

# Kerala becomes 1st 'extreme poverty free' State

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 16

IN SEVERAL social indicators Kerala leaves their counterparts behind. This month, the southern State added another feather to its cap. That is first among 28 states of the country to become 'Extreme Poverty Free' State. As the State Government is celebrating this achievement with glittering events.

Thanks to various forms of aids provided by the Government, non-Government organisations like Anjappam and CSR activities by companies.

Talking to 'The Hitavada', a senior administrative officer said, "Athidaridrya Nirmarjana Project was started with an aim of identifying those suffering from extreme poverty who are currently outside the support system and supporting them to come out of the experience of extreme poverty within five years.

Elaborating more on the query that to distinguish between poor and very poor was not easy, he said specialised approach was

framed for this.

Since very much deprived were in some remote places or away from regular system. Help was taken from community and society along with ASHA workers Kudumbashree, activist organisations and others.

Over 15 lakh people were engaged in this task.

A total of 1,53,099 people from 64,000 families were found in 1,032 local centres in the State.

Main criteria was access to food, health and house.

Food based aid still holds highest importance since to not let anyone sleep empty stomach due to lack of money is most pious task in the world.

Undoubtedly, the State Government's 'Poshan' programmes and NGOs like

Anjappam food aid efforts make a huge difference. If such perennial issue of hunger is being addressed with self continue approach that would have address the root cause of the problem.

Beyond the food parcel, hand of help must be extended:

Adani foundation in Thiruvananthapuram through initiatives that support livelihood in areas like Vizhinjam and some of the parts of Thozhilal. These include implementing kitchen garden projects. The

Adani Foundation has given training to people here to grow vegetables since it was found that struggling with poverty some people hardly included vegeta-

bles or other pulses to their meals.

Most of the time, they solely depended on rice it is the only sole item to their dish.

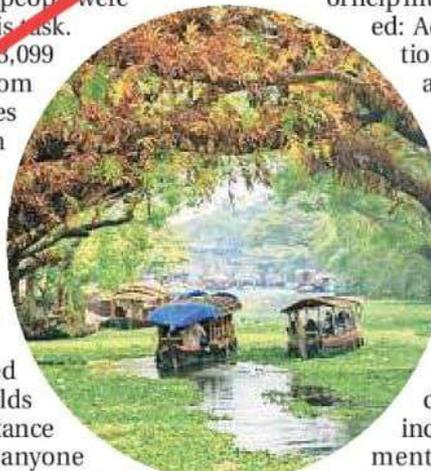
After kitchen garden initiative now some people here are able to get vegetables throughout the year. We have given them training on how to grow vegetables and also provided basic tools for this activity.

As a result, variety has been added to their daily diet that is enhancing their nutritional requirements as well relishing to their taste buds also as informed to 'The Hitavada' by a trainer of Adani foundation.

True to make a difference into the lives of people, collective efforts by the Government and society is desirable.

Most important it should not only be consumable and end shortly.

A real help is to make them able and self-reliant. As hunger cannot be addressed by food item parcels, it is a daily two times affair so in same proportion and approach it must be considered.



# 'ISRO to triple spacecraft output, launch *Chandrayaan-4* in 2028'

KOLKATA, Nov 16 (PTI)

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for one of its busiest times with seven more launches planned this financial year, even as India's first human spaceflight remains scheduled for 2027, its Chairman V Narayanan said.

In an interview with PTI, he said ISRO is preparing for a phase of rapid scaling in science, technology and industry capacity.

Narayanan said ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is targeting seven more launches before the end of the current financial year, including a commercial communication satellite, and multiple PSLV and GSLV missions. A milestone will be the launch of the first PSLV manufactured entirely by the Indian industry.

The ISRO Chief said the Government has approved the

Chandrayaan-4 mission, designed as a lunar sample-return mission and it will be India's most complex lunar endeavour yet.

"We are targeting 2028 for Chandrayaan-4," he said.

Another key mission is LUPEX, the joint lunar polar exploration programme with JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).

ISRO is simultaneously working to triple its annual spacecraft production in the next three years to keep pace with expanding mission demand.

Chandrayaan-4 will attempt to bring back samples from the moon -- a capability currently demonstrated only by the US, Russia and China.

LUPEX aims to study water ice at the lunar south pole.

Narayanan said ISRO has begun work on an Indian Space Station, targeted for completion by 2035.



Chairman V Narayanan

"The first of the five modules will be placed in orbit by 2028,"

he said. The endeavour would make India the third major nation to operate a space station, as the US-led ISS nears its end and China's Tiangong moves into full operation. On India's maiden human-spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, Narayanan clarified that only the timeframe for uncrewed missions has shifted.

