

First C-295 aircraft inducted into IAF boosting its logistics capabilities

GHAZIABAD, Sept 25 (PTI)

THE first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force on Monday, boosting its logistics capabilities.

The induction ceremony took place at the Hindon Air Force Station here in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He later took part in a 'Sarva Dharma Pooja' that was performed in the hangar to mark the occasion.

IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari along with senior officials of the IAF as well as of Airbus attended the induction ceremony.

The first C-295 aircraft was inducted into Squadron No. 11 of the IAF. It is one of the oldest squadrons of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and is currently based at Vadodara Air Force Station.

The aircraft was unveiled at the hangar after two sliding screens, bearing '11 SQN: Pioneers of C-295 MW', 'Rhinos: The Trailblazers of C-295 MW', and image of the newly-inducted aircraft, moved sideways. One-horned rhino is the emblem of Sqn. No. 11.

The IAF chief had on September 13 received the first of the 56 C-295 transport aircraft
(Contd on page 4)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Union MoS for Civil Aviation V K Singh, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari and others poses for a group photo during formal induction of C-295 MW transport aircraft into IAF at the Hindon Air Force Station. (PTI)

Newly-inducted C295 aircraft likely to take part in Air Force Day celebrations

GHAZIABAD, Sept 25 (PTI)

THE newly-inducted C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft is likely to take part in the upcoming Air Force Day celebrations in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Monday.

The annual Air Force Day parade and air display takes place on October 8.

The first C295 aircraft was inducted into the IAF on Monday at the Hindon Air Force station in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

"The aircraft will be part of the IAF Day celebrations slated to be held in Prayagraj," a senior official of the IAF told PTI.

Armenians flee Karabakh after defeat to Azerbaijan

Thousands of ethnic Armenians fled the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Monday, queuing up for fuel and jamming the mountain road to Armenia after their fighters were defeated by Azerbaijan in a lightning military operation.

The leadership of the 120,000 Armenians who call Karabakh home said Sunday that they did not want to live as part of Azerbaijan and that they would leave for Armenia because they feared persecution and ethnic cleansing.

In the Karabakh capital, known as Stepanakert by Armenia and Khankendi by Azerbaijan, crowds of people were loading belongings into buses and trucks as they left for Armenia. Refugees who reached Armenia said they believed the history of their breakaway state was finished.



The Armenian govt said 6,650 people from Nagorno-Karabakh had crossed into Armenia

Azerbaijan, which has repeatedly denied any claims of ethnic cleansing, said that the rights of Armenians in Karabakh, a territory internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, would be guaranteed. But thousands of ethnic Armenians have already left.

The Armenian government said at least 6,650 people from Nagorno-Karabakh had crossed into Armenia, up from about 4,850 people five hours earlier. REUTERS

Canada updates travel advisory for its citizens

- Asks citizens in India to 'stay vigilant and exercise caution' in context of recent developments

TORONTO, Sept 25 (PTI)

CANADA has updated travel advisory for its citizens in India asking them to "stay vigilant and exercise caution" in the context of recent developments as there are calls for protests and some "negative sentiment" towards Canada on the social media.

Tensions flared between India and Canada following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"In the context of recent developments in Canada and in India, there are calls for

protests and some negative sentiment towards Canada on social media. Please remain vigilant and exercise caution," the Canadian Government said in an update on Sunday.

Relationship with India important: Canadian Minister

TORONTO, Sept 25 (PTI)

TERMINING the relationship with India as "important", Canada's Defence Minister Bill Blair on Sunday said that his country will continue to pursue partnerships like the Indo-Pacific strategy.

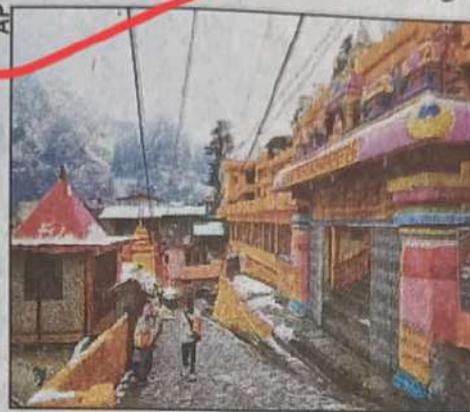
In an interview aired on Sunday, Blair suggested Canada will continue to pursue those partnerships while investigation into allegations continues, calling relationship with India "important." "We understand that this can be, and has proven to be, a challenging issue with respect to our relationship with India. But at the same time, we have a responsibility to defend the law, defend our citizens and also to get to the truth." he said.

