

# Days after China pact, Rajnath to open today museum in Arunachal

## Dedicated To Officer Who Led First Armed Forces Into Tawang

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**New Delhi:** India will continue the process to restore peace along the Line of Actual Control on the basis of the consensus achieved with China, defence minister Rajnath Singh said Wednesday, during his ongoing two-day trip to Tezpur in Assam and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to review the operational situation and celebrate Diwali with troops.

Singh's visit to Tawang is significant since it is one of the major flashpoints between India and China, with the latter claiming it as part of 'South Tibet'. On Dec 9, 2022, Chinese troops had tried to transgress across the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector to unilaterally change the status quo, which had led to a major physical clash between the rival troops leaving several injured on both sides.

Singh will visit Tawang on Thursday to inaugurate the Museum of Valour dedi-

Rajnath Singh's visit to Tawang is significant since it is one of the major flashpoints between India and China

cated to Major Ralengnao Bob Khathing and unveil a statue of Sardar Patel.

"The heroic deed of Major Ralengnao Bob Khathing, who bravely led an expedition in February 1951 to bring the Indian administration to Tawang, has no parallel in human history. What 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel did as India's first home minister by integrating several princely states into the country leaves us forever indebted to him," Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu said on X.

In Tezpur, Singh was briefed by Army commanders on infrastructure development along the LAC and the employment of cutting-edge military equipment and technology to enhance operational efficiency.



# PM to visit Nigeria, Guyana next mth in bid to bolster ties

## Trip To Coincide With Brazil Visit For G20 Summit

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**New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi will travel to Guyana and Nigeria next month, coinciding with his visit to Brazil where he will be participating in the G20 summit on Nov 18-19. This will be his first visit to both Guyana and Nigeria, which are members of the Global South community.

While the visit to Nigeria will help underscore the importance India attaches to one of the largest countries in Africa in articulating the voice of the developing world on multilateral platforms like the UN, G77 and NAM, the visit to Guyana is important for India's relations with CARICOM (Caribbean Community) that comprises 15 member-states and five associate members.

A CARICOM-India summit is likely to take place in capital Georgetown during Modi's visit, according to diplomatic sources. Modi had first held a summit meeting with CARICOM leaders on the margins of the UNGA in New York in 2019 where he, according to the Indian govt, reiterated India's commitment to strengthen its political, economic and cultural engagement with CARICOM. He had then highlighted the presence of more than a million-strong Indian diaspora as a "vibrant and enduring link of friendship with the Caribbean".

Modi had announced \$14 million grant for community



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development projects in the CARICOM and another \$ 150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related projects. He also announced the setting up of the Regional Center for Excellence in Information Technology in Georgetown, Guyana, according to a govt statement issued after the meeting.

In the case of Nigeria, this will be the first visit by an Indian PM to the country since Manmohan Singh in 2007 when the two countries elevated the relationship to a strategic partnership. According to the MEA, the presence of a large Indian expatriate community of about 50,000, the largest in West Africa, adds value to the importance of the long-standing relationship. Modi is expected to discuss the possibility of hosting the India-Africa summit soon here.

India and Nigeria had in 2007 also signed an MoU for defence cooperation, an area they see as integral to their strategic partnership. In 2021, they also launched a strategic and counterterrorism dialogue at the level of NSAs. An Indian naval ship also visited Lagos in 2022 to conduct the first-ever anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Guinea, according to the MEA.



# After 4.5 yrs, India to resume patrols in Demchok, Depsang

## Armies Complete Disengagement And Verification

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**New Delhi:** The Army will begin initial patrols on Thursday to a few places where its access was blocked by Chinese troops in the Depsang and Demchok areas of eastern Ladakh for the last four and a half years, in a significant development that India hopes will eventually lead to de-escalation along the entire Line of Actual Control.

The resumption of patrolling will come after the two armies on Wednesday completed the phased disengagement and verification pro-

### Rajnath to visit Arunachal today

India will continue the process to restore peace along LAC on the basis of consensus achieved with China, defence minister Rajnath Singh said Wednesday during his trip to Tezpur in Assam. He will visit Tawang in Arunachal on Thursday. Tawang is one of the major flashpoints between India and China, with the latter claiming it as part of 'South Tibet'. On Dec 9, 2022, Chinese troops had tried to transgress across LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector, which had led to a major physical clash. **P 16**



Rajnath has dinner with Army personnel at Sonitpur, Assam

cess, both physically on the ground as well as through aerial surveillance by drones and satellites, at the two re-

maining face-off sites in the Depsang Plains and the Char-ding Ninglung Nallah track junction near Demchok.

"The aerial verification of Demchok was completed on Wednesday morning after getting delayed by a day due to bad weather. In the evening, ground commanders of both sides met at two points in Depsang, and one at Demchok, for the final confirmation of the dismantling of temporary posts and structures as well as the mutual pull-back of troops to pre-April 2020 positions," a top defence source told TOI.

With the 10-day disengagement and verification going off without a major hitch, the Army will "launch some initial patrolling on Thursday and progressively expand it to full-fledged patrols to all areas over the coming days and weeks", he added.

