

77th Army Day Capable to deal with any situation: Army chief

■ By Kunal Dutt and Sandip Kolhatkar

PUNE, Jan 15 (PTI)

ARMY Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said the situation along the northern border is stable but at the same time sensitive, asserting that "whatever was done in Galwan should not get repeated".

He also said that his force is fully ready and capable to deal with any situation.

In his address at the 77th Army Day celebrations here, the Army chief underlined that special attention has been given to develop modern equipment and critical infrastructure at the northern border. "We have to make sure that whatever was done in Galwan should not get repeated," he told reporters after the 77th Army Day celebrations here.



Pinaka, a multi-barrel rocket launcher, on display during the 77th Army Day Parade at Khadki in Pune on Wednesday. (PTI)

"It means our eyes and ears and a whole-of-nation approach should be focussed towards that. Whether it's a diplomatic effort or military effort or even MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs), in terms of CAPF effort, we all should converge on this issue and make sure that we should not get any such surprises in the future," the Army chief said.

The eastern Ladakh military stand-off between India and China began in May 2020 and a deadly clash at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties between the two neighbours.

To a query about the situation along the northern border, he said, "The northern borders are safe because the Indian Army is sitting there with required deployment to hold the fort".

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India-B'desh border talks from February 16 to 19

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (PTI)

THE twice postponed Director General (DG) level border talks between India and Bangladesh are now expected to be held here from February 16 with the issue of fencing and rise in infiltration attempts post the regime change in that country being a major subject of discussion, official sources said on Wednesday.

A delegation of the Border

Guard Bangladesh is scheduled to hold discussions with their counterparts Border Security Force (BSF) between February 16 and 19 as part of the 55th edition of these bi-annual talks. This will be the first top-level discussion between the two forces post the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024. The engagements of the two sides are being worked upon, official sources told PTI.



Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and others during foundation stone laying ceremony of various projects, in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. (PTI)

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Navy gets 3 'Made in India' combatants

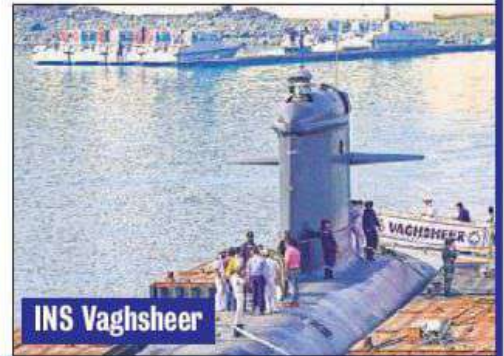
Destroyer, frigate, submarine commissioned together for the first time: PM Modi



INS Surat



INS Nilgiri



INS Vaghsheer

MUMBAI, Jan 15 (Agencies)

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday dedicated three "Made in India" frontline naval combatants INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer to the nation, saying that this is happening for the first time that a destroyer, frigate and submarine, all three are being commissioned together into the Indian Navy.

Addressing the event, PM Modi while highlighting the transcending maritime security of the nation said that today India is being recognised as a 'reliable' and 'responsible' country in the Global South.

INS Nilgiri, the lead ship of the Project 17A stealth frigate class, represents a significant advancement over the Shivalik-class frigates.

Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), it incorporates advanced features for enhanced survivability, seakeeping and stealth, reflecting the next generation of indigenous frigates.

It features advanced stealth technology



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi during commissioning ceremony of three Indian Navy warships INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Wednesday. (PTI)

and reduced radar signatures. It is equipped with modern aviation facilities and can operate multiple helicopter types, including the newly inducted MH-60R.

INS Surat, the fourth and final vessel of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class, is a follow-on to the Kolkata-class destroyers.

It incorporates improvements in design and capability, making it a critical addition to the Navy's surface fleet.

Like INS Nilgiri, it has also been designed by the Warship Design Bureau and constructed at the MDL.

INS Vaghsheer is the sixth and final submarine under the Scorpene-class Project 75. It is a diesel-electric submarine designed for multiple roles, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and intelligence gathering.

It features modular construction, enabling future upgrades such as air independent propulsion technology. Speaking after the commissioning of three naval warships here, Modi said India has always supported an open, secure, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

(Contd on page 5)

ERA OF SPACE START-UPS

Pixxel, Digantara satellites launched to monitor Earth, space objects

Pixxel: First private Indian company to have its own constellation of satellites that allows observation of the earth in over 150 bands

Digantara: World's first commercial satellite for surveillance of objects as small as 5 cm orbiting the earth to ensure safer space operations.

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (PTI)

TWO Indian space start-ups -- Pixxel and Digantara -- on Wednesday announced the launch of their satellites onboard a SpaceX rocket to closely monitor the Earth and objects orbiting around it, marking a new era for the private firms in the space sector. Pixxel became the first private company in India to have its own constellation of satellites using the cutting-edge hyperspectral frequency that allows observation of the earth in over 150 bands, a technology that is useful in sectors as diverse as agriculture and defence.

Digantara Aerospace announced the launch of the world's first commercial satellite - Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) - for surveillance of objects as small as 5 cm orbiting the earth to ensure safer space operations.

Surveillance of outer space or situational space awareness (SSA) is important to ensure the safety of spacecraft as orbits around the earth become crowd-

ed with artificial satellites as well as space debris.

Pixxel's three Fireflies, currently the world's highest-resolution commercial-grade hyperspectral satellites, are six times sharper than the 30-meter standard and are capable of capturing fine details previously invisible to conventional systems.

"For the first time a 5 meter hyperspectral is available. That is what makes it unique, not just in India, but globally," Pixxel co-founder and CEO Awais Ahmed told PTI.

Pixxel plans to launch three more Firefly satellites over the next two months and follow it up with 18 more in future.

"This milestone by Pixxel, marks a significant step forward, as hyperspectral satellite imaging has a potential to play a transformative role for many use cases, especially the defence sector. The advanced hyperspectral imaging capabilities of these satellites are poised to unlock new possibilities," Lieutenant General A K Bhatt, Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA), told PTI.