

1st time: Army, Navy chiefs from same school and class

Bhopal: In a first in India's military history, the Army and Navy chiefs are from the same state, school and batch. In fact, they used to share the same bench in the classroom.

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Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who took charge Sunday, and Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi are alumni of Sainik School Rewa (1973 batch) in MP. Their story is like one of brothers beyond blood. They have be-



Army chief Gen U Dwivedi (L) & Navy chief Admiral D K Tripathi

en friends since Class 5 and went through the gruelling regimen at NDA together.

The Rewa school has produced over 700 military officers, including at least 25 of General rank, two of whom are now four-star Service chiefs, reports Amarjeet Singh.

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Gen Dwivedi takes over as chief of Army, faces China, J&K tests

Will Have To Push Hard To Fast-Track Force Revamp During 2-Yr Tenure

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New Delhi: An aggressive and expansionist China, which continues to forward deploy around 1.4 lakh troops and heavy weapon systems along the frontier from eastern Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh for the fifth year running now, will be the primary operational challenge for new Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi.

Gen Dwivedi, who took over the reins of the over 11-lakh strong force as the 30th chief from Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday, will also have to contend with the spike in militancy in J&K, especially the series of military-style ambushes by well-trained terrorists that have caused setbacks to his force in the densely-forested and hilly Poonch-Rajouri region.

Gen Dwivedi is no stranger to the threats posed by China and Pakistan, which are often collusive. Commissioned into the J&K Rifles in 1984, he had a two-year tenure as the GoC-in-C of the crucial



General Dwivedi took over the Army reins from Gen Pande on Sunday

Northern Command before becoming the vice-chief in Feb this year. "While China has mastered salami-slicing and grey zone warfare, Pakistan continues with its proxy war," a top official said.

In a statement announcing Gen Dwivedi's taking over the top post, the Army said, "The global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and ever-changing character of

modern warfare."

"Operational preparedness to counter security threats to a rising nation, therefore would figure prominently, as a key focus area for the chief. Concurrently, a focused response strategy to myriad non-traditional security challenges, too, shall be a priority towards augmenting the nation's defence," it said.

Gen Dwivedi will have to push hard to fast-track modernisation and transformation of the Army during his two-year tenure.

Despite emergency procurements, the force is still grappling with major operational voids in several areas, ranging from modern air defence weapons and fourth-generation anti-tank guided missiles to attack and light utility helicopters and night-fighting capabilities.

This is especially critical for the Northern and Eastern Commands along the 3,488-km LAC. There are 50,000 to 60,000 Chinese troops with heavy weaponry deployed along the western (Ladakh) and central sectors (Uttarakhand, Himachal) of the LAC. China has upped the ante in the eastern sector (Sikkim, Arunachal) as well, with another 90,000 soldiers deployed there.

Then, there is the entire question of the short-term recruitment of soldiers under the controversial Agnipath scheme rolled out in June 2022. The armed forces want the retention rate of Agniveers to be raised from the existing 25% after their four-year tenures to at least 50%.

3 new criminal laws kick in today, data ousts 'danda' as policing tool

But Cases Filed Before July 1 To Be Tried Under IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

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New Delhi: The criminal justice system is set for a major overhaul with the three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) — coming into force on Monday, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

Starting Monday, all FIRs will be registered under the provisions of BNS. However, all cases registered before July 1 will continue to be tried under IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act until final disposal.

BNS has 358 sections, down from 511 in IPC. As many as 21 new crimes have been added in BNS compared to IPC, duration of imprisonment extended in 41 crimes, fines increased in 82 crimes, minimum punishment introduced in 25 crimes, community service introduced as penalty in six crimes and 19 sections removed.

BNSS has 531 sections as against 484 in CrPC, with changes in 177 sections, addition of nine sections and 39 sub-sections and deletion of



The underlying spirit of the new criminal laws, as PM Modi had said in a police meet in Jan, is 'citizen first, dignity first and justice first'

14 sections. The Indian Evidence Act, with 166 sections, is being replaced with BSA having 170 sections, with change in 24 sections, addition of two new sub-sections and deletion of six sections.

BNS, BNSS and BSA are being implemented six months after they were enacted based on protracted and detailed consultations with all stakeholders including SC and HC judges, governors, chief ministers, civil servants, police officers, collectorates and Members of Parliament and legislative assemblies. Around 3,200 suggestions were received and examined over several rounds of talks, with home minister Amit Shah having taken 158 such meetings, leading to the

drafting of a whole new set of criminal laws that seek to leverage technology to make India's criminal justice system one of the most modern in the world. The BNS, BNSS and BSA bills were referred to a parliamentary standing committee and most of its recommendations were accepted by the govt before bringing the bills to Parliament for approval.

The underlying spirit of the new criminal laws, as PM Modi had stated at the All-India DGPs conference in Jan, is "citizen first, dignity first and justice first", with emphasis on the 'danda' (baton) being replaced by 'data' as a policing tool.

While replying to the debate in Parliament on BNS, BNSS and BSA bills, Shah had under-

lined that the focus of the new laws was on justice delivery, while safeguarding the rights of victims as well as accused, rather than on punishment. Also, the colonial mindset apparent behind ordering of IPC sections — with those dealing with 'rajdroh' (treason) preceding ones related to serious offences like 'murder' and 'rape' — was being done away with.

