

Jaishankar to lead Indian delegation at 81st Session of UNGA in NY

NEW DELHI, Sept 20 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will



be leading the Indian delegation at the 81st Session of the United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the MEA said on Sunday.

His address at the High-Level session of the UNGA is scheduled for September 26, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

“External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be leading the Indian delegation for the High Level Week at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York, the USA,” the MEA said in a Statement.

During the visit, the EAM will also attend various plurilateral and bilateral meetings, it said.

INS Trishul concludes 3-day port call in Egypt

CAIRO, Sept 20 (IANS)

THE Indian Navy's frontline guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul has concluded its three-day port call at Egypt's Alexandria.

The ship was accorded a warm welcome, with the Egyptian Naval Ship Al Qadeer escorting on arrival at Alexandria Harbour. During the visit, the Commanding Officer and crew of INS Trishul paid homage to the bravehearts of the two World Wars at the Chatby War Memorial, which contains 12 burials and bears the names of 19 Indian soldiers who died in ships sunk in the Eastern Mediterranean, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Defence.

India's Ambassador to Egypt, Suresh K Reddy, visited INS Trishul during its port call at Alexandria Naval Base and met the ship's crew.

"Ambassador Suresh K Reddy visited INS Trishul during the ship's port call at Alexandria Naval Base. The visit of INS Trishul underscored the strengthening of India-Egypt maritime engagement and defence cooperation," the Indian Embassy in Egypt posted on X.

Army chief's Russia visit advances defence relations



(R) General Dhiraj Seth with (L) Russia's Deputy Minister of Defence General Yunus-Bek Yevkurov. (ANI)

MOSCOW, Sept 20 (IANS)

INDIAN Army chief, General Dhiraj Seth, has concluded a three-day official visit to Russia, giving fresh impetus to defence cooperation between the two nations through meetings with senior Russian military leaders and visits to key military institutions. It was an Indian Army Chief's first visit to Russia in eight years.

During his visit, General Seth met Russia's Deputy Minister of Defence General Yunus-Bek Yevkurov and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Land Forces Colonel General Andrei Mordvichev, with discussions focussed on joint capability development, training exchanges, operational experience and expanding Army-to-Army cooperation, according to the Indian Army's Additional Directorate of Public Information

(ADGPI).

"General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, during his ongoing official visit to Russia, received a ceremonial Guard of Honour and paid homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow. The COAS also visited the Russian Land Forces Headquarters, where interactions were held on issues of mutual interest, focussed on deepening military cooperation, expanding training engagements and strengthening capability development between the two Armies," the ADGPI posted on X.

It said that Gen Seth also visited the Russian Ministry of Defence and interacted with Deputy Minister of Defence General Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, with "the engagement focussed on joint capability development, professional military exchanges and avenues for enhanced military-to-military engagements".

Navies of India, Lanka take part in bilateral Maritime exercise in Visakhapatnam

NEW DELHI, Sept 20 (PTI)

NAVIES of India and Sri Lanka are currently engaged in a bilateral exercise in Visakhapatnam, aiming to strengthen Maritime cooperation and foster interoperability, officials said on Sunday.

The 13th edition of the Sri Lanka-India bilateral Maritime exercise, 'SLINEX-26', is being conducted from September 17-21, a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said.

The exercise commenced with the harbour phase, and will be followed by the sea phase.

INS Kavaratti, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette, and INS Jyoti, a fleet tanker, are participating from the Indian Navy, while SLNS Sindurala represents the Sri Lankan Navy, the official said.

Conceptualised in 2005, SLINEX has evolved into an important forum for fostering Maritime cooperation, interoperability and mutual understanding between the two Navies.

The harbour phase, being conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command, commenced with an opening ceremony and reception onboard INS Kavaratti for the visiting crew of SLNS Sindurala.

The phase includes professional interactions, cross-deck visits, sharing of best practices, yoga, sports and cultural activities, the spokesperson said.

The subsequent sea phase will focus on enhancing operational synergy and interoperability through coordinated activities at sea.

North Korea fires short-range ballistic missile toward sea in weapons display

SEOUL, Sept 20 (AP)

NORTH Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile toward the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, two days after the North threatened to bolster its nuclear deterrent capabilities and respond to what it called US hostilities.

South Korea's military said the missile flew about 450 kilometres toward the North's eastern waters.

