

Two-day BRICS Summit in Delhi from Sept 12

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (IANS)

INDIA will host the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on September 12-13, bringing together leaders of BRICS members and partner countries as well as outreach invitees.

India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a people-centric approach rooted in the spirit of "Humanity First," according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Apart from these areas, the leaders will discuss strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on common priorities and share perspectives on global and regional matters of mutual importance.

People from 30 countries missing after flash floods in Nepal, China

KATHMANDU, Aug 27 (AP)

A GLACIER collapse in Tibet caused catastrophic flash flooding on Wednesday in a border area of China and Nepal. Many were foreigners in the area for trekking or a pilgrimage to a sacred Hindu site.

The number of missing may vary across agencies due to differences in how they collected data, when it was reported and how it was verified, as well as gaps in coordination between those assembling data and those conducting rescue efforts in the affected area.

The National Tourism Board later on Thursday said 517 foreigners were missing.

China-State media reported at least three people died and 558 were missing in Gyirong County, Tibet. CCTV reported that 260 of the 558 missing people were foreigners. In addition, nearly 100 Chinese citizens were missing on the Nepalside, China's Foreign Ministry said.



Damage in the aftermath of flash floods in Devighat in the Nuwakot district in Nepal on Thursday. (AP/PTI)

United States-The board said 65 of the missing were from the

United States.
Malaysia-The board said 51

Malaysians were missing.

Ukraine-Ukraine's Foreign

Ministry said the 53 Ukrainians considered missing include 46 tourists with whom Nepalese authorities have lost contact.

Australia-The board said 35 Australians were missing.

Britain-The board said 33 of the missing were from Britain.

Canada-Nepal's tourism board said 25 of the missing were from Canada.

South Korea-South Korean Government officials said nine citizens working on building a hydropower plant in Nepal were missing.

Singapore-Eight Singaporeans were missing, according to Nepal tourism board.

Germany-Nepal's tourism board said eight tourists from Germany were missing.

Russia-The board said eight Russians were missing.

South Africa-The board said six South Africans were missing.

Latvia-The board said six tourists from Latvia were missing.

Japan-Japanese Prime

Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed worry about five Japanese nationals whom local media reported were missing.

New Zealand-Five people from New Zealand were missing, said Nepal's tourism board.

France-The board said four French citizens were missing.

Belgium-The board said three from Belgium were missing.

Spain-The board said three visitors from Spain were missing.

Others-The board said two people each from Italy, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Ireland and Netherlands were missing. It said 10 others - one each from Belarus, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Philippines, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Serbia and Sweden - were also missing.

Meanwhile, Nepalese Authorities on Thursday arranged alternative power sources for flood-hit areas of the Himalayan Nation, where supply has been disrupted following extensive damage to power projects.

Warfare evolving but tanks remain relevant even today: Rajnath Singh

■ By Ashish Rajput
JABALPUR, Aug 27

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh, here on Thursday, said, "At a time when modern warfare is rapidly evolving with drones, missiles, artificial intelligence and precision weapons, India is strengthening another critical pillar of ground warfare - its battle tanks. A new facility at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur (VFJ) will add capacity to overhaul 80 T-72 and T-90 tanks every year, helping bridge a crucial gap in the Indian Army's annual maintenance requirements."

"War has changed, but that does not mean the relevance of tanks has ended," Singh said, stressing that modern warfare requires an integrated combi-



nation of tanks, infantry, artillery, drones, airpower, surveillance and precision weapons.

The Defence Minister was addressing the foundation stone ceremony for new overhauling facility of T-Series Battle Tanks amounting to Rs 472-crore at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur. Once operational, the facility will raise India's annual tank overhaul capacity to 230, matching the Army's estimated requirement

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▶ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accompanied by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, performing 'bhoomipujan' at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur .
(Pic by Anil Tiwari)

Goyal in Japan: Calls for greater investment, stronger partnerships

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (IANS)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's Japan visit has reaffirmed the strong momentum in Special Strategic and Global Partnership and provided fresh impetus to efforts to deepen trade, investment, technology and industrial cooperation, the Government said on Thursday.

The visit also strengthened the foundation for greater Japanese participation in India's transformation into a globally competitive manufacturing, technology and investment hub, while opening new avenues for mutually beneficial growth and innovation.

Goyal concluded his official visit to Japan, following a series of high-level engagements in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka aimed at accelerating Japanese investment in India, strengthening industrial partnerships and expanding bilateral economic cooperation across emerging and strategic sectors.

