

# PM Modi made a historic blunder: Imran

Pakistan Prime Minister, in address to nation, says he will raise Kashmir issue on every international forum

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD**  
With Pakistan failing to get traction for its belligerent stand on Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday that he will raise the issue on every international forum, including at the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Khan's address to the nation came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France on Monday, categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

Prime Minister Khan assured the people of Pakistan that his government will stand by the Kashmiris till India lifts the restrictions in the Valley.

Outlining his government's future strategy on Kashmir, Mr. Khan said: "First, I believe, the entire nation should stand with the Kashmiri nation. I have said this that I will act as Kashmir's ambassador."

"I will tell the world about this, I have shared this with the heads of state that I have been in contact with. I will



**Making his point:** People watching television in Islamabad as Pakistan PM Imran Khan speaks to the nation on Monday. •AFP

raise this issue at the UN as well," he said, referring to his scheduled address to the UN General Assembly next month.

Mr. Khan said he would highlight the Kashmir issue at the UN General assembly. "I read in the newspapers that people are disappointed that Muslim countries are not siding with Kashmir. I want to tell you not to be disappointed; if some countries are not raising this issue because of their economic interests, they will eventually take this issue up. They will have to, with time," he said.

Mr. Khan claimed that Prime Minister Modi had

made a "historic blunder" by revoking Kashmir's special autonomy. "This is the UN's responsibility, they promised the people of Kashmir that they would protect them. Historically, the world bodies have always sided with the powerful but the UN should know that 1.25 billion Muslims are looking towards it," he said.

The Prime Minister urged the people of Pakistan to hold weekly protests to support the Kashmiris.

**'Nuclear weapons'**  
Prime Minister Khan once again raised the nuclear capabilities of the neighbours,

saying there were no winners in a nuclear war. "Will these big countries keep looking at their economic interests only? They should remember, both countries have nuclear weapons," Mr. Khan said.

"In a nuclear war, no one will win. It will not only wreak havoc in this region, but the entire world will face consequences. It is now up to the international community," he said.

**'False-flag operation'**  
Prime Minister Khan claimed that India was planning a "false-flag operation" like the one carried out after the Pulwama attack. "We received information that they were planning a false-flag operation like what they did in Balakot to divert attention from Kashmir," he said.

Mr. Khan also mentioned his peace overtures towards India after coming to power, but said India rejected those as it was following a different agenda.

"After the elections (in India), we realised they had a different agenda and they tried to blacklist Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," he said.

## Panel formed to execute FATF tasks

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD**

Pakistan PM Imran Khan has set up a 12-member committee to ensure the execution of Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 27-point action plan, days after the country was put on a terror 'blacklist' for its failure to curb funnelling of funds to terrorist outfits.

Led by Minister for Economic Affairs Division Hammad Azhar, the National Financial Action Task Force Coordination Committee comprises federal secretaries of finance, foreign affairs and interior, besides heads of all the institutions and regulators concerned with money laundering and terror financing, the *Dawn* reported. The committee will ensure execution of all FATF-related tasks till December 21, said a notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

# Signs of hope as Trump says U.S.-China trade talks are on

'Beijing called and said let's get back to the table'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BIARRITZ**

There were signs of a thaw in trade-war tensions between China and the U.S. on Monday as President Donald Trump said delegations would "very shortly" resume talks and Beijing's top negotiator called for "calm".

Just three days after the announcement of further mutual tariff hikes, Mr. Trump told reporters at the G7 summit in France's Biarritz that there had been two "very, very good" phone calls from "high-level" Chinese officials. "China called last night... said let's get back to the table. So we'll be getting back to the table," he said on Monday, adding that "they want to make a deal".

He later said talks with China were "more meaningful than at any time" because the United States was



Donald Trump

doing well while China was "losing millions of jobs".

Mr. Trump's comments followed moves by China's most powerful trade negotiator, Vice-Premier Liu He, to take the edge off the soaring tensions. "We are willing to solve the problem through consultation and cooperation with a calm attitude," said Mr. Liu, according to a report by a Chinese news outlet.

"We firmly oppose the escalation of the trade war," he said, speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2019 Smart China Expo in Chongqing.

## G7 leaders back Hong Kong autonomy

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BIARRITZ**

G7 leaders meeting in France on Monday backed Hong Kong's autonomy as laid out in a 1984 agreement between Britain and China.

