

# India offers 'strong support' to Brazil for COP30

The UN climate talks in Brazil ended with a pledge of more funding for countries to adapt to the wrath of extreme weather. But it did not include a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels.

■ By **Trideep Lahkar**  
BELEM (Brazil), Nov 23 (PTI)

INDIA on Sunday expressed 'strong support' to Brazil for the inclusive leadership of the COP30 Presidency and welcomed several decisions adopted at the just concluded climate summit.

Though New Delhi expressed satisfaction with many decisions, it did not specifically call the COP30 a success in devising a policy aimed at preventing climate change issues.



In an official release, India expressed its gratitude for the "High-level Statement" at the Closing Plenary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP30 here on Saturday.

The UN climate talks in Brazil ended with a subdued agreement on Saturday that pledged more funding for countries to adapt to extreme weather's wrath.

But the catch-all agreement doesn't include explicit details to phase out fossil fuels or strengthen countries' inadequate emissions cutting plans, which dozens of nations demanded.

The Brazilian hosts of the conference said they'd eventually come up with a road map to get away from fossil fuels working with hard-line Colombia, but it won't have the same force as

something approved at the United Nations conference called COP30. Colombia responded angrily to the deal after it was approved, citing the absence of wording on fossil fuels.

The deal, which was approved after negotiators blew past a Friday deadline to wrap up, was crafted after more than 12 hours of late night and early morning meetings in COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago's office. The Indian delegation at the climate summit was headed by Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav. The statement conveyed India's gratitude to the leadership of COP President Andre Correa do Lago, which it said was rooted in inclusion, balance, integrity and the Brazilian spirit of 'Mutirao', meaning collective effort in the indigenous Tupi language of Brazil.

"Welcoming progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), India underscored the equity dimension of the decision, remarking that it reflects a recognition of the overwhelming need for adaptation in developing countries," the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement. A key element of India's address was the emphasis on long-standing obligations of developed countries to provide climate finance.

The statement expressed appreciation for the efforts the Presidency took in supporting India in beginning the journey towards a long-overdue focus on Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement.

It stated that India sincerely hopes in the spirit of international cooperation that promises made 33 years ago in Rio would now be fulfilled due to the first steps parties have taken in Belem.

# Europe seeks Nato-style pact, higher army cap for Ukraine

## 'Asks Russia To Compensate, Ukraine To Be Reconstructed'

**Brussels:** Europeans have submitted a modified version of the US' peace plan for Ukraine that pushes back on proposed limits to Kyiv's armed forces and territorial concessions, according to a document seen by Reuters on Sunday.

The document, prepared for talks on the plan in Geneva, proposes that Ukraine's military be capped at 800,000 "in peacetime" rather than a blanket cap of 600,000 proposed by the US plan. It also says "negotiations on territorial swaps will start from the Line of Contact", rather than pre-determining that certain areas should be recognised as "de facto Russian", as the US plan suggests.

The counter-proposal was drafted by the so-called European E3 powers - the UK, France and Germany, a source said. The document takes the US proposal as its basis, but goes through point by point with suggested deletions or changes. It proposes that Ukraine re-



US secretary of state Marco Rubio (C) attends a discussion with a delegation from Kyiv to end the Russia-Ukraine war in Geneva on Sunday

## Zelensky thanks Trump as US prez slams Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky sought to win back Donald Trump's favour on Sunday, after the US leader blasted at Kyiv amidst crucial talks in Geneva. Trump earlier said on his Truth Social platform that Ukraine's leadership "EXPRESSED ZERO GRATITUDE FOR OUR EFFORTS," referring to his plan to end the nearly four-year conflict. A few hours later, Zelensky wrote on X: "Ukraine is grateful to the United States, to every American heart, and personally to President Trump for the assistance that — starting with the Javelins — has been saving Ukrainian lives." AFP

ceive a security guarantee from the US similar to Nato's Article 5 clause. It pushes back on the US proposal for the use of Russian assets frozen in the West. "Ukraine will be fully reconstructed and compensated financially, including through Russian sovereign assets that will remain frozen until Rus-

sia compensates damage to Ukraine," the document says.

US secretary of state Marco Rubio said he had made good progress in talks. "So I think the takeaway from it is, I would say, probably best meeting and day we've had so far in this entire exercise," Rubio told reporters in Geneva. REUTERS

## New draft of US peace plan reflects our priorities, says Ukraine negotiator

**Kyiv:** The latest version of the US draft plan for ending the war in Ukraine now includes most of Kyiv's "key priorities", its negotiator said Sunday, after holding a few rounds of talks in Geneva.

"The current version of the document, although still in the final stages of approval, already reflects most of Ukraine's key priorities," negotiator Rustem Umerov, who is also the secretary of Ukraine's security council, said. "We greatly appreciate the constructive cooperation with the US and their attentive consideration of our comments, which allows us to move forward in this joint process," he added.

