

# Patrolling resumes at Demchok, to begin in Depsang on weekend

**Dinakar Peri**

NEW DELHI

The Indian and Chinese Armies started coordinated patrolling along the Line of Actual Control in Demchok on Friday, while patrolling in Depsang is expected to commence in a day or so, sources confirmed.

This comes after disengagement was completed on Wednesday in both these areas located in eastern Ladakh, the final friction points from the 2020 stand-off between the two countries. The resumption of patrolling is a significant step in returning to the status quo of pre-April 2020.

Officials from both sides verified the completion of disengagement on the ground in both the areas, Army sources said. Ground commanders, at the rank of Brigadier and below, held meetings on Wednesday to work out the modalities for patrolling. In order to avoid face-offs between patrols and prevent clashes, the timing and frequency of patrols will be coordi-

nated. However, given that there has been a stand-off going on at Demchok since 2017 and that the latest agreement is only to restore the ground situation to the pre-April 2020 situation, it is not clear upto what point the Indian Army will get to patrol in the Demchok area.

At Depsang, where the situation is much more complex, patrolling is expected to resume over the weekend. At least technically, this means that the Indian Army should be able to resume patrols upto the Patrolling Points 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the area, which it last managed to access in January 2020.

With disengagement now completed at all the friction points of the stand-off that began in May 2020, the next step is to work out new patrolling norms and resume patrolling at other friction points as well, such as Galwan, Patrolling Point 15 and 17A in the Gogra Hotsprings area, and the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso.



# Naga group urges Centre to finalise peace deal this year

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

The Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) said on Thursday that the Union government should finalise the Naga peace pact according to the terms of the agreement signed with the group in 2019, the provisions of which include a separate page in the Indian passport for the Nagas and a bicameral legislature in Nagaland.

The NNPG said the political solution reached with the Union government fully recognised the Naga identity, with a separate page in the Indian passport, a separate contingent of Nagas in all international events, and an enhanced representation in both Houses of Parliament.

The NNPG, which is the second group after the influential Isak-Muivah faction of the National Social-

**The NNPG is the second group to engage in peace talks with the Centre**

ist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) to engage in peace talks with the Union government, signed an "Agreed Position" on October 31, 2019, with the then Naga interlocutor, R.N. Ravi, currently Tamil Nadu's Governor.

"The NNPG hopes that the Government of India will complete the signing of the agreement in 2024 itself," a statement by the NNPG, which comprises seven groups, said.

It said the 'Agreed Position' had the status of an "intergovernmental agreement" as the NNPG working committee had signed it with Mr. Ravi, who was holding a Cabinet rank in the government.



