

French authorities ban planned protests

■ By Samuel Petrequin
PARIS, Oct 22 (AP)

FRENCH authorities in multiple cities banned protests planned across the country on Thursday after a weekend of clashes and widespread looting in France's most violent unrest in years.

The turmoil in Paris and other French cities has prompted a strong security response from the Government. Night curfews have been implemented in some areas of the French capital, as well as in other cities where calm has been restored.

Demonstrations planned Thursday in Paris, Lyon, Lille and Grenoble were banned, a move seen by some as an infringement on French people's right to protest.



A looted store the day after a demonstration against rising living costs, joining students' grievances, in Paris. (File pic)

But high school and university student groups say they will continue to mobilise, even though the autumn school break started this week. The Paris police prefecture said the ban was necessary given the risk of street violence that erupted over the weekend, when groups of masked youth clashed with police forces, looted shops and torched cars.

The ban in Paris will last until 8 pm local time and apply to areas including the Elysee presidential palace, both

houses of parliament, and the city's main train stations. Areas in downtown Paris which were severely hit by

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on page 6
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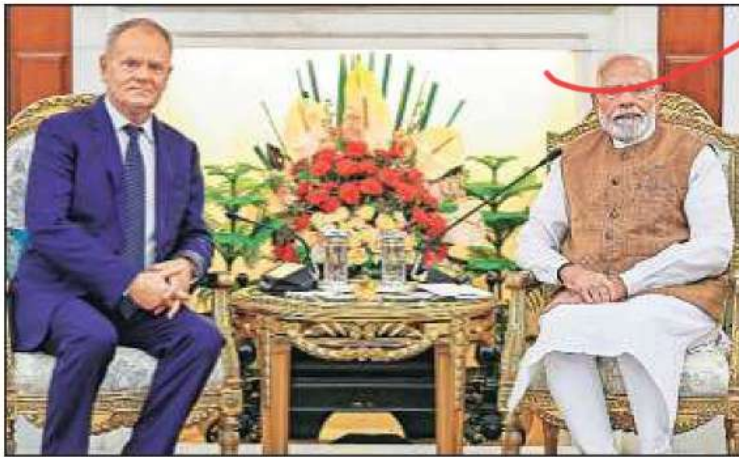
the looting are also covered. Authorities are bracing for another big protest day. Thursday's planned protests were seen as a prelude to Saturday's big demon-

stration, when activists from the "yellow vest" movement, whose demonstrations over fuel prices shook France in 2018 and 2019, are expected to join.

Some of those protests, including marches in Lyon, will also be banned, local authorities said. PM Sebastian Lecornu, who met union representatives on Wednesday, said a "massive" security

(Contd on page 6)

India will support every meaningful effort to bring peace to Ukraine, West Asia: PM



PM Modi during a bilateral meeting with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 22 (PTI)

INDIA and Poland on Thursday agreed to deepen ties in defence, space, and nuclear energy domains, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk pledging to boost bilateral strategic partnership amid growing global instability.

Following the talks, Modi said both sides believe in democratic values and the rule of law and that India will continue to support every meaningful effort in bringing peace to Ukraine and West Asia.

Tusk is on a three-day visit to India amid renewed global push to end the conflict in Ukraine.

"Today we have agreed to deepen ties in defence, space, and nuclear energy. We invite Polish companies to engage in co-development and co-production with India in all these strategic areas," Modi said.

"In critical minerals and coal gasification too, we will develop new partnerships with Polish expertise," he added.

Modi said the friendship between India and Poland is based not only on diplomatic relations but also on a shared heritage of

(Contd on page 6)

Jaishankar meets Polish PM, discusses bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI, Oct 22 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Thursday called on Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and discussed cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.

Taking to X, EAM Jaishankar said, "Pleased to call on Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland."

"Appreciated his sharing thoughts on deepening India - Poland
(Contd on page 6)



Modi gets call from Netanyahu; discusses West Asia situations

NEW DELHI, Oct 22 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday received a telephone call from his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, during which the two leaders exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia and underscored the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region.

Modi and Netanyahu also welcomed the sustained momentum in India-Israel ties and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Netanyahu on Thursday said he spoke with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and invited him to light a torch together with Indian pilot Smit Machchhar on the Jewish state's Independence Day.

In a post on X, the Israeli Prime Minister also said that PM Modi appreciated the "strong, long-standing ties" between the two countries.

"I spoke with my friend, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and invited him to light a torch - together with a brave Indian pilot - on Israel's Independence Day," Netanyahu said.

"Modi thanked me for the invitation and said that, on the ground and in the air, India and Israel are fighting together against terrorism," he added.

Indian pilot Machchhar was stabbed and seriously injured by his co-pilot in the cockpit of flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, on Sept 30. The flight was carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children.

Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew members to intervene and restrain the attacker. The plane later made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

'BrahMos at forefront of India's military export'

■ By Ajit Dubey
NEW DELHI, Oct 22 (ANI)

THE BrahMos is not just a missile anymore; it is the power, precision and pride of a confident, self-reliant New India. During Operation Sindoor, the Indian Armed Forces deployed the weapon system in active warfare for the first time. Striking critical targets, including major Pakistani airbases like Nur Khan, the Armed Forces showcased the might of the weapon system.

The BrahMos system also forms a cornerstone of India's defence exports which have reached Rs 38,400 crore with an impressive 62.7% annual growth. Speaking on the success of the

Dr Jaiteerth Joshi, CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace, highlights capabilities of war-proven missile system. With orders and deliveries to the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam exports of BrahMos set to take beyond \$600 million.



BrahMos, Dr Jaiteerth Joshi, CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace said, "The BrahMos success story at the exports frontier started even before the weapon was combat-tested in 2025. In 2022, we

received our first historic export order, and that multi-million dollar deal propelled forward India's defence export aspirations at the global arena. Today, BrahMos stands at the forefront of India's

military exports strategy."

As a flagship product, the supersonic cruise missile has steadily expanded its exports arc, especially after it established its impeccable capabilities and

became a 'war-proven' system during Operation Sindoor in May 2025. We have signed deals with two more countries in Southeast Asia this year after our first export deal with the Philippines. So, we are strongly positioned in the international market today, and are looking ahead to further expand our exports foothold."

Dr Joshi said that BrahMos is working on further strengthening supply chain to meet growing demand and surge capacity.

"The near-term and long-term priorities are to complete all the orders that we have received so far from our Armed Forces. All our production units at Hyderabad, Nagpur, Pilani and the newest, at Lucknow, are work-

ing in full-swing in this direction. We also intend to expedite our R&D work by setting up 'Tech-bricks' for niche technologies required for developing and testing the next generation BrahMos. Strengthening supply chain to meet growing demand and surge capacity in case of any eventuality. From earlier 1-2 industry partners of each system / sub-systems we are willing to develop 45 sources. This will also help to bring in competition in terms of quality and price," he said.

BrahMos is a flagship for India's defence export push, with orders and deliveries to the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam set to take exports beyond \$600 million. "The world has always been

looking at BrahMos with awe and wonder. After Operation Sindoor, the incredibly versatile missile has proven that it is indeed an enigma - a highly evolved, formidable system for today's complex, multi-domain, high-intensity kinetic warfare. As India's unparalleled "first strike" weapon, BRAHMOS has validated its power and supremacy as the most lethal weapon in its class and calibre capable of eliminating adversary's targets with deadly accuracy while maintaining stealth, swiftness and agility. A key development on the forefront will be the BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) which is a smaller, lighter, and stealthier supersonic cruise missile.