

USA, Myanmar to hold military exercises with India in Meghalaya

UMROI (Meghalaya), Nov 4 (PTI)

THE USA and Myanmar will hold joint military exercises with India at Meghalaya's Umroi Cantonment later this month and December respectively, a defence official said on Saturday. The Malaysian army is currently holding such a bilateral exercise since last month at the Umroi Joint Training Node, the only nominated node of the Eastern Command of the Indian Army.

Thus, the same venue has been selected for the exercises with three countries in consecutive three months.

Since its inception in October 2017, the node has hosted eight joint exercises with foreign countries, including the ongoing 'Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023' between the Indian and

Malaysian forces, Defence spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said.

"Indian Army has engaged positively in the field of defence cooperation by conducting 36 joint exercises with 22 friendly foreign countries in different locations. The training node in Umroi has hosted personnel from six countries so far," he said. The first bilateral exercise here was conducted with the Bangladesh army in 2017. The military personnel of other countries who visited Umroi Cantonment for such exercises are Myanmar, Thailand, China, Kazakhstan and Malaysia.

The scheduled upcoming joint exercises are with the USA this month while Myanmar defence personnel, who will be participating in the training here for the second time, in December.

Next Quad summit likely in India in January

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

THE next Quad summit may take place in India around January 27 with New Delhi looking at hosting US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese for the in-person deliberations, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

India has already invited Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 and the Quad summit could take place the next day if everything goes according to plan, they said.

It is learnt that it could be inconvenient for India and the US if the summit is held after March and New Delhi has conveyed to three other member nations that it would like to host the Quad leaders in the later part of January.

Japan and Australia have sent preliminary communication to New Delhi that they are fine with the proposed date for the summit, the people cited above said, adding that Washington has also sent positive sig-

nals. All the deliberations among the Quad countries are now focused on the plan to have the summit around January 27, they said.

In September, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations.

If Biden accepts the invitation, he will

be the second US president to be the chief guest at the event after Barack Obama, who graced the occasion in 2015.

India's invitation to Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations and hosting of the Quad summit may figure during US Secretary of State Antony Blinken talks with his Indian interlocutors in New Delhi next week.

QUOTATION NOTICE CALLING RATES FOR ESTIMATION WORK				
1) Scaled quotations are invited from Manufacturer by the under signed to ascertain the rates for Estimation of Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Pantoon (Floating Pumping Station with Pumphouse)				
2) The sealed quotation should reach this office on or before date 10.11.2023 upto 15.00 Hrs.				
3) The rates quoted should be reasonable current market rate, inclusive of all taxes and duties excluding GST, which is paid separately.				
4) The right to reject any or all quotations without assigning reasons thereof is reserved with the competent authority.				
Name of Scheme:				
1) Patanbori & 18 Villages Regional Water Supply Scheme Under J.J.M. Tq. Kelapur Dist. Yavatmal 35 HP 2 Nos. of VT Pump on Pontoon with 150 mtr Walkway				
2) Kakaddati & 24 Villages Regional Water Supply Scheme Under J.J.M. Tq. Pusad Dist. Yavatmal + Shembalpimpri Water Supply Scheme Under J.J.M. Tq. Mahagaon Dist. Yavatmal 170 HP 3 Nos. of VT Pumps and 25 HP 2 Nos of Submersible Pump Pontoon with 180 Mtr Walkway.				
Sr.No.	Particulars of items	Quantity	Unit	Rate in Rupees
A	Patanbori & 18 Villages Regional Water Supply Scheme Under J.J.M. Tq. Kelapur Dist. Yavatmal 35 HP 2 Nos of VT Pump on Pontoon with 150 mtr Walkway			
1	Item No.- 1 :- Metallic Pontoon			

Modi, Rishi Sunak discuss Israel-Hamas conflict

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak had a telephonic conversation on Friday as they discussed development in West Asia and conflict between Israel and Hamas, and expressed deep concern on terrorism, worsening security situation and the loss of lives.

“Both leaders expressed deep concern at terrorism, worsening security situation and the loss of civilian lives. They agreed on the need for regional peace, security, stability and continued humanitarian assistance,” the PMO said in a statement.

Modi congratulated Sunak

on the successful completion of one year in office and they welcomed progress being made for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, according to the statement.

In a post on X, Modi said, “Earlier this evening, spoke to UK PM Rishi Sunak. Discussed means to strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on the situation in West Asia. We agree that there is no place for terror and violence.”

He added, “Death of civilians is a serious concern. Need to work towards regional peace, security, stability and continued humanitarian assistance.”

