

PM Modi calls for climate justice, stronger India-Seychelles alliance

VICTORIA (Seychelles), June 28 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Global South, especially island nations, was the most impacted by climate change and called for climate action guided by fairness, responsibility and equity, in his address to the National Assembly of Seychelles.

The Prime Minister also called for stronger India-Seychelles cooperation in the areas of blue economy and digital innovation.

Modi, who is on a three-day visit to the archipelagic nation, said the effects of climate change were already visible on coastlines, marine ecosystems, weather patterns and communities.

“The Global South, and especially the island nations, are the most impacted by climate



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives an address in the Seychelles National Assembly, in Seychelles. (narendramodi.in via PTI)

change. Its effects are already visible on our coastlines, in the marine ecosystems, in weather patterns, and in our communi-

ties,” said the Prime Minister.

He reiterated that those who had contributed the least to climate change should not bear the

greatest burden of its consequences and said climate action must be guided by “fairness, responsibility, and equity”. He further said, “This is the essence of climate justice.”

He also said India would continue working with Seychelles to ensure that the concerns of Small Island Developing States received the attention they deserved.

The Prime Minister said India and Seychelles shared the vision of a more inclusive world and of international institutions that reflected contemporary realities, reaffirming their commitment to advancing the interests of the Global South.

“This is the spirit that unites the Global South. And this is the vision that India and Seychelles will continue to advance together,” he said.

India becoming increasingly self-reliant: PM

NEW DELHI, June 28 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted several milestones achieved by the country to become self-reliant as he cited the maiden flight of the made-in-India C-295 aircraft and the successful test of the indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile.

In his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi noted that in June itself, the country has achieved a major success in the aviation sector.

Noting that the C-295 aircraft has been made in India, he said, "As many as 40 such aircraft are being built right here in India and this is giving new strength to MSMEs and the aerospace sector".

"Recently, I got the opportunity to participate in a Navy-related programme in Kolkata.

There, INS Dunagiri, INS Shanshak and INS Agrya were inducted into the Indian Navy's fleet. From the design to manufacturing of these ships, everything is indigenous," he said.

The Prime Minister said in June, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also successfully tested an indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LRACM). "In other words, from the seas to the skies, our India is becoming increasingly secure and self-reliant," he said. During the broadcast, Modi

thanked citizens for heeding his appeal to avoid buying gold for some time, and staying abroad and opting for car pool in view of the



West Asia situation.

Referring to an initiative to prepare the youth for new technology while keeping them rooted in their heritage, he said the Central Sanskrit University in Delhi is launching a B.Tech program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

Modi said Indian culture is reaching various corners of the globe, noting that in the Dominican Republic, where the Indian population is just around

100, a team has been formed by some Spanish-speaking locals who have named it as 'Brahmakamal Dominicana.'

The Prime Minister also spoke about the superstition surrounding the Hargila bird "Hargila was considered inauspicious in certain parts of Assam and trees housing Hargila nests were even cut down," he said, adding biologist Purnima Devi Barman witnessed this and

resolved to change the misconceptions deeply rooted in people's minds.

Modi said far more young people are now pursuing sports as a career and shared that a special initiative has been taken in Nagaland where the 'Nagaland Baby League' of football was launched.

Talking about Meghalaya's root bridges, Modi said India has now sought inclusion of the root bridges in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Network.

He said climate change poses several challenges to these root bridges but people of Meghalaya have admirably shouldered the responsibility of preserving this natural heritage.

"Today, local residents look after more than 120 root bridges.

Some teams inspect the condition of these bridges annually, and some individuals have even established nurseries to strengthen the surrounding areas. An entire ecosystem has thus developed around their conservation," he said.

Modi also spoke about how some women from Biaora in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh have resolved to remove plastic waste in their area.

Referring to the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in September, he said "I urge all of you... Please make an effort to ensure that the idol of Ganpati Bappa installed in your home, society, or neighbourhood is made from the soil of our own country and crafted by the hands of our own potters and local artisans.

India, Seychelles unveil 19 outcomes spanning defence, digital payments, space, health

VICTORIA (Seychelles), June 28 (PTI)

INDIA and Seychelles on Sunday unveiled 19 outcomes following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Patrick Herminie, expanding cooperation in areas ranging from defence and maritime security to digital payments, space, healthcare, agriculture and education.

The package of outcomes reflects the broadening of New Delhi's engagement with the strategically located Indian Ocean archipelagic nation across security, connectivity, capacity building and development partnership.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the outcomes included an extradition

treaty, an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, an agreement to advance UPI-based digital payments in Seychelles, an umbrella line of credit agreement with the Export-Import Bank of India and an agreement for preliminary preparations for a new Seychelles National Hospital.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri later said in a press conference here that the INR 1,250-crore umbrella line of credit, which will be extended in Indian rupees, would support priority development projects in Seychelles.

The two sides also announced the gifting of a fast patrol vessel to Seychelles, the handover of 10 utility vehicles and five Laser Radial class boats to the



Seychelles Defence Force, the completion of the refit of PS Zoroaster for the Seychelles Coast Guard and the upgradation of a Dornier aircraft with a glass cockpit, the MEA said.

