

Military solutions can't end global conflicts, says EAM at G20 meet

New Delhi: Participating in the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta, foreign minister **S Jaishankar** stressed in the face of global challenges, military solutions will not work and diplomacy must be given a chance. Amid growing US-Pak bonhomie, he emphasised tactical calculations should not lead to overlooking the dangers of terrorism. "It is a high-risk activity which has come back to bite even the practitioners," he said. He will also attend a meeting of Quad foreign ministers on the margins Saturday.



In a post on X, he said the Global South is disproportionately bearing the consequences of attacks on civilian shipping and seafarers, jeopardising the availability and cost of fuel, food and fertilisers.

He said there's an urgent need to preserve the freedom of navigation and ensure cessation of attacks within the framework of international law, especially UNCLOS. He also mentioned how right to industrialise is being denied through the flooding of markets, weaponising supply chains, constricting market access and encouraging market distortions. This must cease, he said. TNN

Polls show tightening Senate races in Kansas, Texas and South Carolina

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Four days before a midterm election that could leave him politically out of shape, US President Donald Trump decided to conduct a fitness assessment of a Reuters journalist. Faced with an innocuous question about why he was cancelling campaign rallies in Kansas and Iowa, the MAGA boss erupted into an unsolicited lecture on the journalist's weight, appearance, and general state of health, betraying frayed nerves that do not augur well for his party. A White House official, however, later said that the president would be holding weekend rallies in Kansas and Iowa.

"You are a sick guy! Reuters is terrible, by the way. Look at this guy... he's way out of shape... You are disgusting! Put yourself in shape! You look like hell!" Trump exploded at the reporter, pushing back at any suggestion that he was tired or backing out of rallies because of heckling and poor attendance. He said he felt great, and the reason he was not going to those states was that Republican candidates were doing very well and his energies were better devoted elsewhere.

Polls, however, show Democratic candidates leading, tied, or with narrowing margins in the most unexpected places, including ruby-red states Trump won by 10 to 20 points in the 2024 presidential election.

For instance, in Kansas, a state that has not elected a Democrat senator since 1932, polls



Trumps attend a Halloween event at the White House Thursday

put Democrat Adam Hamilton ahead of incumbent Roger Marshall 49-45. Texas, which last elected a Democrat senator in 1988 and which Trump carried comfortably in 2024, has become a genuine Senate battleground, with Democrat James Talarico — who incidentally was ladling out dosas on Thursday in an effort to court Indian-American votes — ahead of Republican Ken Paxton. South Carolina, where Republican Darline Graham is hoping to succeed her late brother Lindsay Graham as senator, has also tightened considerably.

Even more unnerving for Republicans are the warning signs from states that have traditionally been considered political fortresses, including Louisiana and Mississippi, which last elected a Democratic senator in 1982. If Dems win all these races, they would be on track to reversing the Republicans' 53-47 control of the Senate.

A Democratic takeover of

both chambers would leave Trump facing not merely hostile congressional hearings but chambers capable of blocking appointments, frustrating legislation, and investigating an administration dogged by allegations of cronyism and self-enrichment.

Republicans, naturally, have a theory about why the polls are wrong: the hidden Trump voter. They argue that there are millions of Trump supporters who refuse to participate in polls, conceal their preferences or simply do not admit to pollsters that they intend to vote Republican. They will emerge, the theory goes, on election day and deliver the customary surprise.

UNITED STATES MIDTERMS

But hoping for invisible voters is not quite the same as having visible enthusiasm. In fact, some of the most visible activity at recent Trump rallies has been distinctly uncomfortable for the president and his MAGA faithful. Hecklers have interrupted Trump's speeches at rallies and his surrogates have been pranked on several occasions. At an Ohio rally, a comedian who goes by the name Robby Roadsteamer managed to interrupt Trump with a reference to Jeffrey Epstein, before being escorted out amid chants of "USA! USA!" a standard MAGA response.

The president's explanation was that such protesters were paid by radical left politi-

cal enemies. Roadsteamer meanwhile took credit for Trump's subsequent cancellation of the Kansas and Iowa appearances, announcing online: "Trump cancelled the rest of his rallies! You're welcome America." Trumpallies, including Vivek Ramaswamy and Fox News, have also been punked by pranksters, who present themselves as MAGA loyalists before turning on them on camera.

