

Prohibitory orders in 3 Manipur distts

Students protest demanding restoration of peace in State



Security personnel stand guard during students' protest, in Imphal, on Tuesday.

(PTI)

IMPHAL, Sept 10 (PTI)

PROHIBITORY orders were imposed in three districts of Manipur, a day after student protests demanding the restoration of peace in the

Tails of sophisticated rockets recovered after drone, hi-tech missile attacks

Forces resort to tear gas shells as student and women demonstrators clashed with security forces

strife-torn State rocked Imphal Valley.

An indefinite curfew, preventing people from coming outside their houses, was clamped in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS were imposed in Thoubal.

"Due to the developing law and order situation in the district, earlier orders of curfew relaxation stand cancelled with immediate effect from 11 am of September 10. Hence, there is total curfew in Imphal East district with immediate effect until further orders," an order issued by the district magistrate said.

(Contd on page 5)

Bullet train project

Installation of noise barriers underway

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (ANI)

IN A significant development, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) which is overseeing the ambitious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, on Tuesday said that the installation of noise barriers is underway.

These noise barriers are installed to mitigate the noise that will be generated by the train and civil structure during operations. As of September 10, the noise barriers have been installed over a stretch of 87.5 km with more than 1,75,000 noise

barriers having been installed in Gujarat, said a press release from NHSRCL. For a stretch of 1 km, around 2000 noise barriers are installed on either side of the viaduct while three precast factories for manufacturing of noise barriers have been established in Surat, Anand and Ahmedabad. The press release said, "For a stretch of 1 km, 2000 number of noise barriers are installed on either side of the viaduct. Three precast factories for this modular element have been established in Surat, Anand and Ahmedabad for the manufacturing of noise barriers."

Over 250 chip firms from 24 nations to participate in 'Semicon India 2024' from September 11-13

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (IANS)

MORE than 250 companies from 24 countries are set to participate in the 'Semicon India 2024' event in Greater Noida from September 11-13, showing the country's growing presence in this critical sector, the Government has said.

According to the Ministry of Electronics and IT, these companies span the entire semiconductor supply chain, from equipment manufacturers to fabs, presenting a significant opportunity for business-to-business interaction and forging new partnerships.

Akash Tripathi, CEO of the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM) said the mega event will provide a platform for all major semiconductor supply chain players. "In India, with the ongoing construction of the five semiconductor projects, the need for all ecosystem com-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mos Jitin Prasada and executives after chairing the Semiconductor Executives' roundtable ahead of the Semicon India, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

ponents is paramount. 'Semicon India 2024' provides the perfect environment for the business-to-business interactions and partnerships to take place," Tripathi noted. "Our first major project with Micron was approved at nearly Rs 22,000 crore, and Tata's joint venture with Taiwan's

Powerchip in Dholera is another shining example," Tripathi said. Currently, there are five such proposals, with a total combined investment nearing Rs 1.52 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, the US has announced a new partnership with India to explore semiconductor supply chain oppor-

tunities.

Asserting that democracy and technology together can ensure the welfare of humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India has the capability to become a trusted partner in a diversified semiconductor supply chain and assured that the government will follow a predictable and stable policy regime.

Prime Minister Modi stated this while chairing the Semiconductor Executives' Roundtable at his residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. During the meeting, he said that their ideas will not only shape their business but also India's future.

Stressing that the coming time will be technology-driven, Modi said semiconductor is the basis of the digital age and the day is not far when the semiconductor industry will be the bedrock for even basic necessities.



INDIA'S INDO-PACIFIC PUSH

*"India supports development, not expansionism."
-PM Narendra Modi
in Brunei*

■ BY LT GENERAL M K DAS,
PVSM, SM**, VSM (RETD)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi visited Brunei on September 4-5 and followed it up with a visit to Singapore on September 5-6. Mr. Modi is the first Indian PM to visit Brunei on a bilateral diplomatic engagement. The strategic importance of the visit to both the countries can be gauged by the fact that NSA Mr. Ajit Doval and Mr. S. Jaishankar, the EAM accompanied the PM. The visit has to be analysed through the prism of India's Act East Policy, engagement with ASEAN and most importantly, India's role in Indo-Pacific region.

Brunei is a small nation in Southeast Asia, located on the island of Borneo. It is bordered by Malaysia on all sides except the north where it has South China Sea. With a population of under 5 lakh people, it is known for its abundant oil and gas reserves, making it second richest country in Southeast Asia after Singapore. Singapore is the smallest country in the Southeast Asia, measuring just 710 sq km.

