

# 3 Hamas Strongholds Under Fire

Reuters

## Bibi Says End Near For Militant Group After It Issues Threat Over Hostages

The Israeli military said it had taken control of the area surrounding the former headquarters of Hamas in Gaza City, and that its forces were engaged in intense battles in three areas of the Gaza Strip where it said the group still had "strongholds", including in the south, where the UN has warned of an increasingly perilous humanitarian crisis.

The Israeli military now controls the area in Gaza City surrounding Palestine Square, home to municipal offices and the headquarters for Yahya Sinwar, Hamas's leader in the enclave, spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said late Sunday. Israeli forces are now focused, he said, on fighting in three areas: Jabaliya and Shajaiye, two neighbourhoods in northern Gaza, and in Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza.

Israel has yet to find Sinwar, whom they believe is hiding in southern Gaza. Admiral Hagari said that capturing or killing him is still a goal of the war, which has entered its third month. The director of Israel's national security council, Tzahi Hanegbi, has rejected the idea that the lives of Sinwar and other

top Hamas leaders could be spared if they went into exile outside Gaza — as Yasir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, did in 1982 during a war between Israel and Lebanon.

The ongoing war is the bloodiest-ever Gaza conflict which has killed 101 Israeli soldiers and about 18,205 Palestinians, according to latest death tolls.

Hamas, which started the war with its Oct 7 attacks that killed around 1,200 people in southern Israel, on Sunday warned the remaining 137 hostages it holds won't survive unless Israel meets its demands and frees more Palestinian prisoners. Israeli PM Netanyahu called on the group to "surrender now". "It is the beginning of the end of Hamas. I say to the Hamas terrorists: It's over".

Hamas is believed to have suffered heavy losses, but on Monday it fired a barrage of rockets that set off sirens in Tel Aviv. One person was lightly wounded, according to a rescue service, and Channel 12 broadcast footage of a cratered road and damage to cars and buildings in a suburb.

With very little aid allowed into Gaza, Palestinians face se-



A Dec 8 photo shows Israeli soldiers guarding a truck packed with detainees. In recent days, Israel has said dozens of Hamas fighters have surrendered

## Harvard prez faces pressure to quit amid antisemitism row; some rally in support

The president of Harvard University, Claudine Gay, faced escalating pressure Sunday to resign as prominent alumni, donors and politicians called for her ouster. But a group of faculty members rallied to support her, arguing that she was being railroaded for a moment of poorly worded remarks about antisemitism. The body that could ultimately decide Gay's fate, the Harvard Corporation, is scheduled to meet later on Monday. As of Sunday evening, more than 500 members of the Harvard faculty had signed a petition urging to "resist political pressures that are at odds with Harvard's commitment to academic freedom." Harvard has about 2,300 faculty members. Gay is the first Black woman to lead Harvard and took on the role less than six months ago. Late Saturday, the president of the University of Pennsylvania, Liz Magill, resigned amid the row. NYT

vere shortages of food, water and other basic goods. Some openly worry that Palestinians will be forced out of the territory altogether in a repeat of the mass exodus from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. Eylon Le-

vy, an Israeli government spokesman, called claims that Israel intends to drive people en masse "outrageous and false." But other Israeli officials have discussed such a scenario, raising alarm in Egypt and other Arab nations. NYT, AFP, AP

# ART 370 FOR INTEGRATION, NOT DISINTEGRATION: SC

## WHAT ART 370 SAYS ABOUT SCRAPPING PROVISIONS

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the **President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative...**

Provided that the **recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State... shall be necessary** before the President issues such a notification

> Petitioners said that since J&K constituent assembly had ceased to exist, **Art 370 became a permanent feature**

> SC says **'President had the power to issue a notification declaring that Article 370(3) ceases to operate without the recommendation of the constituent assembly'**. Also says **'President did not have to secure the concurrence' of the state govt or Union govt acting on behalf of the state govt**

## WHAT SC JUDGMENT SAYS

1 **Erstwhile J&K state did not have internal sovereignty different from other states** of the country after it became part of India

