

Warfare increasingly becoming non-kinetic, non-contact, says Army chief Gen Dwivedi

NEW DELHI, Oct 31
(PTI)

ARMY chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday said warfare is increasingly becoming "non-kinetic and non-contact" and



therefore demands a response that requires military strength, intellectual prowess and moral preparedness.

In his address at an event held here at Manekshaw Centre to mark the 150th birth

anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, he also said that youths need to have a role in various fields, including think-tanks, laboratories and the battlefield. In his keynote address, the Army chief emphasised the evolving nature of warfare and the

responses needed in this scenario.

He said, "Warfare is increasingly becoming non-kinetic and non-contact," and, therefore, the response demands military strength, intellectual prowess and moral preparedness.

Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena is Chief of Southern Naval Command

KOCHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

VICE Admiral Sameer Saxena, AVSM, NM, assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command here on Friday.

He succeeds Vice Admiral V Srinivas PVSM, CAVSM, NM, who superannuated after an illustrious career close to four decades in the Indian Navy.

APEC leaders open economic summit after Trump, Xi meet

GYEONGJU, Oct 31 (AP)

LEADERS of 21 Asian and Pacific Rim nations opened their annual summit on Friday to discuss how to promote economic cooperation and tackle shared challenges, a day after President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to take steps to ease their escalating trade war. This year's two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the South Korean city of Gyeongju has been heavily overshadowed by Thursday's Trump-Xi meeting.

Trump described the meeting as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans.

Their deals were a relief to the

world economy, as experts previously warned that a failure to dial down trade tensions between the world's two largest economies were certain to deepen global economic uncertainties.

Established in 1989 during a period of increased globalisation, APEC represents more than half of global trade.

The forum champions free and open trade and investment to accelerate regional economic integration and has also been credited with bringing together countries embroiled in competitions to work together on common initiatives without binding statements. The APEC region now faces challenges like strategic competitions between the US and China, supply chain vulnerabilities, aging populations and the impact of AI on jobs.

The US strategy has been shifted to economic competitions with China rather than cooperation, with Trump's tariff hikes and "America first" agenda shaking markets and threatening decades of globalisation and multinationalism. Opening the summit as chair, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung called for greater cooperation and solidarity to overcome new challenges. "It's obvious that we can't always stand on the same side, as our national interests are at stake. But we can join together for the ultimate goal of shared prosperity," Lee said. "I hope we will have candid and constructive discussions on how we can achieve APEC's vision in the face of the new challenge of a rapidly changing international economic environment."

'Israel has handed over 30 Palestinians bodies'

DEIR AL-BALAH, Oct 31 (AP)

THE Red Cross and hospital officials in Gaza say Israel has handed over the bodies of 30 Palestinians, a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza turned over the remains of two hostages to Israel.

A doctor at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis confirmed receiving the bodies and said they were all unidentified. The Red Cross said that its teams had facilitated the transfer. The exchange is the latest indication that the fraught Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement is moving forward, despite deadly Israeli strikes on Gaza this week that killed more than 100 people following the death of an Israeli soldier.

Palestinian remains for hostage remains

Ahmed al-Farra, head of the pediatric unit at Nasser Hospital, confirmed to the AP Friday morn-

ing that the hospital received the unidentified bodies of 30 Palestinians from Israel. He said all the bodies of Palestinians received through the ceasefire



deal thus far have arrived without identification details.

Photos showed the remains, clad in white body bags, arranged in rows inside the grounds of

Nasser Hospital. Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify the bodies without access to DNA kits.

The return brings the number

ing the Oct. 7 attack, died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Thursday that the remains returned by Palestinian militants had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas that set off the war.

Hamas has now returned the remains of 17 hostages since the start of the ceasefire, with 11 others still in Gaza and set to be turned over under the terms of the agreement.

Baruch was preparing to pursue an electrical engineering degree when he was taken hostage from Kibbutz Be'eri. His brother, Idan, was killed in the attack. Three months into Baruch's captivity, the Israeli military said he was killed during an attempted rescue mission.

India, US ink **10-year** defence framework pact



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with United State's Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signs a 10-year US-India Defence Framework, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

INDIA and the US on Friday signed a 10-year defence framework pact that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described as a "signal" of growing bilateral strategic ties even as Washington vowed to work closely with New Delhi to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signed the framework agreement for the 'US-India major defence partnership' pact following their wide-range talks in Kuala Lumpur that focused on boosting strategic ties across all its pillars.

The signing of the agreement came amid efforts by the two
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