

# Army issues Rs 6,500 crore tender for buying 400 howitzers

NEW DELHI, Aug 16 (ANI)

**TO** promote the indigenously designed and developed weapons, the Indian Army issued a tender for buying 400 howitzers from Indian firms on Friday.

Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery is looking to use the expertise of Indian Industry to produce a 155 mm/52 calibre Towed Gun System, which will be lighter, versatile and cater for future technological advancements.

"A tender for buying 400, 155-mm 52-calibre towed artillery gun systems (TAGS) along with towing vehicles from Indian firms under the Buy Indian-IDDMM category has been issued," senior military officials said. "The firms who have received the tender include local defence majors Bharat Forge, Larsen and Toubro,

Adani, and Ordnance Factory Board," they said.

The Indian Army has already issued a tender for buying 307 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) along with one for finding a mounted gun system for its requirements along borders with China and Pakistan.

The Indian Designed, Developed and Manufactured howitzer would mean that it would be totally Indian in all ways. The Army wants the guns to be lighter in weight and easier to deploy in high-altitude areas like the older Bofors guns. The procurement process is part of the Army plan for Mediumisation with indigenous guns and is likely to be completed by the year 2042. In the last decade, four contracts have been concluded for the procurement of a 155 mm howitzer.

# Yunus expands interim Bangladesh Govt by inducting 4 more advisors

■ By Anisur Rahman

DHAKA, Aug 16 (PTI)

THE interim government in Bangladesh led by Chief Advisor Prof Muhammad Yunus was expanded on Friday with four more advisors joining his team of civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders.

The new advisors are Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist, Ali Imam Majumdar, former Cabinet secretary, Muhammad Fouzul

Kabir Khan, former power secretary, and Lt General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury. With these four, the strength of the members – all equivalent to ministers – in interim Government's advisory council rose to 21.

Nobel Laureate Yunus and 13 other advisors were sworn in on August 8, four days after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government last week amid an uprising over government job quota reforms. Two advisors were sworn in on August 11 and one a day after.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oaths to the four new advisors at Bangabhaban, the seat of the government, a presidential palace spokesman told PTI.

They were sworn in a simple ceremony joined by the council of advisers and officials concerned, he said and added, Yunus is expected to allot their portfolios later. Wahiduddin Mahmud, former professor of premier Dhaka University, was an adviser to the 1996 caretaker government.

## Another murder case filed against Hasina

DHAKA, Aug 16 (PTI)

A **MURDER** case was filed against Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday over the death of a teacher, the latest in the string of cases filed against her after her ouster.

The case was filed against Hasina and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader in Bogura. Hasina, 76, fled to India on August 5 after she was forced to resign following a massive protest by students against a quota system in Government jobs.

## Probe starts against Hasina, 9 others for genocide

DHAKA, Aug 15 (PTI)

**BANGLADESH'S** International Crimes Tribunal has started an investigation against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina and nine others on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity that took place from July 15 to August 5 during students' mass movement. A complaint was filed on Wednesday with the investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal.

## Swift action against people attacking minorities: Desh caretaker Govt

DHAKA, Aug 16 (PTI)

**BANGLADESH'S** newly-appointed Home Affairs Ministry advisor has vowed to take swift legal action against those who attack or abuse minorities, stressing that there is no place for violence.

Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain's assurance came during a meet with a delegation from ISKCON Bangladesh at his office in Secretariat on Thursday, the Dhaka 'Tribune' newspaper reported.

## 4th 'Maritime Security Dialogue'

# India, Vietnam discuss enhancing maritime ties

NEW DELHI, Aug 16 (ANI)

**THE** 4th India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 16 August 2024, in Hanoi, Vietnam, during which the two sides discussed enhancing maritime cooperation and maritime law enforcement, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"During the dialogue, the two sides discussed the ways to enhance maritime cooperation in furthering a conducive environment for mutual growth and global well-being," the MEA stated in the release.

The Indian delegation was led by Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary, Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, while the Vietnamese delegation by Trinh Duc Hai, Vice Chairman of the National Boundary Commission.

