

# India's power consumption grows 9.4% to 984.39 billion units in April-October

- The Power Ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer

NEW DELHI, Nov 5 (PTI)

INDIA'S power consumption grew 9.4 per cent to around 984.39 billion units in the April-October period this fiscal compared to a year ago mainly due to improvement in economic activities and weather conditions. Power consumption in the April-October period in fiscal year 2022-23 was 899.95 billion units, according to Power Ministry data.

Another indicator, peak power demand, was also higher at nearly 241 GW during the April-October period this fiscal against 215.88 GW in the same period in 2022.

The country's power consumption grew nearly 22 per cent to 138.94 billion units (BU) in October, showing a surge in electricity demand due to festivities and increased economic activities. In the same month a year ago, power consumption stood at 113.94 BU, higher than 112.79 billion units recorded in October 2021, as per Government data.

A spokesperson of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd said, "In the last couple of months, electricity consumption has gone up substantially."

In October 2023, the power consumption in Tata Power-Delhi Distribution Ltd area of operation went up by around 10.16 per cent to 845 MUs (million units), compared to 767 MUs in October 2022.

"The demand has remained higher mainly due to delays in winter onset this year. The fes-

tive activities in the month of October have also contributed to the demand phenomena," the spokesperson explained.

However, the spokesperson stated that due to mild summer this year, the electricity consumption during April-May was substantially lower in comparison to the same period last year.

The spokesperson pointed out that the demand started inching up since July due to extreme humid conditions.

The Power Ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer.

The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August.

# Hezbollah fires rockets at Israel after 'strike kills 3 kids' in Lebanon

**Beirut/Jerusalem:** Hezbollah said it fired multiple grad rockets at the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona on Sunday in retaliation for an Israeli strike in South Lebanon that it said had killed a woman and three children. In a statement, the Lebanese militant faction said its attack came in response to Israel's "heinous and brutal crime".

The Israeli strike on a car killed the children and their grandmother, a Hezbollah lawmaker from the area said, calling the attack a "dangerous development" for which Israel would pay a price. Hassan Fadlallah said the mother of the three children — girls aged between 8 and 14 — was wounded in the attack which st-



An Israeli tank near Gaza border

ruck the car as it drove between the villages of Aynata and Aitaroun near Israel's border. There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

Foreign minister Abdallah Bou Habib said Lebanon will submit a complaint to the UN over the killing of civilians on Monday. He said Lebanon was collecting information and pictures. REUTERS

## Blinken in Iraq in bid to stop war spillover

**U**S secretary of state Antony Blinken paid an unannounced visit to Iraq on Sunday to tamp down tensions in West Asia. After an earlier visit to the occupied West Bank, Blinken landed in Baghdad on Sunday evening for his first visit to the country as the US top diplomat and held talks with Iraqi PM Mohammed al-Sudani. Blinken landed at Baghdad's international airport, donned a ballistic vest and travelled by Black Hawk helicopter to the Green Zone. At the US ambassador's residence he was briefed on threats to US facilities, before heading to the PM's office. REUTERS



# Jaishankar talks to Iran minister, says will ensure aid for Palestine

**New Delhi:** In another balancing act on the Israel-Hamas conflict, foreign minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian on Sunday and underlined the importance of efforts to prevent the situation from deteriorating further and to ensure humanitarian aid for Palestine.

“Discussed the grave situation in West Asia and the concern of the international community. Conveyed the importance of preventing escalation and providing humanitarian support. Agreed to stay in touch,” said Jaishankar on X.

Jaishankar did not mention the issue of terrorism while putting out the details of his conversation. India has strongly condemned the October 7 strikes by Hamas on Israel as terrorist attacks. Iran, however, remains a key overseas benefactor of Hamas and its state media confirmed Sunday that the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had met Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. TNN

# Need to shift away from foods that add to climate change problem: President Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu presents an award during the valedictory session of World Food India 2023, in New Delhi on Sunday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Nov 5 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said there is a need to shift away from those foods which add to climate change problem and opt for healthy foods that do not cause any harm to nature.

She was speaking at the valedictory session of the three-day World Food India event (November 3-5) in the national capital.

"We must consider the environmental cost of what we eat. The previous generations did not have to worry on this count," Murmu said.

"The time has come when we have to choose our menu in a way that avoids any harm to nature," she added.

The President called for shifting away from those foods that affect climate and moving towards environment-friendly menu.

"We need to make conscious decisions to shift away from those foods

that add to the problem of climate change and to shift towards the ones that are good for not only our health but also for the health of the planet," Murmu said.

Food Processing Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras said there is a great potential in this sector.

He said the food processing contributes 75 per cent to India's total agricultural exports.

MoUs for investments of around Rs 35,000 crore were signed during the three-day event, Paras said, adding that the programme has been successful with the efforts of all the stakeholders.

On the first day of World Food India, a total of 16 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the food processing ministry and various industry entities.

These agreements amounted to a total investment of around Rs 17,990 crore.



# Women soldiers to get leave now at par with male officers

**New Delhi:** With the armed forces now recruiting women as soldiers, sailors and air warriors under the Agnipath scheme, the ministry of defence has approved a proposal to grant them the same maternity, child care and adoption leave as male officers.

“Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved the new rules to grant such leave to all women, whether officers or other ranks. This measure is going to improve the working conditions of women in the military and aid them to balance the spheres of professional and family life in a better manner,” a MoD officer said.

Women officers get maternity leave of 180 days with full pay for each child, subject to a maximum of two children. While childcare leave of a total 360 days is granted during the service career, leave of 180 days is granted after adoption of a child below one year of age.

Women have been inducted into the 14-lakh armed forces as officers since the early-1990s but their number is just 3,967 (1,733 in Army, 1,654 in IAF and 580 in Navy) in the around 65,000-strong officer cadre. TNN

.....