2 **'Exercise of presidential power to issue constitutional order abrogating Article 370 of Constitution' is valid**

3 **Constituent assembly of J&K was never intended to be a permanent body**; Article 370 was a temporary provision

4 **Creation of the UT of Ladakh upheld**; not necessary to look into the same for UT of Jammu & Kashmir since it is temporary

5 **EC to conduct elections to J&K legislative assembly by Sept 30, 2024**. 'Restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest

> Bench pronounced **3 separate and concurring judgments**

> Justice S K Kaul sought **'impartial truth & reconciliation'** panel to probe human rights violations by state and non-state actors

“It is a resounding declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh... (It is) a testament to the collective resolve to build a stronger, more united India

— PM MODI



PM's article in TOI | P 12

“Full statehood must be restored immediately... we believe elections should be held immediately, there is no reason to wait till September 2024 — CONGRESS

“It is nothing less than a death sentence not only for J&K, but for the idea of India — MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP

“(Quoting Faiz) My heart is helpless, but not hopeless, the evening of sorrow is long, but it's just an evening — OMAR ABDULLAH | NC

# New COP28 text diluted to appease oil producers

## Avoids Talking Of 'Phase Out' Of Fossil Fuels

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**Dubai:** With COP28 talks entering home run, India is looking to secure the best deal for itself amid pressure from EU & US to get nations to agree to a "phase out" of fossil fuels, something that the latest draft, released on Monday, avoided while seeking to give more elbow room to negotiators.



Instead of "phase out", the document talks of "reducing consumption & production of fossil fuels, in an equitable manner so as to achieve net zero by, before, or around 2050 in keeping with the science" — a first at a UN conference and a language seen to be acceptable to all oil & coal producing nations. In fact, "oil and gas" did not appear anywhere in the 21-page text

Reuters



Licypriya Kangujam, an activist from India, at COP28

while "fossil fuels" were mentioned thrice in the latest draft put together with less than 24 hours to go for the close of the conference.

Indian officials were in a huddle, combing through the draft, as EU termed it "disappointing", while the US called for the language on fossil fuel to be "substantially strengthened".

What may be of concern to India is the latest draft retaining lines on "phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" and "rapidly phasing down unabated coal and limitations on permitting new and unabated coal power generation". Al-

though caveats are there, Indian negotiators are examining it in view of the country's stand. The point on accelerating & reducing non-CO2 emissions, including, "methane emissions globally" by 2030 may be scrutinised closely by India as it has the potential to impact the country's livestock and paddy cultivation.

On renewable energy growth, the text retains the language of G20 New Delhi leaders' declaration and "calls upon" countries to triple renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

On finance — a key area of concern for India — the text largely goes with the concerns expressed by this group and notes with "deep regret" that the goal of developed nations to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of transparency on implementation was not met in 2021.

# Awesome Assam

## From insurgency to stability



■ **By Kartik Lokhande**  
GUWAHATI

**ASSAM.** The name brings before one's eyes the picture of a State ravaged by insurgency, progress marred by instability, fear haunting the visitors, protests against alleged police brutality, demonstrations against Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), etc.

However, if one visits Assam today, one finds that all these are fast becoming things of the past. In fact, Assam has come a long way since its identity as insurgency-ravaged State to a tourism-wise 'Awesome Assam' stage.

Assam Police, too, is fast evolving from an insurgency-oriented force to a citizen-centric service delivery system. After first travelling through the myriad landscape and getting first-hand experience of buzzing

markets, developing highways, facilities for tourists, different flavours of Assam's tea, bamboo art-works, cordiality and hospitality, if one visits the headquarters of Assam Police, one realises that Assam Police is indeed evolving very fast towards becoming a conventional police and leaving behind insurgency.

As the official data of Assam Police and ground situation show, Assam Police's multi-pronged strategy has helped the State see a massive decline in insurgency. As is known, Assam was ravaged by militancy for over three decades. The militant organisations had been getting support from neighbouring countries and had bases on foreign soil.

During the tumultuous period of over three decades, Assam saw emergence of more than 60 militant outfits belonging to different ethnic groups.

