

Fans in Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana celebrate India's victory

CHANDIGARH, MAR 09: Cricket fans on Sunday night broke into celebrations, dancing enthusiastically and waved the Tricolour on the streets of Chandigarh and several places in Punjab and Haryana as India defeated New Zealand to win the Champions Trophy title.

Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with an excellent half-century as a resolute India held their nerve to win an unprecedented third Champions Trophy title with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final in Dubai.

At many places in Chandigarh, fans came out on roads, hailing Team India's victory.

Many hotels and restaurants had installed big TV screens to enable people to catch the live action from Dubai.

Several fans gathered at Sectors 22 and 17 here to



celebrate the mega victory.

"It was a closely fought game which kept everyone on the edge of their seats, but we knew the Indian team would come out victorious and they did so in the end," said Ajay Kumar, a cricket fan.

Fans celebrated the victory at many places in Punjab and Haryana including Mohali, Jalandhar, Amrit-

sar, Patiala, Gurugram, Panchkula, Faridabad and Sonapat. A large crowd danced to the beats of drums on many streets.

Meanwhile, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also hailed the Indian cricket team.

"The champions of Team India have performed brilliantly and won the 'Champions Trophy' by defeating

New Zealand," Saini posted on X in Hindi.

"Today the whole of India is painted in the colour of victory, congratulations to all and best wishes to the players of Team India. This proud victory has filled the whole nation with enthusiasm, excitement and colours," Saini said in his post congratulating the Indian cricket team.

2 days of clashes and revenge killings leave over 1,000 people dead in Syria

BEIRUT, MAR 09: The death toll from two days of clashes between security forces and loyalists of ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad and revenge killings that followed has risen to more than 1,000, including nearly 750 civilians, a war monitoring group said Saturday, making it one of the deadliest outbreaks of violence since Syria's conflict began 14 years ago.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that in addition to 745 civilians, 125 members of the government security forces and 148 militants with armed groups affiliated with deposed President Bashar Assad were killed.

The observatory also said that electricity and drinking water were cut off in large areas around the coastal city of Latakia and many bakeries shut down. The clashes, which erupted on Thursday, marked a major escalation in the challenge to the new government in Damascus, three months after insurgents took authority after removing Assad from power.

The government has said that they were responding to attacks from remnants of Assad's forces and blamed "individual actions" for the rampant violence.

The revenge killings that started on Friday by Sunni

Muslim gunmen loyal to the government against members of Assad's minority Alawite sect are a major blow to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the faction that led the overthrow of the former government. Alawites made up a large part of Assad's support base for decades.

Residents of Alawite villages and towns spoke to The Associated Press about killings during which gunmen shot Alawites, the majority of them men, in the streets or at the gates of their homes. Many homes of Alawites were looted and then set on fire in different areas, two residents of Syria's coastal region told the AP from their hideouts.

They asked that their names not be made public out of fear of being killed by gunmen, adding that thousands of people have fled to nearby mountains for safety. Residents of Baniyas, one of the towns worst hit by the violence, said bodies were strewn on the streets or left unburied in homes and on the roofs of buildings, and nobody was able to collect them. One resident said that the gunmen prevented residents for hours from removing the bodies of five of their neighbors killed Friday at close range.

Ali Sheha, a 57-year-old resident of Baniyas who fled with his family and neighbors hours after the

violence broke out Friday, said that at least 20 of his neighbors and colleagues in one neighborhood of Baniyas where Alawites lived, were killed, some of them in their shops, or in their homes.

Sheha called the attacks "revenge killings" of the Alawite minority for the crimes committed by Assad's government. Other residents said the gunmen included foreign fighters, and militants from neighboring villages and towns.

