

No Indian troops, in uniform or civilian clothing, in Maldives After May 10: President Muizzu

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Stepping up his anti-India rhetoric, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10, a media report said on Tuesday. Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after an Indian civilian team reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the March 10 deadline agreed by the two nations for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel. Addressing the Baa atoll Eydhafushi residential community during his tour across the atoll, the President stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops from the country, people who spread false rumours, are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.mv reported. "That these people [Indian military] are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies," the portal quoted Muizzu, widely regarded as

a pro-China leader, as saying. "There will be no Indian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said, on a day when his country signed an agreement with China to receive free military aid. Earlier last month, after a high-level meeting in Delhi on February 2 between the two sides, the Maldivian foreign ministry said India would replace its military personnel operating the three aviation platforms in the Maldives by May 10 and the first phase of the process would be completed by March 10. In his maiden address to Parliament on February 5, he made similar remarks. There are 88 military personnel manning the three Indian platforms that have been providing humanitarian and medical evacuation services to the people of the Maldives for the last few years using two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft. Muizzu rode to power last year on an anti-India stance and within hours of taking oath demanded India to remove its personnel from the strategically

located archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Edition.mv further reported that while the first troops to depart the country are the Indian military personnel operating the two helicopters in Addu City, the military personnel present in Haa Dhaalu atoll Hanimaadhoo and Laamu atoll Kahdhoo are also expected to leave ahead of May 10. India had agreed to remove their troops from Maldives under the condition that a number of their civilians equivalent to the military presence are brought to operate the aircraft. The Opposition has been directing criticism at the administration asserting that the Indian personnel sent to Maldives as civilians are in reality military officials out of uniform and that the government has no way to ascertain otherwise, the portal claimed. Meanwhile, local media reports also said that Maldives has successfully tied up with Sri Lanka to run flights for medical evacuation last week, further indicating that it is bent on removing all Indian troops in whichever category. Further highlighting that securing true independence is a concept he regards with utmost priority, the President remarked

that the State is exerting efforts with due importance "to regain the southern maritime area deprived of the country in addition to expelling Indian troops from the Maldives." "I am confident we can achieve this. The delay in concluding this task is due to the adverse procedures practiced during the implementation. It was done without even taking the matter to the parliament ... in violation of the Constitution as well," the portal quoted the President as saying. The Maldives' proximity to India, barely 70 nautical miles from the island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep and 300 nautical miles from the mainland's western coast, and its location at the hub of commercial sea lanes running through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) gives it significant strategic importance. The Maldives has been India's key maritime neighbour in the IOR and it occupies a special place in its initiatives such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Neighbourhood First Policy. Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

Tata Motors to demerge its businesses into two separate listed companies

Mumbai (Maharashtra) : Tata Motors Limited (TML) will demerge into two separate listed companies housing the Commercial Vehicles business and its related investments in one entity and the Passenger Vehicles businesses including PV, EV, JLR and its related investments in another entity. The demerger will be implemented through an NCLT scheme of arrangement and all shareholders of Tata Motors Ltd shall continue to have identical shareholding in both the listed entities. The Board of Directors of Tata Motors Limited (TML), at its meeting held on Monday, has approved the proposal of demerger. Over the past few years, the Commercial Vehicles (CV), Passenger Vehicles (PV+EV), and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) businesses of Tata

Motors have delivered a strong performance by successfully implementing distinct strategies. Since 2021, these businesses have been operating independently under their respective CEOs. The demerger, according to Tata Motors, is a logical progression of the subsidiarisation of PV and EV businesses done earlier in 2022 and shall further empower the respective businesses to pursue their respective strategies to "deliver higher growths with greater agility while reinforcing accountability." Furthermore, while there are limited synergies between Commercial Vehicles (CV) and Passenger Vehicles (PV) businesses, there are considerable synergies to be harnessed across PV, EV and JLR, particularly in the areas of EVs, autonomous vehicles, and vehicle soft-



