

Military team leaves for Russia for multi-nation 'Zapad' exercise

New Delhi: Continuing with its balancing act, India has now dispatched a military contingent to Russia for a multi-nation exercise and it will host a team of the Russian army for bilateral combat drills next month, even as Indian soldiers are conducting high-voltage war-games with the US in Alaska.

Troops and observers from over 20 countries, including China and Pakistan, are participating in the multilateral 'Zapad' exercise at the Mulino Training Ground at Nizhniy in Russia, which is being held in conjunction with Belarus, from Sept 10 to 16.

The defence ministry here Tuesday said the participation of the Indian contingent, which comprises 65 military personnel primarily from the Kumaon Regiment, in the 'Zapad' exercise will "further strengthen defence cooperation and foster camaraderie between India and Russia, thereby reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and mutual trust".

The exercise is aimed at enhancing military cooperation, improving interoperability, and providing a platform for the participating armies to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures in the domains of conventional warfare and counterterrorism operations.

"The exercise, with a focus on company-level tactical drills in open and plain terrain, will offer a valuable opportunity to hone joint operational capabilities, integrate emerging technologies, and operate in a multinational combat environment," an Army officer said. TNN

C P Radhakrishnan becomes 15th Vice President of India

NDA candidate bags 452 votes while joint Opposition candidate Sudershan Reddy gets 300 votes



NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan was elected the next Vice President of India on Tuesday as he bagged 452 votes against the Opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy's 300,

winning the contest with a bigger than expected margin, indicating cross-voting from the rival camp.

Announcing the result of the vice presidential election this evening, Rajya Sabha Secretary General and Returning Officer P



(L) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, (C) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, (R) Congress MP Sonia Gandhi cast their vote in the Vice-Presidential elections, at the Parliament premises, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. (PTI)

C Mody said 767 MPs cast their votes out of the total valid electors of 781 in a turnout of 98.2 per cent.

He said 752 ballots were valid and 15 were invalid, bringing down the required majority of first preference votes to 377.

Though the victory of Radhakrishnan (67), currently the Maharashtra Governor and a seasoned leader with an RSS background and decades-long stint first in the Jana Sangh and then the BJP in Tamil Nadu, was a foregone conclusion due to the

ruling alliance's numerical edge but the extent of his victory margin is a setback to the Opposition.

Hours before the result, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh had claimed that the Opposition has (Contd on page 5)

Confident that Radhakrishnan will be an outstanding Vice President: PM

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

CONGRATULATING BJP-led NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan on winning the vice presidential poll, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed confidence that he will be an outstanding Vice President.

Radhakrishnan won the vice presidential election on Tuesday by bagging 452 votes, while Opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy polled 300 votes, Returning Officer P C Mody said.

Modi said on X that Radhakrishnan's life has always been devoted to serving society and empowering the poor and marginalised.

The Prime Minister said, "Congratulations to Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji on winning (Contd on page 5)

NEPAL ON TENTERHOOKS

Arson, vandalism continue unabated on Day-2

PM Oli resigns | Protesters torch President's residence, Parliament | Army deployed

■ By Shirish B Pradhan
KATHMANDU, Sept 9 (PTI)

NEPALESE Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday in the face of massive anti-government protests with the demonstrators attacking private residences of several top politicians, including President Ramchandra Paudel, and vandalising the Parliament.

The students-led protests reflected the growing public

In his resignation letter to President Paudel, Oli cited the "extraordinary circumstances" facing Nepal and said he is quitting to pave the way for a "constitutional and political" resolution of the current situation,

they said.

In view of the precarious security situation, the flight services at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu have been suspended, the officials said.

Though the Nepal

Government last night revoked its ban on social media websites following the protests led by 'Gen Z' youths, the agitators continued their demonstration against corruption and demanding accountability for deaths of 19

people.

Hours before Oli's resignation, the protesters set on fire the Nepalese leader's private house in Balkot, and attacked residences of former Prime Minister

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Communication Minister Prithvi Subba Gurung, Former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak among others.

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anger with the political class over a range of issues including a ban on social media and alleged corruption with demonstrators gathering at the heart of Kathmandu and elsewhere despite curfews and heavy deployment of security forces.

Oli stepped down shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office shouting slogans demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during the protests on Monday, officials said.



Smoke billows out after Nepal's Parliament building was set on fire by agitators amid massive anti-Government protests, in Kathmandu, Nepal on Tuesday.

(PTI)

India issues emergency contact numbers for its nationals

KATHMANDU, Sept 9 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday issued emergency contact numbers for its nationals in Nepal, asking them to contact in case of any emergency or need for assistance.

