

India model of high growth, low inflation: PM

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (PTI)

ASSERTING that India is a model of high growth and low inflation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country's 8.2 per cent growth in the second quarter of this fiscal shows that it is becoming the growth driver of the global economy.

He also said India's self-confidence had been shaken by the "mentality of colonialism" but now we are moving ahead of it.

Modi said that at a time when the world is full of uncertainties, India is seen in a different league.

The changes happening in India are not just about possibilities but are a saga of changing thinking and direction, he said addressing the *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit, in New Delhi. (PTI)

The world is full of uncertainties but India is being seen in a different league altogether, he said. "India is full of self confi-

dence. When there is talk of slow-down, India writes the story of growth. When there is trust deficit in the world, India is becoming

a pillar of trust, when the world is moving towards fragmentation, India is becoming a bridge builder," Modi said.

Pointing out Q2 GDP figures being more than 8 per cent, he said it is the symbol of our pace.

"This is not just a number but is a strong macroeconomic signal. It is a message that India is becoming the growth driver of the global economy," Modi said.

Global growth is around 3 per cent while G7 economies are growing at an average of about 1.5 per cent, he pointed out.

"At such a time, India is a model of high growth and low inflation," Modi said.

PM Modi urged people to completely rid the country of the slave mentality in the next 10 years, asserting that every sector today is shedding the colonial mind-

set and aiming for new achievements with pride. He also said the term Hindu rate of growth was used when India was struggling for 2-3 per cent of growth.

"The policy of Macaulay, which sowed the seeds of mental slavery in India, will complete 200 years in 2035. This means there are 10 years left. Therefore, in these very 10 years, we all must come together to free our country from the slave mentality," he said.

CM YOGI HAILS RAM TEMPLE AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY: UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, speaking at the *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit 2025 in New Delhi, declared that the state has entered a new era of peace and investment, crediting the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya as a turning point.

DRDO hands over 7 technologies developed under tech development fund to Armed Forces

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (PTI)

FROM a long-life seawater battery system for sustained underwater sensing and surveillance applications to a waterjet propulsion system for fast interceptor craft, the DRDO has handed over seven technologies to the Armed Forces, the Government said.

These technologies have been developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over seven technologies developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to the three Services," it said in a statement.

"The technologies are -- an indigenous high-voltage power



supply for airborne self-protection jammers, a tide-efficient gangway for naval jetties, advanced very low frequency-high frequency switching matrix systems, VLF loop aerials for underwater platforms, indigenous waterjet propulsion system for fast interceptor craft, a novel process for recovery of lithium precursors from used lithium-ion batteries and a long-life seawater battery system for sustained underwater sensing and surveillance applications," the

Ministry said.

Each of these technologies or products has been designed, developed and "extensively tested" by the Indian industry with close collaboration and guidance of DRDO's domain experts and the tri-services, "reinforcing the scheme's focus on import substitution and critical technology development", it said. The technologies were handed over during the meeting of the Empowered Committee of DRDO held at DRDO Bhawan here on December 2 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO, Samir V Kamat. Senior representatives from the Armed Forces, Deptt of Defence Production and the DRDO also attended the meeting.

Pak, Afghan forces trade fire along Chaman border

ISLAMABAD, Dec 6 (PTI)

A HEAVY exchange of fire between Pakistani and Afghan forces was reported from the key Chaman border, according to a media report on Saturday.

Injuries were reported from the district hospital, but no fatalities occurred, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

Officials from both sides accused each other of instigating the flare-up late on Friday night across the border in the Balochistan province.

While Pakistani officials said that Afghan forces had fired mortar shells on the Badani area, Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid claimed it was Pakistan that launched an attack on Spin Boldak, alleging that their forces were responding. Pakistan's official sources told *Dawn* that Pakistani forces retaliated against the Afghan



aggression and returned fire.

There were also reports of fighting on the Chaman-Kandahar highway, but these could not be immediately verified. A senior official in Quetta confirmed on condition of anonymity that the exchange of fire started around 10 pm and continued until late at night.

Israeli defence firm plans to supply 1st batch of 40,000 LMGs to India early next yr

■ By Zishan Haider

JERUSALEM, Dec 6 (PTI)

A LEADING Israeli defence firm has said it intends to supply the first batch of 40,000 light machine guns (LMGs) to India starting early next year, while it is in the final stages of signing a contract to supply nearly 1,70,000 new-age carbines.

Shuki Schwartz, CEO of Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), also said that his firm is currently collaborating with various agencies within India's Ministry of Home Affairs to market their products, including pistols, rifles, and machine guns. "We're now involved in three significant programmes. First is the contract for 40,000 light machine guns,

which was signed last year. We have completed all tests, trials, and Government checks, and we have received the license for production. We intend to supply the first batch at the beginning of the year," Schwartz told PTI in an interview.

"LMGs supply is for five years. We can do it faster, but the first supply will be at the beginning of the year," he said when asked about the timeline of the supply. Schwartz said the second programme involves the CQB (Close Quarters Battle) carbines tender, where the firm was the second bidder. Bharat Forge is the primary bidder. "We intend to supply 40 per cent of the contract. We are in the stage of pre-signing of the contract," he said.

'India, US trade talks from Dec 10'

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (PTI)

INDIA and the United States will commence three-day talks on the first phase of their proposed bilateral trade agreement here from December 10, sources said.

The visit is crucial as India and the US are working to finalise the first tranche of the pact. "The three-day talks will start on December 10. It will conclude on December 12, and it is not a formal round of talks," said one of the sources. The US team will be led by Deputy United States Trade Representative (USTR) Rick Switzer.



This visit of the US officials marks their second trip since the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market due to the purchase of Russian crude oil. On September 16, the US officials last visited India.

On September 22, Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also led an official delegation to the US for trade talks. Goyal had also visited Washington in May. While the USA's chief negotiator for the pact is Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, the Indian side is led by Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain.

The talks are also important as Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal has recently stated that India is hopeful of reaching a framework trade deal with the US this year itself.

Jaishankar **"DISAGREES"** on Putin visit impacting India-US trade deal

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (ANI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday firmly rejected suggestions that Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent two-day state visit to India would complicate the ongoing India-US trade negotiations, asserting that no country can expect to dictate New Delhi's relations with other major powers.

Speaking at the HT Leadership Summit 2025, the EAM noted India's autonomy in maintaining its bilateral relationship with major countries, stating that any other nation dictating New Delhi's ties with other nations was not a "reasonable proposi-

Read Editorial
FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP
on page 8

tion". "I disagree. Everybody knows that India has relations with all the major countries in the world. And for any country to expect to have a say on how we develop our relations with others is not a reasonable proposition, because remember, the other can expect the same," Jaishankar said.

He further reaffirmed India's "freedom of choice" on the matter, noting that its policy on upholding its "strategic autonomy" continues.

"We have always made it clear already that we have multiple relations, we have a freedom of choice and we talk about strategic autonomy, and that continues, and I can't imagine why anybody would have a reason to expect the contrary," the EAM added.

Jaishankar also reiterated New Delhi's stance on "negotiating hard" in the trade deal with the US in order to safeguard the interests of farmers, workers, and small businesses of the country.

He further acknowledged the radically different approach of the new administration under US President Donald Trump but

(Contd on page 5)

