

IAEA condemns Iran for failing to cooperate

VIENNA, Nov 22 (AP)

THE UN nuclear watchdog's board on Thursday condemned Iran for failing to cooperate fully with the agency, the second time it has done so in just five months.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also called on Tehran to provide answers in a long-running investigation into uranium particles found at two locations that Tehran has failed to declare as nuclear sites.

Nineteen members of the IAEA board voted for the resolution, while Russia, China and Burkina Faso opposed it, and 12 abstained and one did not vote, according to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the outcome of the closed-doors vote. The resolution was put for-

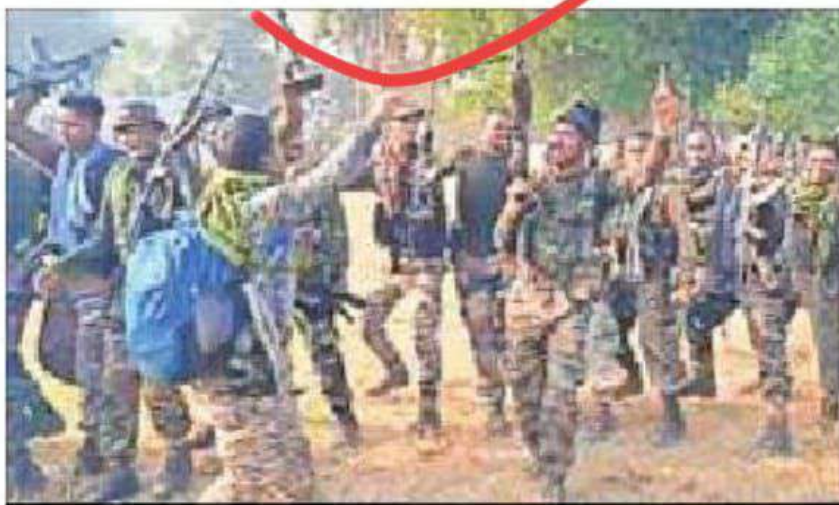
ward by France, Germany and Britain, supported by the United States. It comes at a critical time, ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House.

Trump's first term in office was marked by a particularly tense period with Iran, when the US President pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Tehran. In 2018, Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, and imposed even harsher sanctions that have since hobbled Iran's economy further.

The resolution comes on the heels of a confidential report earlier this week in which the IAEA said Iran has defied international demands to rein in its nuclear programme and has increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

10 Naxals eliminated

Arms, ammo recovered in Sukma



DRG troopers celebrate after their successful operation in Sukma district.

■ **The Hitavada State Bureau**
SUKMA/RAIPUR, Nov 22

SECURITY forces delivered a decisive blow to Maoist insurgency in Sukma's Bhejji region by eliminating 10 armed Maoists during a high-stakes encounter on Friday morning. The operation, spearheaded by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), took place near Bhandarpadar village following precise intelligence inputs about insurgent

activity in the area.

"The dead Maoists included prominent leader Madkam Masa, divisional military commander of the South Bastar Division, who was responsible for orchestrating multiple attacks and carried a bounty of Rs 8 lakh. Masa's wife, Dudhi Hungi, a member of Platoon No. 4, was also killed in the encounter, along with Lakma Madvi, divisional small action

team commander with a bounty of Rs 5 lakh. Other casualties included Madkam Jitu and Madkam Kosi, both Platoon No. 4 members carrying Rs 2 lakh bounties each, and Masa's personal guard, Kovasi Kesa. Three additional female Maoists remain unidentified," disclosed Bastar Range Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sundarraj Pattilingam.

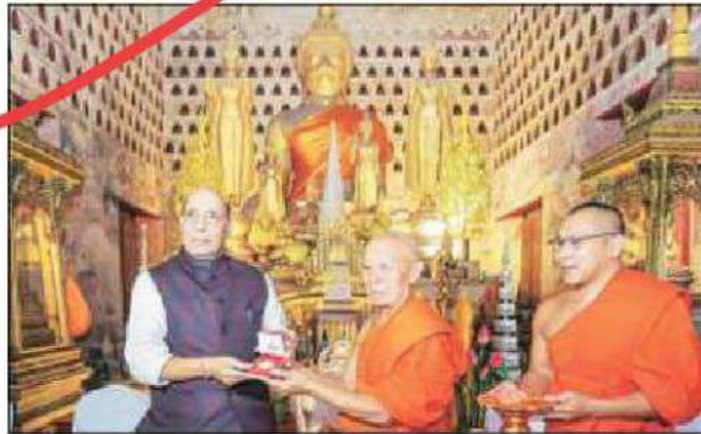
He further maintained that the elimination of Masa, a divisional military
(Contd on page 5)

India, Japan resolve to boost co-devpt of military hardware

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI)

INDIA and Japan on Friday deliberated on a reciprocal provision of supply and services agreement for greater interoperability between the militaries of the two strategic partners amid common concerns of over China's military muscle-flexing in strategic waters.

