Israeli army chief to resign over huge security breach in Hamas' Oct 7 attack

Jerusalem: Israel's army chief Herzi Halevi said on Tuesday he would resign on March 6, taking responsibility for the massive security lapse on Oct. 7, 2023, when Palestinian Hamas gunmen from Gaza carried out a cross-border attack on Israel.

Halevi, who had been widely expected to step down in the wake of the deadliest single day in Israel's history, said he would complete the Israel Defence Forces' inquiries into Oct. 7 and strengthen the IDF's readiness for security challenges. It was not immediately clear who would replace Halevi, who said he would transfer the IDF command to a yet-to-be-named successor.

"On the morning of Oct. 7, the IDF failed in its mission to protect the citizens of Israel," Halevi wrote in his resignation

8 killed in Israeli raid in West Bank

West Bank city of Jenin on Tuesday, killing at least eight
Palestinians in what PM Benjamin Netanyahu called a "large-scale
and significant military operation". The action, launched a day after
US President Donald Trump declared he was lifting sanctions on
ultranationalist Israeli settlers who attacked Palestinian villages,
was announced by Netanyahu as a new offensive against
Iranian-backed militants. "We are acting resolutely against the
Iranian axis wherever it extends its arms — in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria,
Yemen and Judea and Samaria," Netanyahu said. REUTERS

letter to defence minister Israel Katz. Israel, he added, paid a heavy price in terms of human lives and those kidnapped and wounded in "body and soul."

"My responsibility for the terrible failure accompanies me every day, hour by hour, and will do so for the rest of my life," said Halevi.

Haleví was often criticised by hardliners in Netanyahu's govt including finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, who said his conduct of the war in Gaza was too soft. Smotrich praised Halevi for shattering Hamas' military capabilities but blamed him for the Oct. 7 failure.

Halevisaid Israel's military successes since Oct 7 had "changed West Asia," regaining regional dominance and strong public support. REUTERS

■ US Exits WHO & Paris Accord In A Flash ■ 'Nat'l Emergency' At Southern Border, Troops To Block Illegal Entry From Mexico Global Warning As rumpage Begins

Birth Citizenship Curbed; Indians On Temp Visa, In Green Card Queue To Be Hit

Lubna Kably TNN

S President Donald Trump began his second term with a flurry of executive orders that sent shock waves across the world. One, in particular, left many members of the Indian diaspora in the US stunned, as it seeks to revoke birthright citizenship, by which children born in the US to non-citizen parents get automatic citizenship.

The order, titled 'Protec-

Bar & a Bill: Fears of sweeping visa bans

he executive order to remowe all aliens who enter or remain in violation of USfederal law, taken together with the Laken Riley Bill, which may soon be passed by the Senate and enacted, has sparked fears that there would be sweeping visa bans if countries do not cooperate in taking back their citizens who are illegal immi-grants in the US. P20

ting the meaning and value of American citizenship', flies in the face of the guarantee, rooted in common law and enshrined in the Constitution for more than 150 y ars, that anyone born in the United States is automatically an American citizen

In his order, Trump said he would interpret the 14th Amendment differently than had been done in the past, ar-guing that it "has never been interpreted to extend citizenship universally to everyone

born within the United States." Federal agencies have be en directed not to issue citizenship documents to such children, starting in 30 days

TOI had predicted this pl-an of action in its Nov 7, 2024 edition. However, many believed that Trump's speeches on the campaign trail about ending 'citizenship by birth' would apply only to children of illegal immigrants, and that documented (legal) immigrants like H-1B holders, or those on other work visas like L (intracompany), or even an F (student), would not be impacted.

But now, over a million In-dians who are in a decades-long queue for an employmentlinked green card will be impa cted. A child born in a family (30 days from date of order) where the mother is in the US lawfully but temporarily (as a visitor or on a non-immigrant visa for instance) and the fat-

FULL COVERAGE: P 20-21, 23 EDIT PG: Dunki Danger; Green, Baby, Green

her is not a green card holder or US citizen will not get automatic American citizenship.

An Pew Research analysis of the US Census (2022) found the US was home to 4.8 million Indian Americans, of whom 34%, or 1.6 million, were born in the country. Currently, those children who are not born in the US and whose families are caught in the green-card backlog have to self deport on turning 21 or opt for another visa.

▶Continued on P 20



18 states, rights groups go to court

emocratic-led states and civil rights groups have filed lawsuits challenging Trump's executive orders. A coa lition of 18 states along with the District of Columbia and city of San Francisco filed a lawsuit in federal court in Boston calling the order barring birthright citizenship a flagrant violation of the US Constitution P20

Trump pardons 1,500 Capitol rioters

resident Trump Monday pardoned, commuted the prison sentences or vowed to dismiss the cases of 1,500 sup-porters who attacked the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, including those convicted of assaulting police officers. Around 140 police officers were assaulted during the attack. The supporters will start leaving prison on Tuesday P 20

'OECD tax deal has no force in US'

rump declared that a global corporate minimum tax deal "has no force" in the US, pulling America out of the landmark 2021 OECD arrangement negotiated by the Biden administration with 140 countries. He also sought 'protective measures" aga inst countries with tax rules that disproportionately affect American companies. P23

'Dear friends' Putin and Xi get on call

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Calling themselves "dear friends", Russian Presi-dent Vladimir Putin and Chi nese President Xi Jinping spoke on video call for an hour and 35 minutes on Tuesday, discussing how to build ties with Trump, prospect for a peace deal to end the wa in Ukraine and Moscow firm support for Beijing's p sition on Taiwan. P21

World Bank expert vindicated our stand on Indus pact. India

'In Touch With Pak To Modify, Review Treaty'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India on Tuesday welcomed the ruling by the World Bank-appointed neutral expert that said differences between India and Pakistan over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power projects in J&K fall within his competence under the Indus Waters Treaty.

