

Indian Army resumes patrolling in Depsang

Disengagement completed from Demchok, Depsang in Ladakh last Wednesday; patrolling in Demchok resumed a day later; next step is to work out new patrolling norms along the LAC

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has successfully patrolled one of the five Patrolling Points in Depsang Ara of eastern Ladakh, the Leh-based 14 Corps announced late on Monday. This marks the resumption of patrolling in the area for the first time since disengagement was undertaken last week and after the stand-off that began in May 2020.

“Following the consensus reached between the Indian and Chinese Side for disengagement and resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, the Indian Army patrol to one of the patrolling points in Depsang was successfully conducted today. This is yet another positive step towards maintaining peace and tranquillity on the LAC [Line of Actual Control],” the 14 Corps said in a post on X.

Patrolling Point 10 was accessed in the patrol as agreed by the two aides, sources said.

Last Wednesday, disengagement was completed



Softening ties: Soldiers of the Indian and Chinese Armies exchange greetings at Hot Springs in Leh on the occasion of Deepavali on Thursday. ANI

from Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, which were also the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off, amid a return to the pre-April 2020 status quo.

Following this, the Army resumed patrolling in Demchok a day later.

Resumption of patrolling at Depsang means the Indian Army can carry out patrols up to Patrolling Points 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the area which it last managed to access in January 2020.

While Patrolling Points 11A, 12 and 13 are located

on the Limit of Patrolling (LoP) area, 10 and 11 are located much before LoP. Depsang is also the place where the distance from the LoP to the LAC is the maximum.

With disengagement now completed from all the friction points, the next step is to work out new patrolling norms along the LAC and resume patrolling at other friction points as well – Galwan, Patrolling Points 15 and 17A in Gogra Hotsprings area, and north and south banks of Pangong Tso – where currently buffer zones are in place.

Following completion of disengagement, both sides undertook verification to confirm it on the ground. Ground commanders, of the ranks of Brigadier and below, held meetings last Wednesday to work out the modalities for patrolling at Depsang and Demchok.

However, given that there has been a stand-off at Demchok since 2017 and the latest agreement is for restoring the ground situation to pre-April 2020 situation, it is not clear up to what point the Army would get to patrol in the Demchok area.

India, Algeria sign pact to elevate defence cooperation, enhance strategic interests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Algeria concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on bilateral defence cooperation. This was signed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and his counterpart, Chief of Staff of Algerian People's National Army Said Chanegriha.

General Chauhan was on an official visit to the North African nation from October 31 to November 3. "The MoU elevates the defence partnership between both nations, fostering mutual understanding and enhancing strategic interests," the Integrated Defence Staff said on X. This MoU represents not only a step forward in bilateral military cooperation but also lays down the



Gen. Chauhan's visit coincided with events which marked the 70th Anniversary of Algeria's revolution on November 1.

foundation for long-term collaboration across a variety of sectors, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

General Chauhan's visit coincided with the the military parade and commemorative events of November 01, marking the 70th Anniversary of Algeria's revolution, a pivotal moment in the country's history.

He interacted with the Director of the Higher War College and addressed senior officers of the of the People's National Army.

"India has reestablished its defence wing in Algeria and welcomes the reopening of defence wing of Algeria in India," General Chauhan said.

"In today's complex geopolitical construct, India understands her responsibilities and desires to engage as a *Vishwa Bandhu* — a reliable partner for the world," he said.

He noted that the Indian forces are undergoing transformation and said they were ready to share their experiences with the People's National Army of Algeria and emphasised upon India's increasing defence production capability under the 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World' programmes.

Candidates make final cases in swing States as U.S. votes

Harris struck an optimistic note in her closing message saying the U.S. could turn the page on a decade of politics driven by fear and division; Trump focuses on border and economy

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. approached a historic Election Day on Tuesday, with U.S. Vice-President and Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican nominee and former President Donald Trump making their final cases to voters across battleground States, especially Pennsylvania, in an election that is tight and where both candidates have a shot at winning.

This year is historic for several reasons, including that Ms. Harris, 60, is the first Indian American and



Final push: Kamala Harris will spend the whole of election eve day campaigning in the rust-belt State of Pennsylvania. AFP

Black woman to seek the Presidency. Mr. Trump, 78, is the first former President to be convicted of a felony and is seeking a second

non-consecutive term, only the second in U.S. history. He has also recently survived two assassination attempts.

Ms. Harris's closing messages sought to strike an optimistic note. In Michigan on Sunday, she said the U.S. had an opportunity for a "fresh start" and could "turn the page on a decade of politics driven by fear and division."

