

# India delivers over 16 tonnes of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat diseases

KABUL, Nov 2 (IANS)

INDIA has delivered over 16 tonnes of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis, a Taliban spokesperson announced on Sunday.

Taliban spokesperson Sharafat Zaman stated that the medicines and diagnostic kits will support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Programme. He noted that supplies sent by India will help enhance Afghanistan's capacity to combat diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis.

In a post on X, Zaman stated: "India Donates over 16 Tonnes of Anti-Vector Borne Disease Medicines to Afghanistan. The Government of India has extended a significant gesture of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan by gifting over 16 tonnes of anti-vector-borne disease medicines and diagnostic kits to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). This donation is part of India's continued commitment to supporting the health



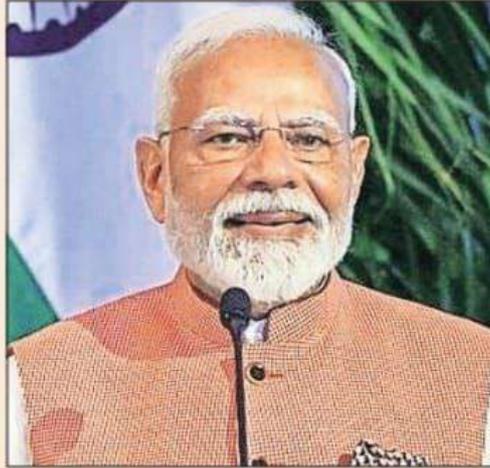
sector in Afghanistan and strengthening bilateral cooperation in public health and disease prevention."

The medicines and diagnostic kits will directly support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Programme. The supplies are aimed at enhancing the country's capacity to combat diseases such as malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis, which continue to pose serious public health challenges across several regions of Afghanistan," he added. Zaman said that Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health expressed appreciation

for the Indian Government's timely and valuable assistance.

"The Ministry noted that these medicines and diagnostic kits represent a crucial step toward improving public health infrastructure and ensuring effective disease control, especially in vulnerable and high-risk communities. This latest donation underscores India's longstanding partnership and developmental support to Afghanistan. By contributing essential medical supplies, India reaffirms its role as a reliable partner in promoting health, stability, and humanitarian cooperation in the region," he added.

# PM congratulates athletes for 'best-ever' performance at Asian Youth Games



NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated athletes for their "best-ever" performance at the Asian Youth Games 2025, winning an impressive 48 medals.

India ranked sixth at the recently concluded Asian Youth Games 2025 held in Manama, Bahrain, with 13 gold medals, 18 silver and 17 bronze. "Our young athletes have scripted history at the Asian Youth Games 2025 with their best-ever performance, winning an impressive 48 medals," Modi said in a post on X.

"Congrats to the contingent. Their passion, determination and hard work are clearly visible. My best wishes for their future endeavours," the Prime Minister said.



# Homegrown 'Bahubali' rocket lifts off

SRIHARIKOTA, Nov 2 (PTI)

**THE** heaviest communication satellite to be launched from the Indian soil onboard a new generation, homegrown 'Bahubali' rocket was successfully placed into the intended orbit on Sunday, ISRO said.

The communication satellite CMS-03, weighing 4,410 kg was flown on a LVM3-M5 rocket enabling the Indian space agency accomplish this rare feat. CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite and would provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass, according to ISRO.

The satellite was placed in the desired Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

It is also a replacement to the GSAT 7 series, launched in 2013.

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said the launch vehicle successfully injected the communication satellite in the required orbit. The "4410 kg satellite is precisely injected," he said. In his address from the Mission Control Center post launch, he described the LVM3 satellite as 'Bahubali,' in an apparent reference to its heavy lift capability.

He recalled that the rocket's previous launch was the 'most prestigious Chandrayaan 3 which brought pride to nation.'

It achieved 'yet another pride' on Sunday after succeeding with the 'heavier satellite'.

**ISRO's launch vehicle LVM3-M5 rocket (Bahubali) carrying the communication satellite CMS-03 weighing 4,410 kg lifted off from the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite and would provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass.**

All the eight LVM 3 launches, including its experimental mission, have been successful, showing a 100 per cent success rate. The satellite was designed to provide communication services for at least 15 years and is 'yet another shining example of Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India)," Narayanan, also Secretary, Department of Space, added.

The ISRO scientists had a tough time with the mission since the weather was not coop-

erative, but they worked hard and ensured success, he said.