The Minister held extensive discussions with senior Japanese



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in conversation with Daiki Aluminium Chairman Takaaki Yamamoto in Osaka. (ANI)

Government leaders, financial institutions and business executives, including the leadership of more than 30 major Japanese companies and financial institutions with significant or growing interests in India.

The engagements focused on expanding investment, strengthening resilient supply chains, advancing technology partnerships and creating new avenues for business-to-business collaboration between the two coun-

tries, according to an official statement.

A key focus of the visit was mobilising long-term Japanese institutional capital for India.

Goyal engaged with leading Japanese financial institutions, including MUFG, Mizuho, Nomura, Nippon Life, Development Bank of Japan and Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities, besides other major investment and financial institutions.

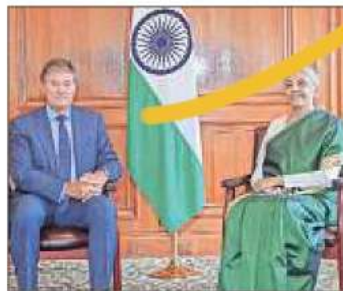
Nirmala in Canada: Calls for greater investments from financial firms

WASHINGTON, Aug 27 (PTI)

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met senior executives of various Canadian financial firms, including Sun Life Financial and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and asked them to enhance their investment in India.

During the bilateral meeting with Sun Life Financial President and CEO Kevin D Strain in Toronto, Sitharaman on Wednesday highlighted the liberalisation of the insurance sector, including the increase in FDI (foreign direct investment) limit from 74 per cent to 100 per cent, and the government's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

Discussions covered India's resilient growth, expanding market, macroeconomic stability and rapidly developing digital & physical infrastructure, creating significant opportuni-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a meeting with Jo Taylor, President & CEO, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, in Toronto, Canada. (PTI)

ties for long-term investment, the Finance Ministry said. She also highlighted opportunities for Sun Life to deepen its presence in insurance, asset management, alternatives and infrastructure, including through GIFT IFSC, and greater participation by Canadian institutional investors in India's growth story.

Sun Life is present in India in insurance and fund management space, besides having other operations. In another meeting, Canaccord Genuity Vice Chair Rod Phillips and CEO Dan Daviau highlighted the potential for greater investment flows between Canada and India.

She encouraged Canaccord Genuity to explore opportunities across India's growth sectors and play a constructive role in connecting Canadian and global capital with Indian businesses.

Discussions covered opportunities to deepen Canaccord Genuity's engagement with India, including supporting Indian companies in accessing global capital, expanding internationally and acquiring technology and businesses overseas, the ministry said in a separate post on X.

She appreciated CPPIB and OTPP's continued confidence in India and their long-term

commitment, including investment in NIIF Infra Fund II.

Discussions focused on expanding opportunities for institutional capital across transmission, renewable energy, roads, ports, urban infrastructure, digital infrastructure and data centres, Ministry said.

The Finance Minister also highlighted India's growing infrastructure monetisation pipeline and ongoing efforts to strengthen investor protection, regulatory predictability and transparency, as well as new opportunities in private credit and international financial services through GIFT IFSC.

During the meeting with another pension fund player OMERS President and CEO Blake Hutcheson, the Finance Minister emphasised India's investor-friendly policy environment, greater tax certainty and ongoing reforms, and encouraged the fund house to explore new opportunities.

First multi-purpose vessel 'Samarthak' delivered to Navy

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (PTI)

NAVY'S first multi-purpose vessel, 'Samarthak', engineered to perform and support a wide spectrum of activities, including maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, and offshore patrolling, was on Thursday delivered to the naval force, official said.

The ship comprises over 75 per cent indigenous content and has been conceived as a versatile trial and evaluation platform. 'Samarthak', the first multi-purpose vessel (MPV), built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Kattupalli, was delivered to the Indian Navy, a Navy spokesperson said.

Further, the ship is engineered to perform maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, offshore



patrolling and support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations, when required, the official said.

The ship has been aptly named 'Samarthak', and it signifies the ship's intended role as a "dependable enabler of multiple missions".

"True to its designation, 'Samarthak' is not limited to one specific task, but it is engineered to support a wide spectrum of activities, thereby embodying the concept of a multi-purpose vessel," the Navy spokesperson said.

The delivery of 'Samarthak' is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's indigenous shipbuilding journey and a reaffirmation of the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.