

Canadian poet-essayist Anne wins Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8 (AP)

CANADIAN poet and essayist Anne Carson won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday "for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature."

Ingrid Carlberg, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said the author was in Iceland "listening to the wind" when the academy reached her to notify her of the win.

"She was very taken by surprise," Carlberg said.

Toronto-born Carson, 76, draws on themes and stories from ancient Greek and Roman literature for works that



often blend elements of poetry, essay and fiction.

Her books include "Eros the

Bittersweet," a look at the pleasure and pain of desire in ancient Greek literature, verse novel "Autobiography of Red," "Men in the Off Hours," a collection of poetry and prose that won Canada's Griffin Prize for poetry in 2001 and "Norma Jeane Baker of Troy," which compares Marilyn Monroe and Helen of Troy. Carson also has translated works of classical Greek literature that, the Swedish Academy said, "may be regarded as independent works in their own right." They include "If Not, Winter," based on poem fragments by Sappho, Sophocles' tragic plays "Electra" and "Antigone" and Euripides's "Bakkhai."

"Almost all her literary production
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India salutes IAF's courage: PM on Air Force Day



Indian Air Force Sarang Helicopter Display Team helicopters fly in formation releasing coloured smoke during the Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026, at the Air Force Station, in Jodhpur on Thursday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is proud of its air warriors and that the nation salutes their courage and commitment to protecting the skies. On the occasion of Indian Air Force Day, Modi highlighted that the force is adept at stunning adversaries not only with weaponry, but also with data and drones. Indian Air Force Day is observed on October 8 to commemorate the establishment of the force and the sacrifices made by air warriors.

"India is proud of our Air Warriors. On Air Force Day, we salute their courage and commitment to protect our skies," Modi said in a post on X.

In a short video posted on his social media handles, the Prime Minister said he wanted to convey his heartfelt greetings to every air warrior serving the nation, as well as their families, on the occasion of Indian Air Force Day. "They have impressed every Indian with their exemplary work in the skies. They have made us feel secure," he said.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE: PRESIDENT MURMU GREET'S IAF PERSONNEL ON AIR FORCE DAY: PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Thursday extended greetings to Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel on Air Force Day and said that Operation Sindoor demonstrated the courage, precision and operational preparedness of the air warriors in

IAF has evolved into exceptional, network-centric force: Chief

GHAZIABAD (UP), Oct 8 (PTI)

SINCE its inception in 1932, the IAF has evolved into an exceptional, network-centric and multi-domain force that is alert and ready to meet any challenges, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Thursday.

In his address at the Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindan air base here,

The IAF chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh also said conflicts in parts of the world have shown that air power is the primary means of protecting the interests of a nation.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, he said the Indian Air Force (IAF) showed "speed of combat operations" with both

safeguarding the nation.

"Greetings to all air warriors, veterans and their families on Air Force Day. The Indian Air Force has rendered exemplary service to the nation, upholding high standards of professionalism, discipline and preparedness," President Murmu said in a post on X.

VICE PRESIDENT LAUDS IAF'S ROLE IN DEFENDING NATION: VICE President C P Radhakrishnan lauded the IAF



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh reviews the parade during the 94th Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon Air Force Station, in Ghaziabad on Thursday. (PTI)

its precision strike and air defence capabilities.

on the occasion of the 94th Air Force Day on Thursday and said the unwavering commitment of the force to safeguard the country is inspirational.

"Its role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief reflects its steadfast commitment to serving humanity in times of crisis," he said.

The VP said he hoped that the IAF continues to soar to greater heights and remains steadfast in the service of the nation.

IAF's 94th anniv: Ceremonial flypast in Varanasi on 25th

GHAZIABAD, Oct 8 (PTI)

THE ceremonial aerial display to mark the 94th anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be held in Varanasi on October 25, it is learnt.

The IAF on Thursday held a vibrant parade at the Hindon air base here to celebrate over nine decades of the force since its inception on October 8, 1932.

With the Air Force Day Parade over, the IAF has now set its sights on the skies of Varanasi.

"The ceremonial flypast marking the 94th anniversary of the IAF is set to be held in Varanasi on October 25," a person familiar with the matter told PTI.

The flying display will encapsulate the theme for the celebrations: 'Infallible Impervious and Precise'.

The IAF had put up a spectacular flying display over the majestic Brahmaputra river in Guwahati besides the traditional parade at the Hindan air base as part of the force's 93rd anniversary celebrations in November 2025.

