

Women ready to play a bigger role in leading country: Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu and Jammu and Kashmir L-G Manoj Sinha at Kashmir University in Srinagar on Wednesday. *Shuaib Masoodi*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu addressed the 20th annual convocation of the University of Kashmir on Wednesday. She is on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the university students, the President said, "I am confident that the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023 would be a revolutionary step toward women-led development in the country." Murmu added that the country is proud of the "responsible youth of Kashmir" and urged the students to actively participate in social services along with their studies.

The President pointed out that in the National Education Policy (NEP) emphasis has been laid on

Indian knowledge systems. Noting that 55 per cent of the students at Kashmir University are women, she said that these women present the picture of our country and its destiny. "The women and girls are ready to play a bigger role in the leadership of the country." She also urged the university to be alert in preserving the Himalayan ecosystem. "I am happy to note that work related to glaciology, biodiversity conservation and the Himalayan Ice-Core Laboratory is at different stages. I hope that the university will work at a fast pace in all such areas," she added.

Referring to the motto of the University of Kashmir which means 'let us move from darkness to light', the President said that the more youth move to-

wards the light of education and towards the light of peace, the more our country will progress. "A society and country whose youth follow the path of development and discipline, move forward on the path of progress and prosperity."

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also addressed the convocation emphasising that out of total students conferred with gold medals, more than 66 per cent are women. "Accomplishment of our daughters, their self-confidence, courage and the ability to create new records in education and various other fields is a matter of great pride for the entire Union Territory. It is a reflection of a brighter future for the nation and a step towards women-led development," he said.

NO WORD YET FROM DELHI

Jaishankar met Canada Foreign Minister amid row, says report

Ottawa has not withdrawn diplomats ahead of India deadline, reports FT

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

IN AN indication of back-channel talks following the diplomatic row between Delhi and Ottawa after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged a potential India government link to the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly met last month in Washington DC, according to UK-based daily *Financial Times*.

While there was no official word on the meeting from the Indian side, the *FT* report said, "Joly held a secret meeting with India's foreign minister S Jaishankar in Washington, said people familiar with the situation."

The report also said "Ottawa was trying to resolve the situation with New Delhi, which had warned that diplomats who stayed beyond the deadline would lose diplomatic immunity, said several people familiar with the situation. One Canadian official said Ottawa had not withdrawn any diplomats ahead of the deadline."

Delhi had asked Ottawa to withdraw about 40 of its diplo-



A file photo of Jaishankar with Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly

mats to bring parity with the Indian diplomatic presence in Canada.

India has about 20 diplomats in Canada, while Canada, sources said, has three times more — about 60 diplomats.

Jaishankar was in Washington DC in the last week of September and met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and NSA Jake Sullivan.

While there, Jaishankar had said that the Canada issue did come up in his discussions with Blinken and Sullivan. Blinken had "urged" India to "cooperate fully" with the ongoing Canadian investigation into Nijjar's killing.

At the Hudson Institute in Washington DC, Jaishankar, responding to a question whether the Canada issue was discussed,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

India, China hold 20th round of military talks on Ladakh row

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (PTI)

INDIA and China held two days of military talks in an "open and constructive manner" for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain peace on the ground.

A statement issued on Wednesday by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the 20th round of military talks on October 9 and 10 provided no indication of a breakthrough to end the lingering standoff in the remaining friction points.

It is learnt that in the talks, the Indian side strongly pressed for resolution of the lingering

issues at Depsang and Demchok. The MEA said the two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms. The latest round of the Corps Commander level talks was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side of the LAC. "The two sides exchanged views in a frank, open and constructive manner for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector, and building on the progress made in the last round of Corps Commanders' meeting held on August 13-14," the MEA said.

India launches 'Operation Ajay' to bring back its citizens from Israel

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (ANI)

INDIA on Wednesday launched 'Operation Ajay' to bring back its citizens stuck in the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. "Launching #OperationAjay to facilitate the return from Israel of our citizens who wish to return. Special charter flights and other arrangements being put in place. Fully committed to safety and well-being of our nationals abroad," tweeted External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.

Meanwhile, the Embassy of India in Israel informed that it has emailed the first lot of registered Indian citizens for the

special flight on Thursday.

"The Embassy has emailed the first lot of registered Indian citizens for the special flight tomorrow. Messages to other registered people will follow for subsequent flights," tweeted the Indian Embassy on social media platform X.

JAISHANKAR SPEAKS TO UAE COUNTERPART: IN THE first outreach from India with the Arab world following the conflict between Israel and Hamas militants, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday discussed the "crisis" in West Asia with his counterpart from the UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Israel forms Unity Govt as war intensifies

■ **By Harinder Mishra**
JERUSALEM, Oct 11 (PTI)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a top Opposition leader on Wednesday reached a deal to form a war-time Unity Government to oversee the operations against Palestinian militant group Hamas amid escalating violence in the region that has so far claimed the lives of more than 2,200 people.

