

ITBP gets cadre officer as ADG in rare appointment

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (PTI)

SANJEEV Raina, a 1987-batch ITBP officer, has been



ADG Sanjeev Raina

appointed Additional Director General (ADG) in the India-China LAC guarding force, only the second time when a non-IPS officer has been elevated to this post in the force.

An order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday said Raina, serving as an Inspector General (IG) at

the force's central sector headquartered in Bhopal, is being elevated to the ADG rank apart from another officer, IG Jaspal Singh, for the panel year 2024.

However, Raina, 59, will serve in the new post for just over a month as he is scheduled to retire next month.

Fully prepared for J&K polls: EC

Ballot is answer to forces trying to disrupt J&K Assembly elections: CEC Rajiv Kumar

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (ANI)

CHIEF Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Thursday claimed that some forces are attempting to disrupt the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, but the poll body is fully prepared to conduct free and fair elections.

Kumar emphasised that the "ballot is the answer to such forces." "There are forces determined to disrupt the election process, but we are fully prepared, and the ballot is the answer to such forces," said Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar after briefing election observers for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana.

Kumar stated, "We briefed



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioners S S Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar addresses a meeting on the election to Legislative Assemblies of Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, in New Delhi on Thursday. (PTI)

election observers today. General, Police, and Expenditure Observers from several states attended the briefing. Observers were

instructed to be available to political parties and candidates to address any grievances and ensure adherence to election rules."

Kumar emphasized that the Election Commission of India (ECI) is prepared to conduct free and fair elections in J&K and Haryana. "The world is watching the elections in J&K. Some forces are adamant about disrupting the election process, but we are ready to handle them. During the Lok Sabha elections, we saw tremendous enthusiasm in J&K, with record voter turnout. I believe the ballot is the answer to everything. The people of J&K will shape their destiny with their own hands by participating in the voting process," he said.

Kumar also highlighted the ECI's readiness to combat fake narratives during the Assembly elections

India, Poland unveil 5-year 'Action Plan'

WARSAW, Aug 22 (PTI)

INDIA and Poland on Thursday upgraded their ties to the level of a "strategic partnership" and inked a social security pact to promote the mobility of skilled workers following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk.

In the meeting, both sides vowed to significantly expand the bilateral defence and security ties with Tusk expressing Warsaw's eagerness to be a key partner in New Delhi's aim to boost domestic defence production and modernise its Armed Forces.

The Prime Minister also held talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Following the Modi-Tusk talks, the two sides unveiled a five-year "Action Plan" (2024-2028) for the India-Poland strategic partnership identifying a range of areas including defence, trade, agri-tech, energy, green technologies, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and mining for cooperation.

"This year we celebrate 70 years of our diplomatic relations. On this occasion, we have decided to reshape our relation into a strategic partnership," Modi said in his media statement with Tusk by his side.

"Today we have identified

several initiatives to give a new direction to our relations," he said.

The 'Action Plan' lists various priority areas for boosting engagement under different pillars including political and security cooperation, trade and investment, transport and connectivity, climate, energy, mining, science and technology and EU-India.

It specifically mentioned supporting the early conclusion of the ongoing India-EU trade and investment negotiations, the operationalisation of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and the implementation of the India-EU Connectivity part-

nership. In his remarks, Modi said the social security agreement will promote the mobility of the workforce and ensure their welfare.

A joint statement said both sides recognised the need to strengthen and deepen cooperation in the defence sector.

To this end, they agreed to fully utilise existing bilateral mechanisms, including the Joint Working Group for Defence Cooperation.

Modi said both sides identified several initiatives to give a new direction to the relations.

"Efforts will be made to connect the private sector to broaden economic cooperation," he said.

President gives away first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Thursday conferred the first-ever Vigyan Ratna Puraskar -- India's top most science award -- on noted biochemist and former director of the Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science Govindrajan Padmanabhan.

At an award ceremony in the Ganatantra Mandapam of Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President also conferred 13 Vigyan Shri Puraskar, 18 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes and one Vigyan Team award, marking the first investiture ceremony for science awards.

The team of scientists and engineers who worked on the Chandrayaan-3 mission were honoured with the Vigyan Team award, which was received by project director of the mission P Veeramuthuvel.