ware which the demerger will help secure, the company said in a release. "Tata Motors has scripted a strong turnaround in the last few years. The three automotive business units are now operating independently and delivering consistent per-

formance. This demerger will help them better capitalise on the opportunities provided by the market by enhancing their focus and agility," said Chairman N Chandrasekaran. "This will lead to a superior experience for our customers, better growth prospects for our employees and, enhanced value for our shareholders," the chairman added. The NCLT scheme of arrangement for the demerger shall be placed before the Board of Directors for approval in the coming months and will be subject to all necessary shareholder, creditor and regulatory approvals which could take a further 12-15 months to complete. The demerger will have no adverse impact on employees, customers, and its business partners, Tata Motors asserted in the release.

My Friend Jaishankar Advised Them To Mind Their Own Business

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Underlining the long-standing relations between India and Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday praised External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for navigating bilateral ties amid the Ukraine conflict. He made these remarks while responding to a question on India's oil purchases during the World Youth Forum in the Russian city of Sochi. During an interactive session, Lavrov stressed the historical ties between the two countries, particularly Moscow's support for New Delhi during the Cold War period when the West withheld advanced weaponry. "My friend, Foreign Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar, was once at the UN, giv-

ing a speech. He was asked why they started buying so much oil from Russia. He advised them to mind their own business and reminded them at the same time how much oil the West had started buying and continued to buy oil from the Russian Federation. This is national dignity," Lavrov was quoted as saying by Sputnik news agency. Lavrov, who is the longest-serving Russian foreign minister since the fall of the Soviet Union, highlighted the collaborative defence projects, such as the joint production of high-tech missiles like the BrahMos. "In those years, when the West did not even think of transferring modern weapons to India, the Soviet Union, and later Russia, not

only did so, but also set up joint production of high-tech missiles [including the] BrahMos. That is why we remember [our] friendship, we never forget ourselves and we see that the Indian people have the same qualities," Lavrov said. Russia has been a longstanding and time-tested partner for India. For several decades, the development of relations with Russia has been a key pillar of India's foreign policy. Jaishankar told a German daily last month that "Russia has never hurt India's interests". In an interview in Germany, Jaishankar had said every country conducts a relationship based on their past experiences. "If I look at the history of India post-independence, Russia



has never hurt our interests. The relations of powers like Europe, the US, China or Japan with Russia, they have all seen ups and downs. We have had a stable and always very friendly relationship with Russia. And our relationship

