

# Naval Ship 'Nirdeshak' to be commissioned at Vizag on 18th

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

THE Indian Navy's latest survey ship -- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak -- that boasts over "80 per cent indigenous content", reaffirming the naval force's focus towards Aatmanirbharta, is all set to be commissioned at Visakhapatnam on December 18, a senior official said on Friday.

The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth.

"The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest survey ship 'Nirdeshak' at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, on December 18," a Navy spokesperson said.

The ceremony will be hosted by the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and attended by distinguished guests, including

senior naval officials and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) representatives.

The ship, built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata, proudly boasts over 80 per cent indigenous content, reaffirming India's expertise in ship design and construction and the Indian Navy's focus towards 'Aatmanirbharta', he said. The 110-meter-long vessel, with a displacement of approximately 3,800 tonnes, is powered by two diesel engines and is equipped with State-of-the-art hydrographic and oceanographic survey equipment.

'Nirdeshak', the second ship of the Survey Vessel (Large) Project, is designed to conduct hydrographic surveys, aid in navigation and support maritime operations.

# Navy chief embarks on Indonesia visit

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

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NAVY chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will begin a four-day visit to Indonesia from Sunday to consolidate a comprehensive strategic partnership, especially in the maritime domain, between the two countries.

Admiral Tripathi is scheduled to hold talks with Indonesia's top defence brass, including Defence Minister Lt Gen Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (retd), Commander of Indonesian Armed Forces Gen Agus Subiyanto, and Navy Chief Admiral Muhammad Ali. "The discussions are expected to cover a broad spectrum of defence cooperation areas, particularly maritime security and joint training initiatives," Navy said.

# UNSC flays Taliban ban on Afghan women's medical education

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 14 (AP)

THE UN Security Council has said it was deeply concerned about the recent decision by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to ban women from medical education, which could leave millions of women and girls without health care in the future.

The Council on Friday criticised "the increasing erosion" of human rights under the Taliban, especially for women and girls who have been denied access to education beyond the sixth grade, economic opportunities, participation in public life, freedom of movement and

other basics.

Authorities previously had not confirmed reports that Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada ordered educational institutions to stop providing medical courses for women. In Afghanistan, women and girls can only be treated by female doctors and health professionals.

The Security Council criticised not only the medical education ban but the Taliban's "vice and virtue" directive issued in August that further restricts women's rights, including prohibiting their voices from being heard in public.

The resolution also extends

the mandate of the UN expert team monitoring sanctions against the Taliban for 14 months.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 as US and NATO forces withdrew following two decades of war. No country officially recognises them as Afghanistan's Government.

The UN has said that recognition is almost impossible while bans on female education and employment remain in place and women can't go out in public without a male guardian.

Roza Otunbayeva said that women are "facing progressive erasure from almost all walks of life."

# Sri Lankan President accepts Speaker Ranwala's resignation

COLOMBO, Dec 14 (PTI)

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SRI Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Saturday accepted the resignation of parliamentary Speaker Asoka Ranwala, who announced his decision to step down from the post amidst a controversy surrounding his educational qualifications. This is the first time in Sri Lanka's parliamentary history that a Speaker has resigned, according to the Adaderana news portal. Presidential Secretary Dr Nandika Sanath Kumanayake formally informed the Secretary General of Parliament that Dissanayake has accepted Ranwala's resignation, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

On Friday, Ranwala announced his resignation following days of speculation about him falsifying his educational qualifications. "...To stop the inconvenience caused to the government and the people who had placed trust in the government, I have decided to resign from the post of Speaker," he said.

Ranwala's resignation came as the main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) signed a motion of no trust against him, accusing him of misleading the public and the government by falsely claiming to possess a doctorate.

# Shah presents President's Police Colour Award to C'garh Police

**NAXALISM WILL BE ELIMINATED** in C'garh before March, 2026. Maoists should leave path of violence and take benefit of rehabilitation policy.  
-- Union Home Minister Shah

■ Staff Reporter  
RAIPUR, Dec 15

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah presented the prestigious President's Colour award to the Chhattisgarh Police in a ceremony held at the Police Parade Ground in Raipur on Sunday. The honour recognises the police force's exceptional work in eradicating Naxalism in Chhattisgarh.

During the event, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Durg, Ajay Kumar Singh, received the award on behalf of the Chhattisgarh Police from the Union Home Minister.

