

India 'disturbed' by emergency in Maldives

India issued a statement of concern over the growing crisis in the Maldives.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that India is disturbed by the declaration of a state of emergency and also by the suspension of constitutional rights of the people of the Maldives.

The government also criticised the arrest of the Supreme Court Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed and former President Abdul Gayoom adding that it "continues to carefully monitor the situation".

China rejects foreign meddling in Male

Rejecting foreign meddling, China expressed confidence that the escalating political crisis in the Maldives will find a home-grown solution.

According to Chinese Foreign Ministry, the Maldives government and political parties have the wisdom and the capability to deal with the current situation on their own.

China's emphasis on seeking a domestically driven breakthrough follows a call by the former Maldivian President, Mohamed Nasheed, for India's support in the release of political prisoners.

Palestine asks Modi to mediate

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Palestine is "historic" and will be important in the West Asian peace process, according to Palestine officials.

They say "India, now, has a greater role in the political process with the decline of the U.S. role in mediation".

Modi's visit will be at an important juncture when Palestine needs India to interact much more with the region.

Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh to be part of India's tiger census

India's tiger census will see coordination with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh in estimating the territorial spread of the animal in the subcontinent.

While India has engaged with Nepal and Bangladesh in previous tiger counts, this is the first time all countries are uniting in arriving at tiger numbers, particularly in regions with shared borders.

Since 2006, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) — a Union Environment Ministry-funded body — has been tasked with coordinating the tiger estimation exercise.

The once-in-four-years exercise calculated, in 2006, that India had only 1,411 tigers. This rose to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014 in later editions.

The survey — divided into four phases — began last winter and is expected to reveal its findings in early 2019.

The Survey was commissioned by the Union Environment Ministry's National Tiger Conservation Authority.