All the awardees received a medal and a citation for their outstanding achievements in their respective fields. Annapurni Subramaniam, director of Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics; Anandharamakrishnan C, director of Thiruvananthapuram-based National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology; Avesh Kumar Tyagi, director of the chemistry group at the Bhabha Atomic Research Institute; Prof Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi of Lucknow-based CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute were among the 13 recipients of the Vigyan Shri awards.

Biologist Umesh Varshney from Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science; Prof Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar of the Pune-base Indian Institute of Science Education and Research; Prof Bhim Singh, Emeritus Professor of IIT-Delhi; Sanjay Behari, director of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology; Prof Adimurthi Adi of IIT-Kanpur, Rahul Mukherjee of IIM-Kolkata also received the Vigyan Shri awards.



President Droupadi Murmu confers the Vigyan Ratna Award on Professor Govindarajan Padmanabhan for lifetime achievement and contributions in the field of Science and Technology, at Rashtrapati Bhawan. (ANI)

Physicists Naba Kumar Mondal of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Lakshmanan Muthuswamy of the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli; Prof Rohit Srivastava, IIT Bombay also received the Vigyan Shri awards.

The Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards were given to climate scientist Roxy Mathew Koll of the Pune-base Indian Institute

(Contd on page 3)

No problem can be solved in battlefield: Prime Minister Modi ahead of Ukraine trip

WARSAW, Aug 22 (PTI)

A DAY ahead of his visit to conflict-torn Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India firmly believes that a solution to any conflict cannot be found on the battlefield and it is ready to extend all possible cooperation for restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk that saw the elevation of India-Poland ties to the level of strategic partnership. In the second leg of his two-nation trip, Modi will be in Kyiv for around seven hours. He will leave for the Ukrainian capital onboard a train this evening and the journey will

PM Modi meets Polish counterpart Donald Tusk, discusses bilateral ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk during a meeting, in Warsaw, Poland, on Thursday. (PTI)

take around 10 hours.

"The conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are matters of deep concern for all of us. It is India's firm belief that a solution to any problem cannot be found on the battlefield," Modi said in his media statement after talks with Tusk.

"The loss of lives of innocent people in any crisis has become the biggest challenge for the entire humanity. We support dialogue and diplomacy for the early restoration of peace and stability," Modi said. "For this, India, along with its friendly countries, is ready to provide all possible support," he said.

Modi arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday, in the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in nearly half a century.

WB RAPE-AND-MURDER CASE



A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra during hearing on a suo motu case related to the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata, at the Supreme Court in New Delhi on Thursday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (PTI)

A TOUGH talking Supreme Court on Thursday termed "extremely disturbing" the Kolkata Police's delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor raped and killed at the RG Kar Hospital, and also asked protesting doctors to get back to work.

Justice and medicine cannot be stopped, the court said while hearing a suo-motu case

on the Kolkata doctor's horrific end and directed the Centre and the States to take urgent steps to institutionalise the safety of medics across the country.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued a slew of directions on the safety of doctors, norms for protests, rights of protesters as well as the West Bengal Government.

It said the National Task

Take urgent steps for doctors' safety: Apex court asks Centre, States

Force (NTF) formed by the apex court to take note of the suggestions of all the stakeholders while formulating a national protocol for the safety of healthcare professionals, including the associations representing resident doctors.

"We direct the secretary of the Union Ministry of Health to engage with the chief secretaries of the States and directors general of police to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals," the bench said, while ordering that the exercise be completed in a week.

Appearing in the court on behalf of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Solicitor General Tushar Mehta alleged

Kolkata cops' delay in registering unnatural death is 'EXTREMELY DISTURBING': SC

Attempt to cover up rape and killing, crime scene altered: CBI to SC

that senior doctors at the Kolkata hospital as well as the victim's colleagues had asked

for videograph, which means even they felt that there was a cover-up.

"The (victim's) father insists on the registration of an FIR. The hospital does not register the FIR. The father insisted and got the FIR registered. The FIR is lodged after the cremation. This is an attempt to cover up. We entered the probe on day five, everything was altered by then," Mehta said.

He said the first FIR in the incident was filed only after the victim's cremation at 11:45 pm. "Initially, the authorities told the parents that it was suicide but later, it was classified as death," he added.

(Contd on page 3)

AIIMS, RML Hospital doctors call off strike

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (PTI)

RESIDENT doctors at AIIMS, Delhi, and RML Hospital announced on Thursday that they were withdrawing their 11-day strike, called to protest against the rape and murder of a medic in Kolkata, following an appeal from the Supreme Court.

(Contd on page 3)