"It was very very bad. Bodies were on the streets," as he was fleeing, Sheha said, speaking by phone from nearly 20 kilometers (12 miles) away from the city. He said the gunmen were gathering less than 100 meters from his apartment building, firing randomly at homes and residents and in at least one incident he knows of, asked residents for their IDs to check their religion and their sect before killing them. He said the gunmen also burned some homes and stole cars and robbed homes.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said that 428 Alawites have been killed in revenge attacks in addition to 120 pro-Assad fighters and 89 from security forces. The Observatory's chief Rami Abdurrahman said that revenge killings stopped

early Saturday.

"This was one of the biggest massacres during the Syrian conflict," Abdurrahman said about the killings of Alawite civilians.

The previous figure given by the group was more than 200 dead. No official figures have been released.

A funeral was held Saturday afternoon for four Syrian security force members in the northwestern village of Al-Janoudiya after they were killed in the clashes along Syria's coast. Scores of people attended the funeral.

Syria's state news agency quoted an unnamed Defense Ministry official as saying that government forces have regained control of much of the areas from Assad loyalists. It added that authorities have closed all roads leading to the coastal region "to prevent violations and gradually restore stability."

On Saturday morning, the bodies of 31 people killed in revenge attacks the day before in the central village of Tuwaym were laid to rest in a mass grave, residents said. Those killed included nine children and four women, the residents said. The most recent clashes started when government forces tried to detain a wanted person near the coastal city of Jableh, and were ambushed by Assad loyalists, according to the Observatory.

India pegged as No. 1 source market for London's ambitious new growth plan

LONDON, MAR 09: The UK's capital city has unveiled an ambitious new 'Growth Plan' to provide an estimated 27 billion pounds extra tax revenue to fund vital public services in London and across the country, with India pegged as its number one source market in terms of foreign direct investment.

The plan, unveiled recently by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan along with growth agency London & Partners, aims at restoring productivity growth to an average of 2 per cent a year in the next decade, which is hoped would make London's economy 107 billion pounds larger by 2035.

India has been on a growth curve for the last three years, overtaking the US as London's single-largest FDI source market in 2022-23 and continuing



through 2023-24.

"Foreign direct investment from India has been the fastest growing and has been our number one market for the last two years," said Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners.

"So, it's Indian tech companies setting up opera-

tions in London.

Equally, if we look at it as a student market, post-Brexit, India has really rapidly grown as a student market. It's now the number two source market for London after China. It's also a fast-growing tourism market for London; India

is just a really critical, top market for London," she said. According to official data for 2023-24, London played host to 38,625 Indian students, reflecting a steep growth curve over the past 10 years with the country's share of all inter-

national students in London increasing from under 5 per cent to over 20 per cent.

"It is positive that London's quantity of Indian students has increased in the past decade, with Indian students now accounting for over 20 per cent of international students enrolled at a London university," said Mark Hertli, Head of Global Engagement at City St George's University and Chair of the International Network at London Higher, the city's advocate for higher education.

Gyanendra's homecoming: Thousands in Nepal rally for monarchy's revival

KATHMANDU, MARCH 9: Thousands of pro-monarchists on Sunday hit the streets of Kathmandu to welcome the former King Gyanendra Shah upon his arrival from Pokhara.

The former King was welcomed by supporters from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and pro-monarchy organizations who chanted slogans against the existing political system.

"Today we are gathered here (outside the airport) to welcome and receive the nation's King," Bikram Dulal, one of the protestors eagerly waiting for the arrival of former King Gyanendra Shah, told ANI as he held a placard bearing a photo of the last monarch of the Himalayan Nation.

Authorities fortified the entrance of Tribhuvan International Airport, allowing passengers to enter the premises only after confirming the tickets issued in their name. Passengers, both domestic and foreign tourists, had to drag their luggage from far away as the pro-monarchists flooded the airport area, disrupting traffic.

Important agreements, announcements on maritime security expected: Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius'

"Monarchy is the demand of time. There is an absence of a guardian in the nation. In order to fulfill that role, King is must, that's why we are here to receive and welcome our king," Dulal added, referring to the ongoing political quagmire and prolonged transition.

