

Deepak Mittal is India's next envoy to UAE



NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (PTI)

SEASONED diplomat Deepak Mittal was on Tuesday appointed as India's next ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Mittal, a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as an additional secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

"He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a brief note. Mittal previously served as India's ambassador to Qatar from 2020 to 2022. During his tenure in Doha, New Delhi established the first diplomatic contact with the Taliban, weeks after it captured power in Kabul in August 2021. Mittal also helmed the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran (PAI) desk at the MEA's headquarters in Delhi from 2018 to 2020.

His appointment comes amid a significant upswing in India's ties with the UAE after the two countries inked an ambitious comprehensive economic partnership agreement in 2022.

21st edition of 'Yudh Abhyas 2025' begins

NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (IANS)

A CONTINGENT of the Indian Army has touched down at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, the US, for the 21st edition of 'Yudh Abhyas 2025', scheduled from September 1 to 14, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

"An Indian Army contingent has reached Fort Wainwright, Alaska, for the 21st edition of YudhAbhyas 2025 (01-14 Sept)," posted MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on 'X.'

"Alongside US 11th Airborne Division troops, they'll train in heliborne ops, mountain warfare and joint tactical drills."

A image by MEA shows Indian troops assembled in front of the imposing C-17 Globemaster III.



Indian Army contingent reaches Fort Wainwright, Alaska for the 21st edition of Yudh Abhyas with the US. The exercise is scheduled from September 1 to 14. (MEA via PTI)

'La Nina may return in September but temperatures to stay above normal'

NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (PTI)

LA NINA may return to impact weather and climate patterns from September onwards, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has said in a latest update.

Despite the temporary cooling influence of La Nina, global temperatures are still expected to remain above average for much of the world, it said.

La Nina and El Nino are opposite phases of a Pacific Ocean climate cycle.

El Nino refers to the periodic warming of ocean waters near Peru, often weakening India's monsoon and making winters warmer. La Nina cools those waters, usually strengthening India's monsoon and bringing colder, harsher winters.

WMO says that naturally occurring climate events such as La Nina and El Nino are taking

place in the broader context of human-induced climate change, which is raising global temperatures, intensifying extreme weather and altering seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns. Neutral conditions (neither El Nino nor La Nina) have persisted since March 2025, with sea surface temperature anomalies remaining near average across the equatorial Pacific. These conditions may gradually give way to La Nina from September, it said.

According to forecasts from WMO's Global Producing Centres for Seasonal Prediction, there is a 55 per cent chance of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific cooling to La Nina levels and a 45 per cent chance of them remaining at ENSO-neutral levels during the September-November 2025 period.

For October-December 2025, the probability of La Nina rises

to about 60 per cent, while the likelihood of El Nino remains low.

"Seasonal forecasts for El Nino and La Nina and their associated impacts on our weather are an important climate intelligence tool. They translate into millions of dollars of economic savings for key sectors like agriculture, energy, health and transport and have saved thousands of lives when used to guide preparedness and response actions," WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said.

While the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a major driver of global climate patterns, it is not the only factor influencing Earth's climate.

WMO's Global Seasonal Climate Updates also account for other variability patterns, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, Arctic Oscillation, and Indian Ocean Dipole.

First MADE-IN-INDIA PROCESSOR 'VIKRAM' presented

■ The first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor, called 'Vikram,' has been developed by ISRO's Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL). It was presented to PM @ 'Semicon India 2025' event

NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (IANS)

IN A significant feat for the country to become a global semiconductor hub, Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday presented the first made-in-India processor, along with test chips from four approved projects, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

The first fully indigenous 32-



RAPID PROGRESS OF INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

bit micro-processor, called 'Vikram,' has been developed by ISRO's Semi-conductor

