

Govt initiates process to appoint Justice Surya Kant as 53rd CJI

NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (PTI)

THE Government on Thursday initiated the process to appoint the next Chief Justice of India as incumbent B R Gavai demits office on November 23, sources said.



JUSTICE SURYA KANT

The letter asking Justice Gavai to name his successor is set to be delivered soon, people aware of the procedure to appoint Supreme Court and High Court judges told PTI. According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of SC and HC judges, states that appointment to

the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union Law Minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of his successor.

Conventionally, the letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years.

(Contd on page 5)

EU joins US in heaping more sanctions on Russia

BRUSSELS, Oct 23 (AP)

THE European Union on Thursday heaped more economic sanctions on Russia, adding to US President Donald Trump's new punitive measures the previous day against the Russian oil industry. Russian state media dismissed the measures, claiming they are largely ineffective.

It is part of a broadened effort to choke off the revenue that funds Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and compel President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the war.

The measures are a triumph for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has long campaigned for the international community to punish Russia more comprehensively for attacking his country.

"We waited for this. God bless,



The EU measures target Russian oil and gas, the Russian shadow fleet of hundreds of ageing tankers that are dodging sanctions, and Russia's financial sector. A new system for limiting the movement of Russian diplomats within the 27-nation EU will also be introduced.

"It will work. And this is very important," the Ukrainian leader said in Brussels, where EU countries attending a summit announced the latest round of Russia sanctions.

Despite US-led peace efforts in recent months, the war shows no sign of ending after more than three years of fighting, and European leaders are increasingly concerned about the threat from Russia.

Ukrainian forces have largely held Russia's bigger army at bay in a slow and ruinous war of attrition along a roughly 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line that snakes along eastern and southern Ukraine. Almost daily, Russian long-range strikes have taken aim at Ukraine's power grid ahead of the bitter winter, while Ukrainian forces have targeted Russian oil refineries and manufacturing plants.

3 Indian firms among 45 entities sanctioned by EU for links with Russia

NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (PTI)

THREE India-based companies were among 45 entities sanctioned by the European Union on Thursday for their alleged links with Russian military. There was no immediate reaction from Indian officials to the EU action.

The statement on the 19th package of sanctions identified the three Indian firms as Aerotrust Aviation Private Limited, Ascend Aviation India Private Limited and Shree Enterprises.

IAF joins multinational exercise in Spain

NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (ANI)

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain, from October 20 to 31. In a post on X, the IAF stated, "The exercise aims to foster mutual learning, enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defence cooperation with friendly nations."

The exercise comes a few months after the IAF strengthened its operational capabilities with the induction of 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft. Indian Ambassador to Spain, Dinesh K Patnaik, along with other senior officials, received the last of these aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville on August 3.

Over 200 milestones recorded in 2025: ISRO chief

BENGALURU, Oct 23 (ANI)

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan on Thursday said that the country's space sector has achieved remarkable progress in 2025 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with more than 200 significant milestones recorded this year alone.

He was speaking at the curtain raiser of the Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave 2025 in Bengaluru.

Narayanan emphasised that the upcoming Conclave 2025 will centre on Space Technologies, aimed at fostering synergy among multiple stakeholders and propelling collaborative efforts toward realising the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Highlighting India's scientific advancements, the ISRO Chairman said, "From January until now, over 200 significant accomplishments have been made under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

He recalled that on January 6, ISRO released nearly 10 terabytes of scientific data from the Aditya-L1 mission for the first time, followed by another release in



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan addresses a press conference, in Bengaluru, Karnataka, on Thursday. (PTI)

February. "Till date, we have made available around 15 terabytes of data from the mission," Narayanan stated.

Marking a major technological breakthrough, he said India performed its first-ever on-orbit docking experiment, SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment), on January 16.

"This complex operation involved two satellites travelling at speeds of 28,400 km per hour, which were successfully aligned and docked using advanced algorithms, cameras, propulsion, and

inertial systems. With this, India became the fourth country in the world to demonstrate successful in-space docking," he added. ISRO has since conducted de-docking and even power transfer between two satellites, further strengthening India's in-space capabilities.

He also mentioned the launch of GSLV-F15 on January 29, marking the 100th large vehicle mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a key moment in India's space history.

'90 pc work done of Gaganyaan mission'

BENGALURU, Oct 23 (PTI)

THE Gaganyaan mission is progressing steadily with nearly 90 per cent of the development work being completed, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said.

The Gaganyaan mission is India's first human spaceflight mission under development.

