

Israel expands war; attacks Iran

Pre-dawn airstrikes on military infra



... Only limited damage, says Iran

■ By Jon Gambrell and
Tia Goldenberg

TEL AVIV, Oct 26 (AP)

ISRAEL attacked military targets in Iran with a series of pre-dawn airstrikes on Saturday in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired upon Israel earlier in the month. Iran said four personnel who served in military air defence were killed.

The Israeli military said, its

aircraft targeted facilities that Iran used to make missiles fired at Israel as well as surface-to-air missile sites. There was no immediate indication that oil or missile sites were hit — strikes that would have marked a much more serious escalation — and Israel offered no immediate damage assessment.

Explosions could be heard in the Iranian capital, Tehran, though the Islamic Republic

insisted they caused only "limited damage" and Iranian state-run media downplayed the attacks.

Still, the strikes risk pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiralling violence across the Middle East, where militant groups backed by Iran — including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — are already at war with Israel.

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India shows mirror to Pak on minority women at UNSC meet

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 26 (IANS)

INDIA rebuked Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue during a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) debate, condemning the move as "despicable" and a "mischievous provocation" rooted in

Pakistan's "tried and tested tactic of spreading misinformation." It also showed the mirror to Pakistan on the despicable condition of minority women in the country.

During the UNSC debate on "Women Building Peace in a Changing Environment,"

Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, delivered a strong Right of Reply against Pakistan.

He criticised Pakistan's attempt to bring up Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) at the forum, accusing it of "political propaganda" in an inappro-

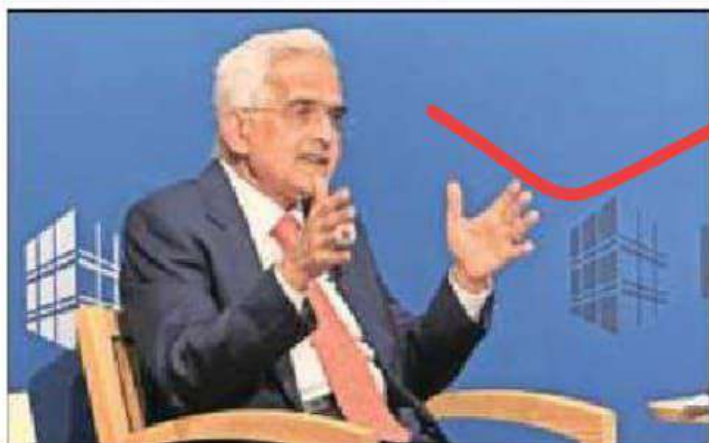
priate setting.

"It is despicable yet entirely predictable that one delegation has indulged in mischievous provocation based on their tried and tested tactic of spreading misinformation and disinformation. It's completely misplaced to indulge in such

political propaganda at this important annual debate," Harish remarked.

The exchange followed Pakistan's remarks referring to J&K, which Harish dismissed while shifting focus onto the conditions of minority women in Pakistan.

Cryptocurrencies huge risks to financial stability: RBI Governor



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das speaks at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a think-tank. (PTI)

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (PTI)

CRYPTOCURRENCIES are huge risks to financial stability, and monetary stability, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday, asserting it may create a situation where the central bank may lose control of money supply in the economy.

"I am actually of the opinion that this is something which should not be allowed to dominate the financial system. Because it has huge financial stability risks, it

has huge monetary stability risks, it also poses risks to the banking system. It also may create a situation where the central bank may lose control of money supply in the economy," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said during his appearance at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a think-tank.

"If the central bank loses control of money supply in the economy, how does the central bank check liquidity available in the system? How does a central bank control inflation by squeezing money supply or by losing money supply in times of crisis? So, we see crypto as a big risk, and there has to be an international understanding because the transactions are cross-country," he said in response to a question.

"There has to be an international understanding on this issue, being fully mindful of the huge risks associated with cryptocurrencies. It is not something which I feel it's not something which should be encouraged. This view is not a very popular view, but I think as custodians of financial stability, it is a major concern for central banks world over. Governments are also becoming increasingly aware of the possible downside risks in cryptocurrencies," Das said.

India, he said, was the first country to raise questions about cryptocurrencies. In the G20 under the Indian presidency, there was an agreement to develop an international understanding with regard to how to deal with this whole crypto ecosystem. Some progress has been made in this regard, he added.

EXCLUSIVE

'Nuclear Iran is a risk to the world'

■ Kobbi Shoshani, Israeli Consul General to Mid-West India, tells 'The Hitavada' in an exclusive interview that India is among Israel's top friends in the world, calls cooperation with India 'important'

■ 'India should be one united country with no scope for Khalistan'

■ By Kartik Lokhande

ONE year has passed by since the Hamas attacked Israel through Gaza on October 7, 2023. In retaliation, Israeli forces have eliminated several leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah. Now, Israel has launched strikes on Iran, targeting military bases there. The theatre of war is expanding.

What exactly did unfold during this period of over one year from Israel's perspective? What is the road ahead? How deep are Israel-India relations? Why is Israel against

nuclear-power Iran?

'The Hitavada' posed these questions to Kobbi Shoshani, the Consul General of Israel to Mid-West India. A man of poise and cheerful approach, with deep understanding of diplomacy and geopolitics, he answered these questions candidly in an exclusive interview to 'The Hitavada'. Here are the excerpts:

Q. Israel has been locked in a conflict with neighbours. Israel Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu has called it a 'war of existence' for Israel. What is the difference between the situation this time and on previous occasions?



CG: I'll try to answer in a non-political way. First time since our war of independence, some part of Israeli territory was controlled by terrorists for some time. Hezbollah of Lebanon, Houthis of Yemen, Iraqi militia, and Iranian forces made the situation more challenging. This is certainly a war to ensure safety of our people. We have to win, and we will win it definitely.

Q. In his speech at the UN, Mr. Netanyahu called for ensuring that Iran would never get a nuclear weapons programme. Why is Israel against Iran's nuclear programme?

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