

French Prime Minister resigns after less than a month in office



Sebastien Lecornu

PARIS, Oct 6 (AP)

FRANCE'S new Prime Minister, Sebastien Lecornu, resigned on Monday, just a day after naming his Government and after less than a month in office. The French presidency said in a statement that President Emmanuel Macron has accepted his resignation.

Lecornu's choice of ministers had been criticised across the political spectrum, particularly his decision to bring back former Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire to serve at the Defence Ministry. Other key positions remained largely unchanged from the previous cabinet, with conservative Bruno Retailleau staying on as interior minister, in charge of policing and internal security, Jean-Noel Barrot remaining as foreign minister, and Gerald Darmanin keeping the Justice Ministry.

Talks between Israel, Hamas begin in Egypt

CAIRO, Oct 6 (AP)

ISRAELI and Hamas officials launched indirect talks on Monday at an Egyptian resort on a US-drafted peace plan to end the ruinous war in Gaza on the eve of its second anniversary.

Many uncertainties remain about the plan presented by US President Donald Trump last week, including the disarmament of the militant group — a key Israeli demand — and the future governance of Gaza.

Trump has indicated an agreement on Gaza could pave the way for a Middle East peace process that could reshape the region. Despite Trump ordering Israel to stop the bombing, Israel continued to pound Gaza with

airstrikes, killing at least 19 people in the last 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said.

An Egyptian official said talks began at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh Monday afternoon. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly about the talks.

The Israelis are led by top negotiator Ron Dermer, while Khalil al-Hayyah leads the Hamas delegation.

Hamas said negotiations will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention.

'India to bolster shipbuilding ties with S. Korea'

SEOUL/NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (IANS)

INDIA is seeking deeper cooperation with South Korea in the shipbuilding sector as it strives to become one of the world's top five shipbuilding nations by 2047, India's secretary for shipping has said, highlighting the need to combine Seoul's advanced technology with New Delhi's abundant manpower.

TK Ramachandran, Secretary of India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, made the remarks

at a recent meeting with reporters from South Korea, Japan and other nations in New Delhi, saying India can serve as a key partner for South Korea given its workforce capacity, reports Yonhap news agency.

"Our only problem is that we need to get the technology and the necessary training modules from other countries or other partners," he said. "So we are collaborating with some of the top shipping countries in the world like South Korea or Japan because they have the skills

but they don't have the manpower."

Ramachandran noted vast opportunities for bilateral cooperation in shipbuilding, noting South Korea's shipyards are already operating at full capacity. "They have a capacity constraint as well because some of them are all booked up to 2028, so they don't have space to build any more ships ... they're getting orders but then they're not able to build them in Korea or Japan," he added.

Navy commissions ASW vessel 'Androth'

VISAKHAPATNAM, Oct 6 (PTI)

THE Indian Navy on Monday commissioned 'Androth', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft during a ceremonial event at the Naval Dockyard here.

According to the Navy, the induction of Androth will enhance its overall Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities, particularly for operations in coastal and shallow waters. The event was presided over by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), in the presence of senior naval officers and shipyard representatives. "The commissioning of Androth marks another major step in the Navy's ongoing efforts toward indigenisation and capability enhancement," said an official press release from the ENC. Indigenously built by Kolkata-



Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, naval officers and shipyard representatives during the induction of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Androth on Monday.

based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), the vessel embodies India's growing shipbuilding prowess with over 80 per cent locally sourced components.

The induction is part of a larg-

er momentum that has seen several state-of-the-art warships join the naval fleet in recent months.

The name 'Androth' holds strategic and symbolic significance, derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archi-

pelago, underscoring India's commitment to safeguarding its vast maritime territories.

In its previous avatar, INS Androth (P69) served the country with distinction for more than 27 years before being decommissioned.

The commissioning of the new Androth honours the legacy and spirit of her predecessor.

Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata, Androth is a testimony to India's growing maritime self-reliance with more than 80 per cent indigenous content. The ship underscores the Navy's commitment to enhancing indigenous capability through innovative technologies and home-grown solutions.

