

## News from Democracies: India: March 8

March 8, 2023

March 7-9, 2023: **Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unbelievably crowded schedule:** After participating in back- to back ceremonies in Kohima and Shillong for swearing-in the Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Meghalaya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Guwahati in the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> March and had a meeting with the cabinet members of Assam to discuss the development of infrastructure in the North East and progress of Assam.



*7<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Guwahati: Cavalcade of Prime Minister Narendra Modi*

In the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Prime Minister attended the oath-taking ceremony of Dr Manik Saha as the Chief Minister of Tripura.

Thereafter he attended a meeting for further development of Tripura with the Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues, the Leader of Opposition in Tripura and Assam Chief Minister Himanata Biswa Sarma, the architect of the BJP's alliances in the North-East.

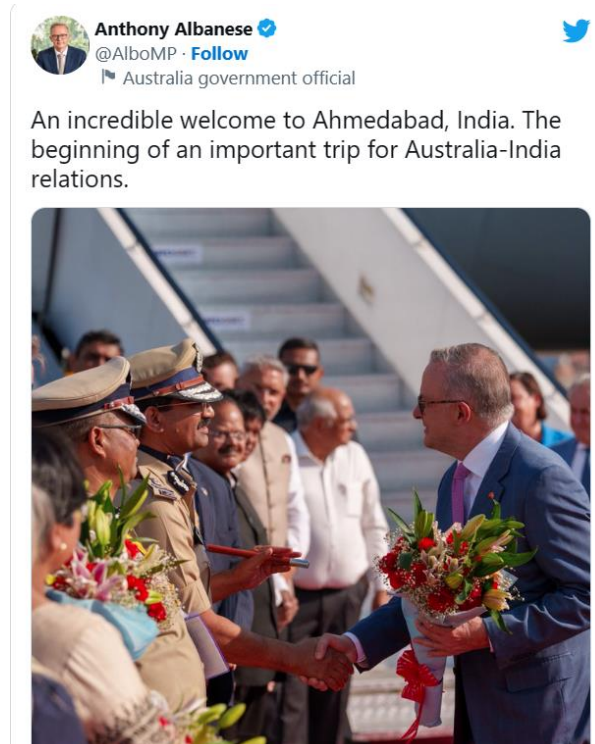
Then he proceeded to Gujarat. He reached Gandhinagar at 8 PM and met Leaders of Gujarat Government and party.



*March 8, 2023: Narendra Modi arrives at Ahmedabad from the North-East*

In the morning he is to be at 10 AM at the Narendrabhai Cricket Stadium located in the Sardar Patel Sports Complex, being built to standards so that in future, it may be able to host Olympic games. Australia's Prime Minister.

March 8, 2023: Ahmedabad: Australia's **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrives on his first State Visit to India:** The Prime Minister was welcomed by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. On arrival, the PM tweeted: An incredible welcome.



Before the Australian PM arrived, Narendra Modi said, "India eagerly awaits the arrival of the Australian PM."

Albanese is accompanied by a delegation of ministers and business leaders.

Albanese visited Sabarmati Ashram on his first visit to India and paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

At 10 AM on Thursday, the Australian PM will be at Narendrabhai Cricket Stadium to watch, jointly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 4<sup>th</sup> Test Match between India and Australia. Thereafter he will visit Mumbai before going to Delhi in the evening. At Delhi, he will participate in the first in-person India-Australia Annual Summit along with Narendra Modi. At the summit, the two leaders will review the progress made under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and plan about new ways to carry forward the Partnership.

The Annual Summits started on June 4, 2020 with a virtual meeting due to Covid -19.

**March 8, 2023: Delhi: Netanyahu wishes Happy Holi to Narendra Modi and the People of India:** Narendrbhai Modi thanked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and wished him and the people of Israel a "Happy Purim. Chag Sameach!".



**Delhi: G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his inaugural address, on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, called on the foreign ministers to find common ground on global issues.



"You are meeting at a time of deep global divisions," Modi said in a video message. "We should not allow issues that we cannot resolve together to come in the way of those we can."

Outlining the failures of the Global system, designed at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Prime Minister said, "Financial crises, climate change, pandemic, terrorism and wars clearly show that global governance has failed in achieving the objectives of the post world war architecture of global governance."

With his focus on the poor of the world, he said several developing countries were struggling with unsustainable debt, while trying to ensure food and energy security for their citizens.

Regarding the issue of Global Warming, he said many poor countries were severely affected by global warming, caused by richer countries.

Drawing attention to the relevance of India's ancient civilization, Modi said, "As you meet in the land of Gandhi and the Buddha, I pray that you will draw inspiration

from India's civilizational ethos to focus not on what divided us but on what unites us.”

On Wednesday evening, a cultural program, centered on the forthcoming Holi Festival was presented for the delegates.



*Wed Evening: Welcoming Guests to #G20FMM  
with a performance centered on the festival of Holi*

Issues for the First session of March 2: strengthening multilateralism and the need for reforms of multilateral bodies such as the UN, food and energy security, and development cooperation.

Issues for the Second session: counter-terrorism and emerging threats, global skill mapping, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

**Note:** 1. Please read a DiGiNews360.com Report on the “Earthquake in Turkey and Syria” at <https://diginews360.com/turkey-syria-earthquake-relief/> of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

2. Please read Background information about India’s G20 Presidency at <https://diginews360.com/backgrounq-info-indias-g20-presidency/>.

On the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting, many bilateral and group meetings took place.

**MEETINGS of the FOREIGN MINISTER of RUSSIA:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met India’s Foreign Minister. Later in the day, Mr. Lavrov met the Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang.



"The G20 meeting has given Russia the opportunity to engage directly with many countries who wish and choose to continue trade with Russia," a Russian official said. Besides meeting Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Lavrov also held talks with counterparts from Turkey, South Africa and Brazil, a senior Indian diplomat overseeing diplomatic engagements on the sidelines of the G20 meeting said.

U.S. SECRETARY of STATE, ANTONY BLINKEN: Blinken travelled to New Delhi after meetings with leaders of five Central Asian countries that used to be ruled by Moscow as part of US efforts to rally the world to oppose Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022.

IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON CHINA: The United States is sounding out close allies about the possibility of imposing new sanctions on China if Beijing provides military support to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to four U.S. officials and other sources.

- The consultations, which are still at a preliminary stage, are intended to drum up support from a range of countries, especially those in the wealthy Group of 7 (G7), to coordinate support for any possible restrictions.

China's role in the Russia-Ukraine war was discussed when President Joe Biden met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the White House on Friday, March 3, 2023.

**Among the challenges the United States faces in putting sanctions on China, the world's second-biggest economy, is its thorough integration in the major economies of Europe and Asia, complicating the talks. U.S. allies from Germany to South Korea are reticent to alienate China.**