IMF to release USD 1.2 bn in new funding to Pak

ISLAMABAD, Oct 8 (PTI)

THE IMF has reached a preliminary agreement with Pakistan that could release about USD 1.2 billion in new funding to the country.

The money includes USD 1 billion under the IMF's main loan programme and another USD 210 million under a separate programme aimed at helping Pakistan become more resilient to climate and other long-term risks. The announcement of the staff-level agreement reached after extensive talks between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Iva Petrova, and Pakistani authorities was made by the global money lender in a statement from its headquarters in Washington. A staff-level agreement is a provisional understanding reached between a member country's government and an IMF negotiating team.

The agreement, which is subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, would give Pakistan additional financing and bring total disbursements under the two programmes to about USD 5.7 billion. According to a statement issued by the delegation head, the IMF team reached the agreement with the Pakistani authorities on the fourth review of the 37-month Extended Fund Facility.

India confident of achieving \$1 trillion export target this fiscal, says Goyal

NEW DELHI, Oct 3 (IANS)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India registered \$863 billion in exports last year and has set itself the target of achieving \$1 trillion in exports in the current fiscal year, according to an official statement on Thursday.

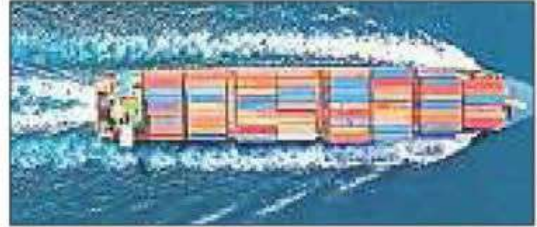
This represents nearly 16 per cent growth in a year when international trade is expected to grow by only around 2.5 to 3 per cent, while the global economy remains vulnerable to shocks, and global growth is expected to fall below 3 per cent.

"India began building bridges when the world was building walls," said Goyal while addressing the curtain raiser of the 31st CII Partnership Summit here.

Goyal said the \$1 trillion export target has been set not merely by the Government but by the people and businesses of India, including 63 million MSMEs, large and small industries, global capability centres and around 250,000 startups.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had, once again, raised its growth projections for the current year and expressed confidence that India would continue to grow at over 7 per cent and remain the fastest-growing large economy.

The Minister highlighted the milestone of Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25



years ahead of Government. He described this as 25 years of uninterrupted public service and an unblemished track record aimed at making India a truly powerful nation, restoring the glory India had once enjoyed and making India a developed Nation by 2047.

Goyal said the collective commitment of 1.4 billion Indians is being taken forward by the Prime Minister towards the mission of making India a developed nation by 2047 and fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of every child born in the country.

Referring to the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC), Goyal said that PM Modi had recalled that the Digital India movement had resulted in savings of over Rs 5 lakh crore, or over \$55 billion, for the nation over the last 12 years.

The Prime Minister has consistently chosen reform over the easy path. Goyal cited the introduction of GST to bring different tax systems across the country under one umbrella and the integration of regional power grids into one national grid as examples of this approach.

Munir's military takes on role in W Asia sans Pak parliamentary vote

Islamabad: Eleven years after Pakistan's parliament voted to keep the country out of a Saudi-led intervention in Yemen in 2015, Islamabad has agreed to rapidly deploy more forces to Saudi Arabia without a parliamentary vote, highlighting the military's grip on foreign policy under Field Marshal Asim Munir.

On Monday, a defence pact Pakistan signed with Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in Aug was invoked for the first time, as the kingdom faces escalating attacks from Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis.

Constitutional changes last year had put Munir in command of all three services until 2030, with lifetime rank as field marshal and immunity from criminal prosecution. Analysts say the deployment signals the growing power of the military at home, where jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party is marching on Islamabad, accusing the army of dominating politics. "There were times in the past when Pakistan's parliament would vote not to send troops, and the military would abide by that decision. But it's a different era now," said Michael Kugelman, a resident senior fellow for South Asia at the Atlantic Council.

Pakistan's information ministry said the alliance "has gone through all necessary govt procedures". Still, it did not say whether the cabinet or parliament was involved, calling the deployment details "a matter of operational confidentiality". It's not

Getty Images/File



Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir

Pak reaches deal with IMF to unlock \$1.2bn

Pakistan reached an agreement with IMF that could unlock another \$1.2 billion in financing, offering fresh support to an economy grappling with elevated inflation and the fallout from the West Asia conflict. The deal, a staff-level agreement which still needs approval from the IMF's executive board, would give Pakistan about \$1 billion under its main lending program and another \$210 million under a separate climate fund. The IMF estimated Pakistan's economy grew 3.6% in the fiscal year 2026. BLOOMBERG

clear if Pakistani troops will take part in operations against the Houthis, who are backed by Iran.

