

Indian Navy chief discusses ties with top US officials

WASHINGTON, Nov 15 (IANS)

INDIAN Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi held a series of high-level discussions with top US military officials in a step towards enhancing maritime cooperation between the two nations.

He met Admiral Samuel J Paparo, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Stephen T Koehler, Commander



of US Pacific Fleet and Lieutenant General James F Glynn, Commander of US Marine Forces Pacific.

Japan protests China's travel advisory over Taiwan remarks

BEIJING, Nov 15 (AP)

JAPAN raised objections Saturday after China advised its citizens to avoid visiting Japan, as a feud over the new Japanese leader's remarks on Taiwan showed no signs of dying down.

The Government in Tokyo lodged a protest and its top spokesperson, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara, urged China to take "appropriate measures," Japan's *Kyodo News Service* reported. China advised its citizens on Friday to refrain from travelling to Japan in the near future. It cited earlier attacks against Chinese in Japan and what it called Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's "erroneous remarks" on Taiwan, which it said undermined the atmosphere for China-Japan exchange.

Kihara told reporters that it is precisely because of the differences between the two Governments that multilayered communication is essential, a *Kyodo* report said. China has repeatedly recommended its nationals take security precautions when in Japan over the past year, but the latest announcement appeared to be stronger in advising against travel, according to notices posted on the website of its embassy in Tokyo.

Venezuela keen to increase cooperation in critical minerals sector with India

VISAKHAPATNAM, Nov 15 (PTI)

VENEZUELA has expressed keen interest in enhancing cooperation with India in critical minerals sector and attract investments, the Commerce Ministry said on Saturday. It was discussed in a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Ecological Mining Development of Venezuela Hector Silva here.

“During the meeting, the Venezuelan side expressed interest in expanding economic engagement with India beyond the oil sector, including cooperation in critical minerals and attracting Indian investment,” it said. Goyal emphasized the



need to reactivate the India and Venezuela Joint Committee Mechanism, whose last meeting was held a decade ago.

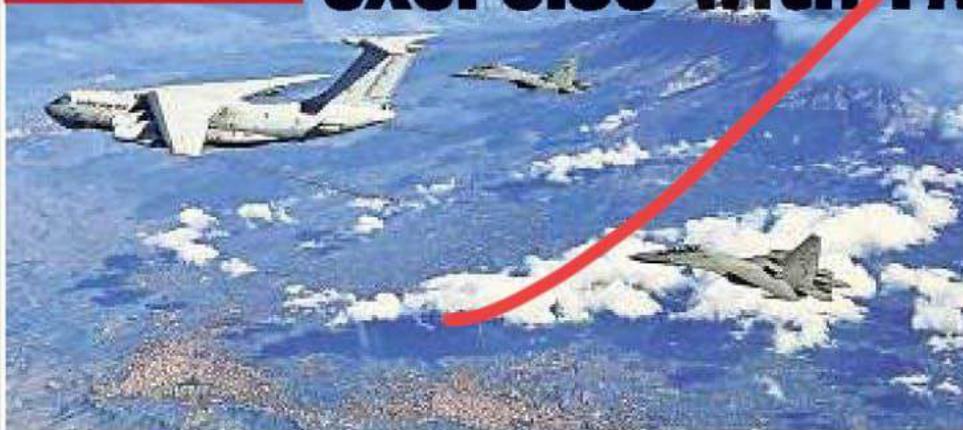
He noted that ONGC's ongoing operations in Venezuela provide scope for deeper collaboration in mining and exploration. He suggested that Venezuela may consider accepting the Indian Pharmacopeia to facilitate pharma-

ceutical trade and highlighted opportunities to enhance cooperation in the automobile sector.

In a separate statement, the Ministry said National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited, Logistics Data Services Limited, and the Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU to digitize the logistics landscape in Andhra Pradesh by leveraging the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP). As part of the initiative, an integrated digital platform will be developed and implemented to provide Government and private stakeholders in Andhra Pradesh with real-time visibility into the state's logistics operations and performance metrics.

**'GARUDA
25'**

IAF participates in bilateral exercise with FASF in France



IL-78 aircraft during the bilateral air exercise, in Mont-de-Marsan on Saturday. (ANI)

NEW DELHI, Nov 15 (ANI)

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Garuda 25' with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) at Mont-de-Marsan, France, from November 16-27,

the Ministry of Defence shared in an official statement on Saturday.

As per the Defence Ministry, the IAF contingent arrived in France on November 10, and will be participating with Su-30MKI fighter aircraft. The airlift sup-

port is being provided by the C-17 Globemaster III, for the induction and de-induction phases of the exercise, while the IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers are utilised for extending the range and endurance of the participating fighters.

The statement mentioned that during the exercise, the IAF's Su-30MKI aircraft will operate alongside the French multirole fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios, focusing on air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations.

This exercise aims to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and fostering interoperability between the IAF and the FASF.

EAM Jaishankar chairs conference of Indian envoys in the US, reviews ties

■ By Yoshita Singh
NEW YORK, Nov 15 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reviewed bilateral ties between Washington and New Delhi and support for diaspora activities at a conference of India's Consuls General in the US convened here. "Reviewed our bilateral ties and support for diaspora activities. Appreciate the commitment and efforts of our Embassy & Consulates to strengthening the India-US partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on social media.

Jaishankar "chaired the Consul Generals Conference" held Friday at the Consulate General of India in New York that was attended by Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Embassy in Washington DC Namgya Khampa as well as all the envoys heading the Indian Consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a Consul Generals Conference, in New York.

(PTI)

Seattle.

The Indian Consulate in New York, led by Consul General Binaya Pradhan, said in a post on X that it was "honoured" to welcome Jaishankar at the Consulate premises.

"His vision, guidance & lead-

ership strengthen our commitment to work for the India-USA partnership," the Consulate said.

A day earlier, Jaishankar had met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in the UN Headquarters. Jaishankar

was accompanied by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador P Harish, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Yojna Patel and officials from the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.