Sarson Ka Saag, Pudina Raita To Gajar Nazakat

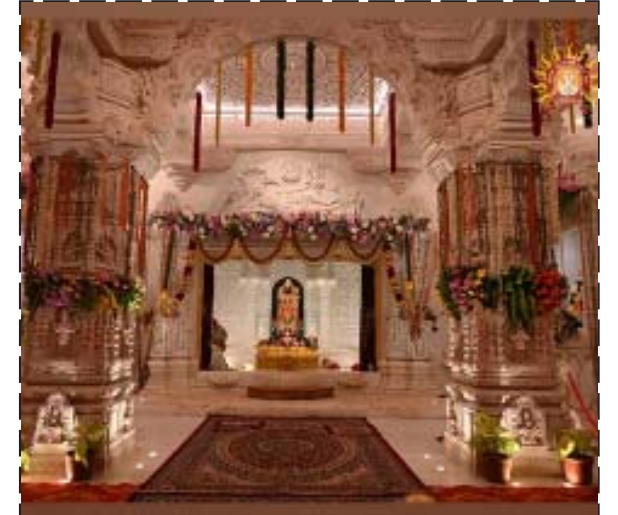


New Delhi: President Murmu recently hosted a banquet dinner for his French counterpart, President Emmanuel Macron, and treated him to a delightful array of Indian delicacies. The menu showcased the rich diversity of Indian cuisine, from Sarson Ka Saag to Kesar Badam Shorba to Pudina Raita to Gajar Nazakat. The dinner was a celebration of the cultural exchange and friendship between India and France. The banquet was hosted in honour of the French President, who was this year's chief guest at the Republic Day parade in the national capital on Friday. The banquet dinner began with a warm welcome from President Murmu, who expressed his gratitude for President Macron's visit to India. A delectable variety of traditional Indian dishes—from Kesar Badam Shorba to Sarson Ka Saag, Makke Ki Roti, Jeera Aloo and Pudina Raita, among others—were served to the French President. Among the other mouth-watering dishes on the menu were Chhena Paturi (fresh cottage cheese flavoured with mustard, steamed banana leaves), Achari Aloo aur Khumb (Pickled potatoes and mushrooms, cilantro relish), Anjeer Kofta (Fig and vegetable roundels in a rich cashew sauce), Bagan-e-Subz (seasonal vegetables tossed in butter), Dal Dera (black lentils cooked overnight over charcoal), Subz Pulao (aromatic rice with seasonal vegetables). For dessert, there was Gajar Nazakat (Carrot pudding in dark chocolate cups, with milk fudge), Phirni Mille Feuille (Indian flavours in a French classic), Carved fresh fruits, and Kashwa/Coffee. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud were among the top dignitaries present at the banquet dinner. In her address, President Murmu highlighted the strong partnership between India and France, emphasizing their shared journey towards a brighter future. She emphasized that both nations are committed to building a future that is meaningful to their people, particularly the youth. The President mentioned that India and France are collaborating in various sectors, ranging from handi-crafts to space exploration, to shape this future. One of the key aspects of this shared journey is the focus on creating opportunities and ensuring equal access to education. President Murmu stressed the importance of quality education, research, and innovation in empowering the youth and preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow. She also emphasized the need for a clean environment, highlighting the commitment of both nations towards sustainable development. "In matters of food and drink too, we have influenced each other with our specialities. Just as there are impressive scholars of ancient Indian languages and Vedic studies in France, the French language is a popular choice for students in India. If we look towards cinema, we again find ourselves connected, be it the influence of the French New Wave on our most eminent directors

Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust issues aarti, darshan schedule amid rush of devotees

Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh): In response to the overwhelming influx of devotees, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has issued the schedule for Aarti and Darshan, ensuring a structured and harmonious experience for devotees visiting the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. As per the schedule, the Aarti and Darshan timings include Shringaar Aarti which will commence at 4:30 in the morning followed by Mangala Aarti which is scheduled at 6.30 in the morning. The Darshan for devotees will start from 7 am onwards, according to Vishwa Hindu Parishad's spokesperson and media in-charge Sharad Sharma. To accommodate varying schedules and preferences, the Trust has curated a comprehensive itinerary, ensuring devotees can partake in spiritual rituals and seek blessings at different times

throughout the day. This includes Bhog Aarti which is scheduled at noon and Evening Aarti which will commence at 7.30 pm. Following the Evening Aarti, devotees can partake in the Bhog Aarti (Second Session) at 8 pm and Shayan Aarti at 10 pm will conclude the day's rituals, the Trust said on Friday. Earlier on January 25, the frenzy and fervour among the visiting devotees and locals were as noticeable as it was on January 23 when the temple was opened for darshan. The temple witnessed surging footfalls following the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Shri Ram Lalla and the grand opening on January 22. The huge influx of devotees was not just seen at the Ram Temple but at the adjoining Hanuman Garhi Temple as well. The devotees, in their thousands, were seen offering laddus to Lord Hanuman and distribut-



ing the 'prasad' among themselves. The Ram Lalla idol was unveiled at the elaborate 'Pran Pratishtha ceremony', which involved hour-long rituals in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who led the ceremony on January 22.

