

# Rajnath to inaugurate Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 today

■ Will induct C-295 transport aircraft into IAF

NEW DELHI, Sept 24 (ANI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh will on Monday inaugurate the Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 exhibition at the Hindon Air Base in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, an official from Indian Air Force said on Sunday.

As per the IAF, the Defence Minister would also formally induct the C-295 transport aircraft into the Indian Air Force.

The induction ceremony will be done in the presence of top military officials including IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

Notably, the IAF, recognising the potential of indigenous drone design and development, is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to jointly host 'Bharat Drone

Shakti 2023.'

This event, scheduled for September 25th and 26th, will take place at the IAF's Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad and will feature live aerial demonstrations.

In India, the utilisation of drones is on the rise, spanning across military and civilian applications.

Drone technology has rapidly transformed both civil and defence sectors, enhancing efficiency, reducing risk exposure, and elevating capabilities, said the press release.

The IAF has extensive experience in deploying Remotely Piloted Aircraft for Intelligence Surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

To harness the burgeoning drone technology sector in India, the IAF initiated the Meher Baba Swarm Drone competition, showcasing its faith in the nation's drone capabilities, according to the release.

# Nepal seeks China's preferential treatment in trade to up exports

**Kathmandu:** Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Sunday said that his country wants to enhance the economic partnership with China for mutual benefits.

"As a close neighbour, it is but natural for Nepal to desire for enhanced economic partnership with China for mutual benefits," Prachanda said while addressing a meeting with Chinese Business Enterprises in Beijing. "There are so many enabling factors anchored in close affinity and geographical proximity of both the two countries that need to be utilised to promote mutually beneficial cooperation," said Prachanda, according to sources at the PM's secretariat. The PM is currently on an official visit to China.

Prachanda, who politically distanced from the pro-China Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) headed by KP Oli after becoming PM in December last year, made his maiden visit to China after visiting India and the US. "Nepal is making continued efforts to facilitate trade and find ways particularly to increase its exports to China. This can be done by enhancing Nepal's productive capacity, improving physical infrastructure and making the quality certification mechanism more robust," he said.

The export of products such as tea, herbal medicine, citrus food, coffee, ginger, yarn to China has great potential and should, therefore, be prioritised, said Prachanda. "We need to reduce technical barriers and ensure preferential treatment of these products." PTI



On Saturday, PM Prachanda met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Hangzhou. Xi vowed to help Nepal transform itself from a land-locked country to a land-linked nation by facilitating infrastructure connectivity

## Eye on China: US to open embassies in Pacific islands

President Joe Biden is set to announce the opening of new US embassies on Cook Islands and Niue on Monday as the Democratic administration aims to demonstrate to Pacific Island leaders that it remains committed to increasing American presence in the region. The announcement about the new diplomatic missions in the South Pacific comes as Biden prepares to welcome leaders to Washington for the two-day US-Pacific Island Forum Summit. Talks are expected to heavily focus on the impact of climate change in the region. Biden has put a premium on improving relations in the Pacific amid rising US concern about China's growing military and economic influence. AP

# PM: IMEEC will be basis of trade for generations

## 'History Will Remember Its Initiation In India'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), which India proposed at the G20 Summit, and said it would become the foundation of world trade for the next hundreds of years. The PM said history will remember that the corridor was initiated on Indian soil.

In his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', Modi said two recent events — success of Chandrayaan-3 and the grand hosting of G20 — had doubled the joy of every Indian. He said India had proved the mettle of its leadership by making the African Union a full member of G20.



