

Myanmar President Aung Hlaing begins India visit

NEW DELHI, May 30 (PTI)

MYANMAR President U Min Aung Hlaing on Saturday began a five-day visit to India that will be focused on ramping up bilateral cooperation in trade, connectivity, border security and defence.

Aung Hlaing kicked off his trip by landing in Gaya to visit the Mahabodhi temple, ahead of his arrival in Delhi this evening.

“A warm welcome to President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar on his arrival in Bodh Gaya,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

“His visit reflects the strong spiritual, historical and people-to-people ties that bind our two countries and the depth of our ongoing cooperation,” he added.

The Myanmar President was received at the airport by Bihar Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd).



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing visits the Mahabodhi temple, in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. (PTI)

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Gen Chauhan wraps up 'very satisfying' tenure

Lt General Subramani to take charge as CDS today

NEW DELHI, May 30 (PTI)

OUTGOING Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Saturday described his tenure as "very satisfying" as he wrapped up a three-year-and-eight-month stint at the top military post, during which he focused on bringing synergy among the three services.

Lt General NS Raja Subramani (retd) will take charge as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on Sunday.

"I had a very satisfying and excellent tenure," the outgoing CDS told reporters after he was

accorded a ceremonial tri-services guard of honour.

General Chauhan, a former Eastern Army Commander, took charge as the country's senior-most military commander in September 2022, over nine months after the first CDS General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu.

As Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Chauhan played a key role in planning and implementation of Operation Sindoor along with the three service chiefs.

During his tenure, he focused on ensuring tri-services synergy to enhance India's military

prowess in view of the evolving regional security scenario.

The Chief of Defence Staff also initiated a number of measures towards India's plan to roll out the theatreisation model by creating integrated military commands.

"It's a matter of great honour for me to superannuate with a tri-services guard of honour. I thank the three services and Headquarters IDS (Integrated Defence Staff) for it. With the conclusion of the guard of honour, I bid farewell to my colleagues in uniform, comrades in arms," General Chauhan said.



(L) Outgoing Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan after he receives the ceremonial Guard of Honour, at South Block Lawns. (R) CDS General Anil Chauhan writes a tribute message after paying homage at the National War Memorial, in New Delhi on Saturday. (ANI)

"I just laid the wreath at the War Memorial for the last time in uniform, as a humble tribute to those who laid down their lives in the line of duty. After the

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Israeli troops push deeper into Lebanon as military talks begin at Pentagon

■ By Bassem Mroue
BEIRUT, May 30 (AP)

ISRAELI troops entered a southern Lebanese village early on Friday, pushing deeper into the country as Lebanese and Israeli military officials held direct talks at the Pentagon over the deadly conflict.

The entrance of Israel's troops into the village of Dibbine, near the town of Marjayoun, came as Israeli airstrikes killed at least six people. Five were killed in an airstrike on the villages of Deir Qanoun al Nahr and Abbasiyeh, while a municipal policeman was killed in the village of Ebba, state media reported.

In Washington, a six-member Lebanese military delegation met



on Friday with Israeli military officials in the first direct military talks between the two countries in decades.

The Pentagon, in a statement released late on Friday, said the

talks were "productive" but stopped short of noting any accomplishments or achievements. It said the talks "focused on building practical frameworks for regional security and stabil-

ity" and the "tangible outcomes" from their discussions will directly inform the negotiations with political leaders being conducted by the State Department next week. Talks between senior officials from Israel and Lebanon have been going on since last month but are complicated by the fact that Hezbollah, Israel's target, is not participating in the discussions and has refused to accept their results.

A nominal ceasefire went into effect on April 17. A senior Lebanese military official told The Associated Press earlier on Friday that the Lebanese delegation, led by the army's head of operations Brigadier General George Rizkallah, would aim to make it comprehensive.

'India is powerful and modernising its military'

■ **By Gurdip Singh**

SINGAPORE, May 30 (PTI)

INDIA is "powerful" and "modernising" its military with heavy industrial and logistics capacity to sustain "high-end military operations", US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said on Saturday.

Hegseth made these remarks while talking to the delegates at the Shangri-La Dialogue on Saturday in Singapore.

"India is powerful and modernising its military," he said and also highlighted that it is maintaining a balance of power, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, he noted that India was also "building a heavy industrial and logistics capacity to sustain high-end military operations." "We've also committed to pursuing co-production with India to advance capabilities," said



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

Hegseth, adding that America was undergoing a national manufacturing globalisation of its defence.

He also assessed defence-related relations with Japan, South Korea, ASEAN and Australia.

Goyal highlights 'renewed momentum' in India-Canada ties after visit

NEW DELHI, May 30 (IANS)

UNION Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday shared highlights of his visit to Canada and said that engagements reaffirmed "the renewed momentum in India-Canada relations".

In a social media post titled "Glimpses of my highly productive visit to Canada", Goyal said that the visit also reaffirmed "shared commitment to advancing mutual growth and prosperity". The video posted by Goyal shared glimpses of his meetings with Canadian PM Mark Carney,



Canada's Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu and Foreign Minister Anita Anand.

It captured his address to the opening ministerial plenary session in Toronto and interaction with industry leaders at a recep-

tion hosted by Maninder Sidhu.

The video showed his participation in a Canada investment roundtable, engaging with representatives of regional chambers in the India-Canada corridor, and meeting members of the Canada-India Foundation.

He also visited the Ontario Centre of Innovation and held discussions with Indian business delegates, several CEOs and heads of business and industry chambers to explore trade and investment opportunities.

With India-Canada bilateral trade currently standing at approximately \$8.5 billion, both Governments remain committed to their shared and ambitious target of expanding it to \$50 billion by 2030, Piyush Goyal said as he concluded a highly productive and landmark three-day visit to Canada, according to an official statement earlier this week.

Military exercise in Meghalaya on counter-insurgency, building trust; over 400 soldiers from 13 nations join

UMROI (Meghalaya), May 30 (PTI)

ARMIES of 13 countries came together in Meghalaya's Umroi for the maiden multilateral military exercise 'Pragati 2026', which concluded on Saturday with a focus on countering insurgency and building mutual trust among the nations in the Indian Ocean region, officials said.

Over 400 soldiers, including around 20 women, from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India slithered down from helicop-

ters, detected IEDs along routes and climbed down rocky walls during the two-week exercise, they said. Vice-chief of the Indian Army, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, was present at the closing ceremony, which was attended by six vice-chiefs and more than 40 senior military officials from the participating nations.

Lt Gen Seth engaged in bilateral interactions aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and military-to-military relations.

Detailed discussions on how to incorporate niche technologies and the effect of these on the tactics, techniques and pro-

cedures (TTPs) were held during the two-week-long programme. "Pragati was a mega exercise in the serene environment of Umroi in Meghalaya. We conducted various specialised drills and procedures, including rock craft, special heli-borne operations, tactical situations," said Brig Mayur Shekatkar, the chief coordinator for the programme.

Director of the exercise, Col Sandeep Poonia, said Pragati stands for 'Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region'.

"The aim is to create syner-

gy, interoperability, and enhance mutual trust among the friendly foreign nations. The last two weeks we trained together, during which focus was on counter-insurgency operations based in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain," he said.

Brig Shekatkar emphasised that it provided a platform for building friendship and camaraderie among the participating nations, with the personnel coming closer by engaging themselves in sports and games as well as cultural activities.

The routine also enabled them to experience the calmness of Yoga, he said.