

MoD seals Rs 313 cr deal for upgrading INS Beas

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Monday signed a Rs 313 crore contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for mid-life “upgrade and re-powering” of frontline frigate INS Beas.

The Ministry said the “transformative maiden re-powering” project marks a significant stride in the maintenance philosophy of the Indian Navy and repair capabilities of CSL.

“The Ministry of Defence signed a contract on October 16 in New Delhi for mid-life upgrade and re-powering of INS Beas with Kochi-based M/S Cochin Shipyard Limited at an overall cost of Rs 313.42 crore,” it said.

INS Beas is the first of Brahmaputra class frigates to be re-powered from steam to diesel propulsion.

“After completion of the mid-life upgrade and re-powering in 2026, INS Beas will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with a modernised weapon suite and upgraded combat capability,” the ministry said in a statement.

“The transformative maiden re-powering project marks a significant stride in the maintenance philosophy of the Indian Navy and repair capabilities of M/S CSL,” it said. “The project would involve more than 50 MSMEs and would lead to generation of employment for more than 3,500 personnel,” the Ministry said.

PM Modi to inaugurate Global Maritime India Summit today

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the three-day Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), which will be held in Mumbai, via video-conferencing on Tuesday and unveil "Amrit Kaal Vision 2047", a long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime economy

His office said the blueprint outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration.

In line with this futuristic plan, the prime minister will inaugurate, dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than Rs 23,000 crore, that are aligned with this vision for the Indian



maritime blue economy, the statement said. Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, to be built at a cost of more than Rs 4,500 crore at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.

This state-of-the-art green-field terminal will be developed in PPP mode.

It is likely to emerge as an international trade hub and will handle next-gen vessels exceeding 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and will act as a gateway for Indian

trade via the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), it said.

Over 300 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than Rs 7 lakh crore for global and national partnership in the maritime sector will also be unveiled during the programme. The summit will be the biggest maritime event in the country, the statement said, adding it will witness participation of ministers from across the globe, representing Europe, Africa, South America and Asia (including central Asia, Middle East and BIM-STEAC region). The summit will also be attended by global CEOs, business leaders, investors, officials, and other stakeholders from across the world. Several Indian states will also be represented, it said.

Israel President reveals shocking details of Hamas terror tactics

■ Hamas booklet found on the body of a Palestinian terrorist titled "The Warrior's Guide: Jihadi Version" outlines Hamas' torture tactics, which include creating chaos, intimidating captives, and using tactics such as electric shocks and even live executions

TEL AVIV, Oct 16 (ANI/TPS)

ISRAEL President Isaac Herzog revealed a disturbing Hamas booklet found on the body of a Palestinian terrorist killed in one of the Gaza-area communities on Sunday.

"This booklet is an operating manual, how to enter citizens' yards, kibbutz, city,

moshav, how to break in there. And first -- and what do you do when you find the citizens? You torture them. This is the booklet that says exactly how to torture them, how to kidnap them," Herzog told CNN's Wolf Blitzer. In a copy of the guide provided for the press, the manual -- titled "The Warrior's Guide: Jihadi Version" -- outlines tactics, which include creating chaos, intimidating captives, and using tactics such as electric shocks and even live executions.

The eight-page guide instructs the kidnappers to utilise captives as human shields if attacked, regardless of their religion, race, or gender. The hostages should be "killed when necessary," especially if there is any sign of revolt among them, it said, while instructed terrorists to document their actions live.

Many of the terrorists wore GoPro cameras and their

footage was uploaded to social media. The manual also detailed the use of other tactics to assert control over seized territory, including suicide bombings, car bombings, ambushes and sniper fire. The manual also instructed terrorists to seize the identification documents of their captives and accurately document their personal information.

It also featured an illustrative chart that laying out the Israel Defence Force's hierarchical structure, along with its armaments and electronic assets in surprising detail.

"It's simply an ideology from ISIS that calls for Israel to be wiped off the face of the earth, and therefore Hamas must be wiped off the face of the earth," Herzog said.