Mr. Trump's closing arguments have focused on security of the U.S.-Mexico border, attacking Democrats and saying he will improve the economy.

"The day I take office the migrant invasion ends and the restoration of our country begins," Mr. Trump said in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Monday.

Oil prices to spike with escalation of Middle-East conflict: Report

MUMBAI, Nov 4 (IANS)

BRENT crude is projected to continue trading in a broad range of \$75-80 per barrel and any spike in oil prices may happen only if the Middle-East conflict escalates and some damage is caused to oil fields in Iran, according to a report on Monday. Brent is currently trading at \$74 per barrel and the market traded most of the time in the lower part of the range.

“What instilled in the markets a certain amount



of anxiety is the development around the Middle-East conflict. Given the current set up Brent crude will continue to trade in the same price band of \$75-80 per barrel,” according to the report by Emkay Wealth Management Ltd.

Crude prices are weak as

fundamental factors do not support higher oil prices and there has not been any major attacks on the oil fields in Iran.

What could disrupt oil supply and, therefore, adversely affect oil prices is any disruption of the traffic due to attacks by terrorists, and any potential damage to Iranian oil fields.

“It is worth mentioning here that the US sanctions on Iran as far as petroleum products are concerned is still in place and it has been

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IAF's MiG-29 crashes near Agra, pilot safe

It's a system malfunction, say officials

AGRA/NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

A MiG-29 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed in a field near Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Monday during a routine training sortie after it encountered a "system malfunction", officials said.

The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft to ensure no damage to life or property on the ground before ejecting safely, the IAF said, adding, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the crash.

Visuals emerged on social media platforms showing the fuselage of the crashed jet engulfed in flames billowing a thick cloud of smoke.

A large number of curious onlookers gathered near the



Smoke billows after an IAF plane crashed and caught fire, near Agra on Monday.

(PTI)

crash site in the field.

"A MiG-29 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Agra during a routine training sortie today, after encountering a system malfunction. The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft to ensure no

damage to life or property on ground, before ejecting safely. An enquiry has been ordered by the IAF, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF posted on X.

A MiG-29 fighter aircraft of

the IAF had crashed in Rajasthan's Barmer on September 2 due to a "critical" technical snag.

The pilot had ejected safely and no loss of life was reported.

Jaishankar inaugurates new Indian consulate in Brisbane, pays homage to Mahatma



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Roma Street Parklands in Brisbane on Monday. (PTI)

BRISBANE, Nov 4 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday inaugurated the new Consulate General of India in Brisbane, underlining that this will contribute to strengthening India's ties with the Queensland State, promoting trade and serving the diaspora.

Jaishankar, arrived in Australia on Sunday on the first leg of his two-nation tour which will also take him to Singapore.

"Delighted to formally inaugurate the new Consulate General of India in Brisbane today. It will contribute to strengthening India's ties with Queensland State, promoting trade, fostering educational linkages and serving the diaspora. Thank H E Dr. Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland and Ministers @Ros_Bates_MP and @FionaSimpsonMP for joining the inauguration ceremony," Jaishankar posted on X.

This is India's fourth consulate in Australia in Brisbane. The rest are in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The External Affairs Minister also paid his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Roma Street Parklands in Brisbane on Monday. "His message of peace and harmony resonates through the world," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Jaishankar also met the Governor of Queensland, in Brisbane on Monday.

"Pleased to meet H E Dr Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland, in Brisbane today. Discussed opportunities and ways to strengthen economic, trade and investment cooperation with the Queensland State," he posted on X.

India re-elected President of International Solar Alliance

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (IANS)

INDIA was re-elected as President of the 120-nation International Solar Alliance (ISA) from 2024 to 2026 on Monday, while France has been elected as Co-President, at the General Assembly held at the iconic Bharat Mandapam here.

Addressing a press conference at the 7th General Assembly of the ISA, Union

Minister Pralhad Joshi said that India's election to the President's post is a testament to the impactful work the country, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been doing over the years for the global good in advancing solar energy adoption across the globe and boosting investment in essential solar projects, including mini-grids and healthcare

solutions.

Joshi said while India was the sole contender for the post of President, the Co-Presidency was contested between the Republic of France and Grenada, with France emerging victorious.

"India and France, along with member countries, will aim to raise their ambitions and promise to make this decade count as we usher in a fresh

wave of energy, determined to bring the power of solar to improve countries around the world in a way the world has never witnessed before," the minister said.

Joshi highlighted that the ISA aims to give impetus to accelerate the journey towards the 1000 strategy which aims to mobilise \$1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030.