army wrote, "In a powerful display of aerial dominance, the Indian Army's Attack Helicopters under #SpearCorps conducted intense flying operations with Infantry Formations in forward areas of #ArunachalPradesh.

The exercise showcased the formidable strike capability and all-weather readiness of these advanced platforms to operate effectively by day and night." On Friday, showcasing tri-service synergy under Exercise Trishul, formations of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command have embarked on a Joint Amphibious Exercise with the Indian Navy along India's Western seaboard, the Southern Command Indian Army said.

India joins Brazil-led climate fund

calls for stronger ambition 10 yrs after Paris pact



India said COP30 is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of global warming. It urged developed nations to reach net zero much sooner than they have declared and invest substantially in reaching net negative emissions.

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (PTI)

INDIA has said global climate ambition remains inadequate even a decade after the Paris Agreement, as it joined Brazil's new global fund for tropical forests as an observer and called for developed nations to accelerate emission cuts and deliver promised climate finance.

Delivering India's statement at the Leaders' Summit of COP30 in Brazil's Belem on Friday, Indian Ambassador to Brazil Dinesh Bhatia reaffirmed the coun-

try's commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement, which marks its 10th anniversary this year.

"India welcomes and supports Brazil's initiative in establishing the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), representing a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests. India is pleased to join the Facility as an observer," Bhatia said. Launched on Thursday, TFFF is a Brazil-led global fund to reward tropical countries for protecting and expanding forests. It aims to mobilise around USD 125 billion through public and private investment, using returns to pay nations that conserve forests.

India said COP30 is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of global warming and to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities were adopted.

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, the country said global ambition remains "inadequate" and that "many nations' NDCs (nationally determined contributions) fall short". "While developing countries continue to take decisive climate action, developed countries that have disproportionately appropriated the global carbon budget must accelerate emission reductions and deliver the promised, adequate and predictable support," the ambassador said. India urged developed nations to reach net zero much sooner than they have declared and invest substantially in reaching net negative emissions.

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