Laboratory (SCL). It is designed to withstand the harsh environmental conditions of space launch vehicles, marking a milestone in India's efforts to reduce dependency on imported chips. Vaishnaw highlighted the rapid progress of India's semiconductor infrastructure at the 'Semicon India 2025' event. "Just a few years ago, we met for the first time to make a new beginning driven by our Prime Minister's farsighted vision, we launched the India Semiconductor Mission. In a (Contd on page 5)

India's smallest chip will bring biggest change to world: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Sept 2 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the day is not far when India's smallest chip will bring the biggest change in the world. Inaugurating 'Semicon India 2025' in the national capital, the Prime Minister stressed that India is moving beyond just the back-end of the semiconductor industry and is now building a full-stack ecosystem to become globally competitive and 'Atmanirbhar'. (Contd on page 5)

India, Germany to hold talks as EU mulls curbs

Jaishankar May Again Stress On Unfair Treatment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid renewed global efforts to resolve the Ukraine conflict, Germany's foreign minister Johann David Wadephul is visiting India and is scheduled to hold talks with his counterpart S Jaishankar Wednesday. Wadephul will also hold talks with commerce minister Piyush Goyal, as the two countries look to expand their trade and investment ties.

The visit is taking place days after a "brainstorming" meeting of EU foreign and defence ministers in which the participants discussed the way forward in their support for Ukraine. One of the measures mullied was secondary sanctions against Russia's trading partners, which could complicate India's energy ties with Russia.

These issues are likely to be discussed during Wadephul's meetings here, sources said. Jaishankar had told his Finland counterpart Elina Valtonen in a phone conversation last week that India should not be unfairly targeted over Ukraine conflict. He is again likely to stress



DIALOGUE & DIPLOMACY: Jaishankar (right) and Wadephul

Moscow oil gets cheaper for New Delhi

Russian crude is getting even cheaper for India buyers as New Delhi faces sustained US pressure to cut its oil trade with Moscow, which Trump administration says is helping fund the war in Ukraine. The price of Urals crude has dipped to a discount of \$3 to \$4 a barrel to Brent on a delivered basis, according to people who received offers for the Russian grade, asking not to be identified discussing sensitive information. The price is for cargoes that will load in late Sept and Oct, they added.

India became a major importer of Russian crude after the start of the Ukraine war in 2022, but it was recently slapped with US tariffs for the trade. Those economic penalties and repeated criticism from President Trump has pushed New Delhi closer to longtime rival China & led to a defiant show of ties with Moscow.

Indian refiners have continued to buy Russian oil, despite brief pause in Aug, and cheaper Urals are likely to attract strong buying interest. Last week, the grade was being offered at a discount of \$2.5 a barrel, wider than \$1 in July, the people said. **BLOOMBERG**

that India has always backed dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict and wants it to end at the earliest.

This was also the message conveyed to President Vladimir Putin by PM Narendra Modi at their meeting in China on Monday. Wade-

phul has expressed doubts about whether Putin is really interested in peace talks and wants more pressure applied on Russia, including through a fresh EU package of sanctions. Jaishankar and Wadephul will address the media after their talks Wednesday.

Singapore PM in India, both sides look to boost economic ties

New Delhi: Singapore PM Lawrence Wong arrived in India Tuesday on his first visit in the role, accompanied by a high-level delegation of cabinet ministers and senior officials. They will meet counterparts to boost economic ties.

Wong was received at the airport by Union minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary.



Five agreements are likely to be signed, covering areas like space, shipping and civil aviation. Wong will meet PM Modi on Thursday, and the two leaders are expected to virtually inaugurate a container terminal at Uran in Maharashtra, where the Port of Singapore Authority has invested \$1.3 billion.

The visit, coinciding with 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties, reaffirms both nations' commitment to strengthening their partnership. Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN, leading source of FDI, and a major contributor of external commercial borrowings and portfolio investment.

The visit will allow both Prime Ministers to review cooperation, set a path for future collaboration, and discuss regional and global issues. The two sides are also exploring exporting solar energy via an underwater cable that could double for data connectivity. TNN