

# Kerala, Adani arm ink supplementary pact on port project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

## Thiruvananthapuram:

Kerala signed Thursday a supplementary concession agreement with Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd, paving the way for earlier-than-expected revenue gains from Vizhinjam deep-water international



Now handling 4.5 million containers, Vizhinjam port will be southern India's largest freight terminal

seaport near Thiruvananthapuram. The Rs 7,700-crore port, built as a public-private partnership with Adani Group, is now set to be fully operational by Dec 2028.

"With the capacity expansion to be completed by Dec 2028, the port's total revenue projection has increased from Rs 54,750 crore to Rs 215,000 crore over the 36-year operational period. Govt's revenue share will also increase from Rs 6,300 crore to Rs 35,000 crore," minister for ports VN Vasavan said Thursday.

The revised agreement ensures that the state will begin receiving its share of revenue from the project as originally planned in 2034,

despite delays in construction. Under the previous pact, revenue sharing could have been delayed until 2039 due to project setbacks.

The updated deal also broadens the revenue-sharing scope. Initially, the state was entitled to profits generated solely from the first phase of the port. Under the new terms, Adani Ports will share profits from all four phases starting in 2034.

Indirect revenue for the state is projected to rise too. Kerala's GST income from port operations is expected to total Rs 29,000 crore over the

contract period. Corporate income tax revenue is also anticipated to grow. These changes will yield an additional Rs 48,000 crore in revenue, including the state's share and GST over 36 years.

With the capacity now expanded to 4.5 million containers annually — up from the initially planned 1 million — Vizhinjam port is set to become southern India's largest freight terminal.

The revised agreement also reduces Kerala's financial commitments during the port's construction phase. The state's viability gap funding obligation to Adani Ports has been reduced from Rs 408.90 crore to Rs 365.10 crore.

**From 22% to 40.3%**

## Women employees in India's workforce surge pc in 6 yrs

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (IANS)

THE labour data compiled since 2017-18 shows that women's participation in India's labour force and the workforce has significantly increased over the years, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Figures in the latest Annual PLFS Reports show that the proportion of women in the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment, jumped from 22 per cent in 2017-18 to a robust 40.3 per cent in 2023-24.



Similarly, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for women of age 15 years and above rose from 23.3 per cent during 2017-18 to 41.7 per cent in 2023-24. The figures indicate a steadily rising trend in the percentage of women employed over the six-year period.

"Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. The Government has taken various initiatives to promote and increase the participation of women in the workforce," the Minister said in a written reply in the Upper House.

The Government has incorporated a number of provisions in the labour laws for equal opportunity and congenial work environment for women workers like paid maternity leave, flexible working hours and equal wages, she said.

Government is implementing various schemes to boost female LFPR. To enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.

# Navy braces up to deal with Cyclone Fengal brewing in Bay of Bengal

CHENNAI, Nov 28 (IANS)