Analysts say the difference from 2015 is political, not legal: the country's constitution gave the federal govt control and command of the armed forces then, as it does now. But even when democratic govts have been elected in Pakistan, the military has been in control. Munir is acknowledged to be more powerful than any of his predecessors. REUTERS

Booms, flight disruptions in Riyadh as Saudi-Houthi war escalates

Witnesses Report Smoke From Plane; Kindergarten, Med Complex Hit: Saudi

Riyadh: Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis escalated their campaign of strikes against Saudi Arabia Thursday, trying to shut down the kingdom's airspace and oil facilities with missile fire that has killed three people this week.

The group said it had struck Riyadh airport, where witnesses saw smoke billowing from a plane, and it warned workers to stay away from energy plants. Saudi officials said debris from an intercepted missile had hit a kindergarten and medical complex. Lufthansa and Air India said they were suspending flights to Riyadh after attacks.

The Houthis say they are targeting the kingdom over its support for govt forces in Yemen's reignited civil war. Saudi Arabia says it is backing an offensive by Yemen's UN-recognised govt to take back territory from the Houthis.

The kingdom has pushed for support from allied nations, including Türkiye and Pakistan, even if only in a logistical or defensive capacity. Those requests have taken on more urgency since Saudi authorities said Wednesday that three people had been killed this week in strikes on Riyadh airport and Abha airport in southwest.

The Houthis have made Saudi airports a focus of their strikes, and the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said it



A videograb shows a Houthi fighter firing at Yemeni govt troops in Taiz

Syria mulls helping Saudis in Yemen war

Syria may deploy troops to help Saudi Arabia fight Yemen's Houthis, a US official and a Syrian defence official said. The possible entry of Syrian forces into the battle, an overspill of the US-Iran conflict, shows how Yemen's reignited civil war has added new chaos to a region already aflame, and risks drawing regional states into gruelling mountain fighting. The officials said Syria was carefully considering military support, including the option of defensive aid to protect Saudi Arabia from attacks or deployment in an offensive capacity to help Saudi-backed Yemeni troops take the fight to the Houthis. REUTERS

had destroyed two ballistic missiles launched by the group towards Riyadh and another towards Khamis Mushayt, home to a major airbase.

A thick black column of smoke and flames were shown rising from Riyadh airport in video verified by Reuters. A witness and three people briefed on the matter said a commercial plane had caught fire and was the cause of the smoke.

According to data compiled by aviation analytics company Cirium, almost 50% of departures from Riyadh airport had been cancelled by 1500 GMT, with 31 more cancellations expected for Friday in all Saudi airports. There was no immediate confirmation from Saudi

authorities on the Houthi claims of ballistic missile attacks on Riyadh airport.

Saudi authorities said debris from an intercepted Houthi missile had landed in Riyadh, causing damage to a kindergarten and a medical clinic complex, state media reported. Several multinational firms based in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District told staff to work from home after loud booms were heard Thursday morning, five people familiar with the matter said. Some diplomats said they had received warnings, and some schools in Riyadh told parents there were orders to shelter in place, though authorities did not issue a public alert. REUTERS

Al Express, IndiGo cancel Riyadh flights; India issues advisory

Air India Express has cancelled its Riyadh flights scheduled till Oct 10, while IndiGo has cancelled flights to and from the Saudi capital till Oct 9, amid Houthi attacks on Riyadh and Abha airports Wednesday and Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon, an Air India flight from Delhi and an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad bound for Riyadh were diverted. Air India flight AI2243, which departed at 2.40pm, turned back over the Arabian Sea and returned to Delhi. IndiGo flight 6E93, which departed at 1.40pm, was diverted to Dammam.

Air India Express cancelled 10 flights to Riyadh from Bengaluru, Cochin, Kannur and Kozhikode scheduled over the next 48 hours. "Affected guests are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation," an Air India Express spokesperson said. IndiGo said it had cancelled all flights to and from Riyadh till Oct 9 and was contacting affected passengers to offer complimentary rescheduling or a full refund via IndiGo Plan B. It advised passengers to check their flight status before leaving for the airport.

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh advised Indians in Saudi to remain vigilant and follow instructions issued by local authorities. TNN