In his address, Shah highlighted the significance of the award, calling it a symbol of serv-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah presents President's Police Colour award to Chhattisgarh Police at Police Parade Ground in Raipur on Sunday. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai is also seen.

ice, justice, and martyrdom. He praised the Chhattisgarh Police for their exemplary service, including their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, and described them as one of the bravest police forces in the country. Shah also noted that receiving the award within 25 years of the police force's inception is a matter of immense pride.

Shah emphasised the progress made by the Chhattisgarh Police in the fight against Naxalism, expressing confidence that Naxalism will be eliminated from the State by March 31, 2026. He urged Maoists to abandon violence and reintegrate into society, highlighting the State Government's robust rehabilitation policy, which offers attractive benefits to surrendered Naxalites.

The Chhattisgarh Police has made remarkable progress over the past year. A total of 247  
*(Contd on page 5)*

## SURRENDERED NAXALS REVEAL futility of violent movement



■ By Achinta Borah  
JAGDALPUR, Dec 15 (PTI)

THE lives of Joymati Vanjan and Shankar Markade have followed a similar pattern -- tribals belonging to poor families in Chhattisgarh's remote areas, giving up studies after Class 8 and becoming dreaded Naxals carrying a bounty of Rs 5 lakh each. A former cadre of the CPI (Maoist), Vanjan was allegedly involved in several offensives against security  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# IAF chief asks graduating officers to be future leaders, not just air warriors



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh reviews the Combined Graduation Parade of Number 214 Course at Air Force Academy (AFA) Dundigal, Hyderabad, on Saturday. (PTI)

HYDERABAD, Dec 14 (PTI)

AIR CHIEF Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), on Saturday exhorted the graduating officers from the Air Force Academy (AFA) near here to be future leaders and not just air warriors.

He was speaking after reviewing the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Academy.

"You are the future leaders and commanders, not just air warriors, and you will chart the destiny of Indian Air Force. Let this huge responsibility not wear you down, but be a motivating factor in your lives," he said.

He urged the graduating officers to uphold the ethos, traditions and honour of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Singh said their career is not only challenging but also honourable.

"As you look towards the future, only two things are certain. Fast evolving nature of warfare and the increasing relevance of aero-

space power. You, the new generation officers will be a part of this exciting and ever-evolving domain," he noted.

Singh said whether in the sky or on the ground, the officers have a vital role to play in operations and should make sure that they understand their role. If the young officers let the core values of Indian Air Force, mission, integrity, and excellence be their guiding beacon, while they navigate through their careers, they will never go wrong, he added.

Every aspect of their service life, from professional learning to executing assigned missions and tasks, cultivating leadership, and later passing on the mantle to their juniors, will have an impact on how the Indian Air Force navigates trials and tribulations ahead, he observed. The CGP of the 214th Course commemorates the successful completion of pre-commissioning training for flight cadets across various branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

# Government not to table 'ONOE' Bills in LS today

NEW DELHI, Dec 15 (PTI)

~~THE~~ Government has deferred the introduction of Bills related to 'one nation one election' in the Lok Sabha till after the completion of financial business, sources said.

Earlier, the two Bills -- The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill -- were listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The sources in the Government said the Bills could be brought later this week after the House passes the first batch of supplementary demands for grants listed for Monday.

The revised list of business, issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat, does not have the two Bills on the agenda for Monday.

However, the Government can always bring in legislative agenda to Parliament at the last minute through 'Supplementary List of Business' with the permission of the Lok Sabha Speaker. The two Bills related to implementation of the simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies have been circulated among members last week as per the rules of procedure. The Winter session of Parliament is scheduled to conclude on December 20.

# IMPEACHED

## South Korean President Yeol



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol bows while delivering a speech at the presidential residence in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

- National Assembly passed the motion by 204-85 votes over his bid to declare martial law
- Prime Minister Han Duck-soo took over presidential powers

SEOUL, Dec 14 (ANI)

**SOUTH** Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has been impeached by the National Assembly over his attempt to impose martial law in the country. The members of the unicameral National Assembly on Saturday voted 204 to 85 to impeach South Korea's President, the second such vote in eight days.

Three members of the National Assembly abstained from voting while eight votes were declared invalid. The voting was conducted through secret ballot, with two-thirds of the vote needed for impeachment. Audible gasps were heard from the chamber after the result of voting was announced.

Thousands of protesters, gathered outside the assembly, welcomed the announcement with applause and loud cheers.

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