

US hits Iran targets in Syria in response to attacks on troops

19 Soldiers Suffer Brain Injuries In Iraq And Syria

The US carried out two air strikes against facilities used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard and its proxies in eastern Syria early



With the near daily attacks against US forces over the past 10 days, pressure had been mounting on the US to respond militarily

Friday in retaliation for a flurry of recent rocket and drone attacks against US forces in Iraq and Syria. The strikes by Air Force F-16 jets, against a weapons storage facility and an ammunition storage facility, were intended to send a strong signal to Iran to rein in the attacks the Biden administration has blamed on Tehran's proxies in Syria and Iraq without escalating the conflict in West Asia, US officials said.

The targets, while limited in number, represent an escalation in striking facilities used by Iran's own forces in

the region, not just the militaries in Iraq and Syria that Tehran helps to arm, train and equip. "The US does not seek conflict and has no intention nor desire to engage in further hostilities, but these Iranian-backed attacks against US forces are unacceptable and must stop," US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said.

With the near daily attacks against US forces over the past 10 days, pressure had been mounting on the US to respond militarily. "These narrowly tailored strikes in self-defence were intended solely to protect and defend US personnel in Iraq and Syria," Austin said. "They are separate and distinct from the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas." He added: "If attacks by Iran's proxies against US forces continue, we will not hesitate to take further necessary measures...."

The strikes came just hours after the Pentagon announced that 19 US military members based in Iraq and Syria have suffered traumatic brain injuries after rocket and drone attacks from Iran-backed militants last week. "There are situations where several days after an attack, a member may self-report ringing in the ears, headaches," Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder, the Pentagon spokesperson, said. There are 2,500 US troops in Iraq and 900 in Syria. NYT

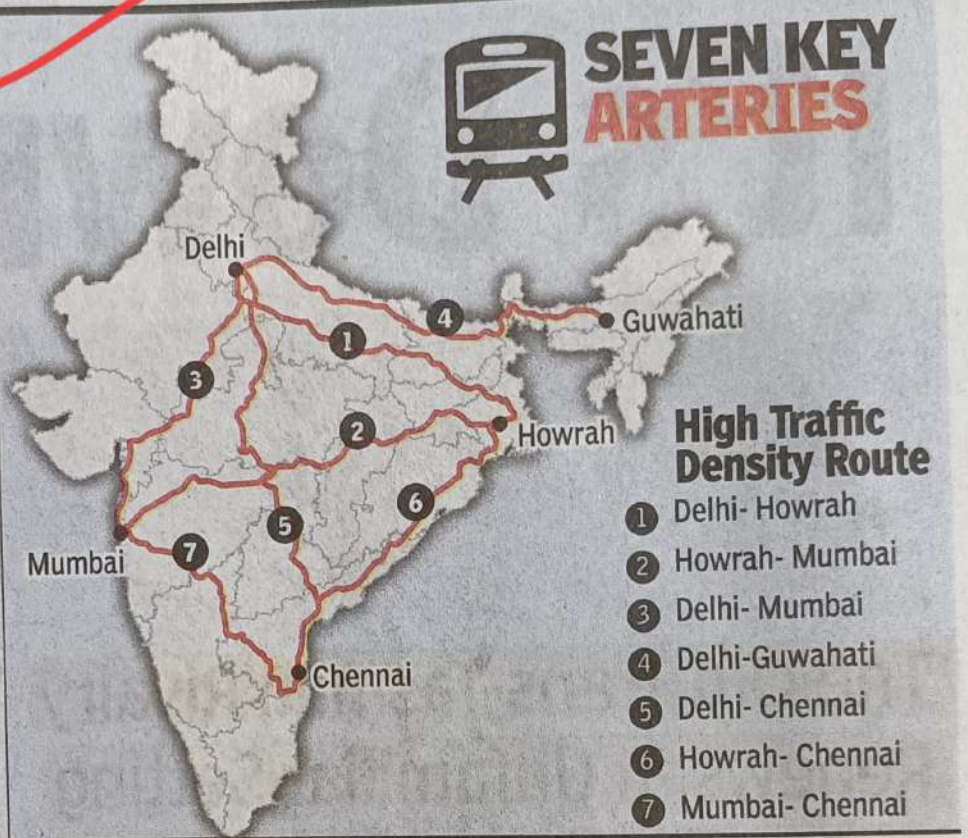
Rlys proposes ₹4 lakh cr plan to multi-track 7 busy routes

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New Delhi: Indian Railways has proposed a Rs 4.2 lakh crore mega plan for multi-tracking of seven high density corridors — Delhi-Howrah, Mumbai-Howrah, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Guwahati, Delhi-Chennai, Howrah-Chennai and Mumbai-Chennai — for introduction of faster passenger trains and quicker movement of freight.

In a proposal for the Union Cabinet, the railway ministry has said that the programme spread over the next 10 years, from 2024-25 to 2033-34, will involve doubling and laying of third and fourth line on different stretches of these corridors according to the traffic demand. The plan also includes construction of flyovers and underpasses. The proposal has been circulated at a time when the railways plans to introduce more modern Vande Bharat trains with sleeper facility that have maximum design speed of 220 kmph.

