

Military museums to be e-linked to one platform soon: CDS

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Friday said work is underway to virtually link the various military museums to one e-platform under a project that aims to spread awareness about India's glorious military heritage.

In his keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the second edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival here, the CDS also pitched for creating military fiction work that combines literary fiction with military events of the past to make them more accessible to the masses.

"We, in the armed forces, with an intent to spread awareness of our glorious history and heritage, have initiated a project of e-linking of our military museums. We already e-linked about eight-ten of these military museums, and shortly we are going to e-link all



CDS General Anil Chauhan addresses at the inauguration of the 2nd edition of Indian Military Heritage Festival, in New Delhi. (PTI)

47-48 military museums. So, they will be available at one site, you need not have to go there," General Chauhan said.

The CDS said, "We are also thinking of e-linking all the war

museums" to a national platform, so that it would be available to people, who wish to visit these sites virtually.

Similarly, to familiarise people with military valour, a hybrid

model has been adopted for "battlefield tourism", he added.

"This includes online links of various battlefields where the Armed Forces have fought, and actual field tours of those battlefields will also be organised for those wanting further information on the exploits of the Indians armed forces in these theatres of war," the CDS said.

The event also witnessed the launch of Project 'Shaurya Gatha' which is an initiative of the Department of Military Affairs and think-tank USI. The project aims to conserve and promote India's military heritage through education and tourism, it said.

The festival aims to engage global and Indian think-tanks, corporations, public and private sector undertakings, non-profit organisations, academicians, and research scholars focusing on India's national security.

India, ASEAN collaboration can be crucial in tackling contemporary issues: EAM

SINGAPORE, Nov 8
(PTI)

INDIA and ASEAN are major demographics and their collaboration can be crucial in tackling contemporary issues, ensuring food and health security and addressing political challenges in the shared region like Myanmar, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

Jaishankar's remarks came as he addressed the Eighth

Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks – Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for ASEAN-India Cooperation. "India and ASEAN are major demographics whose emerging demands can not only support each other but become larger productive forces in the international economy," Jaishankar, who is here on a day-long visit, said. Together, ASEAN and India account for more than a quarter of the world's population, he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Singapore's top leaders, including President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and discussed ways to advance the bilateral partnership and shared perspectives on regional and global developments.

During his meeting with Wong, Jaishankar conveyed to him warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Association of



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of 8th Roundtable of ASEAN - India Network of Think - Tanks, in Singapore.

(PTI)

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"Our consumer demands and lifestyle choices are themselves major economic drivers. They will also shape the scale of services and connectivity as we promote trade, tourism, mobility and education. The magnitude of our endeavours has a resonance that is far beyond the immediate domain," he said. "Collaboration can also be crucial in addressing contemporary challenges. In an era of extreme climate events, ensuring food security is a major concern. Similarly, with the experience of global pandemics, preparing for health security is no less vital," he added. Jaishankar said there are, and there will be political challenges in the shared region like Myanmar that India and ASEAN will have to address together.

'AUSTRAHIND': India-Aus joint military exercise begins in Pune

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (PTI)

A JOINT military exercise between India and Australia began in Pune on Friday with an aim to promote cooperation through enhancement of interoperability in the conduct of joint sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environment in semi-desert terrain under the relevant chapter of the UN mandate.

The third edition of 'Exercise AUSTRAHIND' will be conducted in two phases -- combat conditioning and tactical training, and validation.

"Drills or aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include response to a terrorist

action of capturing a defined territory; establishment of a joint operations centre; conduct of joint counter-terrorism operations like raid and search and destroy missions; securing of a helipad; employment of drones and counter drone measures, and special heli-borne operations, among others," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The two sides will also share their best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting tactical operations during the joint exercise at the Foreign Training Node till November 21.

'Exercise AUSTRAHIND' is an annual event conducted alternatively in India and Australia.

2 terrorists killed in J&K encounter

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (PTI)



Army vehicle during an encounter at Sopore, in Baramulla.

(PTI)

TWO terrorists were killed on Friday in an overnight encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Their identification and affiliation are being ascertained. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists following the encounter which started on Thursday night after the security forces launched an intelligence-based operation. IGP (Kashmir Zone) VK Birdi said the operation was launched on Thursday night following information about the presence of ultras in the area.

"As a cordon was being laid, there was an exchange of fire. We thought it prudent to first remove the civilians from the area. After that, the cordon and search operation turned into an encounter which ended on Friday morning with the killing of two terrorists," Birdi said. "A cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the spot," he added.

NO POWER in the world can restore **Article 370** in J&K: PM



**"EK HAI,
TOH SAFE
HAI"**

DHULE, Nov 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused the Congress-led INDIA bloc of wanting to take the Constitution out of Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that no power in the world can restore Article 370 there.

He also accused the Congress of pitting one caste against another and cautioned people to stay united. "Ek hai, toh safe hai," he said.

Addressing his first rally in Maharashtra for the November 20 Assembly elections, Modi said the INDIA grouping is flaunting blank books passing them off as the Constitution to provoke Dalits and Adivasis. The PM said the Congress and its allies should not encourage the "Pakistan agenda" and speak the language of separatists. The agenda won't succeed till he has people's blessings, said Modi. "Only Ambedkar's Constitution will be followed in J&K. You must have seen on TV how a resolution was moved in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on bringing back Article 370 and when BJP MLAs protested, they were thrown out. The country and Maharashtra should understand this," Modi said.

The BJP's star campaigner also accused the Congress of playing a dangerous game of dividing castes and communities. If ST (Scheduled Tribes), SC (Scheduled Castes) and OBCs (Other Backward Classes) stay united, the Congress politics will be over, he said. "The Congress wants to pit one caste against another and weaken the unity of SC, ST and OBCs. Since Nehru's time Congress and his family opposed reservation and now their fourth generation 'yuvraj' (prince) is working for caste divisions. You must realise that 'ek hai toh safe hai' (we will be safe if we are united)," he said. Earlier, Modi alleged, the Congress played

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China approves \$839 billion plan to refinance local government debt

BEIJING, Nov 8 (AP)

CHINA on Friday approved a 6 trillion yuan (\$839 billion) plan to help local governments refinance their mountains of debt, in the latest push to rev up growth in the world's second largest

economy. The plan will be implemented over the next three years, Xu Hongcai, Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress's financial and economic committee, said at a news conference on Friday.

Finance Minister Lan Fo'an

estimated that the hidden debt of local governments was 14.3 trillion yuan (\$2 trillion) at the end of 2020. Hidden debt refers to debt that has not been disclosed publicly.

Lan said 2 trillion yuan would be allocated each year from 2024

to 2026 to help local governments refinance their debts. He estimated that the amount of hidden debt will drop to 2.3 trillion yuan (\$320.9 billion) by the end of 2028.

Officials also said on Friday that the ceiling to issue special bonds will be raised to 35.52 tril-

lion yuan (\$4.96 billion) from 29.52 trillion yuan (\$4.12 billion) for local governments.

Lan said that the implementation of such a large-scale replacement measure indicates a "fundamental shift" in China's approach to debt restructuring

and said that China's government debt risk was "controllable."

Analysts have called for bold, multi-trillion-yuan measures to reinvigorate the world's second largest economy, which has yet to bounce back fully from the COVID-19 pandemic. Local gov-

ernment debts have ballooned partly due to high spending and low tax revenues during the pandemic, but also due to a downturn in the property industry, since sales of land use rights, a key source of local government revenue, have sagged.