

House passes Bill to end historic US Govt shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 13 (AP)

THE House passed a Bill Wednesday to end the nation's longest Government shutdown, sending the measure to President

Donald Trump for his signature after a historic 43-day funding lapse that saw federal workers go without multiple paychecks, travelers stranded at airports and people lining up at food banks



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks after the final vote to bring the longest Government shutdown in history to an end, at the Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

to get a meal for their families.

House lawmakers made their long-awaited return to the nation's capital this week after nearly eight weeks away. Republicans used their slight majority to get the bill over the finish line with a mostly party-line vote of 228-209. The Senate has already passed the measure.

Democrats wanted to extend an enhanced tax credit expiring at the end of the year that lowers the cost of health coverage obtained through Affordable Care Act marketplaces. They refused to go along with a short-term spending bill that did not include that priority. But Republicans said that was a separate policy fight to be held at another time. "We told you 43 days ago from bitter experience that government shutdowns don't work," said Rep. Tom Cole, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "They never achieve

the objective that you announce. And guess what? You haven't achieved that objective yet, and you're not going to."

The shutdown magnified the

stark partisan divisions within Congress, and that split screen was reflected when lawmakers debated the spending measure on the House floor.

Trump signs Government funding bill after a record 43-day disruption

WASHINGTON, Nov 13 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump signed a Government funding bill Wednesday night, ending a record 43-day shutdown that caused financial stress for federal workers who went without paychecks, stranded scores of travellers at airports and generated long lines at some food banks. The shutdown magnified partisan divisions in Washington as Trump took unprecedented unilateral actions — including cancelling projects and trying to fire federal workers — to pressure Democrats into relenting on their demands.



INDIA BOLSTERS TANK FIREPOWER

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (IANS)

IN A significant move to enhance India's armoured warfare capabilities, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday inked a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the procurement of INVAR Anti-tank Missiles at a total cost of Rs 2,095.70 crore, under the 'Buy (Indian)' category.

The contract was signed by senior officials of the Ministry of

MoD signs Rs 2,095.70 crore deal for INVAR anti-tank missiles with BDL

Defence and representatives of BDL, which is a state-run defence public sector undertaking, in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh at South Block, New Delhi.

According to the MoD, "The procurement of the INVAR Anti-tank Missiles enhances the firepower and lethality of Tank T-90, the mainstay of Armoured Regiments of the Indian Army."

The weapon system is a sophisticated laser-guided anti-tank

missile with very high hit probability.

"It is set to transform the conduct of Mechanised operations and offer operational advantage against the adversary," the MoD said.

The INVAR Anti-tank Missiles are mechanised infantry weapons fired from the gun barrel of the T90 tank to destroy armoured vehicles equipped with Explosive Reactive Armour.

Its key features include that

the missile has a semi-automatic control system, laser beam riding and is jamming immune and is equipped with a tandem warhead.

It can destroy stationary and moving targets with a speed of up to 70 kmph and has a high hit and kill probability.

Other technical features include a length of 695 mm (missile) and 395 mm (throwing device).

It has a calibre of 125 mm and

a range is 5000 m.

The signing of this contract comes months after Operation Sindoor, followed by the heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.

T-90 Tank, the mainstay of Armoured Regiments of the Indian Army, is deployed extensively along India's borders with Pakistan and China, and the signing of this contract is likely to give a huge push to the Indian security apparatus.

Jaishankar attends G7 FMM Outreach Session, puts forth India's perspective

OTTAWA, Nov 13 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) Outreach Session on Energy Security and Critical Minerals in Canada, and put forth

he added.

Jaishankar is in Niagara to attend an outreach session with the G7 partner nations.

"Noted the unpredictability and market constrictions in global supply. More policy consultations and coordination are help-

Ukrainian, Saudi and European Union counterparts on the sidelines of the G7 FMM Outreach session, discussing recent developments and regional issues of mutual interest.

In another post, the EAM said he had a "useful conversation" with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.

"He (Sybiha) shared Ukraine's perspective on recent developments," the EAM said.

Jaishankar also met Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and discussed a wide range of subjects, including bilateral relations, regional hotspots, connectivity, and energy.

After meeting EU's Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas, Jaishankar said, "Our talks revolved around deepening the India-EU Strategic Partnership and sharing perspectives on the G7 FMM agenda."

Jaishankar held talks with his American counterpart Marco Rubio that largely focused on issues relating to trade and supply chains.

The External Affairs Minister also met his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand and reviewed India-Canada cooperation in areas of trade, energy, security and people-to-people ties as part of efforts to rebuild ties that came under serious strain following a diplomatic row two years ago.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet Outreach Session on Maritime Security and Prosperity, in Niagara on Thursday. (X/ANI)

India's perspective,

Jaishankar, in a social media post, said he spoke about the need on both issues to "mitigate dependence, strengthen predictability and build resilience".

Greater international cooperation is the only way forward,

ful. The key however is to translate that on the ground. India is open to working constructively with international partners in this regard," he said.

Earlier in the day on Wednesday, Jaishankar held separate meetings with his

Pak says Af nationals carried out attacks in Islamabad & Khyber

Islamabad: Pakistan's interior minister said on Thursday that Afghan nationals carried out two fatal suicide attacks this week — one targeting a cadet college near the Afghan border and the other



outside a court in the capital, Islamabad. "In both of the suicide bombings, Afghan citizens were involved, and they carried out the attacks," interior minister **Mohsin Naqvi** said.

