

# MDL delivers 'Imphal' to Navy

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- It is the first naval warship being commissioned with accommodation for women officers and sailors



Imphal is the first naval warship being commissioned with accommodation for women officers and sailors, said MDL.

The "Acceptance Document" was signed by MDL chairman-managing director Sanjeev Singhal and Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu.

"Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

has delivered Third Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer i.e. Yard 12706 (IMPHAL) to the Indian Navy," the MDL said.

The ship is constructed using indigenous steel DMR 249A and is among the largest destroyers built in India, with an overall length of 164 metres and a displacement of over 7,500 tonnes.

It is a potent platform capable of undertaking a variety of tasks and missions, spanning the full spectrum of maritime warfare, the MDL said.

"It is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface "Brahmos" missiles and "Barak-8" Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles. Towards undersea warfare capability, the destroyer is fitted with indigenously developed anti-

submarine weapons and sensors, prominently the hull mounted sonar Humsa NG, heavy weight torpedo tube launchers and ASW rocket launchers," it said.

"Imphal's all-round capability against enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles and fighter aircraft will enable it to operate independently without supporting vessels, and also function as the flagship of a naval task force," the MDL said.

"Imphal has been delivered to the Indian Navy more than four months ahead of the contractual time as the most combat worthy platform to date. This reaffirms MDL's commitment towards continuous improvement and mostly/ exceeding global benchmarks," it said.

MUMBAI, Oct 20 (PTI)

THE Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) on Friday delivered to the Indian Navy four months ahead of contractual time "Imphal", the third stealth destroyer of Project 15B Class guided missile destroyer.

# Monetary policy ought to remain actively disinflationary: Das

NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (PTI)

RESERVE Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday stressed that the monetary policy must remain actively disinflationary to ensure that the decline in inflation from its peak of 7.44 per cent in July continues smoothly.

Addressing the Kautilya Economic Conclave 2023, he also said price stability and financial stability complement each other and it has been an endeavour at RBI to manage both efficiently.

Retail inflation declined to a three-month low of 5.02 per cent annually in September on account of moderation in vegetables and fuel prices, and was back within the Reserve Bank's comfort level.

The inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.83 per cent in August and 7.41 per cent in September 2022. In July, inflation touched a peak of 7.44 per



cent. The Reserve Bank has raised the key policy rate (repo) by 250 basis points since May 2022 to tame inflation. However, it pressed the pause button on rate hike in February this year.

"We have maintained a pause on policy rate. So far 250 basis points rate hike is still working through the financial system. We have also appropriately fine-tuned our communication to ensure a successful transmission of the interest rate hikes," the Governor said. He also said expansion of digital payments

have made monetary policy transmission more quick and effective.

Das also stressed that the monetary policy is always challenging and there is no room for complacency. In his speech, the Governor also said the global economy is now facing a triad of challenges - inflation, slowing growth and risks to financial stability. "First, no moderation in inflation which is getting interrupted by recurring and overlapping shocks. Second, slowing growth and that too with fresh and enhanced obstacles. And third, lurking risks of financial stability," he said. With regard to the domestic financial sector, he said Indian banks would be able to maintain minimum capital requirements during stress situation. India is poised to become the new engine of global growth, Das said, and added the country is expected to clock 6.5 per cent GDP growth rate in current fiscal ending March 2024.

# Navy gets second Missile Cum Ammunition Barge



NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (IANS)

THE Indian Navy has received the second Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge of the series LSAM 8 (Yard 76), the Ministry of Defence said on Thursday.

Contract for construction and delivery of 8 x MCA Barge was concluded with SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam, an MSME, in consonance with the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, the Ministry said in a statement. According to the Ministry, the barge has been built under the classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 30 years.

The Ministry said that with all major and auxiliary equipment sourced from indigenous manufacturers, the barge is a proud flagbearer of the "Make in India" initiatives of the Ministry.

