India, EU discuss evolving security, defence-industrial partnership

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (IANS)

DEFENCE Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh held a meeting with Chair of European Parliament Committee on Defence and Security Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann in Delhi, with discussions focused on evolving defence and security partnership between the two nations, including the untapped potential for defence-industrial partnership.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed important regional and global issues, according to a statement released on X by the Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence Dehradun Region.

"Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh received Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Member of European Parliament and Chair of European Parliament Committee on Defence and Security, in Ministry of Defence on 12 November 2026. Their discussion centred around the evolving defence and security partnership between India and the European Union with special emphasis on the untapped potential for defence industrial partnerships. They also exchanged views on important regional and global issues," the statement posted on X.



Chair of European Parliament Committee on Defence and Security Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann (L) with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. (IANS)

Militants kill 4 in Manipur

IMPHAL, Nov 13 (PTI)

FOUR people, including two women, were killed as suspected militants fired at two vehicles in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday, police said.

The incident occurred in the New Heaven area on the Imphal-Ukhrul road when the armed rebels fired at two four-wheelers, a senior officer said. "Two men and two women, who were travelling in the two cars, died on the spot. Bullet marks were seen on the windshields of the two vehicles," he said.

The incident occurred a day after a 42-year-old Kuki woman was shot dead while two men sustained injuries when a gunfight broke out between rival groups in an area near Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi and Kailengjang in neighbouring Senapati district.

In Manipur, the ethnic conflict that erupted in May 2023 between the valley-based Meitei and hill-based Kuki communities has claimed at least 306 lives, while 49 people remain missing and thousands have been left homeless.

Manipur 2023 violence probe panel gets another extension

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI)

THE Centre has given another six-month extension, till May 20 next year, to a Commission of Inquiry to submit its report on the probe into the 2023 Manipur violence that claimed more than 260 lives, a Government notification said.

The three-member panel, now headed by former Supreme Court judge Balbir Singh Chauhan, was formed on June 4, 2023, in the aftermath of the ethnic violence that broke out in the northeastern state in May that year.

This is the seventh extension for the Commission. It was initially headed by former Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajai Lamba, who resigned with effect from February 28. Justice Chauhan took charge on March 1.

BrahMos supplied to Philippines, deal on with Vietnam: CEO Joshi

HYDERABAD, Nov 13 (PTI)



BRAHMOS Aerospace CEO and MD Jaiteerth R Joshi on Friday said the company has supplied BrahMos missiles to the Philippines and signed an agreement with Vietnam, while several other South-East Asian countries have also shown interest.

Talks with the interested countries are at an advanced stage, he said. "Once the Government clears it, we will have a deal with them," he told reporters here.

Joshi was responding to a question on which countries had finalised deals and with which others talks were under way, given the surge in demand for the missile after Operation Sindoor.

He said Operation Sindoor had not been anticipated, and that non-destructive testing (NDT) had ensured the missiles' reliability. "NDT plays a vital role for any product. Operation Sindoor was never anticipated. The missiles were made 10, 15, 20 years back. NDT has ensured their reliability," he said.

India joins 50 UN member states endorsing call to action on humanitarian access into Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 13 (PTI)

INDIA joined 50 other UN member states endorsing a call to action on health and humanitarian access into Gaza as the winter months set in with New Delhi emphasising the need for renewed efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the region.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, on Thursday joined UN ambassadors here at a media stakeout led by Jordan, Qatar and the UK alongside 50 member States, endorsing the Call to Action on Humanitarian Access and Health in Gaza.

"As winter sets in, India reiterates the importance of safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian assistance to suffering civilians, especially women and children, in Gaza," the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said in a post on X on Friday.

"We emphasise the importance of protecting civilians, ensuring respect for international humanitarian law, and the need for renewed efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the region," the mission added.

UK Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Sarah MacIntosh had delivered a joint statement on behalf of the countries, including Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece among others.

In the joint statement, the countries said that following the elections in Israel, they reiterate their call to the incoming Government of Israel to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access throughout Gaza.

It further called on the incoming Israel Government to facilitate the operation of the Egyptian and Jordanian humanitarian corridors and to approve additional critical items, in particular related to shelter, fuel, water, sanitation, health supplies to prevent further deterioration of public health.

The joint statement also reiterated its call to the incoming Government of Israel to restore the medical referral pathway to hospitals in East Jerusalem and the West Bank for those with illnesses and injuries that cannot be adequately treated in Gaza.

India seeks 'positive' and 'forward-looking' ties with Bangladesh: MEA

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday said it desires a "positive, constructive and forward-looking" relationship with Bangladesh, remarks that came amid ongoing diplomatic friction and postponement of the bilateral consular dialogue.

The relations between the two neighbours came under fresh strain following former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's virtual media interaction in New Delhi on August 5.

The India-Bangladesh consular dialogue was scheduled for next week, but it has been postponed. "India desires a positive, constructive and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his regular media briefing.

"Accordingly, initiatives have been taken and meetings held under our structured mechanisms in such areas as trade, railways, water resources and border management, among others," he said. Jaiswal said the next round of the consular dialogue, which will also take up matters relating to the revised travel arrangement, will be held on a mutually convenient date.

"India remains ready to discuss all bilateral issues with Bangladesh through these existing mechanisms, including at the technical level," he said.

After Hasina's virtual media interaction, Dhaka reiterated its demand for her extradition. India sought to distance itself from the event saying New Delhi neither played a role in it nor endorsed Hasina's comments.

Exports jump 45 pc to record USD 49.47 billion in October

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI)

INDIA'S merchandise exports rose nearly 45 per cent year-on-year to USD 49.47 billion in October, reaching a new peak, while imports also widened to USD 89.35 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry data. Trade deficit was USD 39.88 billion in the month, lower than USD 42.58 billion in October 2025. Merchandise exports during October 2025 were USD 34.11 billion, while imports totalled USD 76.69 billion.

Gold imports fell sharply to USD 5.51 billion during the month under review from USD 14.72 billion in October 2025.

Major drivers of merchandise export growth in October 2026 include petroleum products, electronic goods, gems and jewellery,



organic and inorganic chemicals, and engineering goods, the Ministry said. The cumulative value of merchandise exports during April-October 2026-27 was USD 309.06 billion, as compared to USD 253.40 billion during the corresponding period of 2025-26, a growth of 21.96 per cent.

The Commerce Ministry said that the estimated value of services exports for October 2026 is USD 40.51 billion as compared to USD 35.17 billion in the corresponding month last year. Services imports are estimated at USD 20.72 billion as against USD 17.73 billion in October 2025.

Meanwhile, the overall export (merchandise and services) in October rose to the "highest ever" monthly value of USD 89.99 billion, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said. The overall trade deficit narrowed to USD 20.09 billion in October. India's total exports during April-October 2026-27 are estimated at USD 568.84 billion, up 16.66 per cent. Total imports are estimated at USD 662.19 billion, up 16 per cent year on year. In a virtual media briefing, the Commerce Secretary said that in October, the merchandise exports registered a new peak of USD 49.47 billion.