

# 'China's assertiveness more evident with its rise'

NEW DELHI, Oct 5 (PTI)

CHINA'S assertiveness is more evident with its rise and India will have to take this aspect into account in its overall "strategic calculus", Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Thursday.

Delving into disruptions in global geopolitical order, he also underlined the need for India to continue maintaining "strategic autonomy" in its approach and that the country move forward from its approach of "non-alignment" to an era of being a "Vishwa-

mitra" -- a friend to the world.

Delivering the fifth General KV Krishna Rao memorial lecture, the Chief of Defence Staff also referred to India's "major dispute" on its northern borders with China and suggested that New Delhi will have to play a strategic autonomy card.

"The strategic autonomy may be relevant to exploit opportunities rather than to take care of your threats. That's where the future should

lie. We should be thinking about opportunities more," he said.



CDS Gen Chauhan

"This all what I said comes with a little bit of a caveat because of the northern neighbour. In this strategic calculus, India will have to take into account the emergence of China as a major power," he said.

"China's assertiveness is more evident with its rise. India has a major dispute on its northern borders with China

and will have to play a strategic autonomy card..." he added.

The Chief of Defence Staff also summarised India's journey of being non-aligned to that of exercising strategic autonomy.

"If I were to summarise the journey of India from non-alignment to exercising of strategic autonomy, it can be based on what I can say is three S. First is securing India. Next is self-reliance. And lastly, shaping the environment to India's advantage and benefit," he said.

# ISRO gearing up for Gaganyaan mission's first abort test of crew escape system by this month-end

BENGALURU, Oct 5 (PTI)

ISRO plans to undertake an inflight abort test of the crew escape system by this month-end using a test vehicle developed as part of the country's ambitious maiden human spaceflight venture Gaganyaan.

"Preparations are going on. All vehicle systems have reached Sriharikota (for the launch). Final assembly is progressing. We are getting ready for launch by the end of October," Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S Unnikrishnan Nair told PTI on Thursday. "(With) this crew escape system, we will demonstrate (validate) in different conditions like high dynamic pressure and for transonic conditions," Nair added. Thiruvananthapuram-based VSSC is the lead centre of ISRO under the Department of Space.

An ISRO official said the crew escape system (CES) is the most important element in Gaganyaan.

According to ISRO officials, this month's launch of the test vehicle TV-D1 would be the first of the four abort missions of the Gaganyaan programme.

It would be followed by the second test

vehicle TV-D2 mission and first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (LVM3-G1).

The second series of test vehicle missions (TV-D3 & D4) and LVM3-G2 mission with robotic payload is planned next.

The crewed mission is planned based on the outcome of the successful test vehicle and the missions in which no crew is on board, they said.

The test vehicle is a single-stage rocket, based on liquid propulsion, developed to validate the CES performance at different critical

Mach numbers but Nair said it can be used for many purposes including space tourism.

"We are taking (the test vehicle) to transonic conditions. That means crossing the Mach number of one. We will go to something like Mach number of 1.2. That reaches around 12 km altitude. From there, the escape system will be activated, and that will go some 20 km, and from there the crew module will be released," he explained.

"This vehicle can be used for space tourism, if any industry is interested. Same vehicle can take a crew module to 100 km and then come back. That's possible. If anybody is interested, this vehicle can be used for that," Nair said.



# Five soldiers injured as colleague opens fire inside Army camp in J&K

- Efforts were on to overpower the accused, said to be a Major-rank officer, who had reportedly taken shelter inside an armoury

RAJOURI, Oct 5 (PTI)

AT LEAST five Army personnel, including a couple of officers, were injured when an officer allegedly opened fire and exploded grenades inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, official sources said.

The incident took place near

Thanamandi and efforts were on to overpower the accused, said to be a Major-rank officer, who had reportedly taken shelter inside an armoury, the sources said.

Army officials were tight-lipped about the incident, while the sources said the Army had evacuated a village in the close vicinity of the armoury as a precautionary measure.

The sources said the injured were taken to a military hospital and the condition of one of the officers was stated to be 'critical'. A few soldiers were also present inside the armoury and were believed to have been taken hostage by the accused, the sources said.

# Nearly 50 European leaders extend support to Ukraine

■ Zelenskyy seeks more aid during summit in Spain

GRANADA, Oct 5 (AP)

ALMOST 50 European leaders used a summit in the southern Spanish city of Granada on Thursday to stress they stand by Ukraine at a time when Western resolve appears somewhat weakened.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that besides maintaining such unity, more military aid to get through the winter was just as essential.

Despite the political, economic and military support,

the desperate struggle to rid Ukraine territory of invading Russian forces has ground to a stalemate, and Zelenskyy insisted that it was no time for wavering in the face of Russian President Vladimir Putin. And especially now that questions about continued support are growing in the United States too. "Europe must be strong" despite what happens in other places around the globe, Zelenskyy said, calling for more air defence systems, artillery shells, long-range missiles and drones.

He said that victory or defeat in Ukraine would determine Europe's fate.