# Israel pounds Gaza

KHAN YOUNIS, Oct 20 (AP)

ISRAEL bombarded the Gaza Strip early on Friday, hitting areas where Palestinians had been told to seek safety, and it began evacuating a sizable Israeli town near the border with Lebanon, the latest sign of a potential ground invasion of Gaza that could trigger regional turmoil.

Palestinians in Gaza reported heavy airstrikes in Khan Youni, a town in the territory's south, and ambulances carrying men, women and children streamed into the local Nasser Hospital. The hospital, Gaza's second largest, already was overflowing with patients and people seeking shelter.

The Israeli military said it had struck more than 100 targets across Gaza linked to the territory's Hamas rulers, including a tunnel and arms depots. On Thursday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant ordered ground troops to prepare to see



Palestinians evacuate a wounded child from a building destroyed in Israeli bombardment in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. (AP/PTI)

Gaza "from the inside," hinting at a ground offensive aimed at crushing Gaza's militant Hamas rulers nearly two weeks after their bloody incursion into Israel. Officials have given no timetable for such an operation.

Over a million people have

been displaced in Gaza, with many heeding Israel's orders to evacuate the northern part of the sealed-off enclave on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called areas in south Gaza "safe

zones" earlier this week, Israeli military spokesman Nir Dinar said Friday: "There are no safe zones."

UN officials said with the bombings across all of Gaza, some Palestinians who had fled the north appeared to be going back.

"The strikes, coupled with extremely difficult living conditions in the south, appear to have pushed some to return to the north, despite the continuing heavy bombing there," Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, said.

Gaza's overwhelmed hospitals are rationing their dwindling medical supplies and fuel for generators, as authorities worked out logistics for a desperately needed aid delivery from Egypt.

Doctors in darkened wards across Gaza performed surgeries by the light of mobile phones and used vinegar to treat infected wounds.

# GAGANYAAN

## Test vehicle launch for human flight today

SRIHARIKOTA, Oct 20 (PTI)

**THE** launch of a single-stage liquid propulsion rocket on Saturday will signal ISRO's journey towards its ambitious human space flight programme, Gaganyaan, when the first crew module test to ensure the safety of astronauts will be conducted by the space agency here. ISRO aims to send humans into space on a Low Earth Orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bring them



ISRO's Test Vehicle ready for unmanned flight tests of Gaganyaan Mission.

safely back to earth.

Unlike other missions undertaken by the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency, ISRO would attempt a successful launch of its Test Vehicle (TV-D1), a single-stage liquid propulsion rocket, scheduled to lift off from the first launch pad at this spaceport at 8 am on October 21 (Saturday).

The Test Vehicle mission with this crew module is a significant milestone for

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# Canada withdraws 41 diplomats from India

## MEA rejects Canada's claim of violating international norms

TORONTO/NEW DELHI, Oct 20 (PTI)

CANADA has withdrawn 41 diplomats from India after it threatened to strip them of their diplomatic immunity by Friday, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly has said, amid a diplomatic row over the killing of a Sikh separatist.

Canada has also announced that it will be "pausing" all in-person services at its consulates in Chandigarh, Mumbai and Bengaluru and was directing all Canadians in India to the High Commission in New Delhi.

In New Delhi, the Ministry

of External Affairs on Friday rejected Canada's attempt to "portray" the withdrawal of 41 Canadian diplomats from the country as a violation of international norms. India asserted that ensuring two-way diplomatic parity is

fully consistent with the provisions of Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations. "We reject any attempt to portray the implementation of parity as a violation of international norms," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in

a statement.

Tensions flared between India and Canada last month following Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of K h a l i s t a n i

extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

"The state of our bilateral relations, the much higher

number of Canadian diplomats in India, and their continued interference in our internal affairs warrant a parity in mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa," it said.

The MEA said it has been engaged with the Canadian side on the issue over the last month in order to work out the details and modalities to ensure implementation of parity in diplomatic presence.

"Our actions in implementing this parity are fully consistent with Article 11.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," the MEA statement said.

