

EU nations reach mega deal to restrict flow of migrants

European countries struck a key deal on Wednesday to overhaul their joint migration system, an agreement years in the making.

The EU migration and asylum pact took three years to negotiate and was achieved thro-

► France OKs immigration bill, **INSIDE JACKET**

ugh a patchwork of compromises. With anti-migrant sentiment rising and driving a shift to the right in Europe and beyond, negotiators were under pressure to finalise the pact ahead of polls this summer across the bloc's 27 nations. The pact aims to make it easi-

BORDER CONTROLS

► EU migration and asylum pact seeks to give member nations a greater sense of control over their borders while bolstering the union's role in migration management – **treating it as a European issue, not just a national one**

► The migration pact will make it **harder for asylum-seekers to move on from the countries they arrive in**

er to deport failed asylum-seekers and to limit entry of migrants into the bloc. NYT

► **More report, INSIDE JACKET**

France submits bid for govt-to-govt deal for 26 Marine Rafales, estimated at ₹50k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Deal for 6 patrol vessels sealed

The defence ministry on Wednesday inked a Rs 1,615 crore deal with the Mumbai-based Mazagon Docks for the construction of six next-generation offshore patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to boost coastal security.

"Out of the six vessels being procured, four would replace the existing aging OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet. These multi-role state-of-the-art vessels will be delivered in a total period of 66 months," an official said. **TNN**

twin-seat trainers, along with weapons, simulator, spares, crew training and logistics support.

The deals for the 26 fighters and three additional Scorpene submarines for around Rs 30,000 crore were granted the preliminary

approval or acceptance of necessity (AoN) by the Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisitions Council on July 13, a day before the subsequent Modi-Macron summit in Paris. The deals, however, did not find any mention in the joint state-

ment issued after the summit, as was then reported by **TOI**.

The government-to-government deal for the Rafales will only be inked after the final cost negotiations and the requisite approval from the cabinet committee on security.

The Navy would want the deals for the Rafales and Scorpenes to be inked within this fiscal, grappling as it is with an inadequate number of fighters to operate from its two aircraft carriers as well as a depleting underwater combat fleet.

Krushnat Khot gets Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Ringaan'

NEW DELHI, Dec 20 (PTI)

ENGLISH writer Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev are among the 24 recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023, the organisation announced on Wednesday.

The awards, recommended by jury members in 24 Indian languages, were approved by the executive board of the Sahitya Akademi that met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of its president Madhav Kaushik, the academy of letters said in a statement.

The list includes nine books of poetry, six novels, five of short stories, three essays and one literary study.

Sanjeev for his novel "Mujhe Pehchaano" and Gaur for her book "Requiem in Raga Janki" have been selected for the prestigious award, it said.

Sadiqua Nawab Saher will receive the award for her book "Rajdev Ki Amrai" in Urdu, while Swarnjit Savi has been selected for his book of poetry "Mann Di Chip" in Punjabi.

Other recipients of the awards in poetry include Vijay Verma (Dogri), Vinod Joshi (Gujarati), Manshoor Banihali (Kashmiri), Sorokkhaibam Gambhini (Manipuri), Ashutosh Parida (Odia), Gaje Singh Rajpurohit (Rajasthani), Arun Ranjan Mishra (Sanskrit) and Vinod Asudani (Sindhi).

Apart from Gaur, Sanjeev and Saher, writers such as Swapnamay Chakrabarti (Bengali), Krushnat Khot (Marathi) for 'Ringaan', and Rajasekaran Devibharathi (Tamil) have been awarded for



Krushnat Khot

their novels.

Short stories by Pranavjyoti Deka (Assamese), Nandeswar Daiman (Bodo), Prakash S Parienkar (Konkani), Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey) (Santali) and T Patanjali Sastry (Telugu) got their respective writers the award.

Lakshmisha Tolpadi (Kannada), Basukinath Jha (Maithili) and Judhabir Rana (Nepali) will receive the prize for their essays, while EV Ramakrishnan will be awarded for his literary study in Malayalam.

The awards are selected on the basis of unanimous selections made by the jurors or selection made on the basis of majority vote.

The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award, i.e. Between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021.

The authors and poets will receive the award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs 1 lakh at a ceremony on March 12 next year at Kamani Auditorium.