"The G7 reaffirms the existence and the importance of the 1984 Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong and calls for avoiding violence," according to a joint statement issued in French at the end of a G7 summit in Biarritz, south-west France.

"The G7 nations all want to support a stable and prosperous Hong Kong and we remain collectively committed to the one-country, two-systems framework," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

## 'Energy reason for U.S. wealth'

**REUTERS BIARRITZ**

U.S. President Donald Trump, responding to a question about climate change, said on Monday that U.S. wealth was based on energy and he won't jeopardise that for dreams and windmills.

"We are now the No. 1 energy producer in the world, and soon it will be by far," Mr. Trump told reporters.

"I'm not going to lose that wealth, I'm not going to lose it on dreams, on windmills, which frankly aren't working too well," he added.

# U.S. President says he is ready to meet Rouhani

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BIARRITZ**

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was prepared to meet his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani within weeks, after talks about Tehran's nuclear programme at the G7 summit in France.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had made a surprise appearance on the sidelines of the summit in Biarritz on Sunday at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Mr. Macron said the "conditions for a meeting" between Mr. Trump and Mr.

Rouhani "in the next few weeks" had been created through intensive diplomacy and consultations.

"If the circumstances were correct, I would certainly agree to that," Mr. Trump said at a press conference with Macron at the end of three days of talks.

Asked if he thought the timeline proposed by his French counterpart was realistic, Mr. Trump replied: "It does", adding that he thought Mr. Rouhani would also be in favour. "I think he's going to want to meet. I think Iran wants to get this situation straightened out."

## IN BRIEF



**Sri Lankan Army chief denies war crimes claims**

**COLOMBO**  
Sri Lanka's new Army chief Shavendra Silva on Monday brushed aside international outrage over his appointment, saying "anyone can make allegations" that he had committed war crimes. *AFP*

## 'Remove virgin option from marriage certificates'

**DHAKA**

The word "virgin" must be removed from Muslim marriage certificates in Bangladesh, the country's top court has said. Currently, a bride has to select one of three options on the certificate — whether she is a *Kumari* (virgin), a widow or divorced. The court has ordered the government to remove the term and replace it with "unmarried". *AFP*

## Trump denies report he wanted to nuke hurricanes

**WASHINGTON**

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday denied a report that he wanted to drop nuclear bombs on hurricanes before they made landfall in the U.S. Mr. Trump slammed the story, calling it "fake news". "The story by Axios that President Trump wanted to blow up large hurricanes with nuclear weapons prior to reaching shore is ridiculous. I never said this. Just more FAKE NEWS!" he tweeted. *AFP*

# Hundreds of new fires flare up in Amazon

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PORTO VELHO**

Hundreds of new fires have flared up in the Amazon in Brazil, data showed on Monday, even as military aircraft dumped water over hard-hit areas and G7 nations pledged to help combat the blazes.

Smoke choked Port Velho city as fires raged in the northwestern state of Rondonia where fire-fighting efforts are concentrated, amid a growing global uproar and

a diplomatic spat between France and Brazil.

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying thousands of litres of water on Sunday began dousing fires devouring chunks of the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to keeping climate change in check.

Swaths of the remote region have been scorched by the worst fires in years, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky.

Experts say increased

land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has ordered an investigation into reports that rural producers in the northern state of Para held a "day of fire" on August 10 in a show of support for the far-right leader's efforts to weaken environmental protection monitoring in the region.



Smoke billowing from forest fires close to Porto Velho on August 24. •AFP

# 'Britain must pay divorce bill even if there's no deal'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRUSSELS**

Britain must pay its Brexit divorce bill even if it crashes out of the bloc without a deal, the EU said on Monday, warning that future ties would be threatened if London failed to honour its commitments.

The stern rebuff from Brussels came a day after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson again said that in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit on October 31, Britain would be free from financial obligations to the bloc.

Asked if the EU would take Britain to court to recover the money, a spokeswoman for the European Commission instead stressed that a future trade deal between Britain and



Boris Johnson

the remaining 27 states could be under threat. "As we have said many times before, all commitments that were taken by the 28 member states should be honoured," commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva told reporters.

Mr. Johnson has said that if Britain leaves without a deal it will not have to pay the £39 billion divorce bill agreed by his predecessor Theresa May.