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# 'India faces 24.7 pc GDP loss by 2070 due to climate change'

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

CLIMATE change under a high-end emissions scenario could lead to a 16.9 per cent loss in GDP by 2070 across the Asia and Pacific region, with India projected to suffer a 24.7 per cent GDP loss, according to a new report.

Rising sea levels and decreasing labour productivity would drive the most significant losses, with lower-income and fragile economies being hit the hardest, it said. The new research, presented in the inaugural issue of ADB's "Asia-Pacific Climate Report", details a series of damaging impacts threatening the region.

It says that if the climate crisis continues to accelerate, up to 300 million people in the region could be at risk from coastal inundation, and trillions of dollars' worth of coastal assets could face annual damage by 2070.

"Climate change has supercharged the devastation from tropical storms, heat waves,



and floods in the region, contributing to unprecedented economic challenges and human suffering," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

Urgent, well-coordinated climate action addressing these impacts is necessary before it is too late, he said.

This climate report provides insights into financing urgent adaptation needs and offers promising policy recommendations to governments in our developing member countries on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the lowest cost, he added. "By 2070, climate change under a high-end emis-

sions scenario could cause a total loss of 16.9 per cent of GDP across the Asia and Pacific region. Most of the region would face more than 20 per cent loss.

"Among the assessed countries and subregions, these losses are concentrated in Bangladesh (30.5 per cent), Viet Nam (per cent), Indonesia (per cent), India (24.7 per cent), 'the rest of Southeast Asia' (23.4 per cent), higher-income Southeast Asia (22 per cent), Pakistan (21.1 per cent), the Pacific (18.6 per cent), and the Philippines (18.1 per cent)," the report said.

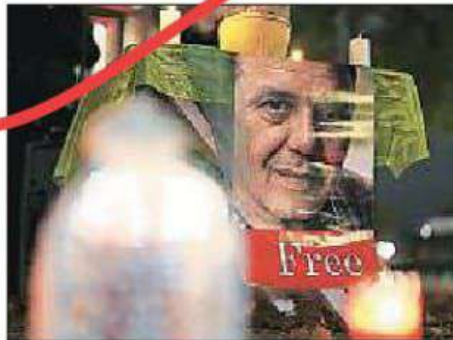
# Germany orders 3 Iranian consulates to shut after Iranian German prisoner is executed

BERLIN, Oct 31 (AP)

**GERMANY** ordered the closure of all three Iranian consulates in the country on Thursday in response to the execution of Iranian German prisoner Jamshid Sharmahd, who lived in the United States and was kidnapped in Dubai in 2020 by Iranian security forces.

Sharmahd, 69, was put to death in Iran on Monday on terrorism charges, the Iranian judiciary said. That followed a 2023 trial that Germany, the US and international rights groups dismissed as a sham.

The decision to close the Iranian consulates in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, announced by Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, leaves the Islamic



People commemorate Iranian-German Jamshid Sharmahd during a protest following his execution in Iran, near the Foreign Ministry in Berlin, Germany on Monday. (AP/PTI)

Republic with only its embassy in Berlin.

The German Foreign Ministry had already summoned Iran's charge d'affaires on Tuesday to protest Sharmahd's execution. German Ambassador Markus Potzel also protested to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, before being recalled to Berlin for consultations.

Sharmahd was one of several Iranian dissidents abroad in recent years either tricked or kidnapped back to Iran as Tehran began lashing out after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers including Germany.

Iran accused Sharmahd, who lived in Glendora, California, of planning a 2008 attack on a mosque that killed 14 people

*(Contd on page 5)*



# Rice stock set to rise to 20-yr high of 300L tonnes by Nov 1

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**New Delhi:** Rice stock with govt is set to touch around 300 lakh tonnes on Nov 1. This is the highest stock with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last two decades, as per records available on its website.

Officials said the huge stock is an issue and liquidating this stockpile is a challenge even as the govt allowed states to take extra rice directly from the FCI for their own schemes and sale of 23 lakh tonnes of the grain to ethanol distilleries.

According to available data, the FCI had a stockpile of 299 lakh tonnes of rice

PTI



**INCREASING BUFFER**

and another 13 lakh tonnes receivable from millers. As per govt's buffer norms, the agency needs to keep 102.5 lakh tonnes as stock to meet the food security scheme and other welfare programmes of govt as on Oct 1.

The rice stock has increased due to higher procurement by govt agencies. Moreover, the Centre had stopped the sale of rice to states from the central pool

last year and banned the export of non-basmati white rice, besides imposing duty on the outbound shipment of white and parboiled rice to address food inflation and deficient rainfall.

Only in the past three months, govt took several decisions, including allowing states to buy rice from FCI, allowing export of non-basmati white rice and removal of export duty on parboiled rice.

Meanwhile, the food ministry has said paddy procurement was under way in full swing in Punjab and Haryana, the two major food bowls of the country, and like every year 185 lakh and 60 lakh tonnes of paddy would likely be procured from the states, during the current kharif marketing season.