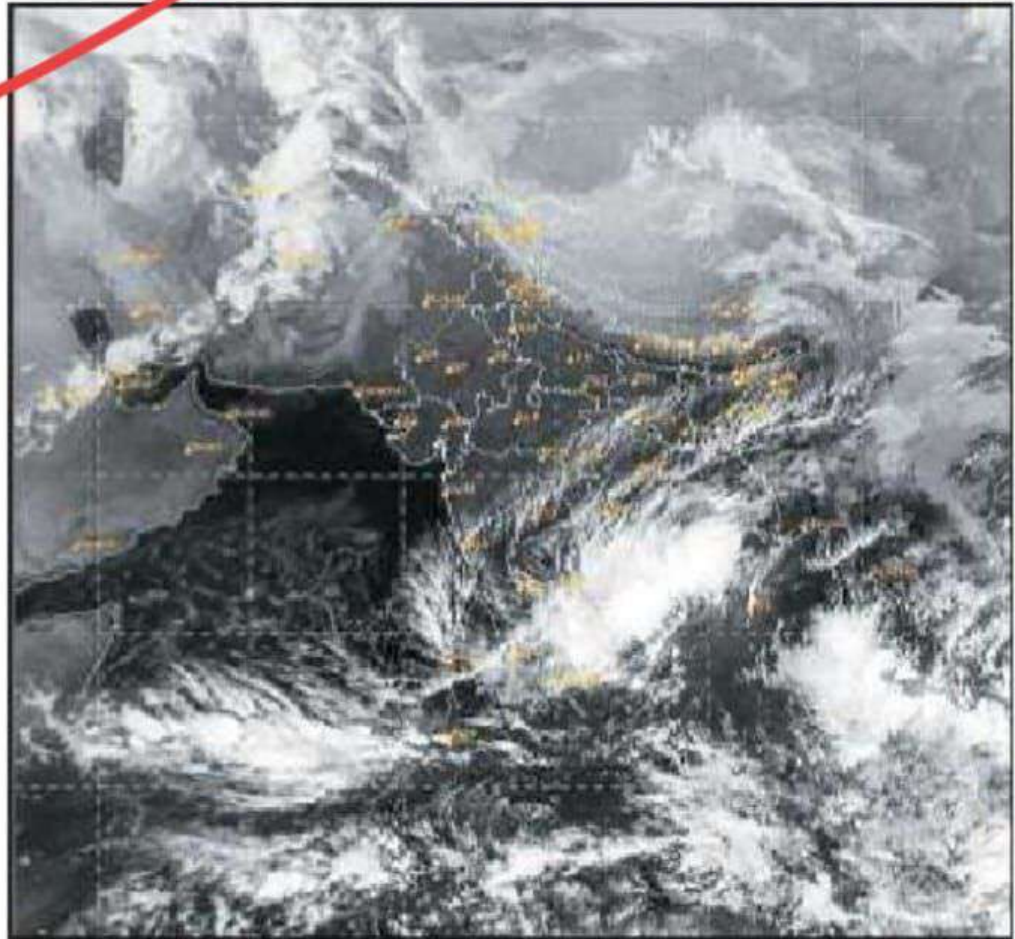
THE Navy was bracing up to deal with Cyclone Fengal which is brewing in the Bay of Bengal and expected to intensify in the next one or two days. In anticipation of the impact of the Cyclone along the coast of Tamil Nadu, the Eastern Naval Command along with Headquarters, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area have activated a comprehensive disaster response mechanism.

The main focus was on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

As part of the preparation, the Navy was gearing up to render all necessary support to the vulnerable areas in coordination with the State and civil administration. This includes loading vehicles with food, drinking water, medicines and other HADR relief materials as well as positioning Flood Relief Teams (FRTs) for quick response.

The diving teams were on standby for emergency rescue operations.

The Navy's efforts were guided by the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) guidelines for cyclone preparedness, which emphasise the importance of evacuation,



shelter, and emergency supplies.

The Navy was stocking supplies, including food, water and medicines. The search and rescue operations of the Navy include positioning naval personnel, with Geminis and helicopters for quick response to SAR requirements. It was loading warships with HADR relief materials, such as food, water, and medical supplies.

The Navy said it continues to monitor the situation closely and

was committed to supporting the affected personnel and ensuring their safety during Cyclone Fengal. The deep depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal remained practically stationary during the past six hours and lay centred at 2330 hours IST on Wednesday over the same region near 9.0 degrees North latitude and 82.1 degrees East longitude, about 100 km east-northeast of Trincomalee, 320 km southeast of Nagappattinam.

# Submarine-launched ballistic missile test-fired successfully

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (PTI)

INDIA has tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Bay of Bengal, in a major boost to its nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

With the test, India became part of a small group of nations having the capability to fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.

The K4 missile was tested from submarine INS Arighaat off the coast of Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, they said. It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine, the people said. The solid-fuelled missile was tested at least five times in the last few years from submersible platforms. The people cited above said the missile was tested for almost its complete range. The second Arihant-class submarine INS Arighaat was commissioned into the Indian Navy on August 29 with an aim to strengthen India's nuclear deterrence.

It has the distinction of having the indigenous systems and equipment that were conceptualised, designed, manufactured and integrated by the Indian scientists, industry and naval personnel.

In the last few years, India has been



enhancing its overall military capabilities and test-fired a range of missiles with varying ranges.