# 'Address root causes of religious extremism'

Impunity has strengthened anti-Muslim groups, UN envoy Ahmed Shaheed tells Sri Lanka

**MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO**

Sri Lanka must identify and respond to the "root causes" of religious extremism that has been used to incite violence in the country, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Ahmed Shaheed said here on Monday.

Urging the state to prosecute those responsible for violence and incitement to violence, he said authorities must make efforts to "dismantle the networks of hate" and ensure that victims of hate crimes are able to access justice. Concluding his 10-day visit across the island, Mr. Shaheed told the media that the state should develop systems and mechanisms to

monitor and respond to hate speech in conformity with international human rights standards.

Mr. Shaheed's visit comes four months after the Easter terror attacks that claimed more than 250 lives in Sri Lanka. Following the serial blasts that investigating authorities have attributed to local Islamist radicals, apparently inspired by the Islamic State, mobs unleashed violent attacks on the Muslim community, sparking serious concern over escalating religious tensions in the country.

In the island's post-war years, hardline Sinhala Buddhist groups have been repeatedly linked to incitement of violence against the



Ahmed Shaheed

Muslim community that makes up less than 10% of the population.

On the main challenges in ensuring religious freedom, the visiting UN envoy said Sri Lanka's Muslim community faced "increased hostility", especially after the April bombings. "Prior impunity

has strengthened anti-Muslim groups," he said, adding that "weak and un-coordinated responses" led to a rise in violence.

## 'Double standards'

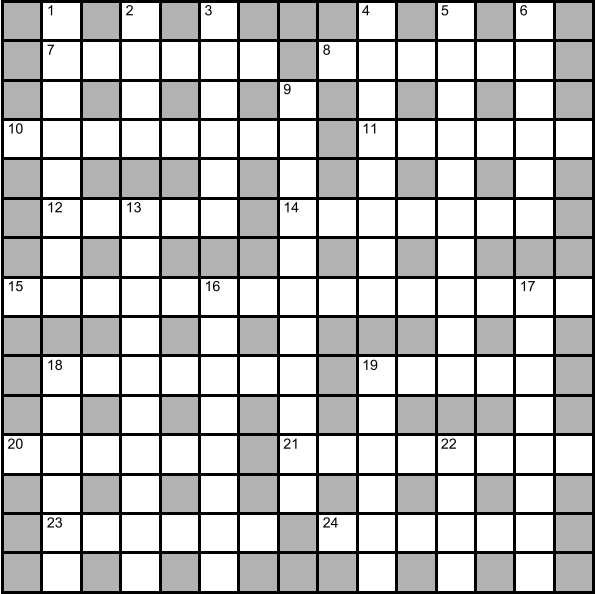
Commenting on religious discrimination, Mr. Shaheed said that while the Sri Lankan Constitution protects religious freedom, it declares that "Buddhism shall be given the foremost place by the State". Interlocutors he met "frequently" told him that they feel the State was structurally unable to treat other religions on an equal basis, owing to this provision.

Further, the rapporteur also said that religious communities pointed to the State

allowing Buddhist monks to erect shrines or Buddhist statues even in areas where there was little Buddhist presence. Many, the envoy said, also referred to the "double standards" in law enforcement, as seen in cases when perpetrators of violence from the majority Buddhist community, clearly identifiable in video footage, remain "unaccountable for years."

Mr. Shaheed, who will submit his detailed report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020, said leaders must immediately condemn any violence targeting vulnerable communities. "Very often we find that the political leadership is on the back foot in such situations," he said.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12715



### ACROSS

- 7 International tender needs them in the same place (6)
- 8 Hot wind is back and low season's back (6)
- 10 Sit tight allowing international bank rate to regress in these spirals (8)
- 11 Resistance for Democrat in team discussion creating difficulty (6)

- 12 Has to break promises (5)
- 14 Auditor's negative remark about medical body's technique (4-3)
- 15 Good change made, team snatch decisive victory (4,3,3,5)
- 18 Sole crop in field for horses (7)
- 19 Too bad about line in plant (5)
- 20 Arose when police officer called (6)
- 21 Past issue boomerangs eventually (4,4)
- 23 Level sides to toss in competitions (6)
- 24 Interpret a tongue (6)

