

South Korean President declares Emergency Martial Law; Parliament votes to defy him

SEOUL, Dec 3 (AP)

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law late on Tuesday, vowing to eliminate "anti-state" forces as he struggles against an Opposition that controls the country's Parliament and that he accuses of sympathizing with communist North Korea.

Hours later, Parliament voted to lift the declaration, with the National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik declaring that lawmakers "will protect democracy with the people". Woo called for police and military personnel to withdraw from the Assembly's grounds.

The President's surprising

move harkened back to an era of authoritarian leaders that the country has not seen since the 1980s, and it was immediately denounced by the Opposition and the leader of Yoon's own conservative party.

Following Yoon's announcement, South Korea's military proclaimed that Parliament and other political gatherings that could cause "social confusion" would be suspended, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. The military also said that the country's striking doctors should return to work within 48 hours, Yonhap said. Thousands of doctors have been striking for months over government plans to expand the



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

number of students at medical schools. The military said anyone who violates the decree could be arrested without a warrant.

Under South Korean law, mar-

tial law can be lifted with a majority vote in the parliament, where the Opposition Democratic Party holds a majority.

Soon after the declaration, the National Assembly speaker called on his YouTube channel for all lawmakers to gather at the Assembly building. He urged military and law enforcement personnel to "remain calm and hold their positions."

All 190 lawmakers who participated in the vote supported the lifting of martial law. Television footage showed soldiers who had been stationed at parliament leaving the site after the vote. Earlier, TV showed police officers blocking the

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LS: EAM Jaishankar articulates 3 key principles for engagement with China

NEW DELHI, Dec 3 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday said it is committed to remaining engaged with China to find a fair and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary issue



but the relations will be contingent upon strictly respecting the sanctity of the LAC and following pacts on border management with no attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo.

In a statement in the Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the disengagement of troops has been achieved in "full" in eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok, and India now expects the commencement of talks on remaining issues that it had placed on the agenda.

India was and it remained very clear that the three key principles must be observed in all circumstances, he said explaining: "one: both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC), two: neither side should attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo, and three: agreements and understandings reached in the past must be fully abided by in their entirety". Jaishankar's detailed statement came weeks after Indian and Chinese militaries completed the disengagement of troops from two last face-off points in eastern Ladakh, effectively ending the over four-year military face-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

"The next priority will be to consider de-escalation, that would address the massing of troops along the LAC with associated accompaniments," he said. "It is also evident that the management of the border areas will require further attention in the light of our recent experiences."

PM dedicates to nation 3 new criminal laws

CHANDIGARH, Dec 3 (PTI)

CHANDIGARH has become the country's first administrative unit where 100 per cent implementation of the three criminal laws has been done with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday saying these new legislations are becoming protector of citizen's rights and the basis of ease of justice.

The laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam -- came into effect on July 1, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

Chandigarh first to fully implement new criminal laws

Chandigarh has become the country's first administrative unit where 100 per cent implementation of the three laws has been done. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the new criminal laws represent a concrete step towards realising the ideals enshrined in the Constitution for the benefit of all citizens.

He said the new laws came into effect at a time when country is moving ahead with the pledge of "Viksit Bharat" and 75 years of adoption of Constitution have been completed, thus the launch of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, rooted in constitutional values, is a significant occasion.

He said these laws signify the

end of colonial-era laws.

The colonial-era laws were the medium of atrocities and exploitation committed by the British when they ruled over India, Modi added.

"The 1857 revolution shook the roots of the British rule and in 1860, they brought the IPC and later, the Indian Evidence Act and the CrPC framework came into being. The purpose of those laws was to punish Indians and keep them enslaved," he said.

In 1947, when our country became independent after centuries of slavery, after the wait of generations, after countless sacrifices, when the dawn of independence came, what kind of dreams there were, what kind of enthusiasm there was in the country, he said.

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3 warships and 1 submarine likely to be commissioned in a month: Top Navy official

MUMBAI, Dec 3 (PTI)

THREE warships and one submarine are likely to be commissioned in about a month, a top official of the Indian Navy said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, said the three warships - INS Nilgiri, INS Surat, INS Tushil - and submarine INS Vagsheer are expected to be commissioned in a month.

"We have got four vessels that are due for induction within the next one month," Singh said.