Other development initiatives included the handover of six ambulances, 500 metric tonnes of rice and 8,500 metric tonnes of cement, the launch of a commemorative logo marking 50

years of diplomatic relations and the virtual ground-breaking ceremony for a Professional and Technical Education Centre, the MEA said in a series of posts on X.

Misri said Indian paramedics had also arrived in Seychelles to train local technicians and help integrate the ambulances into the country's healthcare system.

The two countries also signed an agreement between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Ltd. And the Central Bank of Seychelles to advance UPI-based digital payments in the archipelagic nation and deepen economic and technological cooperation.

An agreement between HLL

Lifecare Ltd. And Seychelles' health ministry under the Jan Aushadhi scheme aims to facilitate access to good quality and affordable Indian medicines, while another memorandum of understanding provides for preliminary preparations for the new Seychelles National Hospital, the MEA said.

The two sides also concluded agreements on diplomatic training between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and Seychelles' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, agriculture research and education, recognition of training and certification of seafarers serving on Seychelles-flagged vessels, and cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, the MEA added.

Separately, Misri said President Herminie had made a proposal requesting Indian assistance in the provision of an Advanced Light Helicopter and in setting up centres devoted to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence in Seychelles.

He said Prime Minister Modi welcomed the proposals and indicated that India would examine them "with a very positive frame of mind", adding that the two sides would hold further discussions. The outcomes were announced after delegation-level talks between Modi and Herminie during the prime minister's three-day state visit to Seychelles, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Rs 1.64 lakh cr

India approved 12 chip manufacturing projects



NEW DELHI, June 28 (IANS)

UNDER the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects have been approved with an investment pipeline of approximately Rs 1.64 lakh crore, comprising one semiconductor fabrication unit, two compound semiconductor fabrication units and nine packaging units, according to an official fact-sheet. Moreover, India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, signals a deepening of the national commitment to chip manufacturing, with focus on semiconductor equipment, materials, indigenous intellectual property and resilient supply chains.

“On the design side, 24 projects are being supported under the Design Linked Incentive Scheme, 105 companies have been assisted with advanced chip design tools, and 23 design tapeouts have been completed at various foundries, including at advanced nodes, reflecting India’s growing depth in semiconductor design,” the official statement said.

Notably, the IndiaAI Mission, approved with an outlay of over Rs 10,372 crore, has made significant strides over the past year.

Iran launches attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait

Iran threatens to halt talks to end war

DUBAI, June 28 (AP)

IRAN launched drone and missile attacks on Sunday targeting Bahrain and Kuwait in response to US airstrikes that hit the Islamic Republic, and threatened a “complete halt” in negotiations to end the war if Washington continues its attacks.

Efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz without Iran’s direct oversight sparked the crossfire now gripping the region and have imperilled negotiations for a lasting ceasefire. A multinational maritime body overseen by the US Navy said Saturday that it would expand a route near Oman for both inbound and outbound traffic, setting up a new flashpoint with Tehran.

The global community has long considered the Strait an international passageway, despite its being situated in Iran and Oman’s territorial waters. In recent days, Iran has twice attacked vessels going through a route on the Omani side of the strait backed by a United Nations agency.

Iran insists that it alone must govern the Strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf that once carried a fifth of the world’s oil and natural gas. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated the claim during a state visit to Iraq on Sunday.

“Any interference in this matter, any attempt to establish new or separate arrangements from those currently being carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will only lead to further complications, delay the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and increase the level of ten-



Bahrain civil defence and rescue personnel work in a residential building, which was hit by an Iranian drone on Sunday. (Reuters)

sion, just as over the past two nights we witnessed incidents in the Strait of Hormuz that led to an increase in tension and confrontation,” he said in Baghdad.

The United States and Iran are still debating the terms of an interim peace deal, including shipping arrangements through the strait, removing a US blockade and sanctions and addressing the future of Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Under the memorandum of understanding signed earlier this month, the US and Iran have 60 days to iron out the details.

Pakistan and Bahrain on Sunday discussed the ‘latest regional situation’ amid renewed attacks by the US and Iran threatening the fragile peace in the Gulf region.

The evolving situation in West Asia was
(Contd on page 5)

India's vision is to make Indian Ocean an 'Ocean of Opportunity': Modi



VICTORIA, June 28 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India envisions an Indian Ocean where maritime security is ensured alongside economic prosperity and where partnership is based not on size but on mutual respect and trust.

Modi - who is on a three-day visit to Seychelles - also asserted that the defence and security of India and the archipelagic nation are integral to each other. "Our vision is to make the Indian Ocean an Ocean of Opportunity," Modi said after delegation-level talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie, during which they reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

"We believe the Indian Ocean is our shared home. Its security, sustainability and prosperity are our
(Contd on page 5)

Modi conferred with honorary 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' title by Seychelles

VICTORIA, June 28 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday was conferred with the honorary 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' title by Seychelles for his steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States. President Patrick Herminie presented Modi with the title here, the first
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