

India, US ink 'landmark' MoU on MSMEs

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (PTI)

INDIA and the US on Tuesday signed a "landmark" agreement that provides a framework for both sides to explore cooperation in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would enable MSMEs of the two countries to foster trade.

"Today, India-US signed a landmark MoU that enables MSMEs of the two countries to participate in global markets, drive innovation, foster trade, and support women entrepreneurs," he said on X.

The MoU was signed in line with a decision taken during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in June last year.

The pact was inked by the two sides in New Delhi.

The MoU provides a framework for both sides to discuss issues concerning the MSME sector and explore possibilities of cooperation.

It envisages the exchange of expertise between the two sides on issues related to improving MSME participation in the global marketplace; cooperation in areas of technology and digital trade, green economy; and trade facilitation, people familiar with the matter said.

India carries out maiden flight test of long-range glide bomb 'Gaurav'

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (PTI)

INDIA has carried out a "successful" maiden flight test of long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MK-I fighter jet of the Indian Air Force.

During the flight test, the glide bomb hit the target erected at Long Wheeler's island with pinpoint accuracy, the defence ministry said on Tuesday.

The test was conducted off the coast of Odisha.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO, the Indian Air Force

and the industry for the successful flight test of the glide bomb.

He described the successful test as a major milestone in the country's effort in developing indigenous defence technologies for further strengthening the capability of the armed forces.

"The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has carried out successful maiden flight test of long-range glide bomb Gaurav from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force," the ministry said in a statement.

Boeing partners with AIESL to provide services to Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (PTI)

US aerospace giant Boeing has partnered with India's AI Engineering Services Ltd to provide overhaul services to the Indian Navy's fleet of 12 P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft. As part of the partnership, the first landing gear overhaul of a P-8I aircraft was recently completed at naval base INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu, Boeing India said on Tuesday.

"This is a first in India and reflects the growth in India's indigenous capabilities for undertaking complex Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services," it said in a statement.

The Boeing P-8I, a multi-role

long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare (LRMR ASW) aircraft, is integral to the Indian Navy's maritime surveillance missions in the Indian Ocean.

Besides India, the aircraft is being operated by the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, and Germany.

"Through this partnership with AIESL (AI Engineering Services Ltd), we continue to make strategic investments in India's MRO capabilities that enhance mission readiness rates for the Indian Navy," said Salil Gupte, president, Boeing India and South Asia.

"Developing local MRO

capabilities is critical for reducing repair turnaround time and aircraft downtime, thereby improving the mission readiness of customer fleets," he said.

The Boeing said it partnered with AIESL to provide in-country overhaul services of critical components for 12 Boeing P-8I aircraft of the Indian Navy.

Sharad Agarwal, CEO, AI Engineering Services Limited, said, "We are proud to partner with Boeing, and for successfully completing the landing gear overhaul of the P-8I aircraft, a first in India. It is a significant step towards India's aspirations to become the regional hub for MRO services."

Iran's Vice President resigns from post 10 days after appointment

TEHRAN, Aug 13 (IANS)

MOHAMMAD Javad Zarif has resigned from his new post as Iranian Vice-President for strategic affairs and head of the Centre for Strategic Studies, just 10 days after his appointment. In a post on social media platform X on Sunday night, he said he was "not satisfied with the result of his work" as head of the steering council for selecting the new Iranian administration's Cabinet members, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

According to Zarif, out of the 19 Ministers proposed by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to the country's parliament for approval on Sunday, three were the top recommendations of his council and its committees after evaluating more than 1,000 candidates.

He added that six nominees were second or third choices and one was their fifth choice.

He stressed that selecting Cabinet members was the Iranian President's right, with the steering council and its committees serving only in a consultative role.

In a follow-up post on X on Monday, Zarif said on Sunday in his message "was not a sign of regret or disappointment with Pezeshkian," but rather an indication that he had doubts about his "usefulness" as Vice-President for strategic affairs.

Zarif stressed that he still had faith in everything he had said about Pezeshkian during the election campaign and urged the Iranian people to continue supporting the new President and his administration.



MURDER CHARGES

6 others, including 2 Ministers also charged for murder of shop owner

Yunus meets B'deshi Hindus

DHAKA, Aug 13 (PTI)

REACHING out to the distressed Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple here, Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday urged the people to

"exercise patience" before judging his Government's role. Yunus, who took charge as the Chief Advisor of the interim Government on August 8 amid ongoing violence and vandalism, including against the minorities, also said each one's rights should be ensured and blamed "institutional decay" for the predicament that his country has fallen into.

The meeting comes close on the heels of attacks on the minority Hindu population, vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples hours in the violence that ensued for days following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

Dhakeshwari temple is one of the prominent shakti peethas. "Rights are equal for everyone. We are all one people with one right. Do not

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■ By Anisur Rahman

DHAKA, Aug 13 (PTI)

BANGLADESH'S deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and six others, including two senior Ministers of her Cabinet and the sacked police chief, would face trial on murder charges, court officials said on Tuesday.

The murder case filed against 76-year-old Hasina is the first so far against her since she resigned and fled to India on August 5. She and six others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her Government. "In line with a case filed by a resident of (Dhaka's) Mohammadpur area, Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury has asked police to register it as an FIR," a court official said.

He said that six others who

were named in the case are: Awami League general secretary and former road transport Minister Obaidul Quader, home minister Asaduzzaman
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Hindus in Bangladesh hold a rally condemning violence against them and other religious groups in the Muslim-majority country in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Monday. (AP/PTI)