Under the new criminal justice system, a person may report crime online, without having to visit a police station (online FIR) and also file a zero-FIR at any police station. A free copy of the FIR will be provided to the victim. In the event of arrest, the individual will have the right to inform a person of his choice. Arrest details will need to be prominently displayed within police stations and district headquarters.

The new laws prioritise investigation for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. Victims shall be entitled to updates on the progress of their case within 90 days.

Courts may now grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings.

Army inducts first-ever indigenous chip-based 4G base station from Bengaluru-based Signaltron

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI)

INDIAN Army has inducted the first-ever indigenous chip-based 4G mobile base station, which it procured from Bengaluru-based firm Signaltron through the Governmente-marketplace portal, a top company official said.

Signaltron founder Himamshu Khasnis told PTI that the chip used in the Sahyadri LTE base stations has been developed by Signalchip.

Earlier in 2010, Khasnis and his team founded a fabless semiconductor company Signalchip to make chips for 4G and 5G networks. "Signaltron has built the entire system indigenously using India's first chips for 4G and 5G networks developed by Signalchip. This is the first time an Indian system running on an Indian chip for complex com-



munication technology has been inducted into the army. Using indigenous chips gives a high degree of control on the security of the system in its operation," Khasnis said.

He said the Indian Army had posted a bid on GeM (Governmente-Marketplace) for

the supply of 4G LTE NIB (Network In a Box) solution last year. "Signaltron proposed the Sahyadri NIB solution and came out successful in stringent technical trials.

Subsequently, Signaltron also won the competitive bid to supply the equipment.

EAM Jaishankar meets Qatar's PM; reviews bilateral relationship

DOHA, June 30 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha and reviewed bilateral relationship, with a focus on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on a day-long visit, also exchanged views on regional and global issues with Sheikh Mohammed, who also holds the portfolio as Foreign Minister.

"Delighted to meet PM and FM of Qatar @MBA_AlThani in Doha this afternoon. Conveyed the greetings and warm wishes of PM @narendramodi to H.H. The Amir and him," Jaishankar said in a post in X.

"Reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties. Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation," he said.

"Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," he added.

Jaishankar's visit comes four-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Prime Minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani during a meeting, in Doha. (PTI)

and-half months after Qatar released eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death after being arrested in August 2022.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar was received at the airport by Chief of Protocol Ibrahim Fakhroo.

The visit would "enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations, including political, trade, investment,

energy, security, cultural and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Qatar from February 14 to 15 and held discussions with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi begins 5-day visit to Dosh

NEW DELHI, June 30 (PTI)

NAVY chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi began a five-day visit to Bangladesh on Sunday with an aim to further consolidate the bilateral defence engagement and explore new avenues of cooperation in the maritime domain. The trip comes more than a week after Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India during which both sides vowed to expand the overall defence and strategic ties.

It is Admiral Tripathi's first official visit abroad after he took the reins of the Navy two months ago.

The Navy chief is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, and other top officials of Bangladesh's military, including the Army chief and Air Force chief.

Admiral Tripathi will also review the passing-out parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) in Chittagong on July 4. The Chief of Naval Staff's engagements in the neighbouring country include an address at Bangladesh's National Defence College in Dhaka and visits to a few key defence facilities.

"The visit is aimed to consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Bangladesh and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation," the Indian Navy said in a statement.

Naval cooperation between India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span including operational interactions, bilateral naval exercises and capacity-building programmes.

Iran warns of 'obliterating war' if Israel starts offensive in Lebanon

Iran has threatened an "obliterating war" if Israel launches a full-scale attack in Lebanon, as diplomats work to prevent tensions between Israel and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, which is backed by Tehran, from escalating into an all-out conflict.

In a post on X, Iran's mission to the United Nations said "all options", including the involvement of Iran-backed armed groups across West Asia, "are on the table". Chief among those groups is Hezbollah, a powerful militia in Lebanon. At the same time, Iran dismissed warnings that Israel could invade Lebanon as "psychological warfare".

Enemies for decades, Israel and Hezbollah have frequently exchanged fire along Israel's



Locals walk past houses destroyed in Israeli fire in Lebanese village of Aita al-Shaab near Israel's border

northern border. Since Gaza war began last Oct, the cross-border strikes have intensified. Israeli officials have warned for months that Israel might invade Lebanon if Hezbollah did not pull its forces back from the border area. Hezbollah has also threatened to launch an incursion into Israel.

US, Europe warn Hezbollah to ease strikes on Israel

US and European officials are delivering warnings to Hezbollah, which is far stronger than Hamas but seen as overconfident, about taking on the military might of Israel. They are warning the group should not count on the US or anyone else being able to hold off Israel if it decides to launch an offensive into Lebanon.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths used the word "apocalyptic" to describe a war that could result. Hezbollah holds an estimated arsenal of some 150,000 rockets and missiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel. Israel, meanwhile, has pledged to unleash Gaza-like scenes of devastation on Lebanon. NYT & REUTERS