Hours later, it said the North launched another projectile off its eastern coast but gave no further details as to what type of

weapon it was. The South Korean military said it has boosted its surveillance posture and was closely exchanging information on the launch with the United States and Japan.

South Korea's presidential office urged North Korea to immediately halt ballistic missile launches that are banned by UN Security Council resolutions. It said South Korea held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss the launch.

Japan's Defence Ministry said it noted a suspected North Korean missile earlier Sunday but that the missile did not land

in its territorial waters.

The launches came as North Korea is engaging in a run of weapons tests even after US President Donald Trump scaled back a military exercise with South Korea last month in an apparent effort to revive diplomacy with leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, shrugged off Trump's overture.

North Korea's military later launched about 10 short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea, apparently following through with a previous threat to respond to the US-South Korean drill.

India, Japan Air Force chiefs fly Tejas

JODHPUR, Sept 20 (IANS)

INDIAN Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita flew in India's indigenous fighter aircraft, Tejas, on Sunday, showcasing the growing defence and aerial cooperation between the two countries.

The two Air Force chiefs boarded the Tejas aircraft at the Jodhpur Air Force Station.

The flight by the air chiefs of both nations comes as the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defence Force are conducting the joint air exercise 'Veer Guardian 2026' in Jodhpur.

The exercise, which began on September 9 and will continue until September 22, is currently in its final phase.

Under the exercise, the two air forces are testing their aerial combat capabilities through simulated combat scenarios and carrying out a range of operational activities. During the final phase, fighter aircraft from both countries have been practising vari-



Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal A P Singh with air chief of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force during the joint air exercise '**VEER GUARDIAN 2026**' at Air Force Station in Jodhpur Rajasthan on Sunday. (PTI)

ous air strike missions and other aerial combat exercises.

The flight of the Tejas by the air chiefs of India and Japan also

underlined the deepening trust (Contd on page 5)

Iran denies US claim on Hormuz oil transport

■ US claims that its forces had supported the transport of over 1 billion barrels of oil through the Strait of Hormuz “in the last couple of months”

TEHRAN, Sept 20 (IANS)

SENIOR spokesman for Iran’s armed forces Abolfazl Shekarchi rejected a claim by US Central Command (CENTCOM) that US forces had supported the transport of over 1 billion barrels of oil through the Strait of Hormuz

“in the last couple of months.”

In a statement carried by Iranian media, Shekarchi described the claim, made earlier in the day by CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper, as “false and ridiculous.”

He added that Cooper’s remarks constituted a “projection and a failed psychological operation to boost the morale of the terrorist US Army’s exhausted and worn-out forces in the region and justify the exorbitant financial costs and casualties incurred by the United States in the region,” *Xinhua news agency* reported.

2 shooting silver medals for India at Asian Games

NAGOYA, Sept 20 (PTI)

INDIA'S shooting campaign at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games began on a high note, with experienced rifle shooter Elavenil Valarivan playing a starring role in the country's double-silver haul in the women's 10m air rifle competition, here on Sunday.

Elavenil, one of India's most accomplished rifle shooters, helped the country secure silver in the team event before adding an individual silver later in the day. The latter, however, came with a hint of disappointment as the Tamil Nadu-born shooter appeared firmly on course for gold for most of the final, only to see her challenge fade in the closing stages as Japan's Hinata Taichi held her nerve to emerge champion.

The 2025 World Championship bronze medallist finished with

Elavenil Valarivan helped the country secure silver in the team event with Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa Vinod before adding an individual silver



From left, India's Vidarsa Vinod, Sonam Maskar and Elavenil Valarivan pose for photographers after winning silver medals in the 10m Air Rifle Women Team Final event during the 20th Asian Games, in Nagoya, Japan, on Sunday. (PTI)

252.4 points, just 0.6 behind Taichi, who clinched gold with an Asian Games record 253.0.

South Korea's Ban Hyo-jin, the reigning world champion and Paris Olympics gold medallist, took bronze with 230.4.

For Elavenil, the silver was her first individual medal at the Asian Games, having competed at the 2018 Jakarta and 2022 Hangzhou editions without making the podium. She had looked in complete command for much of the final and seemed to have the gold within her sights. After the 17th shot, she held a 1.4-point advantage over Ban, with Taichi lying third.

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