During the attack on Israeli border communities, the terrorists killed more than 1,300 people, most of them civilians, and took at least 199 hostages.

Jaishankar, Vietnam's top leadership discuss cooperation in key sectors



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar calls on Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in Hanoi on Monday. (ANI)

HANOI, Oct 16 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met Vietnam's top leadership and discussed ways to boost bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, energy, defence and maritime security while also sharing perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, amidst China's aggressive behaviour in the strategic region. Jaishankar, who arrived here on a four-day official visit to Vietnam on Sunday, called on Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Honoured to call on PM Pham

Minh Chinh of Vietnam today evening. Conveyed the greetings of PM @narendramodi. Valued his guidance for the further development of our bilateral relationship. A stronger India-Vietnam partnership contributes to a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific," he said in a post on platform X. Earlier, Jaishankar met his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son and discussed ways to boost cooperation in areas like trade, energy, defence and maritime security while also sharing perspectives on the Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar and Son also unveiled commemorative stamps celebrating 50 years of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Vietnam.

"Stamps depicting Kalaripayattu and Vovinam capture our shared affinity for sports and celebrate the strong cultural, social & people-to-people links between India and Vietnam," he posted on X. The two leaders co-chaired the 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission meeting in Hanoi.

"Our discussions covered cooperation in political, defence & maritime security, judicial, trade & investment, energy, development, education & training, science & technology, cultural domains," Jaishankar said.

"Convinced that our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will only further strengthen over the coming years. Also shared perspectives on the Indo-Pacific region, our commitment to global issues and our collaboration in various multilateral groupings," he said.

No space for militancy on our soil: Bangladesh Army officer

UMROI (Meghalaya), Oct 16 (PTI)

A SENIOR Bangladesh Army officer, Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Mohammed Aizizul Haque Hazary, on Monday said there is no space for militancy on the soil of Bangladesh and the country has never been a safe haven for militants.

Hazary, the General Officer Commanding of 17 Division and the Area Commander of Sylhet Area, is here leading a contingent of the Army from the neighbouring country to participate in the Indo-Bangladesh joint training exercise. "Bangladesh was never a safe haven

(for militants). There is no space for militancy on Bangladeshi soil. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has repeatedly said that. Both countries have military cooperation sharing Intelligence and at the state level also there is good cooperation," Maj Gen Hazary told PTI. He said Bangladesh and India are on the same page when it comes to militancy. "The Bangladesh Army is combat ready to minimise and neutralise any threat from militants," he said.

The theme of the joint exercise is negating the menace of terrorism, the Indian Army officer said.

Food inflation likely to remain elevated, seen above 6% in H2

**PRIYANSH VERMA &
SANDIP DAS**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

A SHARP decline in tomato prices may have caused the headline CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation to plunge to 5.02 per cent in September from 6.83 per cent in August, but risks to food prices still persist, and experts see retail-food inflation staying above the 6 per cent-mark in the second half of the current fiscal year.

An erratic monsoon and low reservoir levels are likely to have moderately adverse impact on yields of several crops, including paddy, pulses, oilseeds, and spices, which may keep inflationary pressures elevated in the near-term.

In the south-west monsoon period, which ended in September, rainfall has been particularly weak in east and north-east India, followed by south India. The total rainfall received in June to September was 94.4 per cent of the bench mark - long-period average (LPA), or 'below normal'.

An above-6 per cent food inflation in H2 poses upside risk to Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 5.4 per cent for FY24, as prices of crude oil and other commodities, as witnessed in the September WPI data, have started to rise again which may put pressure on core CPI inflation.

According to the data released last week, the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) inflation fell to a three-month low of 6.56



Inflation in food articles eased to 3.35%. *File*

per cent in September on the back of a crash in tomato prices, but the inflation rate of cereals, spices and pulses remained in double digits. The CFPI comprises 39 per cent of the Consumer Price Index.

The inflation of 'cereals and products' eased to 10.95 per cent in September from 11.85 per cent in August, but stayed in the double digit territory for the 12th consecutive month. The inflation of 'pulses and products' rose to 16.38 per cent from 13.04 per cent, and that of 'spices' remained largely flat at 23.06 per cent. Collectively, these three subgroups constitute 15 per cent of the CPI basket.