China has staked claims to the maritime territory of Brunei in South China Sea along with similar claims with other littoral nations. Therefore, the timing of PM's visit to Brunei is significant. Besides the issues of LNG imports and other areas of economic cooperation, both the countries renewed Space cooperation agreement. In a veiled reference to China, PM Modi reiterated support for development and not expansionism. The two countries also discussed ways to strengthen defence cooperation to tackle emerging security challenges. The most important outcome of PM's visit was calling for a Code of Conduct for the region on the issue of sovereignty and violations at sea. China would have got the import of this joint statement.

PM Modi's visit to Singapore was marked by agreements on semi-conductors, digital technologies, health and skill development. The MOU on an India-Singapore Semi-conductor Ecosystem Partnership is an important step to reduce dependency on China and Taiwan.

The Indo-Pacific region covers the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean. Indo-Pacific region is world's fastest growing area and obviously has the maximum interest of USA and China. The region is home to about 55% of the world population and accounts for 60% of the global GDP. Economically, it is the fastest growing region which accounts for two third of global economic growth.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sultan of Brunei, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah shake hands during PM Modi's recent visit to Brunei. (ANI file photo)

Singapore is the richest economy in ASEAN and has the ability to influence decisions in favour of India. But the diplomats and strategic experts must be watching the visit of PM Modi to both the countries in the context of Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific region covers the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean. Indo-Pacific region is world's fastest growing area and obviously has the maximum interest of USA and China. The region is home to about 55% of the world population and accounts for 60% of the global GDP. Economically, it is the fastest growing region which accounts for two third of global economic growth. India, China, Australia, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, New Zealand, Maldives, Bangladesh are some of the key Indo-Pacific nations. India has been a late starter in the affairs of Indo-Pacific but has picked up pace under Modi 3.0 Government.

As the lone super power, the US has dominated the

affairs of the Indo-Pacific region for a long time. The US has huge military presence in the region in terms of military bases, deployment of aircraft carrier ships and bilateral/regional security groupings. The US hegemony has now been challenged by China, beginning with its belligerence in South China Sea. In the South China sea, continuous friction with countries like Philippines is happening and the naval vessels have come close to formal attack. Economically, China dominates the ASEAN block and through them desires to dominate the Indo-Pacific. It is to counter Chinese domination in the region that the US is supporting India more actively now. India and US have made significant progress in operationalising the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), a Quad initiative comprising of India, US, Australia and Japan. China as expected has expressed its annoyance at this agreement.

The strategic vision in the foreign policy domain of Modi 1.0 government in 2015 was unveiling of 'Security and Growth for

All in the Region' (SAGAR) Vision to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). SAGAR Vision has worked better for India as an emerging player in the Global South. 'Project Sagarmala' has been able to revitalise the ports which are involved in maritime trade in the Bay of Bengal and IOR. To some extent, India has provided a good alternative to China's Maritime Silk Route. India has slowly started asserting itself in the South China Sea. The participation of three Indian Naval Ships to carry out maritime drills with Singapore Navy in the month of May 24 is one such example. India has assisted Philippines with BrahMos missiles which has not been liked by China. It is hoped that that the Indian leadership has taken a well-considered decision to flex its muscles against China which has world's largest navy at 370 ships and submarines. In comparison, India Navy has 132 warships. Indian Navy is aiming to be a major blue water force and has placed orders for 68 more warships worth Rs 2 lakh crores. But acquisition of naval power is always a time-consuming process. But overall, the new aggressive strategy of Indian diplomacy appears to be working well.

To be a global player in the international affairs, particularly in the leadership role of Global South, India has to acquire the capability to intervene militarily in order to protect the strategic interests. India does not change its stated policy of non-expansionism but the defence forces have to be prepared for the new security challenges, which not necessarily are confined to the land and maritime borders.

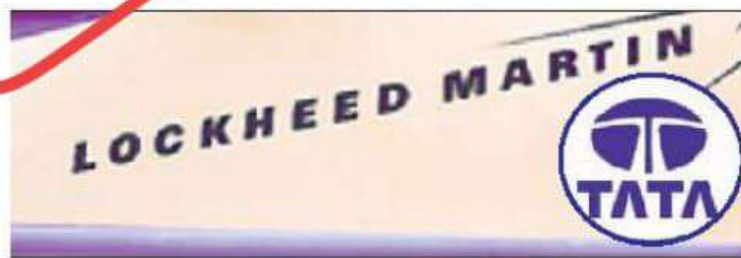
India's trade with Indo-Pacific region countries would be key to emerge as the third largest economy by the year 2030. The vision of a developed India @ Viksit Bharat by 2047 would also be contingent on our ability to shape and influence the affairs in the Indo-Pacific region. The visit of PM Modi and the outcomes are likely to determine the growth trajectory of India as a responsible regional and effective global power.