The proposed pact was discussed at a meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Gen Nakatani that took place on the sidelines of a regional security conclave in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a visit to Wat Sisakat Temple, in Vientiane, Laos.

(PTI)

The Defence Ministry said both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in co-production and co-development of military hardware.

"To further improve interoperability between the Indian and Japanese forces, reciprocal provision of supply and services agreement between the two countries and participation of militaries in various bilateral and multilateral exercises were discussed by both the ministers," it said in a statement.

Singh and Nakatani also agreed to explore new areas of cooperation in the air domain, the ministry said.

US rejects ICC arrest warrants against Netanyahu, Gallant

WASHINGTON, Nov 22 (ANI)

THE United States on Friday rejected the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who are accused of "crimes against humanity and war crimes."

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre expressed concern over the decision in a press briefing, stating, "We fundamentally reject the court's decision to issue arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials."

She criticised the prosecutor's haste in seeking the warrants and pointed out troubling process errors that led to this outcome.

Jean-Pierre also added that the United States has been clear about the ICC's lack of jurisdiction over this matter.

"Whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no evidence, none between Israel and Hamas, there's just none," she said.

HUNGARY'S ORBAN VOWS TO DISREGARD ARREST WARRANT FOR NETANYAHU:

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday denounced the International Criminal Court's issuing of an arrest warrant for Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, saying he would defy it by inviting him to Hungary. In comments to state radio, Orban accused the ICC, the world's top war crimes court based in The Hague, of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes," saying the decision to issue the warrant for Netanyahu over his conduct of the war in Gaza undermined international law and escalated tensions.

South Africa declares food-borne illnesses a national disaster

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 22 (IANS)

SOUTH Africa has declared food-borne illnesses a national disaster following a recent surge in food poisoning cases that left dozens of children dead and hundreds hospitalised.

Thembi Simelane, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, made the announcement on Thursday at a press conference held in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, Xinhua news agency reported.

The announcement followed reports of nearly 900 cases of food-borne illnesses across all provinces in the country since September, with Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces being the most affected. At least 22 children have died, prompting urgent measures. "Organs of state, the private sector, and communities should adhere to food safety legislation, standards and procedures, and individuals should comply with applicable business registration legislation, standards and procedures," Simelane said, calling on the public to stay alert.

The Government has required tuck shops to re-register their entities and urged local authorities to comply with the disaster management declaration.

Indo-US scientists decode mysterious sources behind fiery hot gas around Milky Way



NEW DELHI, Nov 22
(IANS)

AN international team of scientists from India and the US have decoded the mysterious source behind fiery hot gas around the Milky Way galaxy.

In the last few years, scientists have discovered gaseous matter pitched to be around 10 million degrees Kelvin hot. Faint X-ray emissions were found in all directions of the Milky Way that bore a strong signature of a super-hot gas. At the same time, this gas also showed up in the spectra of at least three distant quasars, as an absorbing medium.

Scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), along with their collaborators at IIT-Palakkad and Ohio State University, proposed the mysterious source in two related studies.

They confirmed that the gas responsible for emitting and absorbing the signals detected were not the same. Instead, the X-ray emitting hot gas was caused by a puffed-up region around the stellar disc of the Milky Way. Since there is a continuous ongoing star formation at various regions across the disc of the Milky Way, the massive stars in these regions explode as supernovae, and heat the gas around the disc to high temperatures. "As such, explosions keep heating up the gas floating around the disc of the Milky Way and they enrich the gaseous matter with elements synthesised within massive stars," said Mukesh Singh Bisht, doctoral student at RRI. As this turbulent gas is swept up from the disc and swirls around violently, it either escapes into the surrounding medium or cools and falls back onto the disc. This absorbing hot gas was also found to be enriched with alpha-elements, said the researchers, in the paper published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

