

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Thursday, 09 October 2025

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UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer Arrives in India with Largest-Ever Trade Delegation

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New Delhi : Prime Minister Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom arrived in India today on his historic maiden visit, accompanied by the largest-ever UK trade delegation to the country. The visit is widely seen as a significant step towards deepening economic, strategic, and cultural ties between the two democracies. This landmark trip marks a new chapter in India-UK relations, with both countries aiming to strengthen their partnership amid shifting global economic dynamics. The delegation comprises leading business leaders, entrepreneurs, and government officials from sectors including technology, healthcare, finance, and clean energy, reflecting the

broad scope of collaboration envisaged. The visit comes at a time when both nations are keen to expand bilateral trade, investment, and cooperation in innovation. India is currently the UK's fastest-growing export market, and the two governments are expected to explore avenues to boost trade volumes significantly over the next decade.

Prime Minister Starmer expressed enthusiasm about the visit, highlighting the shared values of democracy, rule of law, and economic openness. "India and the UK share a vision of a stronger, mutually prosperous future," he said. "This delegation underscores our commitment to unlocking new opportunities for our businesses and peoples." On



the agenda is a high-level meeting scheduled for tomorrow between Prime Minister Starmer and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Discussions are expected to focus on enhancing trade partnerships, promoting technology exchange, climate action, and exploring cooperation in areas such as education and defense.

The visit also includes engagements with Indian industry leaders and cultural events aimed at strengthening people-to-people ties. With this visit, both nations signal their intent to elevate their longstanding relationship into a dynamic strategic partnership suited to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Makes First Official Visit to India Since 2021



FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan's Taliban-led government, is visiting India for the first time since the Taliban took control of Kabul in August 2021. The visit, described as a cautious diplomatic engagement, marks a subtle thaw in India-Afghanistan ties amid complex regional dynamics. During his visit, Muttaqi is scheduled to hold talks with Indian officials focusing on expanding trade relations, particularly the export of Afghan dry fruits—a key sector for Afghanistan's economy. Discussions are also expected to cover health cooperation initiatives and the potential ac-

cess to Indian ports, which could provide Afghanistan with vital trade routes bypassing Pakistan.

While India has not formally recognized the Taliban government, the visit underscores New Delhi's pragmatic approach towards engagement with Afghanistan's new rulers. India continues to support the Afghan people and has maintained development projects in the war-torn country, especially in areas such as education, infrastructure, and healthcare. Indian officials have reiterated that their engagement remains conditional on the Taliban's commitment to maintaining peace, preventing terrorism, and ensuring human rights, especially

those of women and minorities. The visit also takes place against the backdrop of evolving geopolitical interests in South Asia, with India balancing its concerns over regional security and counterterrorism with the need to maintain influence in Afghanistan to counterbalance Pakistan and China. For the Taliban, the visit represents an opportunity to break out of international isolation and seek economic support amid a crippling humanitarian crisis. Experts say the visit could pave the way for incremental diplomatic openings, although full normalization remains unlikely until the Taliban demonstrate tangible progress on governance and human rights.

PM Modi Inaugurates Navi Mumbai International Airport, Aims to Ease Aviation Load on Mumbai

FAIR REPORT

Navi Mumbai : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday officially inaugurated the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), marking a significant milestone in India's aviation and infrastructure development. The airport, developed by the Adani Group, has been constructed at an estimated cost of \$2.2 billion (approx. 18,300 crore) and is expected to significantly reduce passenger load on the overburdened Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA). In his address at the inaugural ceremony, PM Modi called the project a "symbol of new India's speed, scale, and ambition", adding that NMIA will serve as a key gateway for



both domestic and international travelers in the western region. He highlighted the government's ongoing focus on infrastructure-led growth, citing the airport as a critical link in India's \$5 trillion economy vision. Located in Raigad district, around 35 kilometers from Mumbai, NMIA is designed to handle up to

90 million passengers annually once fully operational. The first phase, now open, is set to manage up to 20 million passengers per year, with plans for phased expansions over the next decade. The airport features cutting-edge terminals, multi-modal transport integration, cargo facilities, and sustainable

green architecture aimed at reducing the carbon footprint. It is expected to become a logistics hub for western India, supporting trade, tourism, and regional development.

