

'Smart border' project in final stage: Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inspects the weaponry of the BSF during his visit to Lankamura Border Outpost on the India-Bangladesh border in West Tripura district, Tripura. (PTI)

AGARTALA, June 5 (PTI)

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that “smart border” project is in the final stage, and the new security grid will feature cutting-edge technology and local administration, besides the border sentinels.

Shah, addressing BSF personnel at Lankamura Border Outpost in Tripura, said wherever troops of the force are deployed, “we will build smart borders there”.

“Smart borders will be introduced soon with a new security grid to include cutting-edge tech, local administration and border sentinels,” the Home Minister said, adding, “Demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar will not be tolerated. The Centre is making all efforts to bridge the gaps in guarding international borders.”

“The concept of smart border will be implemented in seven to eight places in the country as a pilot project. I request the Union Home Secretary and the Director General of the BSF to visit border areas and hold talks,” Shah said.

Every border has its own challenges, from human trafficking and arms smuggling to drug supply, but the BSF jawans do their best to face these challenges, he said.

Shah stated that District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police, ‘village Patwaris’ (accountants), and Sarpanches (village heads) will also play an important role in this framework.

He emphasised that until local administration in border areas is integrated into this concept, borders cannot be made truly impregnable and imagining border security in isolation will never be successful.

“To make India a ‘viksit’ (developed) nation by 2047, we have to stop the entry of fake notes, human trafficking and drug smuggling from across the borders,” the senior BJP leader said.

Shah further said, “For the modernisation of border fencing, we have also approved the installation of 119 kilometres of new fencing to replace a portion of the approximately 650 kilometres of fencing that is over 15 years old.”

Air Marshal Dixit appointed next IAF Vice Chief



NEW DELHI, June 5 (IANS)

AIR Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was appointed the next Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday.

The distinguished officer is a test pilot, flying instructor and also a fighter combat leader with more than 3,300 hours of flying experience across various fighter jets, including the MiG-21, HAWK and Jaguar. He is currently serving as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff at Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff.

The distinguished officer will take charge as the Indian Air Force's next Vice Chief on July 1.

In a career spanning over more than three decades, the decorated officer played a key role in the promotion of indigenous projects within IAF and also the modernisation of the force, during various assignments at the Air Headquarters.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 06, 1986, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (Khadakwasla). He is a qualified flying instructor and test pilot with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on over 20 types of aircraft, including Mirage-2000, MiG-21 and Jaguar. He commanded a premier fighter training base in the Southern Sector, leading it to be adjudged as the best in the Command during his tenure.

Putin pledges non-interference in India-China ties

■ Backs Modi, Xi to resolve border issues amicably



ST PETERSBURG, June 5 (PTI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow will not interfere in the "delicate" bilateral relations between India and China, expressing confidence that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are determined to resolve their long-standing boundary dispute amicably.

In a wide-ranging interaction with the heads of major global news agencies on Thursday night, Putin praised both Modi and Xi and said Russia's decades-long partnerships with both New Delhi and Beijing grew naturally and are entirely independent of one another.

"This is a delicate, multi-faceted relationship between India and China, and interfering into them is not a good idea. Of

course, we interact with both our friends - both India and China," the Russian President said.

"President Xi and Prime Minister Modi are both trying to resolve all the issues of mutual interest, including the border issue," he said.

Highlighting Moscow's strategic equilibrium in Asia, President Putin characterised Russia's ties with India and China as having evolved organically.

He stressed that Moscow's growing synergy with New Delhi does not come at Beijing's expense, just as Russia's deep alliance with China does not compromise its bond with India.

Putin offers Su-57 stealth jet to India Indicates readiness for co-production

ST PETERSBURG, June 5 (PTI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has offered New Delhi Russia's fifth-generation stealth aircraft Sukhoi Su-57 and even suggested that the combat jet could even be jointly produced in India in line with the strong strategic partnership between the two countries.

For decades, Russia has served as India's primary defence supplier. However, persistent supply chain disruptions and delivery delays stemming from the war in Ukraine have forced New Delhi to aggressively diversify its military procurement strategy.

After a years-long search for a fifth-generation fighter jet, India has launched its ambitious Advanced Multirole

Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project widely regarded as the nation's largest indigenous aerospace programme.

In an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies, including PTI on Thursday night, Putin delving into various aspects of India-Russia defence and military ties, said Moscow is still keen to involve New Delhi in the Su-57 aircraft programme.