The two sides reviewed the ongoing cooperation initiatives in the maritime domain and

discussed the avenues to cooperate at various international and regional fora for shared objectives.

They agreed to further strengthen their shared efforts in areas such as Marine Scientific Research, Ocean Economy, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Navy and Coast Guard cooperation and maritime law enforcement.

India and Vietnam have agreed to hold the next round of dialogue in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date, the MEA stated.

Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh visited India earlier this month.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two leaders emphasised the current geo-political realities calling for closer cooperation between New Delhi and Hanoi and agreed to further strengthen the Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in all areas.

# Top J&K cops transferred, Intelligence wing gets new chief

SRINAGAR, Aug 15 (PTI)

IN A major shakeup in the Jammu and Kashmir Police, several senior officers were transferred by the administration on Friday while the Intelligence wing got a new chief. The J&K administration transferred senior police officers with immediate effect.

This came a day after senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat was appointed as Special DG of Jammu and Kashmir Police. He will assume the role of the force's chief following the retirement of R R Swain on September 30.

The developments in the

Union Territory's police force as well as several transfers and posting of officials in the civil administration are seen by many as a precursor to the Assembly election in the Union Territory that has to be held before September 30, a deadline set by the Supreme Court.

"In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Nitish Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 1999) ADGP CID is posted as Head of CID, relieving R R Swain, IPS (AGMUT: 1991) DGP, J&K of the additional charge of the post." In a separate document, the Government ordered the transfer of 12 senior police officers.

# Paetongtarn Shinawatra elected as Thailand's Prime Minister

BANGKOK, Aug 16 (AP)

THAILAND'S Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new Prime Minister on Friday.



Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also became Thailand's second female Prime Minister after her aunt and the country's youngest leader at 37. She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party but was not an elected lawmaker, which was not required for her to be a candidate for Prime Minister. Paetongtarn was the sole nominee and got a majority of the votes in Parliament with the voting ongoing. The last Prime Minister had been removed by the Constitutional Court two days ago over an ethics violation.

# PM Modi calls for 'secular civil code'

■ In his 11th straight address to the nation, Modi also pushed forcefully for 'one nation one election'

NEW DELHI, Aug 16 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi Thursday made an unequivocal pitch for a uniform civil code in the country, asserting that a "secular civil code" in place of the existing "communal" one is the need of the hour.

In his 11th straight address to the nation, his third term's first, from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day, Modi also pushed forcefully for 'one nation one election'.

Frequent elections are an "obstacle" in the country's growth, and every scheme is seen as a consequence of one poll or another happening every few months, he said in his speech on India's 78th Independence Day.

Turning his focus on the unrest in Bangladesh, he voiced India's concerns over the safety of Hindu minorities in the neighbouring country and expressed the hope that normalcy is soon restored there. "We have commitment to peace," he said, asserting that India has always wished well for Bangladesh, and its happiness and prosperity.

In the 98-minute speech, his longest Independence Day speech, Modi asserted that it is India's golden era and a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 awaits the nation. The Prime Minister reiterated his push for ridding Indian politics of casteism and nepotism.

He called for entry into public life of one lakh youngsters with no family ties to politics so that the fresh blood brings in a new mindset that enriches democracy.

The Prime Minister chose the centrepiece annual event to offer his most unambiguous support for a uniform civil code, saying this is also the spirit of the constitution. The Supreme Court has underlined its need many a time, and the dream of the makers of the Constitution should be fulfilled, he said.

"A big section (of society) believes and there is truth in this that the current civil code is in a way a communal civil code. It is a civil code which promotes discrimination. It divides the country along reli-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering from the ramparts of Red Fort on the 78th Independence Day, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI)



gious lines and promotes inequality," Modi said.

"A secular civil code in the country is the need of the hour," he added.

Both a nationwide UCC and 'one nation one election' have been part of successive BJP's manifestos. While some BJP-ruled States are working to roll out a uniform civil code, the Centre has so far not taken any legislative measure for its implementation nationally. The Law Commission had started consultation for it last year.