"The Gaganyaan mission is going very well. In fact, when you talk about the Gaganyaan mission, a lot of technology development has to take place, you are aware — the rocket has to be human-rated, the orbital module has to be developed, and the environmental control safety system has to be developed. Then coming to the crew escape system, parachute system and then, of course, human-centric products," Narayanan said.

He said that approximately 90 per cent of the development work has been completed.

New sanctions against Russia's 2 biggest oil companies: US

WASHINGTON, Oct 23 (AP)

TREASURY Secretary Scott Bessent announced new sanctions on Wednesday against Russia's two biggest oil companies and blasted Moscow's refusal to end its "senseless war" as U.S.-led efforts to end the war floundered and the Ukrainian President sought more foreign military help. The sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as dozens of subsidiaries, followed months of bipartisan pressure on President Donald



Scott Bessent

Trump to hit Russia with harder sanctions on its oil industry. "Now is the time to stop the killing and for an immediate ceasefire," Bessent said in a statement.

Given Russian President Vladimir Putin's "refusal to end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies that fund the Kremlin's war machine."

Bessent said the Treasury Department was prepared to take further action if necessary to support Trump's effort to end the war.

US sanctions on Russian firms to hit Reliance

NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (PTI)

UNITED STATES sanctions against two of Russia's largest oil companies are expected to impact Reliance Industries' crude imports from Russia, while State-run refiners may continue purchases through intermediary traders for now.

Industry sources said public-sector units are assessing compliance risks but are unlikely to halt Russian crude flows immediately as they buy almost all of their needs from traders, mostly European (who are out of the sanctions net). Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd - India's largest buyer of Russian crude, accounting for roughly half of the coun-

try's 1.7 million barrels per day of imports from Moscow - may however have to recalibrate its imports as it buys crude oil directly from Russia's Rosneft, they said. Reliance had in Dec 2024 signed a term deal with Russia's

Rosneft - now sanctioned - to import 500,000 barrels per day of Russian oil for 25 years. It also buys oil from intermediaries. The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed further sanctions on Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Lukoil OAO (Lukoil) - Russia's two largest oil companies that the Trump administration accuses of helping fund the Kremlin's "war machine" in Ukraine.



Vance criticises Israel's Parliament vote on West Bank annexation



US Vice President J D Vance meets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, on Thursday. (AP/PTI)

JERUSALEM, Oct 23 (AP)

US VICE President JD Vance criticised on Thursday a

Says move an 'insult'

vote in Israel's Parliament the previous day about the annexation of the occupied West Bank, saying it amounted to an "insult" and went against the Trump administration policies. Hard-liners in the Israeli Parliament had narrowly passed a symbolic preliminary vote in support of annexing the West Bank — an apparent attempt to embarrass Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while Vance was still in the country.

The bill, which required only a simple majority of lawmakers present in the house on Wednesday, passed with a 25-24 vote. But it was unlikely to pass multiple rounds of voting to become law or win a majority in the 120-seat Parliament. Netanyahu, who is opposed to it, also has tools to delay or defeat it.

On the tarmac of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport before departing Israel, Vance said that if the Knesset's vote was a "political stunt, then it is a very stupid political stunt."

(Contd on page 5)

DAC approves procurement proposals worth over Rs 79,000 crore



NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (PTI)

INDIA on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Naag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the military. The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor.

Procurement projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were approved on August 5. The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the Defence Ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval
(Contd on page 5)



Modi to attend India-ASEAN summit virtually

Jaishankar to represent PM at summit on Oct 27

NEW DELHI, Oct 23 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will not travel to Kuala Lumpur for annual ASEAN meetings due to scheduling issues and he will join India's annual summit with the 10-nation grouping virtually.

Following a phone conversation with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Modi said he was looking forward to joining the ASEAN-India summit virtually, and to further deepening comprehensive strategic partnership between the two sides. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent PM Modi at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on October 27, according to an official statement.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

Apart from the ASEAN member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia. In a social media post, the Malaysian Prime Minister said he had spoken to PM Modi last night and discussed efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship to a more strategic and comprehensive level. The ASEAN summit and related meetings will be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 26 to 28. PM Modi has led the Indian delegations at the ASEAN-India summit and the East Asia Summit in the last few years.



"Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of upcoming Summits," Modi said on 'X'.

"Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said.

People familiar with the matter said PM Modi is not travelling to Kuala Lumpur due to scheduling issues. Malaysian PM Ibrahim said Modi told him that he would attend the India-ASEAN summit online since the "Deepavali festival was still being celebrated".

(Contd on page 5)