Govt sees this as a vindication of its stand and interpretation of the treaty as it does not recognise or participate in the parallel and "illegally constituted" court of arbitration proceedings being carried out at Pakistan's request.

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In an official statement on the neutral expert's decision, govt also said it remains in touch with Pakistan for the modification and review of the IWT. India had last year cited cross-border terrorism as one of the reasons for seeking a review of the treaty.

"India welcomes the decision given by the neutral expert under Paragraph 7 of Annexure F to the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. The decision upholds and vindicates India's stand that all seven questions that were referred



India was upset after Pakistan unilaterally sought a parallel process to address the issue despite World Bank asking both to tackle it mutually

to the neutral expert, in relation to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects, are differences falling within his competence under the treaty," govt said.

India was upset that despite the World Bank asking both countries to find a mutually agreeable way to look into Pakistan's objections to the projects, Islamabad had unilaterally sought a parallel process to address the issue. Govt said it has been India's "consistent and principled" position that the neutral expert alone has the competence under the treaty to decide these differences.

"Having upheld his own competence, which comports

with India's view, the neutral expert will now proceed to the next (merits) phase of his proceeding. This phase will culminate in a final decision on the merits of each of the seven differences," it said.

"Being committed to preserving the sanctity and integrity of the treaty, India will continue to participate in the neutral expert process so that the differences are resolved in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Treaty, which does not provide for parallel proceedings on the same set of issues. For this reason, India does not recognize or participate in the illegally constituted Court of Arbitration proceeding."

DRDO tests key tech for next-gen hypersonic missiles

New Delhi: In a step towards developing next-generation hypersonic missiles, DRDO has conducted the successful test of an active cooled combustor of a scramjet engine on the ground for 120 seconds for the first time in the

first time in the country.

Hypersonic missiles, which fly at speeds greater than Mach 5 or five times the speed of sound, have become a major focus area for major military powers, given their capability to defeat existing missile and air defence systems due to super-fast speeds, high-manoeuvrability and low altitudes of flight.

DRDO lab Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) recently demonstrated the active cooled scramjet combustor on the ground for 120 seconds. "The achievement marks a crucial milestone in the development of next-generation hypersonic missiles," defence minister Rajnath Singh said.

A DRDO official said, "Several nations including the US, Russia, China and India are actively pursuing hypersonic technology. The key is scramjets, which are airbreathing engines capable of sustaining combustion at supersonic speeds without using any moving parts." "The ground test showcased several notable achievements, demonstrating its potential for operational use in hypersonic vehicles, like successful ignition and stable combustion. Ignition in a scramjet engine is like 'keeping a candle lit in a hurricane'," he added.

The indigenous development of endothermic scramjet fuel, jointly by DRDL and the industry, is central to this breakthrough. The fuel offers dual benefits of significant cooling improvement and ease of ignition. TNN

No confirmation of participation of Indians in Russian forces: Ukraine

Rudroneel Ghosh

week after news that an Indian citizen from Kerala, Binil TB, died fighting for Russian forces in the Ukraine war, Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, told TOI Kyiv had no confirmation of the participation of Indians in Russian forces. Speaking to Indian journalists virtually from Kyiv, Yermak acknowledged that citizens of other nations had been duped into fighting for Russia in the war. "We know about North Koreans. It is public. We know about Cubans. Unfortunately, these people are lied to and then they appeared in Russia. When we have confirmation that some citizens of another country participated on the side of Russia, we have worked very properly, very openly through diplomatic channels and informed the respective country it's not right. It's against good relations between countries."

Binil and others like him were either promised jobs in Europe or were put onto employment in Russia's military support services by middlemen. At a press briefing last week, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said there were 126 cases of Indians serving in the Russian army, of which 96 had been discharged and returned to India. However, 12 Indians serving in the Russian forces have died in the ongoing war and the whereabouts of 16 others are not known.

Yermak also sought India's support in bringing back Ukrainian children forcibly deported by Russia. According to Kyiv, around 20,000 children had been forcibly taken from Russian-occupied territories, separated from their relatives, and pushed into Russia's vast foster-care and adoption system. "I think it's possible to increase the pressure on Russia and to find new strategies to bring the kids back. The children have to be back any conditions. without President Zelenskyy discussed with Prime Minister Modi this issue, and he said that India is ready to participate, and Indians are ready to be involved in this process to help to bring back Ukrainian children."

EAM to hold talks with new US secy of state after Quad meet

Washington: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will hold his first bilateral meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar here later Tuesday.

Jaishankar is here at the invitation of the US govt to attend the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th president of

the United States.

"Secretary Rubio meets with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at the Department of State," the State Department said, releasing the schedule of the secretary of state on the first day as the top American diplomat. The meeting between the two diplomats representing the world's oldest and largest democracies will take place at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department, after the first QUAD ministerial in the same building. "Secretary Rubio meets with Indo-Pacific Quad Foreign Ministers at the Department of State," said the advisory. A US Senator from Florida from Jan 3, 2011, to Jan 20, 2025, Rubio is considered hawkish with regard to China. He is banned from entering China, which sanctioned him twice in 2020.