

Expectations from Armed Forces to contribute to India's growth will rise in future: Army chief

NEW DELHI, May 18 (PTI)

WITH India's interests growing across expanding strategic horizons, it is essential for the Armed Forces to be "alive to our responsibility," not only in the security domain, but also towards contributing to the nation's growth, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Friday.

In his address at the second Lt Gen P S Bhagat Memorial Lecture hosted at Manekshaw Centre here, he described the legendary officer, who was a recipient of the Victoria Cross, as a visionary who was ahead of his times.

"In the book - 'The Shield and



'The Sword' - written after the 1965 war, Gen Bhagat had crystal-gazed on the appreciated Chinese strategy against India. He had also written a paper, 'The Chinese Mind: What will China do next?' His prognosis of our northern adversary, seven decades ago, stands vindicated today," the Army chief said.

Governor of Arunachal

Arunachal Pradesh Governor K T Parnaik and Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande during the 2nd 'Lieutenant General PS Bhagat Memorial Lecture' at Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi, on Friday. (PTI)

Pradesh, Lt Gen (ret'd) K T Parnaik, in his keynote speech, said, "I dare say, we have a peculiar situation in agreements between us and China. And, protocols which have been mainly framed to suit the PLA (People's Liberation Army of China). There is no settlement of boundary... Cartographic invasions and the worst is, we are left to guard an invisible non-designated line."

He claimed that "with no use of weapons, we are disadvantaged along the LAC (Line of Actual Control)" and added that "frequent intrusions by the PLA, violating the agreements, is a critical and sensitive issue..."

Crippling heat to scorch for 5 more days in northwest

NEW DELHI, May 18 (PTI)

THE extreme heat scorching large parts of northwest India will continue for another five days, with Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh predicted to bear the maximum impact.

A brutal heat wave swept swathes of north India on Friday, with the maximum temperature soaring to a scorching 47.4 degrees Celsius in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh, the highest this season in the country so far.

The IMD on Saturday predicted a severe heat wave over

the plains of northwest India during the next five days and a heat wave over the east and central regions during the next three days.

The Met office also issued a red warning for Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and west Rajasthan, stressing the need for "extreme care for vulnerable people."

It issued an orange alert for east Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and emphasised "high health concern" for vulnerable people, including infants, the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

The Met office said high humidity could add to people's

inconvenience in Goa and sub-Himalayan West Bengal.

The IMD also said warm night conditions are likely in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and west Rajasthan over the next two-three days. High night temperatures are considered dangerous because the body doesn't get a chance to cool down.

Increasing nighttime heat is more common in cities because of the urban heat island effect, in which metro areas are significantly hotter than their surroundings.

Experts have warned of an increased likelihood of heat-related illnesses in people.

Afghanistan floods At least 68 killed

ISLAMABAD, May 18 (AP)

FLASH floods from heavy seasonal rains have killed at least 68 people in Afghanistan, Taliban officials said on Saturday, adding the death toll was based on preliminary reports. Afghanistan has been witnessing unusually heavy seasonal rains.

In the hard-hit western province of Ghor, 50 people were reported dead, said Abdul Wahid Hamas, spokesman for the provincial Governor.

(Contd on page 5)



People walk on a mud-covered road after heavy seasonal rains cause flash floods in Ghor province of Afghanistan. (AP)

— Aatmanirbhar Bharat —

India hot investment destination for many Western cos: UN report

NEW DELHI, May 18 (IANS)

INDIA has become an alternative investment destination for many Western companies, according to the latest World Economic Situation and Prospects report of the UN.

The report which has increased the forecast of India's GDP growth by 0.7 percentage points to 6.9 per cent identifies increased foreign investments as an important factor that is propelling the country's GDP growth. "The better outlook for India is fuelled by lower inflation, robust exports, and increased foreign investments," said Hamid



Rashid, the chief of the UN's Global Economic Monitoring Branch.

"India has become an alternative investment source or destination for many Western companies," he added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at the CII

annual summit on Friday that a Capgemini report has disclosed that 65 per cent of top executives of multinational companies who want to shift their supply chains out of China, plan to invest in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

(Contd on page 5)

PHASE 5 Campaigning ends for 49 seats

MUMBAI/LUCKNOW, May 18
(PTI)

CAMPAIGNING concluded on Saturday for the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls covering 49 constituencies in six States and two UTs including the high-profile Rae Bareilly and Amethi seats from where former Congress President Rahul Gandhi and Union Minister Smriti Irani are in the fray respectively.

In Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who



is among 22 candidates in the fray, held a roadshow in Soibugh - a central Kashmir village that was once a hotbed of militancy - on the last day of campaigning.

While temperatures soared across the country, there was no let up in the campaign heat as the Lok Sabha election sea-

son entered the last fortnight. The Election Commission on Tuesday said it expects star campaigners, particularly of the national parties, to lead by example in the remaining three phases of the Lok Sabha polls and not vitiate the delicate fabric of society.

With over 40 of these seats with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Prime Minister Narendra and other BJP leaders tried to fend off the challenge posed by the I.N.D.I.A. bloc parties by raising the pitch

(Contd on page 5)