

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh takes over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff



Air Marshal Tejinder Singh takes over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, at the Air Force Headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday. (ANI)

NEW DELHI, Sept 1 (PTI)

AIR Marshal Tejinder Singh on Sunday took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, the Defence Ministry said.

After taking charge at the Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan), the Air Marshal paid homage to the brave hearts, who made the supreme

sacrifice, by laying wreath at the National War Memorial here.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Singh was commissioned in the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on June 13, 1987.

He is a Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor with over 4,500 hours of flying and an alumnus of the Defence

Service Staff College and National Defence College, the ministry said in a statement.

He has commanded a fighter squadron, a radar station, a premier fighter base and was the Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir.

"His varied staff appointments include Operational Staff at a Command HQ, Air Commodore (Personnel Officers-1) at Air HQ, Deputy Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Financial (Planning) at HQ IDS, Air Commodore (Aerospace Safety), Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Offensive) and ACAS Ops (Strategy) at Air HQ," the statement said. Prior to his present appointment, he was the Senior Air Staff Officer, HQ Eastern Air Command of the IAF at Shillong, Meghalaya. In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2007 and the Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2022 by the President of India, it said.

In a separate statement, the defence ministry said Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command on Sunday.

Two killed after militants launch attack in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sept 1 (PTI)

TWO persons, including a woman, were killed and nine others injured when suspected militants launched a gun-and-bomb attack in Manipur's Imphal West district on Sunday, police said.

According to police, militants fired indiscriminately from hill-top positions towards the low-lying valley areas of Koutruk and neighbouring Kandangband killing two persons and injuring nine others. Several houses were also damaged due to heavy shelling by the militants, they added. Of the nine injured, five sustained bullet wounds, while the others suffered splinter injuries from bomb explosions, hospital officials said.

The sudden assault on the unsuspecting village caused widespread panic, forcing many residents, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee to safer areas, police added. The body of the

deceased woman, identified as 31-year-old Ngangbam Surbala Devi, has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for post-mortem examination. The identity of the other victim is yet to be ascertained, police said. Security forces, including State and central units, have been deployed in the area to stabilise the situation.

The State Government has strongly condemned the attack on unarmed villagers. "The State Government has learnt about the unfortunate incident of attack on unarmed Koutruk villagers using drone, bombs and sophisticated weapons reportedly by Kuki militants causing death of two persons including one woman. Such act of terrorising upon unarmed villagers is viewed very seriously when the State Government is putting all efforts towards bringing normalcy in the State," a statement by the Home Department said.

Cultivate strength, wisdom to fight life's battles, tells Dhankhar to RIMC cadets

DEHRADUN, Sept 1 (PTI)

VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday urged the cadets of the Rashtriya Military College (RIMC) here to vindicate their institution's motto 'Bal Vivek' and cultivate strength and wisdom so that they can fight the bigger battles of life.

Stressing on the need to keep the national interest foremost in all situations, the Vice President said, "Serve the country with pride and fearlessness. Bharat Mata beckons you. The nation's future rests on your shoulders. Always keep national interest foremost. Your conduct must exemplify discipline, decorum and empathy."

Addressing the cadets, Dhankhar said the alumni should inculcate the spirit of nationalism in the youth and make people aware of the



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with his wife Sudesh Dhankhar, Uttarakhand Governor Lt General Gurmit Singh (Retd) and RIMC Commandant Colonel Rahul Aggarwal during a programme at RIMC, in Dehradun, on Sunday. (PTI)

'ground reality' of India's unique economic growth, development journey and its rise on the global stage.

Recalling the words of former President Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan from his address to the RIMC cadets in 1962, Dhankhar reiterated,

"The earth belongs to the brave, to the strong in spirit, not to the idle, not to the lazy and not to the incompetent. In this world of great competition and rivalry, each one of us will have to lead a life of self-control and sacrifice. Bear these great ideals in life."