Zelenskyy flew in early in the

morning to the third meeting of the European Political Community forum, which was formed in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 that drastically reset the continent's political agenda and fundamentally undermined long-held beliefs on peace and stability on the continent.

Support from Europe has become all the more important after US Congress hastily sent President Joe Biden legislation over the weekend that kept the federal Government funded, but left off billions in funding for Ukraine's war effort that the White House had vigorously backed.

# Norwegian author Jon Fosse wins Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 5 (AP)

**THE** Nobel Prize in literature has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse for “his innovative plays and prose, which give voice to the unsayable,” according to the Swedish Academy.

One of his country’s most-performed dramatists, Fosse, 64, has written some 40 plays as well as novels, short stories, children’s books, poetry and essays.

Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the academy, announced the prize on Thursday in Stockholm.



The Nobel Prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by their creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. Winners also receive an 18-

carat gold medal and diploma at the award ceremonies in December.

Last year, French author Annie Ernaux won the prize for what the prize-giving Swedish Academy called “the courage and clinical acuity” of books rooted in her small-town background in the Normandy region of northwest France.

Ernaux was just the 17th woman among the 119 Nobel literature laureates. The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers, as well as too male-dominated.

# 'Rs 18,000-22,000 crore impact on India's GDP by World Cup Cricket'

CHENNAI, Oct 5 (IANS)

**THE** Cricket World Cup being held in India will impact the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with an additional output of about Rs 18,000-22,000 crore and the Gross Value Added (GVA) will be about Rs 7,000-8,000 crore and will have a very minimal impact on the inflation, said a report by two economists of Bank

of Baroda.

"In terms of impact on GDP, with an estimated additional output of Rs 18,000-22,000 crore attributed to the World Cup, the impact on gross value added is estimated to be around Rs 7,000-8,000 crore. This will be incremental GDP at the primary stage of expense," said economists Jahnvi Prabhakar and Aditi Gupta in their report

'Hitman and King's cover drives to boost India's GDP'.

According to them, services inflation will be impacted for sure as prices of airline tickets, hotel accommodation, etc. have gone up for this period.

Also, the prices charged by the informal segment in the services sector (which is not tracked in the CPI index) would show a substantial increase.

# Toll rises to 18 in Sikkim flash flood

■ Search for missing people including 22 Indian Army personnel continues

GANGTOK, Oct 5 (PTI)

**THE** toll in the flash flood in Sikkim mounted to 18 on Thursday as Army and NDRF teams worked their way through slushy earth and sheets of water in the Teesta river basin and downstream north Bengal for the second day in search of those who were swept away and are still missing, officials said.

Eighteen bodies have been found so far while 98 people, including 22 Army personnel,



Indian Army vehicles which were swept away in Wednesday's flash floods, in North Sikkim district. (PTI)

remained missing after a cloud-burst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim in the early hours

of Wednesday triggered the flash flood, Chief Secretary VB Pathak said.

The Government of neighbouring West Bengal said four of the 18 bodies were identified as 'jawans'.

Twenty-six people have suffered injuries and were undergoing treatment at various hospitals across Sikkim.

So far, 2,011 people have been rescued, while the calamity has affected 22,034 people, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) said in a bulletin.

Pathak said that he was informed by officials of the Army's 27th Mountain Division that the tourists who were stranded in Lachen, Lachung and adjoining regions in North Sikkim are safe.

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# TRIPLE TREAT

## Compound archers secure men, women team Gold; make it three in a row

HANGZHOU, Oct 5 (PTI)

**THE** women's combine emerged triumphant in an edge-of-the-seat thriller while the men's outfit secured the top prize without fuss as Indian compound archers swept all three gold medals on offer in team events, further bettering their best-ever show at the Asian Games, here on Thursday.

The women's compound team edged Chinese Taipei by the thinnest of margins, securing the gold medal win by just one point with Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur shooting 60 out of 60 in the final round of a heart-stopping final.

Having knocked out two-time defending champions South Korea, the Chinese Taipei trio of Chen Yi-Hsuan, Huang I-Jou and Wang Lu-Yun fought till the end but the top-seeded Indian team won 230-229.

The scores were locked 200-200 till the last set but the young Indian team that has two teenagers — Aditi and Parneet



Gold medallist Indian women archers (L to R) Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami pose for photos with gold medallist compatriot men archers Ojas Pravin Deotale, Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar and Abhishek Verma after the compound team archery events at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou on Thursday. (PTI)

— remained ice-cool to find three more 10s in the final three arrows. It put the pressure back on their opponents who were

to shoot last and needed to match with three 10s to force a shootoff. But Chinese Taipei (Contd on page 5)

### Dipika-Harinder bags Gold, Ghosal settles for Silver



HANGZHOU, Oct 5 (PTI)

**VETERANS** Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu survived some anxious moments to clinch the mixed doubles gold, but Saurav Ghosal settled for singles silver on Thursday as Indian squash players recorded their best-ever performance at the Asian (Contd on page 5)