Modi asserted that India's 140 crore citizens can achieve the goal of a prosperous and developed country if they walk shoulder to shoulder with a united resolve.

He said his Government has worked to break the mindset of living with status quo by rolling out big reforms aimed

at changing the lives of the middle class and the poor.

The commitment to reforms is the blueprint for growth and is not borne of any political compulsion but the dedication to nation first, the PM said.

Modi cautioned citizens against those who cannot digest the country's rise, saying some people cannot think of India's welfare. The country will have to avoid these people who are sunk in the depth of despair, he said.

He said it is the "golden era" for India, especially in global context, and exhorted people to not let go of this opportunity. In his third term, Modi said, he has seen global investors being very keen to invest in India and asked States to come out with a clear policy and to woo them pro-actively.

Only the Central Government cannot do it, as

investments will have to be made in States, the PM said.

He asked over three lakh governance units spread across the country -- from local bodies to districts and States -- to carry out at least two reforms to make people's lives easier.

Pitching for the dignity of citizens, he said nobody should complain they did not get what was due to him.

Underlining the need for modernity and technology in every sector, he said his Government has been working on this and its policies have strengthened every field. Women, he said, have taken leadership role in every sector but expressed concern over atrocities against them.

"I can sense people's anger," he said, adding that speedy justice in such cases is necessary. He said incidents of heinous crimes against women get a lot of publicity but the punishment given to the guilty does not draw the same coverage, which calls for a change.

Over 10 crore new women coming from ordinary backgrounds have become members of self-help groups (SHGs), and their self-reliance bring guarantee for social transformation, he said.

Corporate honchos of Indian

origin are making a name for themselves globally and have enhanced the country's standing, he said, adding that on the other hand over one crore women have become "lakhpati didi". "This is a matter of equal pride for me."

## India leads by example, inspires Maldives: Minister

THE Foreign Minister of the Maldives Moosa Zameer on Friday said India has emerged as the world's largest and most diverse democracy that leads by example inspiring many countries, including his country. Reflecting on the long-standing partnership between Maldives and India, which, he said, is "rooted in its people and strengthened through our active bilateral cooperation," Zameer reiterated the firm commitment of President Dr Mohammad Muizzu's Government "to strengthen and deepen" the robust relationship between our two countries "for the mutual benefit of our people."

Zameer was speaking as a chief guest at a function on the 78th Independence Day of India here.

# Father of Agni missile

## R N Agarwal no more



HYDERABAD, Aug 16 (PTI)

**R N AGARWAL**, regarded as the 'father of Agni missiles' in the country, passed away here.

He was 84.

Agarwal, a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, died on Thursday following mild old-age related ailments, DRDO sources said.

He had served as the Agni programme Director and also as the Director of ASL (Advanced Systems Laboratory) in Hyderabad.

Former President A P J Abdul Kalam and 'Missile Man' of  
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# 3-phase J&K polls from Sept 18

## Haryana polls on Oct 1; RESULTS on Oct 4

NEW DELHI, Aug 16 (PTI)

**ASSEMBLY** elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir after nearly a decade in three phases from September 18, setting the stage for the people of the Union Territory to elect a Government after the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019.

The Election Commission also announced that elections to the 90-member Haryana Assembly will be held on October 1 and results for both the polls will be declared on October 4.

The three-phase elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a press conference in the presence of Election Commissioners Gyanesh

Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

Kumar said Assembly elections in Maharashtra, which were held along with Haryana

He said four elections are due this year and by early next year and since Jammu and Kashmir was not in the picture last time (2019-20) the

Besides Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, elections are due in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

Kumar said the next set of



in 2019, will be announced later due to security requirements for Jammu and Kashmir.

Commission decided to group two Assembly elections together.

elections will be announced after the completion of the polls  
(Contd on page 5)

### J&K schedule

#### Phase 1

Sept 18 --24 seats

#### Phase 2

Sept 25 --26 seats

#### Phase 3

Oct 1 --40 seats