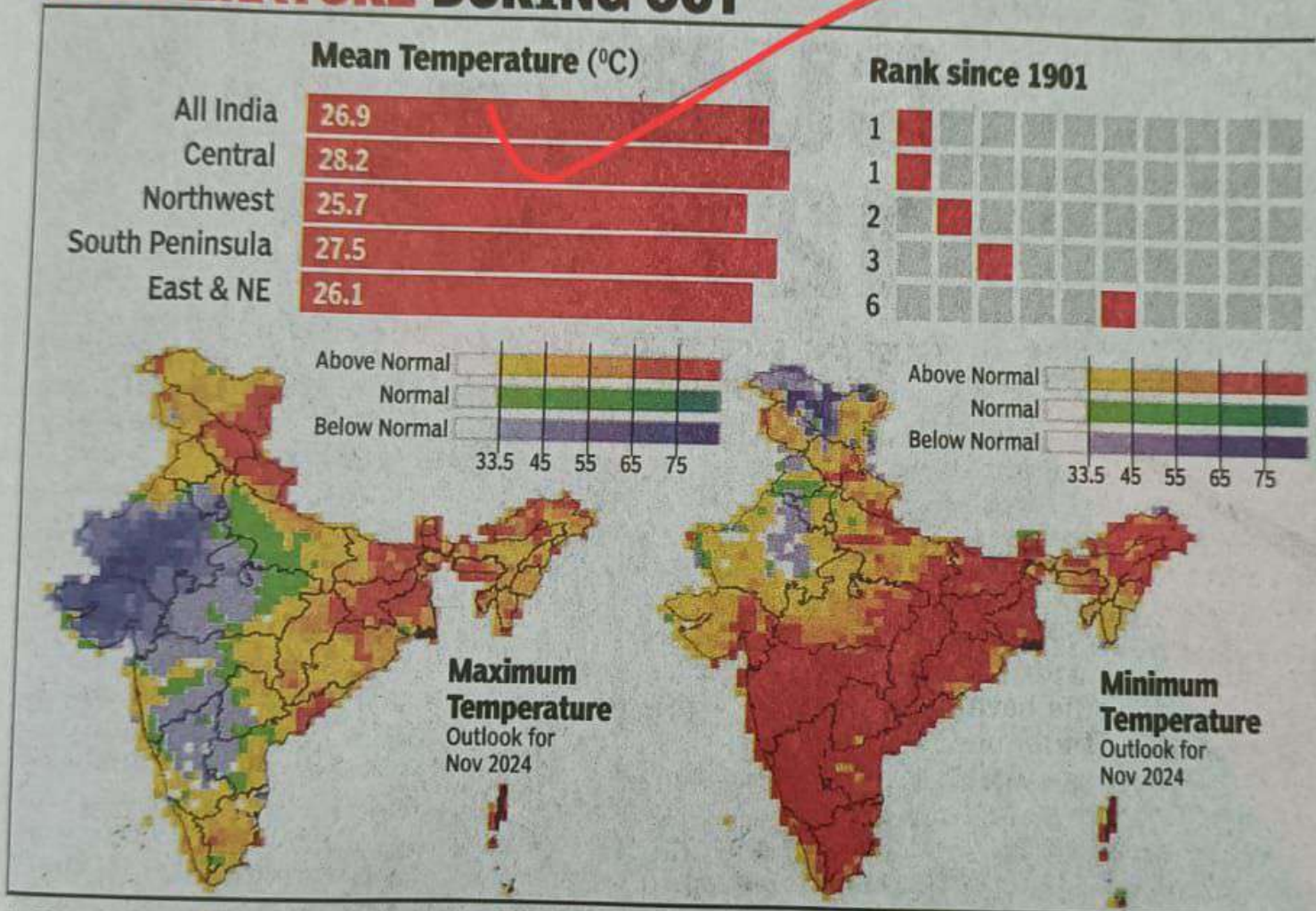
## Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as Defence Secretary

Rajesh Kumar Singh took over as Defence Secretary at South Block, New Delhi, on Friday. He took over from the incumbent, Giridhar Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre who retired from service on Thursday after a two-year stint. Before taking charge, Mr. Singh laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He is a 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, and had assumed the charge as Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-designate) on August 20. Earlier, Mr. Singh was holding the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry.



# La Nina conditions may develop in Nov-Dec: IMD

## TEMPERATURE DURING OCT



► Continued from P 1

We need to find out why all global models went wrong, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, adding, "Latest global model forecasts indicate a higher chance of La Nina conditions developing during Nov-Dec, and therefore, we need to wait to make any forecast about the nature of winter at this stage, even as there are many

other climate factors which impact the season."

On reasons behind a warm Oct, Mohapatra attributed it to formation of four low pressure systems, late withdrawal of summer monsoon, and absence of western disturbances during the month. As far as Nov is concerned, IMD predicted 'above normal' maximum temperatures (warmer days) over northeast and east central India, and some parts

of northwest and Peninsular India. "Normal to below normal maximum (day) temperatures are likely over west central India and adjoining areas of northwest India and north peninsular India," it said.

In terms of minimum temperatures, most parts of the country, except some areas of northwest, may face 'above-normal' temperatures (warmer nights) during the month.



