

Saudis To Invest Upwards Of \$100 B In India Projects

NEW DELHI: India and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday condemned "in strongest terms" the terror attack on Indian security forces in Pulwama, called upon countries to bring perpetrators of such acts to justice and underlined the importance of comprehensive sanctioning of terrorists and their organisations by the United Nations.

Pakistan was mentioned in the context of "consistent efforts" made by Prime Minister Modi since May 2014 including his personal initiatives to have friendly relations with the neighbouring country, with the visiting leader appreciating the efforts.

Modi welcomed the announcement by Prince Mohammed to invest in the areas of energy, refining, petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture, minerals and mining, manufacturing, education and health potentially worth in excess of \$100 billion.

Saudi Arabia had signed agreements for investment of \$20 billion during Prince Mohammed's visit to Pakistan.

The joint statement said that both sides called upon all states to reject the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they happen to exist and to cut off any kind of support and financing to the terrorists.

The two leaders agreed to constitute a comprehensive security dialogue at the NSA level and set up a joint working group on counter-terrorism.

Modi has had restricted, one-on-one and delegation level talks with the visiting leader. The two sides signed six agreements including Saudi investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.

Prince Salman said that extremism and terrorism were common concerns of the two countries and Saudi Arabia would fully cooperate with India. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the first Joint Venture West Coast Refinery and Petrochemical Project estimated to cost \$44 billion and both sides agreed to expedite the implementation of the project,



which would be the largest green field refinery in the world to be implemented in one phase.

In addition, \$10 billion through the Public Investment Fund and its technology partners, and other investments opportunities potentially worth \$26 billion are being explored.

The Indian Government agreed

to increase the seats of Saudi Arabian Airlines "from 80,000 seats/month to 112,000 seats/month" and studies were underway to increase that number substantially.

Saudi Arabia decided to increase haj quota from India to two lakh from the present 1.75 lakh and release 850 Indian prisoners. India, he said, had decided

to extend e-visa facilities to Saudi nationals. The two leaders also agreed to enhance maritime security in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean Region.

Prince Mohammed, who arrived in the capital on Tuesday was earlier in the day accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

67 Killed In Huge Dhaka Blaze

DHAKA :A devastating fire raced through densely packed buildings in a centuries-old district in Bangladesh's capital, killing at least 67 people, officials and witnesses said Thursday.

The fire in Dhaka's Chawkbazar area was mostly under control after more than 10 hours of frantic firefighting efforts. About 50 people were injured, with some critically burned.

The district dating to the Mughal era

400 years ago is crammed with buildings separated by narrow alleys, with residences commonly above shops, restaurants or warehouses on the ground floors.

The blaze started late Wednesday night in one building and quickly spread to others, fire department Director General Brig. Gen. Ali Ahmed said. Many of the victims were trapped inside the buildings. The fire was about 500 metres (550 feet) away from Dhaka's 18th-century Central Jail.

Pakistan Re-Imposes Ban Of Hafiz Saeed's JuD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday re-imposed a ban on the Jamaatud Dawra (JuD), formed by Hafiz Saeed to sidestep the ban on his Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and its charity arm, the Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Security Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, to discuss the geo-strategic and national security environment in light of the Pulwama suicide bombing and its aftermath, media reports said.

The two entities had been proscribed in an ordinance promulgated by then President Mamnoon Hussein in February last year to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act with regards to proscription of terrorist individuals and organisations to include entities



listed by the UN Security Council but this had lapsed.

Saeed has often been placed under house arrest, whenever there is a tense situation with India, but is released soon after.

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You can also catch me on Eye on Asia and on Facebook under Powerflow Chiropractic. I look forward to meeting you soon and thanks for all your referrals!

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