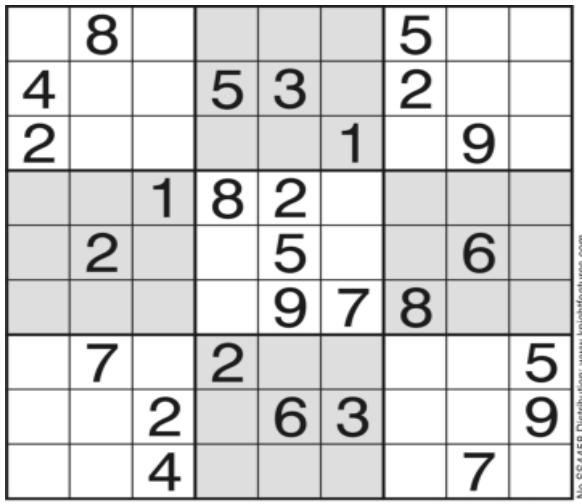
### DOWN

- 1 Respectable but not socially acceptable amateur becoming female star (8)
- 2 Ceiling over public bathing area (4)

(set by xChequer)

- 3 Is consistent with being born without privileges? On the contrary (6)
- 4 Prominent notice displayed by men reflecting moral approach (4,4)
- 5 Worth a full toss leaving open boundary in play (6,4)
- 6 Brief particulars with banks basis for ledger entry (6)
- 9 Act tense out in the middle to kick off game (4-4-3)
- 13 Time study to dilute move to stay afloat (5,5)
- 16 Thrill to keep working against gravity's pull a little longer (8)
- 17 Regular newspaper feature right under article — like a post (8)
- 18 Go for every season with this (6)
- 19 Energy and dash in furtive meet (6)
- 22 Hard to soak up nonsense (4)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12714								
F	L	P		M	H	S		
E	D	U	C	E	S		C	A
A	S	N	T	U	L	E		
I	S	T	H	A	T	O	N	O
B	I	P	E	D	H	E	L	O
L	A			E	O	I		
L	E	T	I	T	A	L	L	H
D	M	E			H	P		
I	N	A	B	I	T	M	Y	T
R	O	U	E	T				
P	O	M	M	E	L	E	V	I
N	A		A	R	D	R	C	
E	N	G	I	N	E		R	E
D	E	T			N	P	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
3	8	4	6	7	9	1	5	2
7	1	6	5	2	8	3	9	4
5	9	2	1	3	4	6	7	8
1	2	3	4	8	5	7	6	9
4	7	5	9	6	2	8	1	3
9	6	8	3	1	7	2	4	5
2	4	7	8	5	1	9	3	6
8	3	9	7	4	6	5	2	1
6	5	1	2	9	3	4	8	7

## FAITH

### Subhadra's marriage

Rukmini's wedding to Krishna is captured in a drama called Vaidarbi Vasudeva. Subhadra's wedding to Arjuna, described in the Mahabharata, also has many dramatic moments, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Arjuna comes in the guise of a sanyasi to Dwaraka. Later he reveals his identity to Subhadra. Since Subhadra wants to marry Arjuna and Balarama is opposed to the idea, Krishna plans a secret marriage for Subhadra. He says that Subhadra is unwell, and all Yadavas must go to an island for thirty-four days and worship Lord Siva there. But Krishna has already ensured that Subhadra and Arjuna will marry when everyone is away.

Indra comes for the wedding and blesses the couple, who later escape in Krishna's chariot. The escape plan is also Krishna's idea. Subhadra is adept at driving the chariot, and Arjuna, now in his usual attire, sits at the back, with Subhadra in the driver's seat. When they are stopped by guards, Subhadra says that none of them should be harmed. So Arjuna uses an astra that makes their weapons fall to the ground, but they remain unharmed. When news of what has happened reaches Balarama, his first reaction is anger. Then realising he can do nothing when Subhadra has decided to marry Arjuna, he takes many gifts for the couple.

Subhadra is later blessed with a son. Krishna has restless eyes, which keep moving all the time. For this reason, Krishna is called kapalAksha. Subhadra's son is also given this name. He is also named Abhimanyu — abhl means without fear. Manyu means anger. So, the idea is that this fearless child will also be angry when he must, namely when he faces his enemies. Abhimanyu is trained by Arjuna and Krishna in warfare, and he proves himself to be a great warrior.