Trump's own response to the heckling and harsh scrutiny by the mainstream media has been to crank the personal insults up another notch. When he suggested that Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed should have to pass through a metal detector before entering the Senate (suggesting he is a jihadist who cannot be trusted), the Michigan Democrat clapped back: "I'll go through a metal detector if you'll sit for a lie detector" — to answer questions about his ties to Epstein. Trump has also repeatedly disparaged Texas' Democratic candidate James Talarico as "Tala-freako" — part of his chronic habit of name-calling.

There is a broader political backdrop to the president's increasingly irritable demeanor. His administration is facing mounting accusations of graft, grift, and self-dealing, while its efforts to influence election processes have raised questions about whether Trump is prepared to accept an adverse outcome in the polls. Past record does not inspire great confidence.

'Conflict to...

Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia named next IAF Vice Chief

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (PTI)

Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia will be the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff, the Defence Ministry announced on Friday.

He will succeed incumbent Vice Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who will take charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on Saturday.

Air Marshal Walia is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command.

The officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the

fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on June 11, 1988.

He is qualified on all variants of the MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-27,

Jaguar and Su-30 MKI jets.

In a career spanning almost four decades, Air Marshal Walia has tenanted various command

and staff appointments.

He has commanded a front-line fighter squadron, the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) and was Air Officer Commanding of Air Force Station Bareilly.

He has undergone the advanced command and staff course in the UK.

Air Marshal Walia also headed the Directorate of Air Staff Inspection (DASI) of the IAF, served as the defence attache at Indian embassies in Japan and South Korea, and was the Senior Air Staff Officer of Eastern Air Command.

Outgoing IAF chief to get guard of honour at Race Course Air Force Station

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (PTI)

THE Indian Air Force will accord a ceremonial guard of honour to outgoing Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Saturday at the Race Course Air

Force Station parade ground on October 31, in the national capital, just days after a sports facility inside the sprawling complex was closed by the Centre.

He is credited with the execution of Operation Sindoor.

Meitei, Naga groups unite for Imphal rally against Kuki rebels

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Meitei and Naga groups will march together in Imphal Saturday for the first time since Manipur's ethnic conflict began more than three years ago, converging on Kuki militant outfits as the alleged common adversary that must be reined in for peace to return.

"We have been witnessing the continuous reign of terror unleashed by Kuki militant groups operating under the protection of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact, and the grave existential threat looming over the indigenous communities of the state and the general public," United Naga Council (UNC) president NG Lorpho said, backing the rally.

The march for "Chingmi-Tammi", or hill-valley unity, is a joint initiative by Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), Joint Tribe Council Manipur, Foothill Naga Co-ordination Committee, Naga Peoples' Union, Imphal, Inpui Naga Union and Naga Humanita-

The 2011 census said Meitei was the largest group (43%) followed by Nagas (23%) and Kuki & Mizo groups (15%). Meitei Pangals, or Muslims, accounted for 8% and others the rest

rian Aids Committee, Manipur. All Naga Students' Association, Manipur, has since declared its support.

Committee on Tribal Unity, representing Kuki-Zo people, advised people in the Sadar Hills and adjoining areas against travelling over the weekend, warning that "no journey is worth risking a human life for".

COCOMI convener YK Dhiren has urged people to join the march, citing concerns over the implementation of SoO ground rules and alleged violations by armed groups. UNC questioned the role of Assam Rifle, alleging that the force was "partisan".

India's poverty will be down from 14.2% to 12.1% in 2 yrs: World Bank

FM Cheers Data, Vows To Build On Progress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: World Bank has said that poverty in India, defined at \$4.2 a day, will decline from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028.

Between 2011 and 2023, it is estimated that the share of the population living below \$4.2 a day declined from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty. It said that extreme poverty (\$3 a day) declined from 27.1% to 2.6% during this period.

"This progress was mainly driven by strong consumption growth; rising employment, especially among women; and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies. As poverty declined, it became increasingly concentrated among households with lower education, fewer assets, limited access to stable employment, and higher dependency ratios. Wage disparities, however, remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10% of



Swati Sharma

Between 2011 and 2023, an estimated 496m came out of poverty & employment increased by about 134m between 2017 and 2023, World Bank noted

workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10% in 2023," World Bank said in its latest Poverty & Equity brief.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman cheered the decline in poverty in the country, pointing out that the report recognised India's progress as a country with one of the fastest poverty declines in the world.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, govt's sustained policy efforts are yielding tangible results, strengthening the founda-

tions for inclusive growth and greater economic opportunity. This is the reason why NDA govt wins people's trust and mandate of our citizens. We remain committed to building on this progress through productive employment, stronger household incomes and effective delivery of public services, so that aspirations of our people are met," she posted on X.