The 9 trains, linking 11 states, take the total of Vande Bharat to 34

► **PM calls for hour-long cleanliness drive Oct 1, P 10**

On the massive IMEEC, the PM said, "You must be aware that during the time when India was very prosperous, the Silk Route was a part of discourse in our country and in the world. This Silk Route was a major medium of business and trade. Now in modern times, India has suggested another econo-

## Modi flags off nine Vande Bharat trains

Stressing on the government's focus on modernising infrastructure, PM Modi Sunday flagged off 9 Vande Bharat trains via video conferencing, the maximum in a single day, which will provide fast connectivity to 11 states. He urged railway employees to remain sensitive towards "ease of travel" & provide a good experience to passengers. **P 8**

► **PM hails 'unique' Ghoda library for children, P 10**

mic corridor in G20. This is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. This corridor is going to become the basis of world trade for hundreds of years to come, and history will always remember that this corridor was initiated on Indian soil."

► **G20 univ connect, P 18**

# India's G20 Presidency was challenging: EAM

■ “It was challenging because we were confronting a very sharp East-West polarisation as well as a very deep North-South divide,” said Jaishankar



■ **By Yoshita Singh**  
NEW YORK, Sept 24 (PTI)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addresses the India-UN for Global South event on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York. (PTI)

**INDIA'S** G20 Presidency was “challenging” as it came amid “a very sharp” East-West polarisation and “very deep” North-South divide, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

The remarks by Jaishankar came at a special ‘India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development’ side event he hosted here on Saturday on the margins of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

“We meet just a few weeks after the New Delhi G20 Summit, a summit which took place on the theme of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’. Now, it was a challenging summit. It was actually a challenging presidency,” he said.

The event saw participation from dignitaries at the UN as  
*(Contd on page 5)*

## India's presidency marked historic milestone: UNGA President

NEW YORK, Sept 24 (ANI)

**UNITED** Nations General Assembly President Dennis Francis on Saturday said that India's recent G20 Presidency marked a historic milestone due to inclusion of African Union as a permanent member.

While addressing the India-UN for Global South:  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# Manipur CM holds talks with BRO officials over plans to fence India-Myanmar border

IMPHAL, Sept 24 (PTI)

MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday held a meeting with officials of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to discuss plans to erect fencing along a section of the India-Myanmar border.

The meeting comes a day after the CM told reporters that his Government has urged the Union Home Ministry to cancel the free movement regime along the India-Myanmar border and complete its fencing.

The free movement regime allows people residing close to both sides of the India-Myanmar border to venture 16



km deep into each other's territory without any document.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the CM said: "Held a meeting with the officials of BRO and deliberated the plan to begin construction of an additional 70 km of border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border. I was joined by Chief Secretary, DGP & officials from the Home Department."

"In view of the rise in illegal

immigration and drugs smuggling from the neighbouring country, safeguarding our porous borders has become an urgent necessity," Singh added.

Manipur shares a 398-km-long border with Myanmar, of which only around 6 km is fenced, sources said.

More than 175 people have been killed and several hundreds injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53

per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts.

There are allegations that illegal immigrants from Myanmar were behind the recent violence.

A Meitei organisation has also asserted that the over four-month-long strife is a manifestation of the tension over deforestation, illegal opium poppy cultivation and change in demography in certain areas of the state mainly caused by illegal immigrants from Myanmar.

# A 5-STAR START FOR INDIA AT HANGZHOU

India bagged 5 medals on Day 1 of the 19th Asian Games at the Chinese city of Hangzhou, including 3 silver. The only disappointment: India couldn't put a gold in their vault

## ROWING

- Punit Kumar | Silver
- Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh | Silver
- Lekh Ram & Babu Lal Yadav | Bronze



## SHOOTING

- Ramita Jindal (10m AR women) | Bronze
- Ramita, Mehuli Ghosh, Ashi Chouksey | Team silver



Ramita Jindal, Ashi Chouksey and Mehuli Ghosh display their silverware in the women's team 10m air rifle shooting event

## CRICKET

- Women in Blue enter final beating B'desh. Will take on Lanka for gold



## HOCKEY

- Men: India bt Uzbekistan 16-0



## SWIMMING

- Srihari Nataraj | 6th in men's 100m backstroke



## OVERALL

- Hosts China off to a flyer, winning 12 of the first 19 gold medals. South Korea next with four gold | P 19, 20

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