

Illegal migrants have no legal rights, says SC

Can't Describe Rohingya As Refugees: Court

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New Delhi: Supreme Court Tuesday said intruders and illegal immigrants have no legal right and hoped every citizen is aware of this problem in northeastern and eastern states, amplifying a concern that had prompted SC in 2005 to observe that Assam faced "external aggression and internal disturbance" due to influx of Bangladeshi migrants.

Dealing with a habeas corpus plea on whereabouts of five Rohingya illegal immigrants untraceable after their

detention, a plea strongly opposed by solicitor general Tushar Mehta, a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joy-malya Bagchi took exception to petitioner Rita Manchanda's counsel referring to Rohingyas as "refugees".

"Where is that govt order

declaring Rohingya as refugees? They have no legal status. India has no obligation to keep those who enter it illegally. If a person has no legal status, he is an intruder in the country," the bench said.

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IN THE COURTS

➤ Allahabad HC asks UP govt to ensure that a **Dalit who converts to Christianity forfeits SC benefits**. Failure to be construed as "fraud on the Constitution" | **FLAP INSIDE**

➤ A **reserved candidate** who is **upgraded to general category** for scoring high marks will **continue to enjoy quota benefits**, says Calcutta HC | **FLAP INSIDE**

➤ Noida court sentences **prof**

at IIT Jodhpur to 10-yr RI for raping ex-student | **P 6**

➤ City court **acquits all 5 accused**, including prime accused Sumit and Darshan, in **2020 NE Delhi riots** case, says police relied on **'unverified and contradictory'** evidence | **P 8**

➤ SC stays trial against K'taka ex-CM **Yediyurappa in a sexual harassment case** under PocsO | **FLAP INSIDE**

India to soon get 3rd nuclear sub with ballistic missiles: Navy chief

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New Delhi: India will early next year add some sharp teeth to its sea-based leg of the nuclear triad by commissioning its third nuclear-powered submarine, which is larger than the first two and capable of carrying more long-range nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

The third such submarine, called SSBN in naval parlance, is in "the final stages of trials and will be commissioned soon" as INS Aridhaman, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said Tuesday.

Sources said the fourth SSBN (codenamed S-4*), which will also have a dis-

The submarine, called SSBN in naval parlance, is in 'final stages of trials and will be commissioned soon' as INS Aridhaman, said the Navy chief

placement of 7,000-tonne like INS Aridhaman, is likely to be commissioned in 2027. The first two, INS Arihant and INS Arighaat, both with a 6,000-tonne displacement, became fully operational in 2018 and 2024, respectively.

Parallely, India will get a nuclear-powered attack submarine (called SSN), armed

with conventional or non-nuclear weapons for long-range hunting-killing missions, on a 10-year lease from Russia by 2027-28. The delivery of this advanced Akula-class SSN, which will be commissioned as INS Chakra-3, was to take place much earlier under the \$3 billion deal with Russia in Mar 2019 but has been delayed due to the ongoing Ukraine war, as reported by TOI earlier.

Both SSBNs and SSNs, which can stay underwater for months on end, are crucial for India's credible strategic deterrence against the collusive and fused China-Pakistan threat, which is going to be graver in the coming years.

Putin meets US officials in Kremlin to discuss Ukraine

Ahead Of Talks, Russian Prez Accuses Europeans Of Sabotaging Peace Efforts

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin met US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner in the Kremlin on Tuesday for talks on a possible way to end the deadliest European conflict since World War Two.

Just before the meeting, Putin warned Europe that it would face swift defeat if it went to war with Russia, and he dismissed European counter-proposals on Ukraine as being absolutely unacceptable to Russia.

Trump has repeatedly said he wants to end the war but his efforts so far, including a summit with Putin in Alaska in Aug and meetings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, have not yet brought peace.

"I am so pleased to see you," Putin told Witkoff and Kushner when they met on Tuesday. "It is a magnificent city," Witkoff told Putin after earlier strolling with Kushner and Putin's envoy Kirill Dmitriev on Red Square near the mausoleum of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin. Dmitriev and Putin aide Yuri Ushakov were also at the Kremlin meeting, along with interpreters.

Putin says Europeans 'are on the side of war'

Just before the Kremlin meeting, Putin accused Europe of seeking to undermine Trump's peace efforts by making proposals that it knew were unaccept-



President Putin (3rd from R) with his team meets US negotiators Steve Witkoff (2nd from L) and Jared Kushner (3rd from L) at Kremlin on Tuesday

Tajikistan in talks with Russia about helping guard its Af border: Report

Tajikistan is in talks with Russia and a Moscow-led regional security grouping about the possibility of Russia deploying troops to jointly patrol the volatile border with Afghanistan, three Tajik security sources said on Tuesday. Five Chinese citizens have been killed and five wounded near the border in the past week as a result of attacks launched from Afghanistan. Tajik President Emomali Rahmon held talks with the heads of his security agencies on Monday about the situation and China has advised its citizens to urgently leave the border area. Two of the sources confirmed the talks with Russia, which if successful would see Russia use helicopters to help patrol the 1,344-kilometre border with Afghanistan. The Tajik and Russian ministries of defence declined to comment. REUTERS

table to Russia. "They are on the side of war," Putin said of the European powers. "We can clearly see that all these changes are aimed at only one thing: to block the entire peace process altogether, to make such demands which are absolutely unacceptable to Russia."