Over 10 days ago, India successfully flight-tested a long-range hypersonic missile off the coast of Odisha. The weapon can strike with extreme speed and evade most air defence systems.

Generally, hypersonic missiles, capable of carrying conventional explosives or nuclear warheads, can fly in the range of five times the speed of sound (Mach 5 which is roughly 1,220 kilometres) per hour at sea level.

However, some advanced versions of hypersonic missiles can even fly at the speed of over 15 Mach.

# Israel to appeal to ICC on arrest warrant against Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, Nov 28 (IANS)

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ISRAEL filed a notice with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague of its intention to appeal the arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said Israel also requested to delay the execution of the arrest warrants, which were issued last week, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Israel's notice of appeal reveals in detail how the decision to issue the arrest warrants was baseless and devoid of any factual or legal basis," the statement said.

"Israel denies the authority of the ICC and the legitimacy of the arrest warrants," it added. The ICC issued the arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant on charges of committing "crimes against humanity and war crimes" between at least October 8, 2023, and May 20, 2024, in Gaza.

# Putin: Russia will use all weapons at disposal if Ukraine gets N-arms

## Threatens Hitting Kyiv's 'Decision Centres' With New Missile In Response To Strikes Using Western Weapons; Calls Trump Intelligent, But Says Doesn't Believe He's Safe

President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia would use all weapons at its disposal against Ukraine if Kyiv were to acquire nuclear arms. The NYT reported last week that some unidentified Western officials had suggested US President Joe Biden could give Ukraine nuclear weapons before he leaves office.

"If the country which we are essentially at war with now becomes a nuclear power, what do we do? We will use all means of destruction available to Russia," Putin said at a presser in Kazakhstan. "If officially someone were to transfer something, then that would mean a violation of all the non-proliferation commitments they have made," Putin said. He also said it was practically impossible for Ukraine to produce a nuclear weapon, but that it might be able to make some kind of "dirty bomb", a conventional bomb laced with radioactive material. In that case, Russia would respond appropriately, he said.

Putin also said that Russia may use its new Oreshnik hypersonic missile to attack "decision-making centres" in Kyiv in response to Ukraine's firing of Western missiles at Russian territory. Russia has not so far struck Ukrainian mini-



People take shelter inside a metro station in Kyiv on Thursday

## 'Massive' Russian aerial attack cuts power to 1 million homes in Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia conducted a "massive" attack against Ukraine's energy infrastructure on Thursday, firing nearly 200 missiles and drones and leaving more than a million households without power, Ukrainian officials said. Russia's second major aerial attack on Ukraine's power grid in less than two weeks amplified fears that the Kremlin aims to cripple the country's power generation capacity before winter.

President Putin said it was in response to Ukraine's strikes on Russian territory with

US medium-range ATACMS missiles. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of a "despicable escalation", saying it had used cruise missiles with cluster munitions. Cluster munitions release numerous small bombs over a wide area, making them dangerous to civilians both during and after an attack. It was the 11th massive attack by Russia on Ukraine's energy infrastructure this year. Russia has knocked out about half Ukraine's available generating capacity during the war. AGENCIES

stries, parliament or president's office in the 33-month war.

Kyiv is heavily protected by air defences, but Putin says the Oreshnik, which Russia fired for the first time at a Ukrainian city last week, is "incapable of being intercepted". "At present, the ministry of defence and the general staff are selecting targets. These could be military facilities, defence and industrial enterprises, or decision-making centres in Kyiv."

Putin praised US Prez-elect Trump as an experienced and intelligent politician, but said he did not believe he was safe. Putin said he had been shocked by the way the US election campaign had unfolded. He cited "the absolutely uncivilised methods used to battle against Trump, up to and including an assassination attempt — and more than once". Talking about what he described as Biden office's decision to escalate the war by allowing Kyiv to strike Russia with Western missiles, Putin speculated that it could be a ploy to either help Trump by giving him something to roll back or a way of making his life more difficult with Russia. Either way, Putin said he thought Trump would "find the solution" and said Moscow was ready for dialogue. AGENCIES