

Squadron Leader Rashmi Thakur to lead IAF's Republic Day contingent



Indian Air Force (IAF) women personnel to be part of the IAF contingent for Republic Day Parade look at the IAF Tableau during a press conference, in New Delhi on Wednesday. (ANI)

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (PTI)

SQUADRON Leader Rashmi Thakur will lead the Indian Air Force's marching contingent at the Republic Day parade on January 26 at the Kartavya Path here. Fifteen women pilots of the IAF will also operate various platforms during the aerial fly past, officials said.

The IAF marching contingent will be led by Thakur with Squadron Leader Sumita Yadav, Squadron Leader Pratiti Alhuwalia and Flight Lieutenant Kirti Rohil as supernumerary officers, they said.

Squadron Leader Thakur is a fighter controller.

In addition to the IAF march-

ing contingent, a tri-services contingent of Agniveervayu (Women) would be participating in the parade.

A total of 48 Agniveervayu women would be part of this contingent, the officials said.

Flight Lieutenant Ananya Sharma and Flying Officer Asma Sheikh, both Su-30 pilots, would be present on the tableau.

Flight Lieutenant Shrishti Verma would be marching as supernumerary officer of the tri-serviced contingent.

The theme of the IAF's Republic Day tableau would be "Bharatiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar".

World struggling with 'new forms of inequity': Jaishankar at NAM summit

KAMPALA, Jan 19 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday called for a multipolar world with a "reformed" United Nations at its core as he underlined that the world is struggling with "new forms of inequity and domination".

Addressing the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at the Ugandan capital of Kampala, Jaishankar presented perspectives from India "guided by the belief in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world

is a family". He said the world has changed profoundly since the NAM met in Baku in 2019. "We have all been ravaged by COVID pandemic whose scars will take generations to heal. There are conflicts underway whose repercussions are felt far and wide. Gaza, in particular, is the focus of our concern," the minister said.

He said that climate change is increasingly and more regularly disruptive and there are a few who have not felt its impact. "The triad of debt, inflation and growth challenges also weigh heavily on the development,"

the minister said. Underlying these serious concerns, Jaishankar said, "is the nature of the world we confront". "We may have overthrown the yoke of colonialism, but we struggle with new forms of inequity and domination," he said.

"Our smallest need is often manufactured furthest away. The anxieties of COVID experience brought this home sharply. We are also subject to narratives of political correctness and universalism that do not give their due to our culture and traditions," he said.

Pak, Iran agree to **'MUTUAL TRUST, COOPERATION'**

Foreign Ministers of two countries hold telephonic talks amid tension. Agree on closer co-op on security issues

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19 (PTI)

PAKISTAN and Iran on Friday agreed to the spirit of "mutual trust and cooperation" and the need for closer cooperation on security issues as the two sides began to pick threads of tattered ties following their tit-for-tat missile strikes in each other's territory.

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani spoke with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and expressed Pakistan's readiness to work with Iran on "all issues based on the spirit of mutual trust and

cooperation", Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement.

"He (Jilani) underscored the need for closer cooperation on security issues," said the statement issued after the two ministers spoke over the telephone.

The positive development came after Pakistan conducted "precision military strikes" against what it called "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province that killed 9 people on Thursday. The attack was seen as retaliation to Iranian missile and drone attacks on Tuesday, which targeted two bases of the Sunni Baloch militant group Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan's unruly Balochistan province.

Earlier, Jilani and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan discussed the "ongoing developments between Pakistan and Iran", the Foreign Office said.

He told Fidan that the military strikes were aimed at terrorist camps inside Iran and added that Pakistan has no interest or desire for escalation. Also, officials of the Foreign Ministries from Iran and Pakistan exchanged goodwill messages, belying fears of escalation and showing that the tiff between the two neighbours was cooling off sooner than it erupted two days ago.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch shared an exchange of messages between Additional Foreign Secretary Rahim Hayat Qureshi and his Iranian counterpart Seyed Rasoul Mousavi on her X handle, saying: "Some positive exchanges." In an X post, the Foreign Office Additional Secretary responded to his Iranian counterpart's letter saying he reciprocated the sentiments of "dear brother Seyed Rasoul Mousavi."

Iranian-backed Houthis launch two anti-ship ballistic missiles at US ship Chem Ranger

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan 19 (ANI)

IRANIAN-backed Houthis on Thursday (US local time) launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles at US Ship Chem Ranger, US Central Command said. No injury or damage was reported.

“On Jan. 18 at approximately 9 p.m. (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles at M/V Chem Ranger, a Marshall Island-flagged, US-Owned, Greek-



operated tanker ship. The crew observed the missiles impact the water near the ship. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship. The ship has continued underway,” US Central Command wrote on X.

The US on Thursday said it

launched strikes on 14 Houthi missiles “that were loaded to be fired in Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen”.

US called the attack its ongoing multi-national efforts to protect freedom of navigation and prevent attacks on US and partner maritime traffic in the Red Sea on January 17. “These missiles on launch rails... could have been fired at any time, prompting US forces to exercise their inherent right and obligation to defend themselves,” CENTCOM said on X.

WEF MEET @ DAVOS ENDS



A view of the city after the end of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024, in Davos. (PTI)

DAVOS, Jan 19 (PTI)

THE five-day World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 ended on Friday with an appeal to global leaders to work together for rebuilding trust, reviving economy and address risks of misinformation, societal polarisation, climate change and conflicts.

“This year’s meeting came at a critical and complex moment. Rising global temperatures, still fragile economy and security challenges not bound by borders show that it is not possible to grow alone,” WEF President Borge Brende

said. “All of this makes rebuilding trust very important and we can do that only by working together,” he added.

Brende said nearly 3,000 global leaders, including 350 head Government leaders attended the meeting, while more than 80 NSAs also met here to discuss a Ukraine peace plan.

Trust in elections remains fairly robust in India: DPIIT Secy

DESCRIBING India as an outlier in terms of trust levels in

various institutions, DPIIT Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday said trust in elections and other institutions continues to remain robust in the country. “We have delivered credible elections for over 75 years, of which 25 years have been through electronic voting machines,” he said.

RBI Governor says, digital currency more efficient

RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das feels that digital currency or Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will make cross-border payments more efficient and fast, in addition to being cost-effective. The digital currency was launched in India on a pilot basis in November-December 2022.

“The greatest advantage of CBDC will be cross-border payments internationally. International cross-border payments will become far more efficient, faster, and very very cost-effective. As and when other countries adopt this digital currency, international payment systems will gain in efficiency, speed, and cost.”

1ST MADE-IN-INDIA CHIP in Dec: Vaishnaw

DAVOS, Jan 19 (PTI)

THE first made-in-India chip will be out by December, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for developing a very strong semiconductor industry in the country in a short span of time with focus on the entire ecosystem.

Speaking to PTI at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024, the Minister said PM Modi launched a semiconductor policy in January 2022, adding that when he met senior repre-



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw meets Revathi Advaiti, CEO of Flex, in Davos. (ANI)

sentatives of the industry here, the one thing they all were surprised about was how this much work could be done in such a short time. "They all appreciated the policy and the fact that PM Modi has always stressed on creating a comprehensive ecosystem because not many countries have this kind of policy and therefore they could not get such success," he said.

The Minister for Communications as well as Electronics and Information Technology said the Prime Minister has
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