"The September inflation narrative was similar to August. The perishable food items are reversing their gains sharply, while non-perishables are showing signs of persistence," said Madhavi Arora, lead economist, Emkay Global. **FE**

WPI still in negative zone for 6th month

New Delhi: Wholesale Price Index (WPI) remained in the negative zone for the sixth consecutive month in September, but the deflation came in at the lowest rate in the month. The inflation rate was (-)0.26 per cent in September as compared to (-)0.52 per cent in August, according to data released by the Office of Economic Adviser on Monday.

The deflationary print in September was primarily on account of the statistical effect of high base— in September 2022, WPI inflation was at 10.55 per cent—and continued moderation of vegetable prices.

On a month-on-month basis, the overall WPI index declined by 0.6 per cent, the steepest pace in four months.

"The decline in WPI for September can be attributed to a substantial deceleration in food prices and the continued YoY contraction in fuel prices and manufactured products prices," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist, CareEdge. **FE**

South Korea to hold its largest defence show to boost global sales

JOSH SMITH

SEONGNAM, OCTOBER 16

SOUTH KOREA will kick off its largest-ever defence exhibition this week, as the country seeks to turbocharge its arms sales and showcase a rare appearance by a US nuclear-capable bomber.

The biennial Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX) opens its doors on Tuesday, with organisers saying there will be more companies than ever and an unprecedented flyby from a US B-52 bomber, which will make a rare landing at an airbase elsewhere on the peninsula.

This year's show is designed to help South Korea to reach its goal of becoming the world's fourth-largest arms exporter, Lee Jong-ho, chief of the organising office, told a briefing on Monday.

More than 450 senior de-

fence officials from 54 countries are expected to attend, along with hundreds of thousands of other professionals and members of the public, he said.

"This is an opportunity for Korea's defence industry to draw international attention and take a giant leap forward," Lee said.

The Korean government has set a goal of reaching \$20 billion in defence exports this year after sealing a record \$17.3 billion in arms sales last year, including huge deals with Poland for tanks, howitzers, warplanes, and rockets.

South Korea has been roughly ninth in the world for defence exports in recent years, but President Yoon Suk Yeol has called for it to improve.

At a South Korean military airbase in Seoul Monday, exhibitors made final preparations as participants in early events wandered among Korean and US military vehicles and warplanes. **REUTERS**

Blinken in Tel Aviv ahead of Biden's possible visit

TEL AVIV, Oct 16 (ANI)

UNITED States Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel on Monday, the second time within a few days, to pledge support for the country as it prepares a major military offensive in Gaza, the *Washington Post* reported.

Blinken who was in Israel on Thursday returned to the country after a tour. The visit comes amid reports that PM Benjamin Netanyahu invited Biden to Israel, the US daily reported.



NO CEASEFIRE: ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct 16 (ANI)

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Monday denied reports that it has agreed to halt fire in southern Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to enter through the Rafah border crossing, The Times of Israel reported.

A terse statement from

Netanyahu's office stated, "At the moment there is no ceasefire for humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip and the exit of foreigners," according to *The Times of Israel* report.

Taking to X, Israel's Prime Minister's office stated, "The Prime Minister's Office, this morning: There is no ceasefire."

Army plans to start 'Chanakya Defence Dialogue' talk series

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (ANI)

SEEKING to start a forum for discussion on important security matters, the Indian Army is planning to start a dialogue series named the Chanakya Defence Dialogue.

As per sources, the curtain raiser of the event is planned for October 25 or 26, where Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande is likely to participate in a talk.

The first edition of the dialogue series is tentatively scheduled for the first or second week of November.

Officials said that it will be a regular forum that will aim to get together the finest minds across the global defence and strategic arena under one roof, forging a nexus where insights will spark and philosophies will intertwine.

The Army is collaborating with the prominent think tank, Centre for Land and Warfare Studies (CLAWS), for the conduct of this event.