TOI has learnt that railways has identified 213 such



projects that need to be undertaken on these corridors, which have breached the saturation point, and 200 such works will be completed in the first phase. For fast-track decision-making, the transporter has proposed more financial powers to the Railway Board and the minister.

Sources said the main reason behind the proposal to pump in huge government in-

vestment in the seven corridors is to increase capacity for running more trains. While the combined length of these corridors is 10,969 km and is barely 16% of the entire Indian Railways network, these cater to 41% of traffic. This has resulted in huge pressure on these corridors, leaving hardly any room for introduction of more trains or increasing their speed, sources said.

Tata set to become first Indian co to manufacture new Apple iPhones

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (IANS)

WITH Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Wistron selling its India operations to Tata Group for \$125 million, Tata Electronics is going to become the first Indian company to manufacture new Apple iPhones in the country, which is a major fillip to the Government's 'Make in India' initiative.

Currently, iPhone 15 Plus, iPhone 12 and iPhone SE (second generation) are being manufactured/ assembled at



Wistron's factory in Karnataka, which Tatas will take over.

The company said in its regulatory filing that it will sell a 100 per cent stake in the unit Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Pvt. to Tata Electronics Pvt., following the board approval.

The much-awaited deal has been finalised after strategic considerations in response to the reshaping of the group's product strategy and global manufacturing layout.

Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said that within just two and a half years, Tata Group will start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets.

"PM Narendra Modi's visionary PLI scheme has already propelled India into becoming a trusted and major hub for smart-

phone manufacturing and exports. Congratulations to the Tata team for taking over Wistron operations," the Minister posted on X. He said that this is a "great going for Apple in building a global supply chain from India with Indian companies at its helm". "MeitY stands fully in support in growth of global Indian electronics companies that will, in turn, support global electronic brands that want to make India their trusted manufacturing and talent partner," Chandrasekhar added.

Will be able to process only 20K Indian visas by Dec 2023: Canada

TORONTO, Oct 27 (IANS)

CANADA has said that out of the 38,000 visas for Indians, it will only be able to process 20,000 by the end of December this year due to recent reduction of staff on the ground.

At a meeting of the Standing

Committee on Citizenship and Immigration this week, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said there are now only five members to do the on-the-ground visa work in India, the CIC News reported.

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)



which processes the visa applications, had its staff reduced

from 27 to just five members this month after India, seeking diplomatic parity, asked Canada to withdraw its 41 diplomats.

The IRCC now expects there will be approximately 17,500 Indian applications in backlog at the beginning of 2024. However, signalling hope, sen-

ior officials said that the Government is working to return to normal processing for Indian applications by early 2024. This can be achieved as the immigration staff pulled from India reestablishes itself and gets back to work in Canada and the Philippines, IRCC said.

Vani Sarraju Rao is new Indian envoy to Italy

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

SENIOR diplomat Vani Sarraju Rao has been



appoint-
ed as
India's
new
ambassa-
dor to
Italy, the

Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday.

Rao, who is a 1994-
batch Indian Foreign
Service (IFS) officer, is
currently serving as an
additional secretary in the
MEA. She succeeds Neena
Malhotra.

IPS officer R R Swain given addl charge as J&K DGP

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI)

SENIOR IPS officer R R Swain, presently working as Special DG in the Jammu and Kashmir Police, was on Friday given

additional charge as the Director General of the State's police force with effect from November 1.



R R Swain

Swain will take charge from incumbent Dilbag Singh, who will retire on October 31 as the longest-serving police chief of Jammu and Kashmir, according to an official order.

"With the approval of competent authority, Shri R R Swain, IPS (AGMUT 1991), presently posted as Special DG (CID), Jammu and Kashmir, will also function as in-charge Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, in addi-

tion to his existing charge with effect from November 1, 2023 and until further order," the order said.

Swain, who served as police chief of both the winter and



Dilbag Singh

summer capitals -- Jammu and Srinagar -- had an extensive tenure of 15 years on central deputa-

tion. He was also the SSP of Ramban, Poonch and Leh. The officer returned to the state cadre in 2020, where he was elevated as Intelligence Chief this year in June, replacing senior IPS officer B Srinivas, who has now been posted as DGP Puducherry.

Presently serving as the Intelligence Chief of the Union Territory, Swain had also served in the J&K Vigilance organisation in 2004-06 as AIG and DIG.

Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of US' B-52 bomber over South China Sea

BANGKOK, Oct 27 (AP)

A CHINESE fighter jet came within 10 feet of an American B-52 bomber flying over the South China Sea (SCS), nearly causing an accident, the U.S. Military said, underscoring the potential for a mishap as both countries vie for influence in the region.

In the night intercept, the Shenyang J-11 twin-engine fighter closed on the U.S. Air



Force plane at an "uncontrolled excessive speed, flying below, in front of, and within 10 feet of the B-52, putting both air-

craft in danger of a collision," the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement released late Thursday.

"We are concerned this pilot was unaware of how close he came to causing a collision," the military said.

China's Foreign Ministry put the blame on the U.S., suggesting the American aircraft was flying over the South China Sea as a deliberate provocation.