52 years post Indo-Pak war, INS Shivaji gets 'Vir Chakra' of late Vice-Admiral Chowdhury

PUNE, Dec 28 (PTI)

THE Indian Navy's premier technical training establishment, INS Shivaji, has received the original 'Vir Chakra' awarded to late Vice-Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury for his gallant actions during the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Vice-Admiral Dinesh Prabhakar, Distinguished Chair-Marine Engineering, INS Shivaji, on Monday received the Vir Chakra from Padipta Bose and Gargi Bose, the family members of Vice-Admiral Chowdhury, on behalf of the Navy at a solemn ceremony organised at the training establishment in Lonavala, around 60 km from Pune city. The Vir Chakra is an Indian wartime military bravery award presented for acts of gallantry on the battlefield, on land or in air or at sea.

"Vice-Admiral Chowdhury is the only technical officer of the Navy who has been decorated with this prestigious award," said a release from the defence PRO's office.

Vice-Admiral Chowdhury's gallantry is firmly rooted in the Indo-Pak war 52 years ago wherein he was the Engineer Officer onboard erstwhile INS Vikrant, it said.

"During the aircraft carrier's deployment amidst the war, one of the boilers of INS Vikrant was rendered non-operational, while the performance of the other three boilers were observed to be sub-optimal. He along with his team undertook several innovative repairs at sea away from the base port without seeking any possible assistance from the British OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers)," said the release.

The in-house actions involved fixing of steel bands around the boiler, adjustment of safety valves involving greater risks and numerous other technical measures.



Sports Ministry confirms ~~Satwik, Chirag~~ for Khel Ratna

Indian pacer Shami, 25 others to get Arjuna award

NEW DELHI, Dec 20 (PTI)

THE Sports Ministry on Wednesday put its stamp on the nominations for the annual sports awards, confirming the prestigious Khel Ratna honour for badminton players Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag



Shetty and the Arjuna award for 26 sports persons, including pacer Mohammed Shami.

The awards will be conferred on the athletes by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on January 9.

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Awards to be conferred on athletes by President on January 9

Chandrayaan-3 advancements

Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for ISRO

REYKJAVIK (Iceland), Dec 20 (ANI)

IN A momentous recognition of India's space prowess, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been feted with the prestigious Leif Erikson Lunar Prize by the Husavik Museum here.

The award acknowledges ISRO's unwavering dedication and indomitable spirit in propelling lunar exploration forward and contributing significantly to unravelling celestial mysteries, particularly through



the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.

"Leif Erikson Lunar Prize has been awarded by Husavik Museum for @ISRO's indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration & contributing to understanding celestial mysteries #Chandrayaan3," the Indian Embassy in Iceland posted on X.

Indian Ambassador Balasubramanian Shyam received the prestigious prize on behalf of ISRO. "ISRO Chairman Mr S Somanath sent a message, "Amb Mr Shyam

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LEGAL LANDMARK

Lok Sabha passes three bills to replace IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

NEW DELHI, Dec 20 (PTI)

THE Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed three key bills that seek to overhaul the criminal justice system, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserting that the focus is on delivering speedy justice rather than handing down punishment.

Replying to the debate, Shah said the three bills - Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill -- also have a clear definition of terrorism and scrapped sedition as a crime while introducing a new section titled "offences against the State".

Members of the Congress, DMK, TMC and other Opposition parties were not present during the debate after



97 of their colleagues were suspended from Lok Sabha for "unruly" behaviour in the House.

While many opposition parties have been critical of the bills that seek to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act, only a handful of non-NDA members, including

"The existing criminal laws were reflective of the colonial mindset with the intention to punish and not impart justice. The three new bills seek to establish a justice system based on Indian thinking. The new criminal laws will free people from colonial mindset and its symbols," said Home Minister Amit Shah.

Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, MPs of the Biju Janata Dal and Bahujan Samaj, were present in the House.

"I am astonished at how some people defend and save the lives of terrorists in the name of 'human rights'. Remember, this is neither the

rule of Britishers nor of Congress. This is Modi's rule.

"No arguments to save terrorists will be entertained here," Shah said, adding the Modi Government has explicitly brought 'terrorism' under the purview of the criminal justice system.

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