He repeated accusations that the Afghan Taliban administration was supporting militants who attacked Pakistan. The Afghan Taliban — which came to power in 2021 and has also accused Pakistan of backing ISIS-KP militants in its territory — denies that Pakistani militants are present on its soil. "We have also, on many occasions during operations against ISIS-KP, killed, neutralised, or captured Pakistani nationals," Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters after the minister's speech. "That does not mean the entire Pakistani nation behaves that way or that their govt is responsible," Mujahid added.

On Tuesday a suicide bombing outside a district court in Islamabad killed 12 people and wounded 27 others. Separately on Monday, three soldiers were killed when a suicide bomber and four other militants targeted Cadet College Wana in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The attacks underscored Pakistan's worsening security situation as the govt faces growing militancy, tense relations with Kabul and an increasingly fragile truce along the border. PM Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday offered talks to

Pakistan deploys army to protect Lankan cricketers

Karachi: Pakistan has deployed army and paramilitary forces to protect Sri Lanka's cricket team after a deadly suicide bombing in Islamabad raised security concerns during their ongoing tour, the interior minister said on Thursday.

Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir had assured Sri Lankan defence minister Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon of the team's safety, interior minister Mohsin Naqvi told parliament in a live televised transmission. "Our army and paramilitary are deployed for the Sri Lankan team's security," he added.

Naqvi said the Sri Lankan players had expressed serious concerns about staying in Pakistan following the bombing but those had been addressed. "The Sri Lankan president personally spoke to the (cricket) team and encouraged them to play," Naqvi added.

The cricket stadium and the hotel where the Sri Lanka team is staying are both less than 10 km from the site of the bombing. The Sri Lanka Cricket Board said on Wednesday that several players had asked to return home after the blast, the first attack on civilians in the capital in a decade. The board instructed the team to stay, saying Pakistan's authorities had given "foolproof" security guarantees. It did not respond to a request for further comment on Thursday. **REUTERS**

Afghanistan's Taliban govt in a renewed peace overture. His call in a televised speech on Wednesday followed the collapse of peace negotiations in Istanbul last week. **AP**

China's 'wolf warrior' diplomacy returns with threat against Japan PM

Shanghai: Infuriated by comments about Taiwan by Japan's new PM, Sanae Takaichi, China has unleashed a stream of vitriol, including a threat by a Chinese diplomat to cut off the leader's "filthy head."

The abuse abruptly ended a honeymoon between Takaichi, in office for less than a month, and China. She had met China's top leader, Xi Jinping, just last month in South Korea, with the two leaders warmly shaking hands and smiling. It also ended China's turn away from so-called wolf warrior diplomacy, an aggressive, in-your-face approach to foreign relations that took shape after Xi rose to power in Beijing in 2012 but had largely faded in recent years.

The latest eruption between the two Asian powers began Friday with Takaichi's response to a question in parliament about potential "survival-threatening situations," a classification that, under Japanese law, allows the deployment of the country's military forces.

Takaichi said that an at-



PM Takaichi recently said that an attempt by China to blockade or seize Taiwan could constitute an existential threat. A Chinese diplomat called to cut off the Japan PM's 'neck' over the statement

tempt by China to blockade or seize Taiwan could constitute such a situation. China considers Taiwan, a self-governed democracy, part of its territory. "If it involves the use of warships and the use of force, I believe that this could constitute an existential threat, no matter how you look at it," she told parliament. On Monday, she recalibrated slightly, saying that her comments did not constitute a change in govt policy.

China's foreign ministry, unsatisfied, demanded that she retract her remarks, complaining Thursday that she had "re-

mained unrepentant." A spokesperson cited "innumerable crimes" by Japan during its colonial rule of Taiwan and what it said was its repeated use of "the so-called 'crisis of survival' as a pretext to launch foreign aggression."

China's state broadcaster, China Central Television, ran a commentary this week warning that Japanese leaders who interfere in Taiwan are "doomed to dig their own graves." Jean-Pierre Cabestan, a political scientist in Hong Kong, described this week's Sino-Japanese ruckus as a "clear return to wolf warrior diplomacy."

In response to Takaichi's remarks, Xue Jian, China's consul general in Osaka, Japan, said in a post written in Japanese on X: "That filthy head that has come charging forward on its own accord will have to be cut off without a moment's hesitation. Are you prepared for that?" Senior political figures in Japan interpreted that as a death threat and demanded Xue's expulsion. The diplomat deleted his post. NYT

Godrej delivers 1st *human-rated* L110 stage Vikas engine to ISRO

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI)

GODREJ'S aerospace business on Thursday announced that it has delivered the first human-rated L110 stage Vikas engine to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the Gaganyaan project.

The first uncrewed test flight under the Gaganyaan project is planned for early next year and ISRO plans to send first Indian astronauts on a home-built rocket to orbit the Earth in 2027.

"This achievement reaffirms our long-standing partnership with ISRO and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), and



showcases our capability to deliver mission-critical technology that strengthens India's leadership in space exploration," Maneck Behramkamdin, Executive Vice President and Business Head, Godrej Enterprises Group's Aerospace business, said in a statement.

Godrej has been contributing

to India's space programme for more than four decades by supplying high-precision engines and components for landmark missions, including Chandrayaan and NISAR. The Gaganyaan mission will use the human-rated LVM-3 to take the crew module carrying Indian astronauts to orbit around the Earth and bring them back safely. "This is not just a milestone for Godrej Enterprises Group, but also a matter of immense national pride. Contributing to India's first human spaceflight programme is both an honour and a responsibility that we carry with the highest commitment."