China respects Maldives' sovereignty, ties to reach new heights: President Muizzu



NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has spoken highly of his country's strategic ties with China, saying the two countries respect each other and Beijing fully supports the Indian Ocean island's sovereignty. Muizzu's comments came amid unease in the Maldives' bilateral ties with India after he took office in November last year. Muizzu, who returned to the Maldives on Saturday after a high-profile state visit to China, noted that China has provided assistance to the development of the Maldives since establishing diplomatic relations in 1972. During his just-concluded visit to China, Muizzu, regarded as a pro-China leader, sought to align Maldives closer to Beijing and both countries elevated their ties to a strategic partnership. He also said China's Belt and Road Initiative has taken bilateral relations to a new level. China is not a country that would interfere with the internal affairs of the Maldives, which is why the two coun-

tries have a strong relationship, Muizzu was quoted as saying in an interview with China's state-run CGTN channel. He added that the Maldives and China respect each other, and China fully supports Maldives' sovereignty. The President expressed his belief that the China-Maldives relations will continue to grow stronger in the future, the official PSM News quoted him as saying in the interview. He also said his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping puts the interest of citizens first and that China's economy has reached new heights under his leadership. He added President Xi has assured him that the Chinese government will help the Maldives achieve its goals. President Muizzu said his vision involves strengthening the economy of the Maldives and bringing progress in accordance with the expectations of the people. He also said he wants to transform the Maldives into a country that works in harmony with other developed countries within the framework of his vision. His remarks came amid a row between the Maldives and India over derogatory comments posted by three deputy ministers of the Muizzu government against Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading to a diplomatic row with India. Muizzu suspended the three ministers after their social media postings, which stirred

concern in India and calls for a boycott by Indian tourists who ranked highest in numbers followed by Russia. Chinese tourists figured third. Muizzu has also asked India to withdraw its military personnel from his country by March 15. According to the latest government figures, there are 88 Indian military personnel stationed in the Maldives to help operate a Dornier aircraft and two helicopters provided by India. Speaking to the press on Saturday after returning from China, President Muizzu indirectly attacked India. Without naming any country, he said, "We may be small, but that doesn't give you the license to bully us." He also announced plans to reduce the country's dependency on India, including securing imports of essential food commodities and medicine and consumables from other countries. "We aren't in anyone's backyard. We are an independent and sovereign state," he said, addressing the reporters gathered at the Velana International Airport. He said that no country has the right to exert influence over the domestic affairs of a country, regardless of its size. He vowed that he would not allow any external influence on the domestic affairs of the Maldives. Male is also reviewing more than 100 bilateral agreements with New Delhi signed by the previous government here.

Request India to help in economic recovery, send back students, says Ukrainian PM

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "global leader", Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal requested India to help the war-torn country restore its economy by sending back students and conduct trade like before. In an exclusive interview with India Today TV, Shmyhal called India one of Ukraine's biggest economic partners and praised PM Modi for extending help and humanitarian support to the nation. "PM Modi is a global leader who is working for world peace. A large part of Ukraine is now peaceful, and I would request India to help us make an economic comeback by sending students and businesses as before," he said. In 2022, India launched 'Operation Ganga' to bring back Indians stranded in



Ukraine. Around 18,000 Indian nationals, including students, were evacuated under the initiative. The economy of Ukraine, which has been engaged in a war with Russia since February 2022, has suffered heavy losses, contracting by over 30 per cent. It was the sharpest economic decline in over 30 years. The war has caused widespread death and destruction and displaced millions of

Ukrainians, while driving up defence spending. Shmyhal also said Ukraine "will do anything" to be part of the European Union and NATO, an intergovernmental military alliance of 31 member states. The Ukrainian Prime Minister said other countries must press Russia to stop the war. Shmyhal also asked Russian President Putin to liberate Ukrainian territories. "We are getting help in terms of weapons and humanitarian aid from our allies, but unfortunately, the requirements are so high that we need more and more help and support," he further said. Congratulating India on its 75th Republic Day, the Ukrainian Prime Minister praised the "velocity with which India is moving ahead". He also praised the values of democracy