"As for the Su-57, we offered our friends from India to jointly develop this machine, a fifth-generation aircraft. I think it's the best to date. But our Indian friends said, 'well, let's see,'" he said, responding to a question from PTI's CEO and Editor-in-Chief Vijay Joshi, the only Indian journalist at the interaction.

Conflict will end if Kyiv accepts compromises based on Anchorage pacts: Putin

ST. PETERSBURG, June 5 (PTI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said that the Ukraine conflict will quickly end if Kyiv accepts compromises based on the Anchorage agreements. Putin made the remarks during an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies, including PTI, where he also said that Russia will strengthen its air defences to repel drone attacks from Ukraine. Recalling his discussions with US President Donald Trump in Anchorage, Alaska, in August last year, Putin said Russia is open to the compromises on Ukraine to end the conflict. "The Ukrainian side also must agree to these compromises," Putin said. "The conflict will quickly come to an end." IN PUBLIC LETTER,

ZELENSKY CALLS ON PUTIN FOR TALKS: UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for face-to-face negotiations in a first public letter addressed directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Zelenskyy acknowledged shifting US priorities, saying it would be wrong to simply wait for the Trump administration to return its attention to ending the Ukraine war while it is involved in Iran war.

"I am proposing a meeting," Zelenskyy wrote.

Later in the day, Putin rejected Zelenskyy's proposal describing Zelenskyy's letter as "boorish." "Is it a way to create conditions for personal meetings and talks, or create an environment which makes any personal meetings impossible?" he said. "I think it's the second."

India's GDP grows 7.8 pc in Q4

Full-year growth rises to 7.7 pc from 7.1 pc in FY25

NEW DELHI, June 5 (PTI)

INDIA'S economy expanded 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter, exceeding forecasts on strong domestic demand and Government expenditure, before rising oil prices and supply-chain disruptions began clouding the outlook.

The GDP growth compared with 7 per cent expansion a year back and 8 per cent in the previous quarter. Full-year growth accelerated to 7.7 per cent from 7.1 per cent in FY25, supported by healthy consumption and robust investment activity.

The January-March period accounted for just one month of disruptions caused by the war in Iran. The spike in oil



prices and the disruption in supplies from the Middle East -- a key source for India's crude oil, natural gas and LPG -- will be fully visible in the current April-June quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India has already cut its 2026-27 (FY27) GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent from 6.9 per cent, citing elevated energy and commodity prices and persistent supply-chain disruptions linked to the conflict in West Asia. Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said India could return to a growth rate of more than 7 per cent in FY28 if external conditions improve.

He said even if growth slows below 7 per cent in FY27, as projected by the RBI, policy

(Contd on page 3)

AI could double electricity use by 2030

NEW DELHI, June 5 (IANS)

CONTRARY to popular beliefs, artificial intelligence could double its electricity consumption by 2030 to about 3 per cent of the world's power use and produce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the United Kingdom, a report has said.

The report from the United Nations also warned that AI could deplete more water for cooling than the annual drinking water needs of the global population.

It mentioned that the use of AI will lead to "Jevons paradox", which entails that as technological improvements increase the efficiency of a resource, the total consumption of that resource will only surge rather than fall.

Economist William Stanley Jevons, observed this effect with the use of coal in 19th-century

AI could deplete more water for cooling than the annual drinking water needs of the global population: United Nations report warned



England when efficiency gains lowered costs resulting in expanded use and higher overall demand for coal.

Similarly new use cases and higher volumes of usage will emerge as AI models become cheaper and more attractive, eroding any savings from efficiency advances, the report stated.

To stay clear of this trap, the

report laid out a roadmap for responsible AI use based on guiding principles of transparency, efficiency by design, equity and justice, lifecycle responsibility, global cooperation, and sustainable use.

Data centres consumed as much electricity as Saudi Arabia last year and that, if electricity use doubles by 2030, the associated carbon footprint would

require 6.7 billion trees grown over ten years to offset the demand.

It estimated data centres would require about 9.3 trillion litres of water and land nearly ten times the size of Mexico City to support that growth.

The report also warned of an emerging digital and environmental divide as only 32 nations host AI-specific cloud infrastructure with 90 per cent of that capacity located in the US and China.

The nations that consume AI services would bear a disproportionate environmental burden caused by mineral extraction and e-waste.

It urged routine environmental disclosures at both the model and task level adding that responsible AI requires full value-chain governance, from mineral sourcing to recycling and safe disposal.