"Currently, there is an understanding that the American proposals may include a number of elements based on Ukrainian perspectives and critical for Ukrainian national interests," Umerov said on social media. AFP

## Japan crossed red line, will resolutely respond to any aggression: China

Taipei: Japan "crossed a red line" with comments by its new leader suggesting a potential military intervention over Taiwan, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said Sunday. "It is shocking that Japan's current leaders have publicly sent the wrong signal of attempting military intervention in the Taiwan issue, said things they shouldn't have said, and cross-



ed a red line that should not have been touched," Wang said. He added that China must "resolute-

ly respond" to Japan's actions and that all countries have the responsibility to "prevent the resurgence of Japanese militarism." Beijing sees self-ruled Taiwan - a former Japanese colony - as its own territory.

Taiwan's ministry of defence detected eight Chinese sorties, six naval vessels and an official ship around its territorial waters as of 6am (local time) on Sunday. As per the ministry, of the eight sorties, six crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. Earlier on Saturday, Taiwan detected 18 sorties of Chinese aircraft, seven naval vessels and an official ship. AGENCIES

# Piyush Goyal meets Netanyahu, talks for FTA get a boost

Tel Aviv: Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday concluded a successful three-day visit to Israel, where he met President Isaac Herzog, PM Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders.

Goyal conveyed PM Narendra Modi's warm wishes to Netanyahu and updated him on his discussions with minister Nir Barkat and the outcomes of the Business Forum and CEOs Forum.

In a post on X, Goyal highlighted the signing of the Terms of Reference to launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, expected to boost trade, investment, and technology cooperation.

He discussed strengthening innovation ties by combining Israel's hi-tech strengths with India's scale and talent. Goyal sought Netanyahu's guidance on deepening economic and strategic engagement in sectors like agriculture, water, defence, science, technology, and innovation.

The meeting underscores the growing collaboration between India and Israel across economic, technological, and strategic domains, paving the way for expanded cooperation

in the years ahead.

During his visit to Israel, Goyal held a series of wide-ranging engagements, further strengthening bilateral cooperation across agriculture, technology, innovation and trade. During his meetings on Nov 21, Goyal met with the Israeli minister of agriculture and food security, Avi Dichter, for a detailed discussion on advancing agricultural collabora-



Piyush Goyal conveyed to Netanyahu PM Narendra Modi's warm wishes and updated him on discussions during his three-day visit to Israel

tion. Dichter briefed Goyal on Israel's 25-year food security roadmap, its advanced seed-improvement strategies, and the country's global leadership in water-reuse technologies for agriculture.

Earlier, on Nov 20, Goyal commenced his official engagements with a meeting with Israel's minister of economy, Barkat. The two leaders reviewed the current trajectory of bilateral trade and explored new areas of cooperation. ANI

# Andaman- Nicobar to study ecological impact as tourist inflow rises

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (PTI)

THE Andaman and Nicobar Government is analysing the impact of opening new islands and the rising influx of tourists in the archipelago to ensure the preservation of the ecosystem while ensuring more islands are opened in a graded manner, officials said.

The island Union Territory known for its pristine beaches and mangrove kayaking tours, has witnessed a significant jump in domestic tourism since pre-COVID years.

“We had a very successful tourist season last year. We were able to overcome the effects of COVID-19, and last year, on an island with a population of 4 lakh, we welcomed 7.2 lakh visitors. This year, we are experiencing substantial growth as well. We have already recorded 6 lakh visitors by September, and our peak

season is during October and November,” Jyoti Kumari, Tourism Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, told PTI.

When asked about the ecological concerns associated with the rising number of tourists, she said, “As an island, we have a carrying capacity. Our advantage is that access is limited to flights, which naturally restricts the

number of visitors. That said, the impact on frequently visited islands is minimal. We are opening new islands and exploring different niche segments.”

The tourism secretary explained that the Government recently opened North Sink Island and will continue to open more islands in a graded manner.



# No place for **DOUBLE STANDARDS** in fight against terrorism: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with (L) South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and (R) Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during IBSA Leaders' meeting, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

(PTI)

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 23 (IANS)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday emphasised the need for close coordination between India, South Africa and Brazil in the fight against terrorism and said that there is no place for double standards while fighting terrorism.

He proposed the institutionalisation of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) National Security Advisor (NSA) level meeting.

In his remarks at the IBSA Leaders' Meeting in Johannesburg on Sunday, PM Modi said, "All three of our countries agree that global institutions are far removed from the realities of the 21st century. None of our countries is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. This clearly demonstrates that global institutions do not rep-

resent today's world. Therefore, IBSA must unanimously send a message to the entire world that institutional reform is no longer an option, but a necessity."

"Similarly, in the fight against terrorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue. For global peace and prosperity, we must take united action on this issue. In 2021, the first meeting of the NSAs of the three countries was held under India's IBSA chairmanship. To strengthen security cooperation, we can institutionalise it," he added.

He noted that technology plays a crucial role in ensuring human-centric development. He stated that IBSA can play a key role in emerging technologies, especially in the context of DPI and Artificial

Intelligence.

PM Modi proposed establishing an 'IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance', where digital public infrastructure like UPI, health platforms like CoWIN, cybersecurity frameworks, and women-led tech initiatives can be shared among the three nations.

He further said, "This will accelerate the growth of our digital economies and create scalable solutions for the Global South. Together, we can contribute to the creation of safe, reliable, and human-centred AI norms. This could be launched at the AI Impact Summit to be held in India next year."

Calling IBSA an "important platform" connecting three continents, he stated, "IBSA is not just a group of three countries; it is an important platform connecting three  
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