

Bhairav commandos to add muscle to Army by Oct 31

First Lot Of 5 Units Being Raised

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New Delhi: The Army is now raising the first lot of five 'Bhairav' light commando battalions, each with 250 specially trained and equipped soldiers, to enhance swift strike capabilities along the borders with Pakistan and China.

The plan is to progressively raise 23 "agile and lethal" 'Bhairav' battalions from existing troops to bridge the gap between regular infantry soldiers and the elite Para-Special Forces. "The aim is to have the first five such units in place by Oct 31, though it can take a little more time," a source told TOI.

Three of the first five 'Bhairav' units are coming up under the Army's crucial Udhampur-based Northern Command, one each for the 14 Corps at Leh, 15 Corps at Srinagar, and 16 Corps at Nagrota. The fourth unit is in the desert terrain of the western sector and the fifth in the hilly terrain of the eastern sector.



These units will be in addition to the Army's 10 Para-Special Forces and five Para (Airborne) battalions

The 11.5-lakh strong Army is drawing 'Bhairav' commandos from its regular infantry battalions, which number 415 (each has 800 soldiers), under the "save and raise" concept without fresh troop accretions. "Much smaller and nimble than infantry battalions, the 'Bhairav' units will be equipped with the latest weapons, gadgets and drones. They will be geared for speed, flexibility and high-impact tactical operations," source said.

These units will be in addition to the Army's 10 Para-Special Forces and five Para (Airborne) battalions, each of which have 620 soldiers select-

ed after arduous training, and are equipped with a wide array of specialised weapons and equipment.

Though meant for special clandestine missions in high-risk environments, usually behind enemy lines, these crack units are often used for mere tactical operations. "The 'Bhairav' battalions, each with seven-eight officers, are also meant to relieve Special Forces, who can then concentrate on their more critical tasks," another source said.

The 'Bhairav' commandos will undergo specialised training for two-three months in their respective regimental

centres and then be attached to the Special Forces units in their respective theatres for another month for advanced training.

On July 26, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi had announced the move to set up new 'Rudra' all-arms brigades, 'Shaktibaan' artillery regiments, with special 'Divyastra' surveillance and loitering munitions batteries, and the 'Bhairav' battalions. He also said all infantry battalions will now have dedicated drone platoons, as was then reported by TOI.

A new tri-service joint doctrine for Special Forces operations was, incidentally, released on Wednesday. Apart from the Army's Special Forces, there are 27 'flights' of around 1,600 'Garud' commandos in IAF and over 1,400 marine commandos (Marcos) in Navy.

"Special Forces, owing to their agility, strategic reach and mission-specific capabilities, are uniquely suited to generate disproportionate operational effect through precision engagement, deep insertion and unconventional operations," said CDS General Anil Chauhan, in the doctrine's foreword.

India, Japan ink pact for Chandrayaan-5 to explore Moon together

TOKYO, Aug 29 (PTI)

INDIA and Japan on Saturday signed the implementing arrangement for the Chandrayaan-5 mission, a joint exploration of the polar region of the moon by the space agencies of the two countries.

The Implementing Arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) concerning Joint Lunar Polar Exploration Mission was inked on the sidelines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit here.

The Chandrayaan-5 mission aims to study the lunar volatile materials, including lunar water, in the vicinity of a Permanently Shadowed Region (PSR) in the lunar South pole.

The mission will be launched by JAXA onboard its H3-24L launch vehicle, carrying the ISRO-made lunar lander, which will carry the Japan-made lunar

rover.

ISRO, apart from developing the lunar lander, is also responsible for developing a few scientific instruments for the mission for exploration and in-situ analysis of the volatiles reserved in the lunar polar region.

"I am glad that India and Japan are joining hands for the next edition of the Chandrayaan series or the LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration) mission. This will contribute to deepening our understanding of the permanently shadowed regions at the lunar south pole," Modi said in an interview with The Yomiuri Shimbun.

"Our G2G collaboration in the space sector, between ISRO and JAXA, is fostering a culture of cooperation between our industries and startups. This is creating an ecosystem where innovation flows both ways—from labs to launch pads, and from research to real-world applications," Modi said.

FTA with Oman soon, Qatar wants to negotiate pact with India: Goyal



Union Minister Piyush Goyal during the 17th CII Global MedTech Summit in New Delhi. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 29 (PTI)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Oman

will be finalised soon, and Qatar also wants to negotiate a pact with India. He said that India has already signed such acts with a number of developed economies, including Australia, the UK, the UAE, Mauritius, and four-European nation bloc European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Besides, India is negotiating trade pacts with the European Union (EU), the US, New Zealand, Chile, and Peru. These agreements, he said, will open up new opportunities, markets, and investment possibilities. Negotiations with the EU are moving at a faster pace, Goyal said, adding Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal is visiting Brussels next week to take stock of the trade pact talks.

MOSCOW, Aug 29 (PTI)



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in China's Tianjin, Kremlin foreign policy aide

Putin to meet Modi on Sept 1

Yuri Ushakov said on Friday.

Both Modi and Putin will travel to China to attend the SCO Summit from August 31 to September 1.



“Right after the SCO Plus meeting (on September 1), our President will meet Indian Prime Minister Modi,” Ushakov told journalists on Friday.

It will be their first meeting this year, he said. Putin will travel to India in December.

Japan to invest 10tn yen in India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba during the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit in Tokyo, Japan on Friday (PMO via PTI)

TOKYO, Aug 29 (PTI)

JAPAN on Friday set an investment target of 10 trillion yen in India over a decade and the two sides firmed up a mega roadmap to bolster cooperation in several key areas such as critical minerals, defence and technology, in decisions that came amid economic turbulence created by the Trump administration's policies on trade and tariffs.

The announcements on expanding India-Japan special strategic and global partnership were made following summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba.

We have set a target of 10 trillion yen investment in India from Japan in the next 10 years, Modi, flanked by Ishiba, said in his media statement. The Prime Minister, who landed in Tokyo (Contd on page 5)

'Japan's technology, India's talent can bring revolution'

TOKYO, Aug 29 (PTI)

INDIA is the fastest growing major economy and its political and economic stability as well as transparency in policies have made it an attractive investment destination, especially in areas of green energy, manufacturing and technology, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday.

Modi's remarks at a business

forum shortly after landing in Tokyo on a two-day trip came amid fears of adverse impact of Washington's 50 per cent tariffs against India on the country's economy.

In his address, Modi said Japan's technology and India's talent together can lead the technology revolution of this century and can contribute significantly to Asia's stability, growth and prosperity. The Prime Minister said Japanese com-

panies have invested more than USD 40 billion in India, including USD 13 billion in the past two years as he highlighted the country's remarkable changes in the last 11 years.

"Today, we have political and economic stability, and clear and predictable policies. India is now the fastest-growing major economy in the world, and very soon, it will become the world's third-largest economy," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba and other dignitaries during the India-Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo. (PTI)

Ex-PMs Suga, Kishida meet PM Modi

TOKYO, Aug 29 (PTI)

FORMER Japanese Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday and discussed bilateral ties. Modi in a social media post said he had a "wonderful meeting" with Kishida.

"He has always been a great advocate of closer India-Japan relations. We discussed the progress in our bilateral partnership across trade, critical technologies and human resource mobility. We also discussed the vast potential in emerging areas such as technology and semiconductors," Modi said.

"Both sides discussed the progress in India-Japan ties and the potential of taking (Contd on page 5)