The Adani Group, which also manages other major airports like Ahmedabad and Lucknow, called the project a

“testament to private-public partnership potential” in India’s rapidly growing infrastructure space. However, the inauguration was not without controversy. Critics and opposition leaders raised concerns over the concentration of key infrastructure assets under corporate entities like Adani, questioning the transparency and fairness in the project’s awarding process. Despite these concerns, aviation experts have welcomed the development, citing Mumbai’s chronic air traffic congestion and the pressing need for additional capacity. Commercial operations at NMIA are expected to begin in early 2026, following final regulatory clearances and airline onboarding.

IMF Chief: Global Economy 'Better Than Feared,' But Headwinds Persist

FAIR REPORT

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva stated on Tuesday that the global economy in 2025 is performing better than initially feared, even amid persistent economic shocks and geopolitical uncertainties. Speaking ahead of the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings, Georgieva struck a cautiously optimistic tone while unveiling updated global growth forecasts. According

to the IMF's revised projections, the global economy is expected to grow by 3.0% in 2025, with growth accelerating slightly to 3.1% in 2026. These figures are marginally higher than earlier estimates, reflecting resilience in consumer demand, easing inflation in advanced economies, and a modest rebound in global trade. "While we are not out of the woods, the worst-case scenarios have been averted," Georgieva said. She credited coordinated monetary and fis-

cal responses in key economies for preventing a sharper slowdown. However, she warned that the post-pandemic recovery remains fragile, with growth levels still below pre-COVID trends. Key risks flagged by the IMF include rising global debt, particularly in developing economies, volatile capital flows, lingering inflation in food and energy sectors, and increasing geopolitical fragmentation — especially in the wake of ongoing conflicts and trade disputes.

Two Years Since October 7: The Challenge of Peace and Terror in the Middle East



**Hemraj Tikam
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By Special Feature Desk

Marked a grim chapter in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The unprecedented attack by Hamas militants on Israeli territory, resulting in significant civilian casualties and hostage-taking, sent shockwaves across the world. As we observe the second anniversary, the event contin-

ues to cast a long shadow over the prospects for peace and stability in the region.

The ongoing ceasefire negotiations, currently taking place in Cairo under the aegis of Egypt and Qatar, reflect the complexities of seeking reconciliation amid deep-seated mistrust. The talks focus on a delicate

balance — staged Israeli withdrawals, humanitarian relief in Gaza, and efforts to curtail militant activities — all underscored by the urgent need to alleviate civilian suffering. It is crucial to recognize that the violence of October 7 was not an isolated incident but the product of longstanding grievances, ideological

convictions, and strategic calculations by militant groups. While Israel asserts its right to defend its citizens, the humanitarian cost in Gaza remains a grave concern. The international community faces a difficult task: to support efforts that can break the cycle of violence without ignoring the security im-

peratives of all parties involved. This necessitates a nuanced understanding that terrorism and armed resistance, while distinct in nature and intent, contribute to an intractable impasse unless addressed through sustained dialogue and accountability.

The broader question remains: can peace be

achieved without addressing the ideological underpinnings that fuel extremism? And how can the international order reconcile respect for sovereignty with the imperative to protect human rights and prevent terrorism? As the world watches the ceasefire talks unfold, there is an urgent need for concert-

ed diplomatic engagement — one that moves beyond rhetoric to foster lasting solutions, grounded in justice, security, and human dignity. The anniversary of October 7 is a sober reminder that the path to peace in the Middle East is fraught with challenges that require patience, clarity, and resolve.

