

'Chinese drones spotted along IB in Himachal'

SHIMLA, Oct 7 (PTI)

DRONES have been spotted along the Indo-China border in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district and they are likely being used for surveillance and espionage purposes, State Minister Jagat Singh Negi said on Monday.

Speaking to PTI, Negi said drone activity has been noticed in Shipki La and Rishi Dogri villages in Poo block of the district.

"Multiple drones frequently flying near the border area have been spotted in the past week and several people have informed me about such sightings," Negi, the MLA from Kinnaur assembly constituency, said.

Hope more Indian tourists visit Maldives: Muizzu

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (PTI)

MALDIVIAN President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday said India is one of the largest tourism source markets for the Maldives, and hoped that more Indian tourists will visit the archipelago nation.

In a press briefing after holding "extensive" talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House here, Muizzu also said the ties between the Maldives and India are "centuries-old, as evident throughout our histories". "Our people-to-people connections have long been the foundations of the relationship between India and the Maldives. Many Maldivians travel to India for tourism, for medical purposes, education, and for many

other reasons," he said.

At the same time, the Maldives hosts a large number of Indians who contribute to the development of the Maldives, he said. "India is one of our largest tourism source markets, and we hope to welcome more Indian tourists to the Maldives, allowing for shared growth and understanding between our peoples," Muizzu said.

His remarks during his ongoing India visit assumes significance as in January this year, a 'Boycott Maldives' online campaign had picked up traction after a few Maldivian ministers had made some allegedly derogatory comments on PM Modi. Many Indians, including celebrities, had taken to social media platforms urging

tourists to instead choose scenic sites in places such as Lakshadweep in India instead of the Maldives. However, this first bilateral visit to India by Muizzu since he won the presidential election last year on the 'India out' campaign, seeks to reset ties which earlier had hit a rocky patch. Muizzu last year had asked New Delhi to withdraw its military personnel posted in the archipelago nation by May this year.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge in November. The Maldivian President accompanied by First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed and a Maldivian delegation arrived in India on Sunday evening.

J P Nadda meets Maldives President

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (PTI)

THE Bharatiya Janata Party and the People's National Congress of Maldives on Monday agreed to enhance party-to-party relations to "deepen" partnership and mutual understanding. This came after BJP chief and Union Minister J P Nadda met Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu.

"During the meeting, both leaders agreed to enhance party-to-party relations by promoting exchanges between the BJP and the People's National Congress," BJP said in a statement.



President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu with Union Health Minister J P Nadda in New Delhi. (PTI)



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India, UAE to set up food corridor at USD 2 bn investment: Piyush Goyal

MUMBAI, Oct 7 (PTI)

INDIA and the UAE will set up a food corridor with an expected investment of USD 2 billion which will cater to the UAE market and beyond and help Indian farmers earn higher income and create more jobs, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.



Addressing a press conference on the 12th meeting of India-UAE High-Level Task

Force on Investment here, Goyal, who is the Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that a small working group comprising Central Government, State governments involved and the UAE has also been set up to take forward the establishment of food corridor between the two countries on a mission mode basis.

"Another area which was discussed in great detail was the setting up of food parks in India. The background work is largely completed, (this is) another area which will help farmers with higher income, provide jobs in food processing to thousands if not lakhs of our youth and will also ensure the food security of UAE," Goyal said.

The minister said that approximately

USD 2 billion dollars is the initial commitment that UAE has made to invest in the food processing industry and the food park logistics that can be required to move the material to the UAE. "We have set up a small working group of Central Government and State governments involved and the UAE to take forward this establishment of a food corridor between the two countries on a mission mode basis," he stated.

Stating that this investment is expected to happen in the next two-and-a-half-year period, Goyal said, "But the overall investment is also a factor of the opportunities that Indian businesses are able to offer." "It has been under discussion for a very long time that the UAE would like to invest in setting up food processing facilities in India to enable the availability of high-quality products suitable to the UAE, using Indian farmers' products and to be sold in the UAE. This matter has been under discussion for quite some time with the UAE Government coming, and with different states in India," Goyal said.

"Now, we are looking at progressing them faster to make sure that investments in food processing can come up in India with UAE investors and the UAE market along with other Gulf markets," he added.

Nadda elected Chairperson of 77th Session of WHO South East Asia Regional Committee

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (ANI)

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) kicked off its 77th session of the Regional Committee for Southeast Asia in New Delhi from October 7 to 9. India's Minister of Health, J P Nadda, has been elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session.

Seventy-seventh Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia is the annual governing body meeting of WHO in the Region.

The member nations include Bangladesh, Bhutan, the



Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda addresses the 77th session of the WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia, in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

Ministers of Health and delegates from the region's member states have flown to Delhi to deliberate upon key priorities and actions towards accessible public health.

In his inaugural speech, Nadda said, "Health transcends borders, necessitating a holistic and collaborative approach. By learning from each other's successes and challenges, we can enhance the resilience of health systems."