Some of these groups wanted secession from India and some others demanded separate statehood under the Constitution of India.

*(Contd on page 5)*

**As the official data shows, Assam Police's multi-pronged strategy has helped the State see a massive decline in insurgency.**

# BJP springs surprise: Mohan Yadav is new MP CM

- The 58-year-old OBC leader's name surprised many as his name was not among the list of contenders which was making rounds in political circles
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan resigns as MP CM

■ By Bhavana Shukla  
BHOPAL, Dec 11

**IN A SURPRISE** selection, the Bharatiya Janata Party has unanimously chosen Mohan Yadav, an MLA from Ujjain South, as the party's Legislative Party leader in a meeting held in presence of Central Observers at State Headquarters in Bhopal on Monday evening. This has brought an end to the suspense  
(Contd on page 5)



MP CM-designate Mohan Yadav meets Governor Mangubhai Patel along with senior party leaders on Monday.

## MP CM-designate Mohan Yadav stakes claim to form Government

BHOPAL, Dec 11 (PTI)

MADHYA Pradesh chief minister-designate Mohan Yadav on Monday met Governor

Mangubhai Patel and staked a claim to form the next Government after he was declared as the BJP legislature party leader.



Mohan Yadav being greeted by MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state President VD Sharma and others in Madhya Pradesh, in Bhopal.  
(Pics by Bhupendra Singh)

## State to have two Deputy CMs, Tomar will be Speaker

BHOPAL, Dec 11

CHIEF MINISTER designate Mohan Yadav will have two deputies, former Finance Minister Jagdish Devda and former Public



Jagdish Devda



Rajendra Shukla

Relations Minister, Rajendra Shukla, as the meeting of newly-elected legislators and Central Observers has decided on Monday.  
(Contd on page 5)

# 'India grows, China slows' theme plays out

## Prospects Of Stable Govt, PSU Divestment Among Factors Boosting Street Sentiment

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**New Delhi:** The economy has scripted a swift recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and is poised to post close to 7% growth in the current fiscal year that ends in March.

The solid growth powered by robust domestic demand has come at a time when global growth is faltering and the world is experiencing massive geopolitical uncertainty. The latest quarterly GDP growth of 7.6% in the three months to September has added to the optimism as it follows a 7.8% expansion in the June quarter, taking the first half growth to a healthy 7.7%.

Several agencies, brokerages and research entities have raised their growth projections for the current fiscal year and most reckon that growth would be in the 6.7% to 7% range. This would make India, the fastest growing major economy in the world. In its latest monetary policy statement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also raised its GDP growth forecast to 7% from the earlier 6.5%.

In contrast China's growth is expected to slow and Asia's

biggest economy has been rocked by a raft of problems including its once sizzling real estate sector which has prompted investors to place their bets on India.

slow to 5.4% in 2023 and to 4.6% in 2024 and edge slightly higher at 4.8% in 2025 before settling at 4.6% in 2026—dragged down largely by its property market woes and slowing demand.

### Powered By Robust Domestic Demand

> Mfg at 9 quarter high of 13.9



> Construction activity up at 13.3%



> Public admin, defence and other services grow 7.6%



> Power, gas, water supply and other utility services up 10.1%

> Mining & quarrying expands 10%



“ The GDP growth numbers for Q2 display the resilience and strength of the Indian economy in the midst of such testing times globally. We are committed to ensuring fast paced growth to create more opportunities, rapid eradication of poverty and improving 'Ease of Living' for our people

—Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Several estimates have pointed to the fact that India's growth story is expected to play out strongly in the years ahead and it is likely to emerge as the third largest economy in the world. Global ratings agency S&P has projected that India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world for the next three years. China's growth has been estimated to

S&P Global also sees a shift in regional growth patterns in Asia and expects Asia-Pacific's growth engine to shift from China to south and Southeast Asia. While several challenges remain including a slowing farm sector, high youth unemployment and the upcoming national polls, India is poised to reap the benefits of strong growth for some years to come.