Parts of Joshimath have sunk by 3.6ft, says report

Gaurav Talwar
@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), a research laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in its 43-page report on Joshimath subsidence, has claimed that certain areas of the town “sunk vertically by over 3 feet and moved by 1.4 feet”.

The NGRI was among the eight specialised scientific and technical institutions mandated to ascertain the causes of ground subsidence in the area in and around Joshimath and carry out remedial measures. The report, which was kept ‘secret’ by the state government for months and made public only recently, pointed to “steep, air-filled fissures extensively developed and extending to a



The report pointed to ‘steep, air-filled fissures extensively developed and extending to a depth exceeding 100ft’

depth exceeding 100ft”.

It claimed: “The fissures on barren and agricultural land were as deep as 115ft and become shallower and tangential at 60-65ft depth towards lower reaches of the subsidence-hit town.”

“Maximum horizontal displacement along the fissures were observed in Sunil, Manohar Bagh and Singhdhar with displace-

ment as high as 45cm (1.4ft). Vertical displacement (sinking) as high as 110-110cm (3.6ft) was witnessed in Singhdhar and Marwari,” the NGRI report said.

While carrying out a detailed mapping of the cracks on the ground, the NGRI scientists found the fissures were distributed from the upper slopes of Sunil village having an altitude of 2,200m to Marwari-Jaypee region at the toe of Joshimath slope, situated at a height of 1,400m. NGRI experts said “the fissures were mostly confined to the gently sloping built-up areas.”

An expert at Uttarakhand SDMA, requesting anonymity, told TOI, “The fissures extending up to over 100ft depth were found in areas having loose soil cover and there was no presence of rocks beneath the surface.”

Monsoon starts withdrawing from India, 8 days behind normal date

NEW DELHI, Sept 25 (PTI)

MONSOON started withdrawing from India on Monday, eight days behind the normal date of September 17, the India Meteorological Department said.

"The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from parts of southwest Rajasthan today, September 25, 2023, against its normal date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan of September 17," it said in a statement. This year is the 13th consecutive delayed Monsoon retreat. The withdrawal of mon-



soon from northwest India marks the beginning of its retreat from the Indian subcontinent. Any delay in the monsoon's retreat means a longer rainy season, which can significantly impact agricultural production, particularly for northwest India where monsoon rainfall plays a cru-

cial role in the Rabi crop production.

Typically, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15.

According to the IMD, the withdrawal of monsoon from extreme north-western parts of the country is announced based on three major synoptic features after September 1: no rainfall activity over the region for five days on the trot,

(Contd on page 4)

EAM Jaishankar meets UN chief, UNGA President

■ By Yoshita Singh
UNITED NATIONS, Sept 25 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly Dennis Francis here on Monday.

The EAM and UN chief discussed the contribution of India's G20 Presidency towards strengthening the world organisation's Sustainable Development agenda.

"Pleasure to meet with UN Secretary-General @antonioguterres at UN Headquarters," Jaishankar posted on X.

"Discussed how India's G20 Presidency has contributed to strengthening @UN's sustainable development agenda. We have coordinated closely in this



EAM Dr S Jaishankar meets President of United Nations General Assembly, Dennis Francis, in New York on Monday. (ANI)

regard over the last year," he said.

Jaishankar also met Francis at the UN headquarters and thanked him for his presence at the special 'India-UN for

Global South: Delivering for Development' side event Jaishankar hosted in New York on Saturday last on the margins of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

Indian 10m air rifle team shoots gold with world record

HANGZHOU, Sept 25 (PTI)

INDIAN shooters made a telling statement at the Asian Games, winning three medals, including a team gold, as the country's marksmen asserted their class by grabbing five podium finishes in just two days of competition.

A confident Indian 10m air rifle team led by teenage world champion Rudranksh Patil gave the country its first gold medal at the Games, securing the top place on the podium with a world record score.

In one of the most dominating displays seen by Indian
(Contd on page 4)



Indian shooters Rudranksh Patil (R), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (C) and Divyansh Singh Panwar pose for photos with their gold medals after winning the Men's 10m Air Rifle team event at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China on Monday. (PTI)

Eve cricketers earn India's second gold

HANGZHOU, Sept 25 (PTI)

ROOKIE pacer Titas Sadhu singlehandedly earned a gold medal for the Indian women's cricket team in its maiden appearance as it defeated Sri Lanka by 19 runs in a low-scoring final of the Asian Games here on Monday. On a pitch difficult for batting, the Indian women's team struggled to 116 for seven but it was just about par score.

(Contd on page 4)



Indian players pose for photos after winning the gold medal in the women's cricket event after defeating Sri Lanka at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China. (PTI)