Prior to Sunday's launch, the Indian space agency has been utilising the services of Kourou launch base in French Guiana by Ariane rockets offered by France-based Arianespace, for

launching heavier satellites.

On December 5, 2018 ISRO had launched its heaviest communication satellite GSAT-11 weighing 5,854 kg, onboard an Ariane-5 VA-246 rocket from French Guiana.

LVM3-M5, a three stage launch vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons (S200), a liquid propellant core stage (L110) and a cryogenic stage (C25) gives ISRO full self-reliance in launching heavier communication satellites that weigh up

to 4,000 kg in GTO.

LVM3 is also termed by ISRO scientists as Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) MkIII. Scientists at ISRO have classified launch vehicles depending upon the mission objectives, targeted orbit, altitude among others.

The launch vehicles or launchers used by ISRO include Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), GSLV and LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-III). The space agency has been providing launch services for customer satellites since 1999 from Sriharikota.

PSLV has been ISRO's trusted workhorse for scientists due to its reliability in achieving mission success. PSLV has been a versatile launch vehicle and can carry payloads of about 1,750 kg.

For satellites weighing up to 500 kg and required to be placed in Low Earth Orbit at an altitude of about 500 km, ISRO banks on its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

The GSLV with cryogenic upper stage is used for carrying heavier satellites of about 2,200 kg while the LVM-3

(Contd on page 5)

## 'DOOMSDAY MISSILE'

# Russia launches nuclear submarine armed with 'Poseidon' nuclear drone

MOSCOW, Nov 2 (PTI)

RUSSIA has launched its latest nuclear submarine to be armed with a 'Poseidon' nuclear drone, also known as 'doomsday missile' capable of "wiping out" coastal nations, according to media reports.

The nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk' was launched by Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at a solemn ceremony in the presence of Russian Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and other top ship-building officials in Severodvinsk at Sevmash shipyards.

"Today marks a significant event for us – the heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser Khabarovsk is being launched from the stern of the renowned Sevmash," Belousov said in his televised remarks late on



The nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk' carrying 'doomsday missile' is capable of "wiping out" coastal nations

Saturday night. Sevmash shipyards had earlier retrofitted INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier for

India. The Russian Defence Minister emphasised that the submarine carrying underwater

weapons and robotic systems will enable Russia to successfully ensure the security of its maritime borders and protect its national interests in various regions of the world's oceans.

The Khabarovsk nuclear submarine was designed by Rubin, the Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering, and is intended to address Navy missions using modern underwater weapons, including robotic systems for various purposes, the Russian Defence Ministry said on its website.

This nuclear submarine would be the carrier of underwater weapons and robotic systems to successfully address the challenges of ensuring the security of Russia's maritime borders and protecting its national interests in various parts of the world's oceans, it underscored.

# South Korean President, Singaporean PM agree to establish strategic partnership

SEOUL, Nov 2 (IANS)

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong agreed Sunday to establish a strategic partnership between their countries and expand cooperation across various sectors, including defence and trade.

The leaders announced the launch of the strategic partnership during a joint press conference at the presidential office following their summit talks, which took place during Wong's official visit to South Korea.

"Our two countries have many similarities, in that we have both



Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, left, shakes hands with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung ahead of their meeting at the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

achieved remarkable growth based on human capital and an open free trade order despite limited land, scarce resources and challenging geopolitical environment," Lee said.

The two sides reached their first agreement on exports of beef and pork from Jeju Island to Singapore and further agreed to deepen cooperation in areas of security, defence, artificial intelligence, advanced technology, people-to-people exchanges and transnational crimes, like online scams, Yonhap news agency reported. The two countries will step up cooperation to better tackle global challenges.

# Global leaders to gather for 17th GRIHA Summit today

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (PTI)

GLOBAL leaders are set to gather in New Delhi on November 3-4 for the 17th GRIHA Summit, themed 'Innovate to Act for a Climate Resilient World', to drive scalable climate solutions for India's built environment.

GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is India's indigenous green building rating system, jointly developed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Recognized by the Government of India under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC, GRIHA provides a comprehensive framework to evaluate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from habitats.

Organised by the GRIHA Council, the summit will feature over 50 eminent speakers across four plenary and four technical sessions, along with three innovation-driven exhibition pavil-

ions, according to a statement issued by the organisers.

Discussions will focus on policy frameworks, technology advancements, and partnerships to strengthen the resilience of cities, infrastructure, and communities. Key speakers invited include Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway; Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance; and Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD, HUD-

CO. Acclaimed actor Gulshan Grover will grace the valedictory ceremony as Guest of Honour.