# Armies of India, Vietnam begin 11-day military drill in Hanoi

NEW DELHI, Dec 11 (PTI)

THE Indian and Vietnamese armies began an 11-day military exercise in Vietnam on Monday, in sync with the expanding strategic engagement between the two countries against the backdrop of common concern over China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea.

The aim of the exercise is to foster a collaborative partnership and promote interoperability between the two forces, the Indian Army said. "The joint exercise will help in promoting understanding and interoperability between the two contingents and further strengthen the defence cooperation between the friendly armies," it said. In reflection of the growing strategic ties, India gifted its in-service missile corvette, INS Kirpan, to Vietnam in July.



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Vietnam, an important country of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), has territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea region.

India has oil-exploration projects in the Vietnamese waters in the South China Sea.

The military exercise -- "VINBAX-23" -- between the two

Armies will take place from December 11 to 21 in Hanoi.

The Indian contingent comprises 45 personnel -- 39 from an engineer regiment of the Bengal Engineer Group and six from the Army Medical Corps. The Vietnam People's Army has deployed 45 personnel for the drill. VINBAX was instituted in 2018 and the first edition of the joint military exercise was conducted at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

It is an annual training event conducted alternately in India and Vietnam.

The last edition was conducted at the Chandimandir military station in August 2022. "The aim of the exercise is to foster collaborative partnership, promote interoperability and share best practices between the two sides under Chapter VII of UN Charter on Peacekeeping Operations," the Indian Army said.

# Prime Minister Viksit Bharat @2047: launches Voice of Youth

■ Delhi Bureau and Agencies  
NEW DELHI, Dec 11

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence on Monday that India will take a quantum jump during the current period and said the young generation has to be prepared in such a way that it provides

**“We have to work 24 hours a day... For India, the Amrit Kaal is ongoing and this is .. when it is going to take a quantum leap. For India, this is the right time”**

leadership to the country and prioritises national interest over everything else.

Launching “Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth”, an initiative that aims to provide a platform to the country’s youngsters for contributing ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Prime Minister said India’s youth power is both the “agent



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the launch of 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth', on Monday. (PTI)

of change” and the “beneficiary of change”.

“In the life of any nation, history provides a time period when it can make exponential strides in its development journey. For India, the Amrit Kaal is ongoing and this is the period in the country’s history when it is going to take a quantum leap. For India, this is the right time,” he said, adding that each and every moment of this “Amrit Kaal” should be utilised.

Modi also addressed vice-chancellors of universities, heads of institutes and faculty members at workshops organ-

ised at Raj Bhawans across the country.

“The exam date has been declared for us as the citizens of the country. We have 25 years of Amrit Kaal in front of us. We have to work 24 hours a day. We have to prepare the young generation in such a way that it gives the country leadership and prioritises national interest over everything else,” he said. The Prime Minister informed that India is going to be the leader in terms of the working-age population for the coming 25-30 years and the world recognises this.



# Navy showcases prowess, captivates audiences



Operational demonstration by the Indian Navy during Navy Day 2023 celebrations in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. (PTI)

VISAKHAPATNAM, Dec 11 (ANI)

THE Indian Navy presented a breathtaking Operational Demonstration (Op Demo) off Rama Krishna Beach, Visakhapatnam, on Sunday.

“Governor of Andhra Pradesh, S Abdul Nazeer, graced the event as the Chief Guest. The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries from the Central and State Governments and drew the attention of lakhs of citizens of Visakhapatnam, showcasing the Navy’s exceptional capabilities,” as per a press release from the Indian Navy.

Celebrated on December 4th annually, Navy Day commemorates the Indian Navy’s piv-

otal role in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, specifically its triumph in ‘Operation Trident.’ This year, due to safety concerns posed by Cyclone Michaung, the mega event, Op Demo off R K Beach, was rescheduled to December 10.

“The Op Demo unfolded as a flagship event in the city, featuring tactical manoeuvres executed by warships and submarines and a captivating display of air power, highlighting fighter aircraft, reconnaissance planes, and helicopters. The Navy’s Marine Commandos (MARCOS) demonstrated simulated combat operations against mock enemy targets, showcasing precision and expertise.