"The commissioning of Androth will significantly bolster the Navy's ASW capabilities, especially in countering threats in littoral waters," the official added.

FTA talks on with several nations, including Oman, US, EU, says Goyal

DOHA, Oct 6 (PTI)

INDIA is negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with several countries, including Oman, Chile, Peru, the US, and the European Union, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. The Minister said India is now uniting itself with developed countries through these trade agreements.

"Today, the FTA negotiations are going on with Oman, with the European Union, with the US, with Chile, with Peru, with New Zealand, with Eurasia, and with many other countries, who have expressed their willingness to talk," he told reporters here.

The Minister, who is here on a two-day visit, is leading a business delegation to discuss ways to boost trade and investments between India and Qatar.



Last month, the Minister led an official delegation to New York for trade talks. After that meeting, India and the US decided to continue negotiations for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. Both sides held constructive meetings on various aspects of the trade deal. During the visit, the Minister held meetings with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Ambassador-designate to India Sergio Gor.

Those deliberations were important as they took place after the US imposed a 25 per cent

reciprocal tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for purchasing Russian crude oil. At present, a total of 50 per cent additional import duty is imposed on Indian goods.

In February this year, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been held. The pact is aimed at more than doubling the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion. The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports).

Nobel 'medicine' goes to 3 scientists for work on human immune system

STOCKHOLM, Oct 6 (AP)

MARY E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Dr Shimon Sakaguchi won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

Brunkow, 64, is a senior program manager at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. Ramsdell, 64, is a scientific adviser for Sonoma Biotherapeutics in San Francisco. Sakaguchi, 74, is a distinguished professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Centre at Osaka



University in Japan.

The immune system has many overlapping systems to detect and fight bacteria, viruses and

other bad actors. Key immune warriors, such as T cells, get trained on how to spot bad actors. If some instead go awry in a way

that might trigger autoimmune diseases, they're supposed to be eliminated in the thymus — a process called central tolerance.

The Nobel winners unravelled an additional way the body keeps the system in check. The Nobel Committee said it started with Sakaguchi's discovery in 1995 of a previously unknown T cell subtype now known as regulatory T cells or T-regs. Then, in 2001, Brunkow and Ramsdell discovered a culprit mutation in a gene named *Foxp3*, a gene that also plays a role in a rare human
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Two-phase Assembly polls in Bihar on Nov 6, 11; counting of votes on Nov 14

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (PTI)

BIHAR will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11 and votes will be counted on November 14 to decide the fate of the ruling NDA Government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the challenge posed by the Opposition bloc comprising the RJD and Congress among others.

The election in the politically important State this time has a third force in the form of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party, while a Special Intensive Review (SIR), which Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar repeatedly described as "shuddhikaran" (purification), of the voter list has already charged up the electoral process.

Announcing the schedule, Kumar said elections will be held in 121 seats of the 243-member Assembly on November 6, while the remaining 122 constituencies will go to polls on November 11. The counting of votes will be held



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar (C) with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu (L) and Vivek Joshi (R) during a press conference regarding the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections in New Delhi on Monday.

(PTI)

on November 14.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into effect in Bihar with the announcement of the Assembly elections.

In the outgoing Assembly, the ruling NDA has 138 members, while the opposition alliance has 103 members in the 243-member Assembly. As many as 7.42 crore voters will be eligible to exercise their franchise across 90,712 polling stations, all of which have webcast facilities to

ensure transparent elections.

Bihar has 3.92 crore male voters and 3.5 crore female voters. Nearly 14,000 voters are more than 100 years old, while 14 lakh will exercise their right to vote for the first time. Kumar said nearly 69 lakh names have been deleted since the start of the SIR of electoral rolls, but refused to answer specific questions on how many deletions happened due to non-citizenship.

"A breakup cannot be given in



a decentralised set-up. The ERC (Electoral Registration Officer) makes the voter lists, it can be appealed at the level of district magistrate and the Chief Electoral Officer.

"This has to be followed by everyone as it is mentioned in the Representative of People Act. When elections are held, the process is conducted under the supervision of the returning officer and there is a provision for

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