The statement said the two leaders reiterated their com-

mitment to continuing to strengthen bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, including in the areas of trade, investment, emerging technology, defence, security, health and others, officials said.

The leaders agreed to remain in touch and exchanged greetings for the festive occasion of Diwali, it added.

In an interview to PTI in early September, Sunak had said there was “still some way to go” for a free trade pact with India to be finalised, but appeared confident that the final outcome would be a “forward-looking” and “modern” deal that would benefit both sides and facilitate shared ambition of doubling trade by 2030.

Need to go beyond traditional learning environments: IAF chief

CHENNAI, Nov 4 (PTI)

CHIEF of Air Staff Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, on Saturday said the need of the hour was to produce more capable, young aviators and also go beyond the traditional learning environments vis-a-vis training. He was addressing a symposium held at the Air Force Station, Tambaram, on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Flying



IAF aircraft fly-past at the Air Force Station, Tambaram as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Flying Instructors School, in Chennai on Saturday. (PTI)

Instructors School (FIS), here.

"The need of the hour is to produce more capable, young aviators and get them to the fleet faster and more efficiently. We need to go beyond the linear progression of traditional learning environments, to a student-focused model in which learning and skill development are tailored to each individual."

"Gone are the days of one size fits all," he said.

He further said the "convergence of cutting edge technology in the aviation domain is bringing to the fore newer opportunities for us to capitalise upon," and flagged the need for an organisation to recognise the value of new external information, assimilate it and apply it for operational success.

This is where those like the FIS play an important role, the IAF chief added.

Militants storm Pak Air Force training base

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4 (PTI)

NINE heavily armed terrorists attacked a Pakistan Air Force training base in Punjab province early Saturday and all of them were “sent to hell”, the Army said, a day after 17 soldiers were killed in three separate terror strikes in the country. The Mianwali Training Air Base of Pakistan Air Force was attacked by nine terrorists, the Pakistan Army said in a statement, confirming that some damage was done to three already phased-out non-operational aircraft during the attack.

The military confirmed that the “combing and clearance operation at PAF Training Airbase Mianwali has been concluded and all nine terrorists have been sent to hell”.

The operation was launched to “eliminate any potential threat in the surrounding area following the cowardly and failed terrorist attack on the base this morning”, the statement said.

The Army said while no damage had been done to any of the PAF’s functional operational assets, some damage was done to three already phased-

out non-operational aircraft during the attack. The Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), a newly-emerged militant group that is an affiliate of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement to the media.

Condemning the attack, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said, “Any attempt to undermine our security will meet with unwavering resistance.”

The attack comes hours after a series of terror strikes killed at least 17 soldiers in the restive Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Fourteen Pakistani soldiers were killed on Friday when militants ambushed two vehicles carrying security forces from Pasni to the Ormara area of Gwadar district in the restive south-western Balochistan province.

Friday’s toll is the heaviest suffered by the military in Balochistan province this year where separatists and militants have stepped up their attacks since a ceasefire deal between TTP and the Pakistan Government ended in November 2022.

Israel resists US pressure to pause war

■ Israel rejects call for temporary ceasefire until the hostages held by Hamas are released

TEL AVIV, Nov 4 (AP)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday pushed back against growing US pressure for a “humanitarian pause” in the nearly month-old war to protect civilians and allow more aid into Gaza, insisting there would be no temporary ceasefire until the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas are released.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his third trip to Israel since the war began, reiterating American support for Israel’s campaign to crush Hamas after its brutal October



Palestinians leave their homes following an Israeli bombardment on Gaza City. (AP)

7 attack in southern Israel. He also echoed President Joe Biden’s calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Alarm has grown over spiralling Palestinian deaths and deepening misery for civilians from weeks of Israeli bom-

bardment and a widening ground assault that risks even greater casualties. Overwhelmed hospitals say they are nearing collapse, with medicine and fuel running low under the Israeli siege. About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have

fled their homes, the UN said on Friday. Palestinians are increasingly desperate for the most basic supplies.

The average Gaza resident is now surviving on two pieces of bread per day, much of it made from stockpiled UN flour, said Thomas White, Gaza director for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. Demands for drinking water are also growing.

After talks with Netanyahu, Blinken said a temporary halt was needed to boost aid deliveries and help win the release of the hostages Hamas took during its brutal incursion nearly a month ago.

But Netanyahu said he told Blinken that Israel was “going with full steam ahead,” unless hostages are released.

US officials initially said they were not seeking a ceasefire.