World Bank also noted that between 2017 and 2023, employment increased by about 134 million people, nearly twice the growth of the working-age population, with major gains driven by rural women entering paid work and raising the number of earners in households.

"Labour market conditions continue to be broadly resilient, with labour force participation and employment rates stable between Q1 FY 2026 and Q1 FY 2027. However, youth unemployment rose from 14.6% to 15.9% between the two quarters, particularly among rural young women. Moreover, real earnings remained broadly unchanged with employment growth concentrated in relatively low-productivity activities," it said.

Assam, WB on alert after glacial lake outburst flood in Bhutan

Gaurav Talwar, Prabin Kalita & Pinak Priya Bhattacharya | TNN

Dehradun/Kolkata/Guwahati: A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) originating in Bhutan, which prompted an alert across parts of Assam and West Bengal on Friday, has led to the formation of a new temporary lake downstream, raising concerns about a possible secondary hazard. No casualties have been reported as yet.

Bhutan's National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) confirmed that the outburst had led to the creation of an artificial lake at Taktsemakhang, situated at the confluence of Sintaphu Chhu and Lungu Chhu, also known as Gangchen Tag Chhu. The new body of water is being monitored for any potential secondary flood hazard, with NCHM advising residents in the Mochhu and Punatsangchhu river valleys

The outburst had led to the creation of an artificial lake at Taktsemakhang, situated at the confluence of Sintaphu Chhu and Lungu Chhu

to avoid riverbanks and low-lying areas.

The Oct 29 GLOF originated from Shintaphu glacial lake which, according to International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development estimates, contained 6 to 7 million cubic metres of water, equivalent to approximately 2,400-2,800 Olympic-size swimming pools, before the breach.

The volume of water released remains under assessment. India's Central Water Commission subsequently issued a special flood advisory for West Bengal and As-

sam, warning that water levels in Alipurduar and Dhubri districts could rise sharply as floodwaters moved downstream through the Sankosh river system.

Bengal had issued a high alert across north Bengal but the GLOF had little or no impact in the state. On Friday morning, the Sankosh river rose 1.5 metres from its normal level but began receding soon. By Friday afternoon, it appeared the crisis was over and people who had taken refuge in flood centres returned home. The Alipurduar district administration had opened 18 flood shelters in Kumargramduar block Thursday night and over 10,000 people had taken refuge.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state was closely monitoring the possible impact of the glacial lake outburst across all vulnerable revenue circles of Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts.

13 killed by Saudi airstrike in Yemen

CAIRO, Oct. 30 (AP)

A SAUDI airstrike in western Taiz killed at least 13 people on Thursday, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said, as local officials said a siege of the Yemeni city by Houthi rebels has pushed residents into famine.

"The city is in famine, not on the brink of it," Taiz Governor Nabil Shamsan said in a briefing, adding that he was speaking a mile away from the front line.

"The Houthis cannot use the siege of Taiz to justify the humanitarian catastrophe they are causing civilians," said Niku Jafarnia, a Yemen researcher for Human Rights Watch.

The group said Thursday that the siege, which started in early October, could amount to the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare.

Shamsan said the city, which hosts about 1 million people, now receives only a fraction of the water it needs after Houthi forces seized its last outside source.

Cooking gas has been blocked entirely, forcing restaurants to close and families to burn wood, while hospitals have nearly run out of oxygen to supply to patients.

The World Food Programme said it could not reach over 600,000 people in Taiz who depend on humanitarian aid, and that wheat flour stocks were nearly exhausted.

Shamsan said 271 people have been killed and 1,129 wounded since the offensive began earlier this month.

GSLV rocket carrying navigation satellite NVS-03 lifts off

SRIHARIKOTA (Andhra Pradesh),
Oct 30 (PTI)

ISRO's GSLV rocket carrying the next-generation navigation satellite NVS-03 lifted off from this spaceport late on Friday.

At the end of the 24-hour countdown, the 50-metre-tall GSLV-F18 lifted off majestically at a prefixed time of 11.51 pm and soared into dark skies from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here.

The three-stage rocket, with a lift-off mass of 420 tonne, is on a mission to deploy the NVS-03 satellite, weighing around 2,232 kg, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

According to ISRO, NVS-03 is the third satellite in next gener-



ation navigation satellite system envisaged for providing continuity of navigation services for IRNSS series.

"The satellite carries indigenous Atomic clock, along with the procured Atomic clocks."