# Doval holds talks with US NSA on def, Indo-Pacific

**New Delhi:** NSA Ajit Doval on Wednesday held talks with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan on bilateral ties, including defence and security cooperation, and regional and global issues



amid tensions in ties over murder-for-hire plot.

The two leaders discussed the need for further efforts to

ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, the White House said. "They welcomed progress in the bilateral partnership, including through the upcoming Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology Intersessional and Indian Ocean Dialogue. They also discussed further opportunities for closer collaboration in key domains, including clean energy supply chains and defence cooperation, it added.

Early this week, the US had said that Canada's allegations against home minister Amit Shah are "concerning". "The allegations are concerning, and we will continue to consult with the Canadian govt about them," state dept spokesperson Matthew Miller had said. TNN

# US sanctions 15 Indian entities for Russia links

Washington: The US has imposed sanctions on 275 individuals and entities, including 15 from India, for allegedly supporting Russia's military-industrial base.

Companies from China, Switzerland, Thailand, and Turkiye have also been slapped with sanctions for supplying Russia with advanced technology and equipment that it desperately needs to support its war machine, the department of treasury said in a statement Thursday.

In addition to disrupting global evasion networks, this action also targets domestic Russian importers and producers of key inputs and other material for Rus-

**Apart from India, companies from Switzerland, China, Thailand and Turkiye have also been slapped with sanctions for supplying Russia with advanced technology and equipment that it desperately needs to support its war machine**

sia's military-industrial base.

The Indian companies on which the US imposed sanctions are: Abhar Technologies and Services Private Limited, Denvas Services Private Limited, Emsystech, Galaxy Bearings Ltd, Orbit Fintrade LLP, Innovio Ventures, KDG Engineering Private Limited and Khushbu Honing Private Limited.

The list also includes Lokesh Machines Limited, Pointer Electronics, RRG En-

gineering Technologies Private Limited, Sharpline Automation Private Limited, Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited, Shreegee Impex Private Limited and Shreya Life Sciences Private Limited.

"The US and our allies will continue to take decisive action across the globe to stop flow of critical tools and technologies that Russia needs to wage its illegal and immoral war against Ukraine," deputy secretary of treasury Wally

Adeyemo said. "As evidenced by today's action, we are unyielding in our resolve to diminish and degrade Russia's ability to equip its war machine and stop those seeking to aid their efforts through circumvention or evasion of our sanctions and export controls," Adeyemo added.

The state dept also targeted sanctions evasion and circumvention in multiple third countries, including several China-based companies exporting dual-use goods that fill critical gaps in Russia's military-industrial base and entities and individuals in Belarus related to the Lukashenka regime's support for Russia's defence industry. PTI



# India, US armies to begin 'Vajra Prahar' drill in Idaho today

**New Delhi:** India and the US on Saturday will kick off their 'Vajra Prahar' exercise between their special forces at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho to enhance interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special operations tactics.

The Indian Army will be represented by Para-SF units in the exercise, which will continue till Nov 22, while the US Army contingent will deploy the Green Berets. "This 15th edition of Vajra Prahar will boost combined capabilities in executing joint special operations in desert and semi-desert environments. The exercise will focus on a high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and tactical drills," an officer said. The drills will include planning and setting up a joint team mission, reconnaissance, use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), execution of special operations, and psychological warfare, among others.

The previous edition of 'Vajra Prahar' was held in Meghalaya last Dec, while the two armies conducted the 'Yudh Abhyas' exercise at Rajasthan in Sept this year.

India and the US have been steadily cranking up the scope, and frequency of their exercises as part of their "strategic partnership and convergence". The Malabar naval exercise with the "Quad" countries of the US, Australia and Japan was also hosted by India in the Bay of Bengal last month. India had last month inked a Rs 28,000-crore (\$3.3 billion) contract with the US govt for the acquisition of 31 weaponised MQ-9B 'Predators', along with another Rs 4,350-crore (\$520 million) deal with drone-manufacturer General Atomics to set up an MRO facility here. With this, the US has bagged lucrative Indian defence deals worth over \$25 billion just since 2007. TNN