ATF price cut 4.6 pc

Commercial LPG up by Rs 39 per cylinder

NEW DELHI, Sept 1 (PTI)

JET fuel, or ATF price was on Sunday reduced by 4.6 per cent while the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was hiked by Rs 39 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 4,495.5 per kilolitre, or 4.58 per cent, to Rs 93,480.22 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

The price reduction will help ease the burden on airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost. The reduction follows two rounds of monthly price increases. Jet fuel prices were on August 1 raised by 2 per cent or Rs 1,827.34 per kl and by 1.2 per cent (Rs 1,179.37 per kl). These hikes followed a steep 6.5 per cent (Rs 6,673.87 per kl) reduction effected on June 1. The ATF rate in Mumbai was reduced to Rs 87,432.78 per kl on Sunday from Rs 91,650.34 previously. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG by Rs 39 to Rs 1,691.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

Rs 45K cr

DBT disbursed in last 7 yrs by IPPB

NEW DELHI, Sept 1 (IANS)

INDIA Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has successfully disbursed over Rs 45,000 crore in Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) to beneficiaries under various Government schemes, said the Ministry of Communication while marking IPPB's seventh Foundation Day on Sunday.

Launched on September 1, 2018, by PM Narendra Modi, IPPB was established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication to provide the most accessible, affordable, and trusted digital banking

services to underserved and unbanked families at their doorstep. In the last seven years, the IPPB enabled paperless, cashless and presenceless banking while acquiring over 9.88 crore customer accounts.

"As we celebrate seven years of empowering India's underserved communities, we are proud of the impact IPPB has made so far. Our mission remains steadfast -- to make banking accessible to every household in India," said Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communication.

Palestinian militants kill 3 Israeli police in West Bank

JERUSALEM, Sept 1 (AP)

PALESTINIAN militants killed three Israeli police officers on Sunday when they opened fire on a vehicle in the occupied West Bank, where Israel has carried out large-scale raids in recent days.

The attack took place along a road in the southern West Bank. The raids have mainly been focused on urban refugee camps in the northern part of the territory, where Israeli forces have traded fire with militants on a near-daily basis since the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

The police confirmed that all three killed were officers and said the assailants slipped away. A little-known militant

group calling itself the Khalil al-Rahman Brigade claimed responsibility. Hamas praised the attack as a “natural response” to the war in Gaza and called for more.

ISRAEL SAYS PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD COMMANDER KILLED IN GAZA: THE Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has announced that it has killed Muhammad Katrouy, the commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad’s (PIJ) Central Camps Brigade, in an airstrike in central Gaza.

The IDF said in a statement on Saturday that Katrouy was killed on Thursday in a joint operation with the Shin Bet, Israel’s internal security service, Xinhua news agency reported.

'India has trade surplus with 151 nations'

NEW DELHI, Sept 1 (PTI)

INDIA has recorded trade surplus with as many as 151 countries such as the US and Netherlands, while the country has a trade deficit with 75 nations including China and Russia during the first half of this year, according to think tank GTRI.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that India does not need to worry about the trade deficit from importing crude oil and coal, however, it must focus on reducing the industrial goods imports, especially from countries like China, as these threaten India's economic sovereignty.

"Between January and



June 2024, India had a trade surplus with 151 countries, representing 55.8 per cent of its exports and 16.5 per cent of its imports, totalling USD 72.1 billion," GTRI said.

The biggest surpluses were with the USA (USD 21

billion) and the Netherlands (USD 11.6 billion) during January-June this year.

"India had a trade deficit with 75 countries, which accounted for 44.2 per cent of its exports and 83.5 per cent of its imports, resulting

in a USD 185.4 billion deficit, much larger than India's overall trade deficit," it said, adding this situation highlights the need to reduce reliance on specific imports and strengthen domestic production.

The data analysis by the think tank also showed that with 23 of 75 countries, India's trade deficit exceeded USD one billion and these countries accounted for 32.9 per cent of India's exports and 73.5 per cent of its imports. The top five countries with the highest trade deficits were China with USD 41.88 billion, Russia with USD 31.98 billion, Iraq with USD 15.07 billion, Indonesia

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