"The present political system isn't that good. The time span from 2063 to 2081 BS (2006 to 2025 AD) isn't good, political parties are indulged in cor-



ruption and other scandals. They all present themselves as the king-the superiors. Those who are in high positions, from the center to the local levels, exercise power as kings. The nation has backtracked," the pro-monarch protestor claimed.

Former King Gyanendra returned to Kathmandu on Sunday from the tourist city of Pokhara in a chartered flight. He had recently visited the Alamdevi Temple in Syangja, the ancestral shrine of the Shah dynasty, and had been staying in Pokhara for several days.

As the vehicle hosting the former King rolled out of the airport entrance, supporters chanted slogans like "Raja au desh bhanchau" (Come back King, save the nation) and "Nepali Janata k bhancha? Rajtantra ley vancha" (What do the Nepali public say? Reinstate the monarchy), amongst others.

Following the exit from the airport entrance, former King Shah rose from his vehicle and greeted the crowd with a Namaste and wave. He also received flowers and other offerings

from the supporters who had covered a stretch of Kathmandu's ring road.

Nepal in the year 2006 had abolished centuries old constitutional monarchy after then King Gyanendra seized power and imposed emergency sending all the leaders under house arrest. The movement also referred as "People's Movement II" witnessed a bloodshed with dozens killed in crackdown against protestors by the government.

After weeks of violent protest and increasing international pressure, Gyanendra gave up and reinstated the dissolved parliament. This is highlighted as the dawn of a new democracy, Lokantatra (People's Rule).

Former King Gyanendra Shah, who had been staying in Pokhara since February 9, returned to Kathmandu on Sunday afternoon. He arrived at 3:50 pm via a chartered Summit Air plane, accompanied by his family.

During his stay in Pokhara, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) Kaski organized a farewell program to bid the former king goodbye. The former king's

return has sparked a wave of enthusiasm among his supporters, marking a significant moment for royalist groups in the country.

Formed in the 1990s after the lifting of the ban on the formation of political parties by the then-monarchical system, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) has since then served as the force always supporting the Kingship. It has also taken part in periodic elections and presented its demands.

In 2008, right after the overthrow of the monarchy rule in Nepal, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) secured 8 seats in the Constituent Assembly out of the 575-seat parliament. In the 2013 election, it was able to secure 13 seats. In 2017, it fell down to 1 seat, but it bounced back in the 2022 election with 14 seats.

The party, since its inception, has been supporting the Hindu State and the Kingship as interdependent in the tiny nation buffered between two giants, India and China. The Himalayan Nation of Nepal has a population of 30.55 million and a Hindu population of 81.19 per cent, as per the census of 2022.

Israel to send negotiating team to Qatar amid ceasefire talks

TELAVIV, MARCH 9: Israel will send a negotiating team to Doha in Qatar on Monday, The Times of Israel reported, quoting a statement from the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Office.

"Israel agreed to the invitation of the mediators backed by the US, and will send a delegation to Doha on Monday in an attempt to make progress in the negotiations," according to the PMO, as per The Times of Israel.

The development comes after Arabic media reports that Hamas had indicated it is willing to agree to a temporary extension of the Gaza ceasefire over Ra-

madan. An Israeli official told The Times of Israel that

there is no particular progress in the talks that led to a decision and denies

the reports that Hamas agreed to a Ramadan ceasefire extension.

Worm Free Children Are Healthy Children

Worm Infestation can make child

Anaemic Undernourished Weak Tired & Sick

All children and adolescents aged 1-19 years will be dewormed free of cost in Schools/ Anganwari Centres on

NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY

10th March 2025



Ways to Prevent Worm infestation

- Keep your surroundings clean
- Wear Shoes
- Do not defecate in the open. Always use a toilet
- Wash your hands with soap, especially before eating and after using the toilet
- Wash fruits and vegetables with clean water
- Keep food covered
- Drink clean water
- Keep nails clean and short

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