"Let me make it clear: the uncrewed mission was targeted for 2025. The crewed mission was always planned for 2027, and we are holding on to that date," he said. Three uncrewed test missions will precede the first flight with Indian astronauts.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also directed ISRO to work towards sending Indian astronauts to the lunar surface and bringing them back safely by 2040. India's long-term human-spaceflight plan now aligns it with the world's leading space powers.

# India spends 2.5 billion euros to buy Russian oil in Oct ahead of new sanctions

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI)

INDIA, the second biggest buyer of Russian oil, spent as much as 2.5 billion euros on purchases of crude oil from Moscow in October ahead of new sanctions being slapped on Russian entities, a European think tank said. India's spend in October was unchanged from 2.5 billion euro spent on buying Russian oil in September.

India remained the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in October behind China, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). On October 22, US imposed sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, two of the largest oil producers in Russia, to cut off Kremlin's resources for funding Ukraine war. The sanctions have resulted in companies like Reliance Industries, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd halting imports for now.

Russia shipped 60 million barrels of crude oil in October, with Rosneft and Lukoil together accounting for 45 million barrels.

"India remained the second-



largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels, importing a total of EUR 3.1 billion. Crude oil dominated India's purchases at 81 per cent (EUR 2.5 billion), followed by coal at 11 per cent (EUR 351 million) and oil products at 7 per cent (EUR 222 million)," CREA said in its monthly tracking report.

Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India significantly increased its imports from Russia following the February 2022 Ukraine invasion. Western sanctions and reduced European demand made Russian oil available at steep discounts. As a result, India's Russian crude imports surged from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent

of its total crude oil imports in a short span.

In September, India had spent a total of EUR 3.6 billion - EUR 2.5 billion on crude oil, EUR 452 million on coal and EUR 344 million on oil products. According to CREA, India's Russian crude imports in October recorded a 11 per cent month-on-month increase. While private refiners' imports constituted over two-thirds of India's total imports, state-owned refineries almost doubled their Russian volumes month-on-month in October.

"In a keen development, the Rosneft-owned Vadinar refinery (in Gujarat) - now sanctioned by the EU and the UK - increased its production to 90 per cent in October. After the EU sanctions in July, the refinery has been importing crude solely from Russia. In October, their imports from Russia recorded a 32 per cent month-on-month increase to their highest volumes since the full-scale invasion," it said.

Exports from the refinery have dropped significantly (47 per cent compared to the same month last year) to the lowest levels since May 2023, it said.

# Navy to commission indigenous anti-submarine warfare vessel on Nov 24

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (PTI)

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THE Indian Navy will commission an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft next week that is expected to boost its combat prowess.

The first of the Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare vessels will be inducted at a ceremony in Mumbai on November 24, the Navy said on Sunday.

# Jaishankar meets Qatar's PM, discusses bilateral ties, global issues



EAM Jaishankar meets Qatar's PM & Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, in Doha on Sunday. (ANI)

DOHA, Nov 16 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday met Qatar's top leadership here and discussed major aspects of the bilateral relationship including energy and trade, as well as regional and global issues.

He held a meeting with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, and also called on Qatar's Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

"Pleased to meet Qatar's PM & Foreign Minister

@MBA\_AlThani\_ in Doha," Jaishankar said. "Reviewed key aspects of our Strategic Partnership including energy, trade, investment and people to people connect. Appreciate the exchange of views on Middle East/West Asia, regional and global developments," he said. The two counterparts also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Jaishankar also called on Qatar's Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and "reiterated our commitment to stronger India-Qatar relations", the Minister said in a post on X.

# 'Indonesia interested in buying BrahMos'

LUCKNOW, Nov 16 (PTI)

INDONESIA has made a bid to purchase the BrahMos missile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

"Indonesia has requested to purchase the BrahMos missile being manufactured in Lucknow," Singh said, addressing the BJP workers here.

Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit here on October 18.

The manufacturer of the BrahMos supersonic missile system has produced the first batch of missiles at its new integration and test facility in Lucknow.

The state-of-the-art unit, inaugurated on May 11, is fully oper-

ational now.

The Rs 300-crore unit, located in the State capital's Bhatgaon in Sarojini Nagar, is one of the most ambitious projects of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor.

The assembly, integration, and testing of missiles here is carried out according to high-tech standards, according to an official release.

The Uttar Pradesh Government provided 80 hectares of land for the factory free of charge.

Singh, in his speech, exhorted the party workers to not ever lose their self-respect and work for the party with dedication.

"I tell all my workers to follow the rules. Lord Ram also followed the rules, hence he is called Maryada Purushottam," he said, according to the statement.