INS Nilgiri is the first ship of Project 17A and was launched in September 2019, he said.

INS Surat is the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers which heralds a significant makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) Destroyers and is named after the commercial capital of the state of Gujarat.

INS Vagsheer is the sixth Scorpene Submarine of Project-75 and was launched in April 2022.

INS Tushil is the last of the two vessels which are being built in Russia, he said.

"That (INS Tushil) is the last of

the two vessels from abroad. We currently have 65 vessels under construction and 63 of them (are being built) in Indian shipyards," Singh said. "These four vessels on the western seaboard are expected to be commissioned or delivered in about a month's time. After the delivery, we normally take a couple of weeks to prepare the ship for the commissioning ceremony," he added.

FIRE-HIT WARSHIP INS BRAHMAPUTRA BROUGHT TO 'UPRIGHT' POSITION: INDIAN Navy's frontline warship INS Brahmaputra, which turned to a side and was damaged following a fire onboard more than four months ago, has been set "upright" and the guided missile frigate will be back at sea, a top official said on Tuesday.

Vice-Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, said the restoration plan of the warship will be chalked out after the Navy completes a full survey on the extent of damage caused to the vessel. "The raging rhino (INS Brahmaputra) will rise again and will lead the charge for years to come. The first part of getting raging back on its feet has been achieved. She was 'uprighted' on November 2.

LS passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill

Bill allows 4 nominees in bank a/c's

NEW DELHI, Dec 3 (PTI)

THE Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts. Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago.

The Bill piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was approved by a voice vote.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Sitharaman said depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination.

She also said that since 2014, the Government and the RBI have been extremely cautious, so

that banks remain stable.

"The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome," Sitharaman said.

The Bill proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from 8 years to 10 years, so as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011.

Once passed, the Bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank. The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.

It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

"The proposed amendments will strengthen governance in the banking sector and enhance customer convenience with respect to nomination and protection of investors," Sitharaman said while moving the Bill for consideration and passing.

MGNREGS: '60 lakh new job cards issued every year'

SIXTY lakh new job cards are issued under the MGNREGS on average every year and the Government has no role in the deletion of the job cards which is done based on various parameters, the Centre said on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani told the Lok Sabha that 57 per cent of the rural development budget is allocated for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme (MGNREGS) and asserted that Aadhaar-seeding of the cards enhances transparency.

'Centre released Rs 50,571 cr to States as spl aid'

THE Centre has released Rs 50,571.42 crore to states as part of its 'special assistance for capital investment' scheme to step up expenditure in various development projects during the first eight months of the current financial year, Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary has informed the Lok Sabha.

The Minister stated in a written reply that as many as 23 of the 28 States, excluding Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab and Telangana, availed of the interest-free facility provided by the Union Government during the current financial year.



Nirmala Sitharaman

25-HOUR COUNTDOWN begins for ISRO's commercial mission for ESA

SRIHARIKOTA, Dec 3 (PTI)

THE countdown for ISRO's dedicated commercial mission, the launch of Proba-3 spacecraft of the European Space Agency (ESA) slated for December 4. Began here on Tuesday.

Wednesday's launch would be a technology demonstration mission. NewSpace India Ltd is the commercial arm of ISRO which would launch client vehicles and has secured the order from the European Space Agency for its latest mission. "The 25-hour countdown started at 3.08 pm on

Tuesday and right now the preparatory works (for the launch) are going on," an ISRO official told PTI on Tuesday.

Dubbed as the world's first initiative, the Proba-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) consists of a double-satellite in which two spacecraft would fly together as one, maintaining precise formation down to a single millimetre to study the sun's outer atmosphere. 'Probas' is a Latin word, which refers to 'Let's try'. The mission objective is to demonstrate precise formation flying and the two spacecraft - 'Coronagraph'

and 'Occulter' would be launched together in a stacked configuration, ISRO said.

The Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO is using its dedicated workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for the mission.

The PSLV is on its 61st flight and the 26th of the PSLV-XL variant and it is scheduled for a lift-off from the first launch pad at this spaceport at 4.08 pm on December 4. The 44.5 metre tall rocket after travelling for about 18 minutes is slated to place the 550kg Proba-3 satellites into a desired orbit.