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, and President, GRIHA Council, said, "As we rethink how our cities grow and our infrastructure evolves, innovation must guide every stage - from design to execution. The 17th GRIHA Summit will foster dialogue on the need to integrate resilience, efficiency, and circularity as central pillars of sustainable development."

# Canada, Philippines sign defence pact to boost combat drills, deter China's aggression

MANILA (Philippines), Nov 2 (AP)

CANADA and the Philippines, both staunch critics of China's increasingly coercive actions in the disputed South China Sea, signed a key defence agreement on Sunday to boost combat drills and expand security alliances to deter aggression, officials said.

Canada and other Western nations have been bolstering their military presence in the Indo-Pacific to help promote the rule of law and expand trade and investment in the region.

The strategy dovetails with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's efforts to build defence ties with other countries to help the Philippines' underfunded military face a militarily superior China in the disputed waters.

There was no immediate com-

ment from China, which has accused the Philippines of being a "troublemaker" and a "saboteur" of regional stability.

**Canada and other Western nations have been bolstering their military presence in the Indo-Pacific to help promote rule of law and expand trade & investment in the region**

regional stability" following joint patrols and combat drills with the US and other countries in the South China Sea. Beijing claims the waterway, a major trade route, virtually in its entirety, despite a

2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated those claims based on a 1982 UN convention. China has dismissed the ruling and has employed powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers against Philippine Coast Guard and other vessels, resulting in collisions and injuries to crew. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have been involved in the long-simmering territorial disputes. Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr signed the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, after a closed-door meeting in Manila on Sunday.

McGuinty said the pact will boost joint military training, info-sharing, cooperation in addressing emergencies, including responding to natural disasters.

# Indian women script history

## Harmanpreet's trailblazers beat South Africa by 52 runs in ICC ODI World Cup final

NAVI MUMBAI, Nov 2 (PTI)

**FROM** heartbreaks to history, Indian women's cricket completed its long, unfinished journey to glory as Harmanpreet Kaur's fearless team outlasted South Africa by 52 runs in a gripping final to lift their first-ever ICC Women's World Cup crown here on Sunday.

Indian women's cricket finally touched its Everest as years of toil and near-misses culminated in an evening of redemption and history for the hosts.

India's breakthrough in the 13th edition of the global showpiece made them only the fourth team to win the trophy, joining Australia (7), England (4) and New Zealand (1) in the pantheon of champions.

With the victory, Harmanpreet's team finally buried the ghosts of past heartbreaks — the 2005 and 2017 finals — and delivered India's much-awaited World title, a watershed moment for the game in the country.

After posting 298 for 7 — the second-highest total in tournament history — India held their nerve to bundle out South Africa for 246 in 45.3 overs.

The Proteas' charge revolved around captain Laura



Indian players lift the ICC Women's World Cup after winning the final against South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium, in Navi Mumbai. (X)

Wolvaardt's magnificent 98-ball 101, but the brilliance of Deepthi Sharma (55 and 5-39) and Shafali Verma (87 and 2-36) ensured India's moment of des-

tiny could not be denied.

### DEEPTI, SHAFALI SCRIPT INDIA'S GOLDEN NIGHT

Fittingly, India's triumph was

shaped by two players with contrasting journeys.

Deepthi, the ever-reliable workhorse, finished as the tournament's highest wicket-taker

(21) and bowled with guile and grace on the grandest stage.

Shafali, on the other hand, was a story of second chances — drafted into the squad from

outside the preferred group after Pratika Rawal's injury.

Confined to domestic cricket with Haryana weeks ago, the 21-year-old dynamo returned to the world stage with an innings of audacity and maturity — 87 off 84 balls — before taking two crucial wickets to tilt the game decisively India's way.

Her re-entry into the XI proved a masterstroke as she and Smriti Manchana (45) gave India the perfect launchpad with a 104-run opening stand, forcing South Africa's bowlers into disarray after a two-hour rain delay.

Mandhana's dismissal denied her a half-century, but it capped off a record-breaking campaign — 434 runs at 54.25, the most by any Indian batter in Women's World Cup history, including a century and two fifties.

Star of India's semi-final win over mighty Australia, Jemimah appeared to be prepping up for another long haul in the middle, but a superb blow catch from skipper Laura Wolvaardt at cover off Khaka foiled her plans in the 30th over.

With two set batters back in the dugout, India's hopes were pinned on skipper Harmanpreet for a defining innings, but that was not to be.