Benny Gantz, the leader of the National Unity party, who had earlier indicated that he was willing to unconditionally join an emergency Unity

Government to boost Israel's war efforts released what he said was a joint statement with Netanyahu.

Gantz, who served as a Defence Minister and also Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in the past, said that they would form a five-member "war-management" Cabinet, which will consist of Netanyahu, current Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, two other top officials serving as "observers" and himself as members. The statement stressed that the Government would not pass any legislation or decisions that are not connected to the war as long as the

fighting continues.

Main Opposition leader Yair Lapid was also invited to join the new Cabinet but he did not respond to the offer so far.

The move received support from unexpected quarters in Israeli politics which looked divided into two wide factions not long ago on the question of the judicial overhaul initiative of the Government.

The judicial overhaul initiative interpreted by many as an effort to undermine the authority of the judiciary led to massive protests across the country for 39 consecutive weeks and there was one planned also on the day the war started.

Pathankot attack mastermind gunned down in Pak's Sialkot

■ Shahid Latif has been shot dead along with his brother and an aide by three gunmen near a mosque

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (PTI)

SHAHID Latif, a key aide of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and mastermind of the 2016 attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot, and his brother

were gunned down in a mosque in Pakistan's Sialkot district on Wednesday, officials said.

Three men who came on a motorcycle fired indiscriminately at 53-year-old Latif and his brother, Haris Hashim, as they were leaving the Noor Madina mosque in Daska town after pre-dawn prayers, officials in the know of develop-

ments said.

Latif, who was accompanied by his heavily armed guards, and his brother were killed on the spot in the mosque complex.

According to an 'Associated Press' report from Lahore, the gunmen pretended to be worshippers to enter the mosque complex.

(Contd on page 5)



Shahid Latif

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza continue

- Likely to launch a ground offensive
- Palestinians scramble to find safety
- Gaza's only power plant runs out of fuel

■ By Joseph Krauss and Wafaa Shurafa

JERUSALEM, Oct 11 (AP)

PALESTINIANS in the sealed-off Gaza Strip scrambled to find safety on Wednesday, as Israel hammered neighbourhood after neighbourhood in the tiny coastal enclave in retaliation for the deadly incursion by Hamas militants and vowed an even more punishing escalation.

The war, which has already claimed at least 2,100 lives on both sides, is expected to escalate. Israel appears increasingly



Smoke rises from an explosion caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza Strip on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

likely to launch a ground offensive into Gaza -- a 40-kilometre-long strip of land wedged

among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million

Palestinians and has been governed by Hamas since 2007.

Airstrikes smashed entire city blocks to rubble, leaving unknown numbers of bodies beneath mounds of debris, and continued even as Hamas militants hold dozens of captives seized during shocking attack into Israel over the weekend.

Israel has vowed an unprecedented offensive against the Islamic militant group ruling Gaza after its fighters broke through the border fence and

Read Editorial
PARADIGM SHIFT
on page 8

stormed into the country's south, gunning down hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival. They dragged

(Contd on page 5)

Hindus world over stand in Israel's support



Hindu and Jewish communities in Canada take out a protest march in Toronto condemning the Hamas attacks that have been called by many as 'Israel's 9/11 moment'. (AP)

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (IANS)

HINDUS from across US, UK, Canada and Australia have slammed the brutal wave of terror and violence unleashed by the Hamas militant group in Israel and urged their Governments to take firm action against the war criminals.

Israel has been left reeling by Hamas's unprecedented

attack that has left thousands dead on both sides, and the fatalities are expected to rise with the conflict entering its fifth day on Wednesday.

In a display of solidarity, Hindu and Jewish communities across Canada turned up in sizable numbers for a protest march in Toronto, condemning the Hamas attacks that have been called

(Contd on page 5)

Israel carries out strikes in Lebanon

TEL AVIV, Oct 11 (ANI)

THE Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) on Wednesday said, it was carrying out strikes in Lebanon in retaliation to the attack on its border with anti-

tank guided missiles, 'The Times of Israel' reported.

The IDF said it would soon come out with more information on the attack. Earlier, the IDF said, an anti-tank missile

(Contd on page 5)

MEA sets up 24-hour control room

NEW DELHI, Oct 11 (ANI)

THE Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has set up a 24-hour control room in view of the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. The control room will help

monitor the situation and provide information.

The contact details of the control room in New Delhi are as follows: 1800118797 (Toll-free), +91-11-23012113,

(Contd on page 5)