"If Europe suddenly wants to start a war with us and starts it," Putin said, then it would end so swiftly that there would be no one left for Russia to negotiate with.

Putin threatened to sever Ukraine's access to the sea in response to drone attacks on

tankers of Russia's "shadow fleet" in the Black Sea. Ukraine's foreign minister, Andrii Sybiha, said Putin's remarks showed he was not ready to end the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, speaking in Dublin, said everything would depend on the talks in Moscow. "There will be no easy solutions... It is important that everything is fair and open, so that there are no games behind Ukraine's back," he said.

Putin sees possible 'basis for future agreements'

Putin has said the discussions so far are not about a draft agreement but about a set of proposals that he said last week "could be the basis for future agreements". Putin has said he is ready to talk peace but that if Ukraine refuses an agreement, then Russia's forces will advance further and take more Ukrainian territory. A Russian source said the Trump administration's attempts to secure peace represented the best chance to end the war since talks with Kyiv broke down shortly after Moscow's Feb 2022 invasion.

Key Russian demands include a pledge that Ukraine would never join Nato, caps on the Ukrainian army, Russian control of the whole of Donbas, recognition of Russian control of the regions of Crimea, Donbas, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, and protection for Russian speakers in Ukraine. REUTERS

European Union team to arrive today for FTA talks

NEW DELHI, Dec 3 (ANI)

A 40-MEMBER European Union negotiating team will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday, marking the most intensive phase of the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) discussions, aimed initially at concluding it by the end of this year. India-EU FTA talks were relaunched in 2022.

EU Ambassador to India Herve Delphin, speaking at India's World Annual Conclave 2025 today, said the current negotiations represent a fundamentally new phase, calling them "EU-India FTA negotiation 2.0". "I mean, first, I would say it's not the same FTA negotiation as a decade ago. It's not a continuum. So please don't read this FTA negotiation through the lens of the past," Delphin said.

He said there is now "a growing sense of shared necessity and complementarity articulated by the EU and Indian leaders during the visit of European Commission earlier this year."



Delphin added that global trade tensions have increased the urgency of a predictable, rules-based framework.

"Of course, there is a sharpest sense of saliency because of the tariff wars that is going on, the tariff offensive that we see. So I think it's, this is an FTA when there is more than trade," the envoy said, addressing a panel discussion. Pointing to the combined economic weight of both partners, he said, "If you think that EU and India combined is 25 per cent of the world GDP, 25 per cent of world demography, that's not nothing. So if you create an FTA

between these two entities, that has a bearing. That has a bearing." He noted the agreement would help both sides "de-risking this very fraught environment of the world economy," and emphasised that the EU's FTA record shows consistent gains for all parties.

"It is a long-term benefit because the history of European FTAs with any partner, and you can check that with any partner, is a win-win. It's been mutually beneficial. Trade has grown. Jobs have grown. Investments have grown. So we are not in the zero-sum game. So call it the European

art of the deal or whatever," Delphin said.

Delphin said there is "a strong political commitment (to) conclude the FTA negotiations by the end of the year." He noted that both sides have agreed to drop the traditional approach of formal negotiation rounds.

"Now we are in a continuous negotiating mode," he said. "As of tomorrow, you will have a 40 or so strong team of European negotiators coming to Delhi," he said. During the visit, members of the European negotiating team will meet Commerce Secretary Agrawal, and later during the weekend, Maros Sefcovic, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, will meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the EU envoy to India said.

So far, progress has been substantial.

"The arithmetic is, if you want to have the facts, is 11 chapters closed so far out of 23. Many more are almost at closing stage."

'Devastation to cost Sri Lanka up to \$7 bn'

COLOMBO, Dec 3 (PTI)

SRI Lanka's total economic loss from Cyclone Ditwah is estimated to be between USD 6 billion and 7 billion, which is roughly 3-5 per cent of the island nation's GDP, a senior official overseeing recovery efforts said on Wednesday.

At least 465 people died so far, and 366 remain missing as Sri Lanka grapples with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse, leaving several districts isolated and severely straining the country's disaster-response capacity.

"Given that all 25 districts are affected, we estimate the cost would be USD 6-7 billion," Prabath Chandrakirthi, Commissioner General of Essential Services, told reporters here.

Over 1.4 million people have been affected, with more than 233,000 sheltering in 1,441 relief centres.

Chandrakirthi said new legal provisions would be required to speed up post-disaster procedures.

"For example, under current laws, death certificates can only be issued after six months. We have to bring in new laws to reduce this period," he said.

Chandrakirthi said the Government had decided to temporarily allow the import of frozen vegetables, as the main vegetable-growing areas in the central hilly districts have been devastated by landslides and floods.

Kandy reported the highest number of deaths at 118, followed by Nuwara Eliya with 89 and Badulla with 83, all in the central hill country.