Lockheed Martin, Tata Advanced Systems to expand C-130J Super Hercules opportunities in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

US DEFENCE major Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd on Tuesday announced a teaming agreement to expand on their engagement through the C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlifter project.

The announcement, being seen as a significant step in enhancing India's defence and aerospace capabilities, came weeks after Defence Minister Rajnath



Singh travelled to the US during which both sides vowed to further boost overall defence ties. This agreement provides a framework for collaboration on future potential business opportunities

that include establishing a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India to support the Indian Air Force's (IAF) existing fleet of 12 C-130Js as well as other global Super Hercules

fleets.

The pact will also provide for expanding C-130J manufacturing and assembly in India to produce aircraft for the IAF's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) programme, subject to US and Indian Government approvals, the Tata Advanced Systems said.

The IAF is actively seeking to acquire up to 80 medium transport aircraft and issued a request for information (RFI) or initial tender last year.

BSF's word

'Borders fully secure, will not allow terrorists to disturb J&K elections'

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, Sept 10
(PTI)

COUNTER-INFILTRATION measures have been put in place along the borders to ensure that terrorists don't infiltrate and disturb the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, a top BSF officer said on Tuesday.

Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu frontier, D K Boora was speaking to reporters in Bhaderwah area of Doda district which along with six other districts covering a total of 24 Assembly segments in south Kashmir and Chenab valley region of Jammu is going to polls in the first phase on September 18.

"The borders are completely secure as the BSF in coordi-

nation with sister agencies, including police, have taken all necessary counter-infiltration measures. I want to assure everyone that no such activity (infiltration of terrorists from across the border) will be allowed during the election process," the BSF officer said.

He said the BSF is capable of dealing with any situation and will play its role in ensuring the conduct of free and fair elections. "The BSF is an able force and you will find our troops deployed more in difficult terrain as they are capable of dealing with any type of situation and do their job bravely. The BSF is deployed here (in Chenab valley) for safe conduct of the elections," Boora said. Referring to recent terror incidents in Doda and Kishtwar

districts, the BSF officer said the commanders on the ground are aware of some incidents and are conducting their activities in a tactical way to sanitise the whole area, and "I am hopeful that no untoward incident will happen during elections".

Earlier, the BSF IG reviewed election security at a meeting with 20 commanding officers of the force whose units are deployed across all the three districts, informing that traces of militancy were found in this area in the recent past. "They (terrorists) are not in large numbers but since the area has vast forest cover, they are getting an opportunity to survive," he said, asking his men to be alert and foil any nefarious design of the terrorists.

Russia, Ukraine have to negotiate: Jaishankar

'India willing to give advice if they want'

BERLIN, Sept 10 (PTI)

UNDERLINING that the Ukraine conflict cannot be resolved on the battlefield, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that Russia and Ukraine have to negotiate, and if they want advice, India is always willing to give.

Jaishankar made the comments while responding to questions at the Annual Ambassadors' Conference of the German Foreign Office in Berlin, a day after he held a "useful conversation" with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the margins of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting in the Saudi capital. "We don't think this conflict is going to be resolved on the battlefield. At some stage, there's going to be some negotiation. When there is a negotiation, the main parties - Russia and Ukraine - have to be at that negotiation," he said.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Russia and Ukraine, he said the Indian leader has said in Moscow and Kyiv that this is not an era of war. "We don't think you're going to get a solution out of the battlefield. We think you've got to negotiate... If you want advice, we are always willing to give it..." he said, adding countries have differences but



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with German Foreign Minister A Baerbock at a meeting in Berlin. (PTI)

conflicts are not a good way to resolve them. In his interaction, Jaishankar also said that the Quad has been a very successful experiment.

India is a member of QUAD - a four-member strategic security dialogue that also includes the US, Japan and Australia. China regards Quad as an alliance aimed at containing its rise and is bitterly critical of the grouping.

He said India, the US, Japan and Australia located at four different corners decided to work together. "And that's how we revived the Quad. It one of the major diplomatic platforms to which India is committed..." he said.