"All Indian nationals in Nepal are hereby requested to note the following telephone numbers from the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, for contact, in case they are facing any emergency situation or require assistance: 1. +977 - 980 860 2881 2. +977 - 981 032 6134," the Embassy of India in Nepal said in a post on X.

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Closely monitoring devpts in Nepal, says India

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday said it is deeply saddened by the loss of many young lives during protests in Nepal and hoped that the issues will be resolved through peaceful means.

"We are closely monitoring the developments in Nepal and are deeply saddened by the loss of many young lives," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with families of deceased. We also wish speedy recovery for those who were injured," it said. It also asked Indian nationals to exercise caution in view of the prevailing situation in that country.

Kim oversees test of new rocket engine for ICBMs



SEOUL, Sept 9 (AP)

NORTH Korea said on Tuesday that leader Kim Jong Un supervised a test of a new rocket engine designed for intercontinental ballistic missiles, the latest step in his effort to build an arsenal that poses a viable threat to the continental United States.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Monday's event marked the ninth and final ground test of the solid-fuel rocket engine built with carbon fibre and capable of producing 1,971 kilonewtons of thrust, more powerful than past models. The report came a week after Kim visited the research institute that developed the engine, which North Korea then said will be used for future ICBMs, including a system called Hwasong-20.

North Korea in recent years has flight-tested a variety of ICBMs that demonstrated potential range to reach the US mainland, including those with built-in solid propellants that are easier to move and conceal and can be prepared for launch more quickly than the North's previous liquid-fuel missiles.

We are working on Chandrayaan 4, 5: ISRO Chairman V Narayanan

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (ANI)

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan on Tuesday announced that ISRO is working on Chandrayaan 4 and Chandrayaan 5 and also added that the completed module of the space station will be placed in orbit by 2023.

While talking to the media, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shared the plans of ISRO for the coming future and said, "In the next three years, the number of satellites we are going to place will be around three times the present numbers. The second thing is that we are working on improving the payload capability of our Mark III launcher from 4,000 kg to 5,100 kg without increasing any costs."

He further added, "We are working on Chandrayaan 4,



ISRO Chairman V Narayanan addresses a gathering during the 52nd National Management Convention, in New Delhi. (PTI)

Chandrayaan 5, and the first module of the space station will be placed in orbit. By 2035, the full module has to be done, and Gaganyaan we have been working on for so many years, and we

are going to have the uncrewed mission this year and the crewed mission in the first quarter of 2027."

"We are working to ensure the safety and security of every citizen of the nation....Astronauts Shubhanshu Shukla and Prasanth Nair were given enough training in America, and the entire experience of space travel will be utilised for our Gaganyaan program," said the ISRO Chairman.

Earlier on August 23, while speaking at the main event of the National Space Day in New Delhi, Indian Space Research Organisation chairman V Narayanan announced that India will launch the Chandrayaan 4 mission, which will have the Venus Orbiter Mission.

The ISRO chief emphasised that by the year 2035, India will establish the "Bharatiya

Antariksh Station" whose first module will be lifted off in the year 2035. He stated that India will land on the moon by the year 2040, which will make India's space program the top one in the world.

"Based on his direction and vision, we are going to have a Chandrayaan-4 mission. We are going to have a Venus Orbiter Mission. We are going to have a space station called BAS (Bharatiya Antriksh Station) by 2035, and the first module will be lifted off by 2028. The Prime Minister has given approval for an NGL (Next Generation Launcher)... By 2040, India will land on the moon and we are going to bring back safely. Thereby by 2040, Indian Space Program will be at par with any other space program of the world...." V Narayanan said.

400 scientists worked 24x7 during Operation Sindoor: ISRO chief

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

MORE than 400 scientists worked round-the-clock to provide support using earth observation and communication satellites during Operation Sindoor, ISRO chairperson V Narayanan said on Tuesday.

The space agency provided satellite data from its spacecraft for national security requirements, Narayanan said in his address at the 52nd National Management Convention of the All India Management Association (AIMA).

"During Operation Sindoor, all satellites were working 24x7 perfectly, enabling all requirements," he said.

"Over 400 scientists were working 24x7, full-time and all the satellites used for earth observation and communication were working perfectly during the mission," the ISRO chief added.

The role of the space sector in armed conflicts came into sharp focus during Operation Sindoor, which saw extensive use of drones and loitering munitions and tested the capabilities of air defence systems such as indigenously developed Akash Teer.